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## **DYCD and NYC Service Culminate “Summer of Service” With a Focus on Youth Anti-Violence Efforts**

*Summer of Service is One of Nearly 40 Initiatives in the NYC Service Program*

*More than 1,600 Youth and Community Members Volunteered for Five Weeks of Community Service Across the Five Boroughs*

Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Jeanne B. Mullgrav, together with Chief Service Officer Diahann Billings-Burford, Senior Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility at Neuberger Berman Elizabeth Rabii Cribbs, and Executive Director of the Cross Island YMCA Dana Feinberg joined youth and volunteers participating in the joint DYCD-NYC Service “Summer of Service” volunteer program to complete an anti-bullying mural.

Students enrolled in the Cross Island YMCA’s afterschool program at MS210 in Ozone Park, Queens created the mural to express their commitment to embrace New York City’s diversity and to work together to stop all forms of bullying at their school and in their communities. As part of their service project, youth learned about the importance of diversity, how to be allies to individuals with different cultural backgrounds, and how to intervene if bullying does occur.

The Summer of Service program was successfully launched last year as a part of NYC Service, Mayor Bloomberg’s signature civic engagement initiative. This year, youth from 16 DYCD-funded programs in all five boroughs designed projects to respond to issues of concern to their communities and implemented service activities over the course of five weeks. Nearly 500 youth led more than 1,100 of their peers and community members in educational sessions and service days focused on a range of issues, including obesity, asthma, nutrition, food justice and community gardening, access to English-language signage, homelessness and hunger, community beautification, and bullying.

This year’s program was made possible by a generous contribution from The Neuberger Berman Foundation through the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City. The Mayor’s Fund is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization established to promote partnerships between the City and the private sector in an effort to strengthen public programs.

“Summer is the perfect time for youth to give back to their communities,” said Commissioner Mullgrav. “Time and again our young people have proven that they can step up and contribute. For more than a month they have braved the summer heat to clean up their neighborhoods, give back to those in need and raise awareness about issues important to them. The youth involved in this program are role models not just for their peers, but for adults as well. Their leadership this summer, even on complex and serious issues such as bullying, encourages us all to do more.”

"These young people and the approximately 1,500 others that took part in Summer of Service 2010 are examples of how much young people can do when they want to help others and are willing to work for it," said Billings-Burford. "Mayor Bloomberg started NYC Service to provide more opportunities for all New Yorkers to serve and today young people are showing us that given the opportunity they can help us address the City's pressing challenges. We are grateful for them stepping up to this role today and all summer long."

"Neuberger Berman and The Neuberger Berman Foundation are delighted to be able to partner with the city, our home since our founding in 1939, on these youth-focused efforts," said Elizabeth Cribbs. "These programs have not only engaged hundreds of youth in service but have also offered our employees an opportunity to become directly involved in these worthwhile activities within our community."

"Creating a safe and nurturing environment for our kids to grow into positive adults is a team effort," said Feinberg. "Through the creation of this mural – and through the Summer of Service initiative – our teens have come together to make a significant impact in their community, and along the way they found willing and supportive partners in DYCD, NYC Service, The Neuberger Berman Foundation and other allies and neighbors."

NYC Service was launched by Mayor Bloomberg in April 2009 to meet his State of the City pledge for New York City to lead the nation in answering President Obama's national call to service. The program has three core goals: channel the power of volunteers to address the impacts of the current economic downturn, make New York City the easiest city in America in which to serve, and ensure every young person in New York City is taught about civic engagement and has an opportunity to serve. NYC Service aims to drive volunteer resources to six impacts areas where New York City's needs are greatest: strengthening communities, helping neighbors in need, education, health, emergency preparedness and the environment. New Yorkers can find opportunities to serve their communities by visiting [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov) or by calling 311.