Pitt to engage 5,000 volunteers for 10th annual Pitt Make a Difference Day

(PITTSBURGH, PA – October 16, 2017) On Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the University of Pittsburgh will host its 10th annual Pitt Make a Difference Day (PMADD), which is Pitt’s largest day of service of the year. In honor of the program’s 10-year milestone, PMADD 2017 hopes to engage more than 5,000 volunteers, and extend its farthest reach ever.

Volunteers will meet at the William Pitt Union by 9 a.m. to receive their assignment for the day. They will travel to various sites to serve the local community and show off their Pitt pride. As a winner of the 2017 Make a Difference Day Award, PMADD received a $10,000 grant, which will be used to fund several of this year’s projects in neighborhoods where Pitt aims to have a long-term impact. “Make a Difference Day” is one of the largest annual single days of service nationwide, and is made possible by TEGNA Media, with the support of the Arby’s Foundation, and the Points of Light Foundation. Each year, TEGNA honors the efforts of community leaders by presenting them with the Make a Difference Day Award. In addition, the Office of PittServes was recently named the 6,106th “Point of Light” honoree by the Points of Light Foundation, for its ongoing efforts to improve the greater community.

“Pitt Make a Difference Day is a special day every year, but this tenth annual PMADD is especially important,” said Misti McKeehen, director of the Office of PittServes. “It’s fitting that, as we prepare for the tenth anniversary of PMADD, we are in the position to put $10,000 back into our communities, as a result of this award. Our Pittsburgh community partners have submitted meaningful and sustainable projects that will not only be a great benefit to their neighborhoods, but will also provide a great day for volunteers.”

This year, PMADD will engage all of its regional campuses, as well as several alumni chapters that will participate in service projects across the country, including projects in Nevada, New Mexico, and northeastern Pennsylvania. PMADD 2017 will even make an impact on a global scale, as a contingent of volunteers will engage in service in London, England.

“PMADD is an incredible opportunity for Pitt students to take one day, and give back to the community that has given so much to us,” said Ali Rich, who serves as one of the event’s student co-chairs. “PMADD was one of my favorite experiences as a freshman, and now I have the chance to engage in meaningful projects, and help students gain a life-long commitment to service.”

Over the course of its 10-year history, PMADD has made an indelible impact on many of the neighborhoods it has served year after year.

“It makes me happy to have taken part in PMADD for almost ten years,” said Jim Heinrich, of the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association. “I am personally very intent on trying to keep my neighborhood clean, and I’ve realized that I can’t do it alone. Having 40 students clean up
the neighborhood every year makes a gigantic difference—and on top of that, they have been some of the nicest and most polite young people I’ve ever met.”

Pitt Make a Difference Day was first launched in 2007 by Pitt’s Student Government Board. The event has grown consistently each year, with this year having the potential to be the most impactful PMADD yet!

“There was some uncertainty that first year about whether or not we could actually pull off the logistics of sending a couple thousand students out into the communities on school buses, he said. “But our students, staff, and faculty rose to the occasion, and it has been very rewarding to be a part of a program that has grown so much during the past decade, not only in terms of the number of students who participate in the event, but more importantly, because of the impact our students are making in our communities.

“It’s great to see so many students engage in service through PMADD and other opportunities provided through PittServes,” Bonner added. Service is part of the culture at Pitt. We love seeing our students lift others up as they climb in their personal journeys.”

**For more information on Pitt Make a Difference Day, please contact:

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