

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Executive Director

PHONE: 845-471-6060 x 239

EMAIL: [rsmith@midhudson.org](mailto:rsmith@midhudson.org)

The Great Give Back Comes to the Hudson Valley

(POUGHKEEPSIE, NY)

This fall MHLS member libraries will join libraries from all over New York State to connect patrons with opportunities to help their neighbors through donation drives, environmental clean-up events, and other community service projects as part of The Great Give Back (GGB) on Saturday, October 16th. Libraries throughout Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, and Ulster counties are committed to hosting community service events on or near October 16th, the official date of The Great Give Back. Libraries are catalysts and conveners, working to respond to the needs of the people in the community and The Great Give Back gives us a chance to shine a light on this work and connect more people with what's going on at their local library.

Community service opportunities planned as part of The Great Give Back include clean-up work days in partnership to remove trash and debris from the Hudson River and its watershed. Other libraries are focusing on the rise in food insecurity in the region by participating by collecting non-perishables, toiletries, and cleaning supplies that will be distributed by local food banks and mutual aid organizations. Other GGB events include donation drives to collect supplies for local pet shelters, school supplies for local students, gift cards for local shelters, and more. Contact your local library or visit [www.midhudson.org/great-give-back](http://www.midhudson.org/great-give-back) to see how you and your library can support your community.

Library Sustainability Coordinator for Mid-Hudson Library System, Casey Conlin, said, “Public libraries have always been about identifying the needs of the people they serve and connecting them to resources to meet those needs. For a long time, we did that with books, but as peoples' needs change, libraries have evolved to support their communities in new and meaningful ways. People want to band together around a common cause to do some good. The library is a great partner to help make good things happen.”

Kinderhook Memorial Library Director, AnnaLee Dragon shared why her library decided to participate in the event. Dragon said, "Our library is participating in The Great Give Back because it's important for us to lead the way and support our communities in the same way they have always supported us. It helps remind us that giving is so much more rewarding than receiving, and that we are all stronger when we work together.”

This statewide program is brought to our region thanks to a partnership between the Mid-Hudson Library System in recognition of the critical role libraries play in co-creating sustainable, resilient communities throughout New York.

To learn more about specific events at individual libraries visit <https://midhudson.org/great-give-back> Or, stop by your local library and ask what’s new!

About Mid-Hudson Library System: The Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS), headquartered in Poughkeepsie, NY, is a membership organization of sixty-six (66) independent public and free association libraries in Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, and Ulster counties. MHLS ensures the public's right to free access, facilitates economical resource sharing, and promotes professional library services while working in partnership with libraries and other service organizations.