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### Event offers new UM students community service experience

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Aug. 31, 2009

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**EVENT OFFERS NEW UM STUDENTS COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

**MISSOULA —**

Students attending The University of Montana for the first time this fall can get a taste of community service at the First-Year Leadership & Volunteer Experience on Monday, Sept. 7, in Missoula.

The event will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the University's Labor Day holiday from classes.

Freshmen and students new to UM can volunteer at one of three service sites: Poverello Center, Missoula Urban Demonstration Project or Garden City Harvest's Orchard Gardens. The service-learning and volunteer event is sponsored by UM Student Involvement and Leadership Development and the University's Office for Civic Engagement.

Volunteers will meet at The Source in the University Center and then go to one of the sites to serve and learn how the nonprofits help foster Missoula's community atmosphere. Lunch and transportation will be provided. The event is free, but registration is required. Students can register at The Source in the UC or by e-mailing [ashley.widtfeldt@mso.umt.edu](mailto:ashley.widtfeldt@mso.umt.edu).

At the Poverello Center, students will help in the soup kitchen and clean the facility. Missoula Urban Demonstration Project volunteers will perform maintenance on the facility's tool library and other buildings. At the Garden City Harvest's Orchard Gardens, volunteers will help weed plant beds and harvest fresh produce that is donated to the Poverello Center.

After their time at the sites, participants will meet to reflect on how service is a form of leadership and discuss the importance of UM students being leaders in their community by volunteering.

For more information, call Debbie Saylor at 406-529-5851 or e-mail [CLD.student1@mso.umt.edu](mailto:CLD.student1@mso.umt.edu).

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