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Austin named “Service Year Impact Community” for modeling leadership and innovation in support of service year initiatives

AUSTIN, TX (October 13, 2017) - This morning, the ServeAustin Collaborative, Service Year Alliance, and Mayor Steve Adler announced that the city of Austin has been selected as one of four inaugural “Service Year Impact Communities.” During an AmeriCorps Swearing In Ceremony on the steps of City Hall, Mayor Adler shared the news that Austin is joining San Jose, CA; Flint, MI; and New York, NY in committing to expanding service year opportunities to address local community needs.

“Being named a Service Year Impact Community is an honor for our city,” **said Mayor Steve Adler.** “Austin is committed to engaging the community through service to meet local needs and to preserving and expanding national service. When we share our time and talent through service, we solve problems, improve lives, and grow stronger, together.”

The four Service Year Impact Communities were selected by Service Year Alliance through a competitive process and are recognized as leaders and innovators in the service year movement.

“We are eager to continue working with ServeAustin and our newest Service Year Impact Community to deepen the impact of service years in Austin around workforce development, education, homelessness, and disaster recovery,” **said Raabia Budhwani, Director, Place-Based Growth at Service Year Alliance.** “Service Year Impact Communities are working to demonstrate that when a community views expanding service years not just as something that is good for young people, but also as a versatile vehicle for community development — achieving measurable progress towards existing community goals is possible.”

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation will be investing \$150,000 to support the ServeAustin Collaborative and Austin’s Service Year Impact Community initiatives.

To learn more about Service Year Impact Communities, please visit:
http://about.serviceyear.org/impact_communities.

Photos of today’s event with Mayor Adler are available upon request. Please contact Debra Joiner at djoiner@ciscentraltexas.org or (512) 296-7661.

About ServeAustin

ServeAustin was formed in 2015 by the local AmeriCorps*State organizations that provide direct service to low-income youth and adults in Central Texas (Literacy First, Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, American Youthworks, Communities In Schools of Central Texas, College Forward, Breakthrough Central Texas, Front Steps, and 4-H Capital). ServeAustin programs bring nearly \$14 million annually to address local needs and represent about 550 AmeriCorps members locally who work with about 27,000 people in Central Texas.

National Service in Central Texas

National service provides an opportunity for people of all ages to come together on behalf of their community to address its most critical needs in education, housing, the environment, and disaster relief. In Austin, AmeriCorps members fill Austin's talent pipeline with conscientious citizens. Each year AmeriCorps members contribute an approximate 700,000 hours of annual service in our region.

ServeAustin Collaborative Programs are funded in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency for volunteering, service, and civic engagement. CNCS engages millions of Americans in citizen service through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs and leads the nation's volunteer and service efforts. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.

About Service Year Impact Communities

Service Year Impact Communities is an initiative of Service Year Alliance, an organization working to make a year of paid, full-time service — a service year — a common expectation and opportunity for all young Americans. A service year before, during, or after college gives young people the chance to transform their lives, make an impact in their community, and become the active citizens and leaders our nation needs. Expanding service years has the power to revitalize cities, uplift and educate children at risk, and empower communities struggling with poverty. Learn more at ServiceYear.org.