

GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Teens Make A Difference

(NAPSA)—American teens have increasingly found ways to give back to their communities. In fact, a recent report from the Corporation for National & Community Service showed a surge in volunteering among young adults ages 16 to 24. The number of these young volunteers increased by 400,000 nationally in just one year to 8.2 million.

Many of these youngsters volunteer to fulfill community service requirements set forth by their high schools, and many of the students—such as 18-year-old Nicole Burdett, a high school senior—do not know what to expect when they first volunteer.

“At first, I was regretting having to go,” says Burdett, who, along with classmates, hosted a senior citizen dance at an assisted-living home. “At the end, I was like, I want to keep volunteering. It was so much fun.”

A Tradition Of Helping

For the past seven years, Volunteers of America and the Major League Baseball Players Trust have partnered to foster volunteerism in high schools nationwide through “Action Teams” like Burdett’s. These teams, consisting of Major League Baseball players and student team captains, work together to encourage other young people to get involved in their communities. The involvement of the ballplayers provides much-needed motivation and role models for teens to follow.



Curtis Granderson of the Detroit Tigers is one of many professional baseball players partnering with Action Teams of high school students to help encourage volunteerism.

Last year, the program was active in more than 20 cities nationwide. This year, thanks to a new online initiative, more than 138 high schools across the U.S. are involved. To date, participants have inspired more than 19,000 high school students to help more than 80,000 people in need.

Action Teams have participated in service projects at Volunteers of America programs and other locations coast to coast—from sorting donations at food pantries to organizing neighborhood cleanups and even playing video games with senior citizens.

For more information about the program, or to download an application to start a new Action Team in an area high school, visit www.VolunteersofAmerica.org/actionteam. You can also call 703-341-5034.