

FROM: NEW YORK CARES www.newyorkcares.org
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4,000 VOLUNTEERS AND FUNDRAISERS COMPLETE CRITICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS IN OVER 50 NYC PARKS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS DURING THE 23rd ANNUAL NEW YORK CARES DAY SPRING

HSBC is the Presenting Sponsor for the 11th Consecutive Year

(April 22, 2017, New York, NY) – Today, approximately 4,000 New York Cares volunteers and fundraisers cleaned and greened over 50 New York City public parks and community gardens during the 23rd Annual New York Cares Day Spring, sponsored by HSBC. New York Cares, the city’s largest volunteer network, mobilized the volunteers who gave a day of their time throughout the five boroughs, installing flower beds, repairing damaged shoreline, removing invasive species, planting bulbs, and removing litter and chemicals that can enter soil and surrounding waterways.

HSBC’s 11 years of support has enabled New York Cares to mobilize 40,000 New Yorkers who’ve given nearly 200,000 hours in volunteer service to 300 parks and gardens. In 2017 alone, nearly 100 HSBC volunteers, came out to repair and restore areas of Riverside Park along the Hudson River.

NYC Parks is the largest landowner in the city but receives less than 1% of the city’s annual budget, making New York Cares Day essential in ensuring many parks and gardens get the care they need to remain healthy and safe year-round. Participants in the day also raise money to support New York Cares’ programs aimed at improving educational outcomes for children and adults alike, meeting the needs of the City’s most vulnerable populations, and revitalizing public spaces. Donations to New York Cares allow the organization to continue to run volunteer projects at more than 1,300 nonprofits and public schools across all five boroughs. Through the power of our volunteers, every dollar you donate results in six dollars of value given back to the community, ensuring that more than 400,000 of our neighbors in need have the opportunity for a brighter future. Donations can be made at <https://www.newyorkcares.org/donate>.

New York Cares is celebrating 30 years of service to New York City. Since 1987, New York Cares has facilitated approximately six million hours of volunteer work in New York City, collected and distributed nearly two million winter coats to those in need, and served nearly three million meals to New Yorkers in need. From granting children’s Winter Wishes, to planting local gardens, to providing SAT prep for college-bound students, New York Cares and its volunteers have spent 30 years working hard to brighten the lives of all New Yorkers.

To support New York Cares Day Spring and New York Cares year-round programs, visit <https://www.newyorkcares.org/spring>.

Projects highlights included:

- **16 public spaces in MANHATTAN, including Riverside Park**, where over 100 volunteers from HSBC descended upon Riverside Park to repair and restore bike paths and ball fields. The volunteers worked to curb soil erosion due to water-runoff and laid seed for new flower and plant growth. NYC Parks Manhattan Borough Commissioner William Castro, New York Cares Executive Director Gary Bagley, and Joe Abruzzo, Regional Head of Global Private Banking, US and Latin America, HSBC, were among the volunteers lending a hand.

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- **17 public spaces in BROOKLYN, including Fort Greene Park**, where approximately 60 New York Cares volunteers swept the park of all debris and trash, repainted park benches and lampposts, as well as mulched and replanted essential ground cover. Fort Greene Park, designated as Brooklyn’s first public park, is a long-time partner of New York Cares, and was thrilled to be a part of New York Cares Day Spring 2017.
- **15 public spaces in the BRONX, including New Roots Community Farm**, where approximately 40 New York Cares volunteers removed trash and clutter from the farm, dismantled old garden beds and prepared new plant beds for the upcoming season. Volunteers also helped organize and repair the garden shed and greenhouse.
- **7 public spaces in QUEENS, including Dunton Community Garden**, a green space and safe haven for residents and local youth offering year-round activities and workshops. Approximately 25 volunteers focused on repairing and double leveling the primary and children’s gardens, scraping and repainting garden sheds and gazebos, as well as helping to install a rain barrel system to support future eco-friendly watering.
- **3 public spaces in STATEN ISLAND, including Dongan Playground**, a first-time Cares Day participant, nestled in a residential area in Staten Island. Dongan Playground is a popular destination for children during the Spring and Summer. Volunteers gave new life to the comfort station by providing it with a fresh coat of paint, washing down playground equipment, and sprucing up horticulture beds by removing invasive species of plants.

“Over the last 30 years, New Yorkers have dedicated six million hours of service to the City through New York Cares’ volunteer programs, and New York Cares Day Spring has been a critical component in our efforts to support NYC’s invaluable green spaces,” said Gary Bagley, Executive Director of New York Cares. “We want to thank everyone who has raised money for the past two months and given up their day today to work in public parks and community gardens across the five boroughs. We also want to thank the more than 1,000 volunteers who are serving on our year-round programs at schools, senior centers, and soup kitchens today and the more than 60,000 who’ve been a part of the New York Cares army of good over the past year. Finally, we also want to express our sincere gratitude to HSBC for continuing to dedicate itself to volunteerism and for making so many lives better through the support of our programs.”

“HSBC has been a part of the fabric of New York City since the 1800s, and our employees reflect the best qualities of this city: they are globally diverse and incredibly passionate about our natural resources and neighborhood parks. That’s why we’re so glad to join with New York Cares and the NYC Parks Department for our 11th year of supporting this tremendous one-day effort.” said Kelly W. Fisher, Head of Corporate Sustainability, HSBC Bank USA.

About New York Cares

New York Cares is the largest volunteer network in the city. Last year, more than 64,000 New Yorkers made the city a better place by volunteering in New York Cares programs at over 1,300 nonprofits and schools – improving education, meeting immediate needs, and revitalizing public spaces. For more information, visit newyorkcares.org.

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