On **Saturday, May 14, 2011**, thousands of Stanford Alumni around the world will be participating in community service projects as part of a new program, Beyond the Farm. Projects will be alumni-led and reflect the diversity of alumni interests and passions. Thousands of alumni are expected to participate in more than one hundred different projects.

At the heart of Stanford University’s **founding principles** is “*a desire to render the greatest possible service to mankind.*” Though these are Jane Stanford’s words, generations of Stanford alumni, students and faculty have made these words their own—this commitment is what Beyond the Farm is all about.

Alumni project leaders will work directly with a community partner to ensure that the project is of benefit and service to the organization and its constituents. While one day service projects are limited in what they can accomplish, they provide an opportunity to introduce participants to nonprofit organizations and the work they do to address pressing community needs. It is our hope that **Beyond the Farm is the start of something even bigger**, for Stanford alumni and their community partners.

In March 2010, San Francisco Bay Area alumni conducted 36 projects as part of a pilot program. 850 alumni, family and friends participated, providing more than 3,500 hours of service.

Here’s what our community partners had to say

>*This was a huge help to my organization, and we would welcome back a Stanford group at any time.* – William Dudley, horticulturalist, Hidden Villa

>*We loved it! Please keep doing it. You have a lifelong partner in At The Crossroads.* – Rob Gitin, Executive Director, At The Crossroads

When surveyed after the program, 100% of community partners responding felt the program benefitted their organizations and 100% felt the event met or exceeded their expectations.

To learn more about Beyond the Farm

https://alumni.stanford.edu/get/page/volunteering/beyondthefarm/

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