IDENTIFYING A COMMUNITY PARTNER

Identify a Need
What are the issues facing your community? What are you passionate about? Brainstorm with fellow alumni, friends and local leaders about what your community needs most.

Find or Create a Project
The goal of the day of service is to provide hands-on service opportunities for alumni. Alumni are being invited to give their time and talent to projects that benefit their communities. **There should be no charge to participate.** In finding or creating a project, keep in mind the Principles for Ethical and Effective Service (*found on the Lead a Project webpage*).

See What’s Out There!
To get ideas, check out existing hands-on service opportunities by searching volunteer websites such as the ones listed below. These websites consolidate or manage service opportunities for numerous organizations. You can search by location and area of interest; in some cases you can also search for projects suitable for groups.
- United We Serve
- VolunteerMatch
- HandsOn Network
- GreatNonprofits

PROJECT / ORGANIZATION IDEAS
- Assist an organization for which you already volunteer.
- Contact a fellow Stanford alum who works in the non-profit sector. Use Stanford Alumni Association’s Career Connect to find such an alum near you.
- Ask your friends and neighbors about organizations for which they volunteer and that may need helping hands.
- Food banks often have Saturday food sorts. Visit Feeding America to find a food bank near you and inquire about group service opportunities.
- Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity work to preserve affordable homeownership. Both organizations have chapters across the country.

If you see a gap, consider creating your own project to address it. Please keep in mind that direct fundraising is not considered an appropriate activity for this program.

**Tip: share the info sheet on the following page with a potential community partner.**
On **Saturday, May 17, 2014**, thousands of Stanford Alumni around the world will be participating in community service projects as part of a global program, Beyond the Farm. Projects will be alumni-led and reflect the diversity of alumni interests and passions. More than a thousand 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 non-profit 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. In May 2011, the program went global: over 1,600 alumni, family and friends participated in 150 projects, providing more than 8,000 hours of service. Since then, it has continued to grow.

When surveyed after the program, 100% of the community partners who responded felt the program benefitted their organizations; 100% also felt the program met or exceeded their expectations. 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

To learn more about the Beyond the Farm Day of Service, visit [http://alumni.stanford.edu/goto/beyondthefarm](http://alumni.stanford.edu/goto/beyondthefarm)