

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Courtney Wimmers, Mid-Hudson Library System

PHONE: 845-471-6060 x 253

EMAIL: cwimmers@midhudson.org

The Great Give Back Comes to the Hudson Valley

(POUGHKEEPSIE, NY) On October 19, libraries from across the Hudson Valley will be participating in The Great Give Back, a state-wide initiative to provide a day of opportunities for library patrons to participate in meaningful community service experiences. More than thirty-five (35) libraries throughout Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, and Ulster counties are committed to hosting community service events on or near October 19, the official date of The Great Give Back.

Community service opportunities planned as part of the Great Give Back include art and writing projects to benefit the community, collections of items like socks, soap, and shampoo for people in need, food drives, pet adoption events, and an organ donor enrollment event. Each participating library is planning their own event based on their community's needs. Many libraries are also partnering with other organizations such as local fire departments, local food pantries, and local women's shelters to build connections in their communities and increase the impact of their efforts.

Library Sustainability Coordinator for MHLS, 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 and the Sustainable Thinking & Action Round Table (START) of the New York Library Association 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-events/> 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.