

## MLK Day of Service, 2016 in New Jersey

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### **Montclair, New Jersey - EEO Americorps - Montclair State University**

Fifteen participants signed up for the Montclair State University EEO Americorps service activities, which included making sandwiches for a local shelter and quilt-making. The day began with a continental breakfast. After several student speakers and Mayor Lester E. Taylor, mayor of East Orange City, delivered a message to mark the day, everyone was split up into groups. Some people stayed on campus and others went to off-campus service projects. Unificationists Yoshie Manaka and Yoshimi Suzuki, members of the National Ministry team, joined Clifton New Jersey Family Church Pastor Manoj Jacobs and his family at the Montclair Fire department and went door to door distributing fire safety materials and literature and checking to make sure people's fire alarms work.

"We were met by some fire officers and local politicians," shared Yoshie. "They were so excited to see people invested in the community. This was a good opportunity for me because I recently moved to Montclair, so it was a chance for me to become familiar with the local government. I received business cards from two Montclair councilmen." The group traversed the town and spoke to people who were about and made friends with some of the student organizers. "It was a great time," said Yoshie. "Even though it was cold!"



### **Newark, New Jersey - Kinard Family Helping Hands**

More than 100 people benefited this year from the Kinard Family Helping Hands service project in Newark, NJ. The host family has organized the donation of clothing and serving of hot meals for three years now. Emiljun Rapada of Universal Peace Federation USA brought his wife, daughters and even his grandmother with him to the project and donated winter jackets and men and women's clothing. Together they distributed food.

“My children were very excited,” said Emiljun, “and they realized that there are a lot of people who have no food and no homes so they felt grateful that they have such essentials available to them. They said they want to do more of this kind of service work.”

Emil wanted to do so much more as he saw just how many people are especially in need of winter clothes. Despite the conditions of those he was helping, he found that “most of them are very respectful. I did not see anyone getting more than they need. Although I'm sure whatever they got will only get them by for today.” He spoke to the organizers and plans to partner with them again next year, but to add providing blankets, gloves and hats to their list of donated items.