

# Clasping Hands:

## Building Community Through Action and Reflection

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This conversation series brings together AmeriCorps members serving across the state of Oregon in the ASPIRE program to discuss and digest their service year. By providing a structured yet open forum, we hope that members will evaluate and examine their expectations and preconceived notions of service in a meaningful way with the end result being a lifelong commitment to civic engagement.

August 23 and October 7, 2005

### **Why do we serve? What does service mean to you?**

Martin Luther King, Jr., "The Drum Major Instinct"

E.J Dionne Jr. and Kayla Meltzer Drogosz, "United We Serve?"

Harris Wofford, "The Politics of Service"

Dorothy Parker, "Song of the Shirt"

November 7 and 9, 2005

### **What do we expect, when we serve?**

Jane Addams, "A Modern Lear"

Dave Eggers, "Measuring the Jump"

January 6, 2006

### **How important is community?**

### **How do we create a sense of community over long distances?**

John Donne, "Meditation XVII"

Marcus Aurelius, "The Meditations, 7:13"

Wendell Berry, "Healing"

February 6 and 8, 2006

### **What are we trying to accomplish in our service? Why?**

### **What should we aim for? How can we best identify our own aims?**

Daniel Blumenthal, "Service in the Pursuit of Social Justice"

John Dewey, "Ends, the Good and Wisdom"

April 20, 2006

### **How does interaction with others help us see ourselves?**

David Sedaris, "Nuit of the Living Dead"

June 9, 2006

### **What is our duty to each other? Do we have a civic responsibility?**

Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Together"

Jean Jaques Rousseau, "Sixth Walk"

William Clinton, "The Duties of Democracy"

Paul Light, "The Volunteering Decision"