

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY National event will feature activities in Long Beach

Make A Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others — a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. Created by USA Weekend Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October.

Millions have participated. In 2009, 3 million people cared enough about their communities to volunteer on that day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns. Your project can be as large or as small as you wish. Look around your community and see what needs to be done. Or use the ideas on this site for inspiration.

A number of activities are planned around the Long Beach area. Among them:

**Wilson High sponsors quilt-making for vets:** Quilts of Valor, a nonprofit organization that makes quilts for wounded soldiers will host its Make A Difference event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Wilson High School, 4400 E. 10th St., Long Beach.

Fabric donations are needed. Students will receive one hour of service learning time for every \$19 donated. This is the school district's policy.

Machines can be brought to help sew

and donations of thread and other sewing supplies, cotton fabric of any color, except juvenile prints, are welcomed and needed. Adult sewers or quilters are welcome to join and assist with sewing or supervising the teens.

Anyone who is interested in working the event or who has questions can e-mail Shelley Rooney at [wateraki.family@verizon.net](mailto:wateraki.family@verizon.net) and Yasemin Altuner at [yasemin@mayatrado.net](mailto:yasemin@mayatrado.net).

**Repairs on tap by CSULB students, staff:** Approximately 100 students and staff from Cal State Long Beach, along with members of the nonprofit organization Rebuilding Together Long Beach, will help repair the Eastman Facility Boys and Girls Club of Long Beach on Saturday.

The repair project is one of six taking place throughout Long Beach that day under the auspices of the local Rebuilding Together chapter.

Volunteers are still being accepted. Call Rebuilding Together Long Beach, 562-490-3802 or go to [www.rebuildingtogetherlongbeach.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetherlongbeach.org).

**Rebuilding Together to renovate homes:** Rebuilding Together Long Beach will give five Long Beach homeowners some much-needed renovations and repairs in order to make their houses their happy homes again on Saturday.

For more information, visit [www.rebuildingtogether.org](http://www.rebuildingtogether.org), [www.facebook.com/RebuildingTogether](http://www.facebook.com/RebuildingTogether) or follow Rebuilding Together at <http://twitter.com/rebldgtogthr>.

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**Food Finders, Whole Foods holding breakfast:** Food Finders is partnering with We Love Long Beach and Whole Foods Market for a free breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at Promenade Square (Promenade and First Street). This event is a way to draw people out of their homes to meet their neighbors, local government, police and fire department personnel and representatives of some of the local charities that provide social services.

It is also a way to inform the community about volunteer opportunities for those who want to serve their community. For more information, call Food Finders at 562-598-3003 or go to [www.welovealb.org](http://www.welovealb.org).

**Rick Rackers give away backpacks:** Rick Rackers Auxiliary of the Assistance League of Long Beach will deliver about 700 backpacks for the entire student body at McKinley Elementary School as part of Assistance League's Operation School Bell® program from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

The program helps to clothe students in need in the Long Beach Unified School District. Each backpack is filled with basic school supplies, two white polo shirts, one pair of pants, one pair of shorts or a skort, four pairs of socks, three pairs of underwear, a warm jacket and a book donated by Molina Foundation Book Buddies Program. McKinley is located at 6822 N. Paramount Blvd., Long Beach.

— Pamela Hale-Burns