



# green highlight

## Earth Day Inspires Young Residents to Go Green

Every year since 1970, April 22 has been celebrated as Earth Day. The idea was hatched by then-Senator Gaylord Nelson, who wanted to spread awareness about the environment and what needed to be changed in our habits as stewards of the planet.

Now, 40 years later, with the economic climate combined with the climate crisis, Earth Day seems even more important. More than 500 million people in over 180 countries, including residents in several CHP neighborhoods, participated this year in events and projects to address our shared responsibility to protect the planet.



*Flour, butter, eggs, and birdseed are used by young residents at Ansell Gardens Apartments in Portsmouth, Virginia to create treats for the birds in their area.*

The **Yorktown Square** and **Rivermeade Apartments** in Yorktown, Virginia celebrated Earth Day with the help of **Greg Hamm**, the local **Farm Fresh Supermarket** manager. Paper bags were donated to the community centers for resident children to decorate with environmentally-friendly messages. The bags were then returned to Farm Fresh and used to bag groceries on Earth Day, helping to raise community awareness about important environmental concerns.

**AmeriCorps** members at **Cross Creek** and **Ansell Gardens Apartments** in Portsmouth, Virginia hosted a three-day Earth Day Adventure for the communities' children as a way to get the youth involved in their community, and to help them understand why community activism is important.

**AmeriCorps** member **Genivive Habib** made bird seed "cookies" with the children as a treat for the local wildlife, while member **Ashley Bledsoe** made a delightfully icky "dirt pudding" desert out of crushed Oreo cookies and gummy worms. They also prepared a flower bed for planting the following week, offering the children a

hands-on learning experience in gardening. In addition, the resident services team hosted a Neighborhood Clean-up Day, where the kids spent a day cleaning up trash and debris in their communities.

“In observing Earth Day we tried to encourage residents to make changes in their daily habits to positively impact the environment, which will also increase their appreciation for the environment,” said AmeriCorps Program Coordinator Jasmin Cotman.

## Property Improvement Projects Bring Employees Together on Earth Day

While resident children were taking part in service learning projects on Earth Day, CHP staff were also busy commemorating the global event.

Employees from across southwestern Virginia gathered at Charlottesville’s **Blue Ridge Commons Apartments** for a day of property improvement projects that included landscaping, painting, and upgrading the play area. Employees and residents were also treated to tunes from a deejay, hot dogs and hamburgers cooked on the grill by local policemen, as well as activities and prizes for the children that included a pinata game and “Tumble Bus” for the kids to play on.



*Matthew Howell, Maintenance Supervisor at Grayson Manor, shovels mulch onto the new playground at Blue Ridge Commons Apartments in Charlottesville, Virginia.*

Tidewater staff members also paid tribute to Earth Day by working on several grounds beautification projects at **Friendship Village** in Virginia Beach. “We worked like crazy that day, but had a terrific time!” exclaimed **Regional Property Manager Nona Hipp**. “We did everything from pressure wash the buildings and paint curbs, to plant flowers and pick up trash.”