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Volunteers clean up city's west side

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BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB) - Volunteers are getting their hands dirty during the Great American Clean Up on Buffalo's west side.

The Belle Center on the city's west side started something that many are now taking part of.

Program director Daytuan Antonetti explained, "We have quite a few different groups that's engaged with us today. Buffalo Americorps members with us today, we have Conservation Corp members and we have our Department of Social Services that brought out some volunteers."

Most of the volunteers are young folks looking to help out by sprucing up vacant lots and land that has become an eyesore in recent days. Antonetti says the most important thing about this cleanup effort is that it makes a lasting impression on those who take part.

"A lot of times we see young people kind of walk by and throw trash in the community. But once they start picking up themselves, then they start thinking about, "Wow...now I got to clean this up! Maybe I might just throw it in the garbage can for a change!"

And the program doesn't only reach out to the local community. David McQuillan, a student at Allegheny College, heard of the program and was happy to help out.

His favorite part about volunteering is, "Looking back. You see there's a big field of dirt and trash and uncut grass and then you look back and you're like, 'I did all of this.'"

The Belle Center will be rewing up their lawn mowers once again on Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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