Jason Amboo

During 2013, Jason Amboo’s activism and volunteerism with MHP were in overdrive. The 13-year-old logged 435 volunteer hours, the most of any youth or adult volunteer. He split his time after school helping out with three of MHP’s ongoing initiatives: the Community Life program and the Glenville Road Afterschool Homework Club, the Glenville Road Green Club, and the Building Dreams outreach.

Jason’s activism has received local and national recognition. Montgomery County’s Office of Community Partnership honored him with its annual Montgomery Serves “Youth Award” in recognition for his volunteer service with MHP.

NeighborWorks America® made him the youngest ever recipient of the Dorothy Richardson Leadership Award for his environmental stewardship and mentoring the younger kids.

Jason and his family moved to the Glenville Road cul-de-sac in 2008. He lives with his mother and younger brother in a 2-bedroom apartment. At the time, MHP owned three of the 16 small apartment buildings on the street, and have since acquired two additional buildings, including an abandoned foreclosure. MHP operates a community center in the basement of one of the buildings, and in 2008 Jason enrolled in the afterschool homework club.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

During his early years on the cul-de-sac, littering and bulk trash became issues that MHP began to tackle with help from the residents who formed the Glenville Road Neighborhood Improvement Association. As he got older, Jason says he began searching for a way that he and his friends could make a difference.

The Glenville Road Green Club became that vehicle, and it has grown in size and influence in the neighborhood with both children and their parents.

The Green Club now takes the lead in organizing Earth Day cleanups, annual beautification projects, and even started a community garden next door at the Long Branch Community Center. During 2013, the Green Club community garden, which was built in partnership with BB&T Bank, produced approximately 20 pounds of produce, including beets, kale, tomatoes, peppers, and broccoli.

After he turned 12, Jason’s enrollment in the Homework Club ended, but he continued to come back and volunteer his time at least 4 days a week despite being heavily involved in organized sports and the school chorus. His mentoring of the younger children is invaluable and they all look up to him as a positive role model. Through his continuing recruitment efforts with the Green Club, 61 percent of families who live on the cul-de-sac report they take active participation in the neighborhood improvement efforts.

"It’s important to volunteer so you can give back to your community and teach future generations how to help each other.”

— Jason Amboo
Volunteer, Glenville Road Green Club

“Without helping someone, life is just incomplete.”

Pictured above: Jason Amboo, 13, received the Montgomery Serves “Youth Award” for his more than 400 hours of volunteer service to MHP during 2013.
Community Building
MHP hosted a variety of community outreach activities during the year to encourage residents to come out and meet their neighbors and take a vested interest in keeping their neighborhoods clean and safe. (Top 1-to-r) Residents at Dring’s Reach in Silver Spring attend the Annual National Night Out celebration in August; (Bottom 1-to-r) Students from the Glenville Road Green Club and McKendree Green Club spend time in their community garden and participate in cleanup days, respectively.