

## **ACA and Comcast Cares Day— One of the Largest Corporate Volunteer Days in the World**

On Saturday, April 22, 2017, the Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) partnered with Comcast for the annual event Comcast Cares Day. This is the biggest single-day community event nationwide. During this day, volunteers from 29 states and 21 countries serve communities with community organizations participating. This is the sixth continuous year that ACA has partnered with Comcast for such an event.

ACA volunteers were set up two locations this year, one at Motor City Blight Busters in Detroit with the main tasks of cleaning the streets, recycling and gardening; while the other volunteers in Plymouth packed food for donations locally and worldwide for Kids Coalition Against Hunger.

It was a cold spring morning though it was supposed to be warm. The ACA volunteers got up and arrived in Plymouth punctually at 7:40am. Parents, teenagers, elementary school students, and staff from ACA arrived at the registration station for Kids Coalition Against Hunger (Plymouth), where the group met more volunteers from other regions and worked together on packing up the food.

The food packages were to be sent and delivered to families in need both locally and worldwide, to help them fight hunger as well as give the message of hope.

After a brief and enthusiastic introduction from the program leader in Plymouth, volunteers carried out their tasks swiftly. Vitamins, dry vegetables, leguminous plants and rice were proportionally bagged, weighed, sealed and boxed up. Volunteers from ACA worked as a team no matter what their age and were considered the best team among all. The total number of 1-pound completed bags were announced ( 3000, 6000, 12000) as they were packaged to encourage and cheer on every team member. They were excited to see the bags of food ready to be shipped and then delivered to those in need, as if they were able to picture the receivers' happy faces.

The same day, ACA's second team arrived at Motor City Blight Busters in Detroit early waiting for their assignment. 16 volunteers registered for this program via online through ACA. Even though the majority of them were middle school students, they worked at the same level as adults on tasks including picking up garbage, weeding, transporting fertilizer, trimming dead branches, etc. They were always in the front line working.

It was a 4-hour transformation. The street turned into a clean and livable community area from its dirty and deserted image hours ago. The most exciting part was a nice vegetable garden was created, which would provide fresh vegetables and fruit for the local residents during summer time.

Comcast Cares Day, a special community cares day that changes the world, will leave a long-lasting memory in the minds of the ACA volunteers. It will encourage ACA to serve its communities and people better, and contribute love and care to the world.