

## **KEYS Program marks 20 years of service**

About 60 members of the AmeriCorps Knowledge to Empower Youth to Success (KEYS) program recently marked 20 years of the program's existence and Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a multitude of service projects.

KEYS marks MLK Day each year with daylong community projects but this year extended service to 20 hours to reflect the program's anniversary. This year, KEYS members began their service at 9 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17 and concluded at 5 p.m. the next day, MLK Day.

In the community, members did organizing and cleaning at Family House, which provides housing to families who have members seeking treatment at Pittsburgh-area hospitals; cooked and served breakfast at Northside Common Ministries; assisted older adults with cleaning and maintenance alongside staff from the Homewood YWCA; and sorted and packaged medical supplies at Global Links, a nonprofit that supports health improvements in resource-poor communities.

KEYS members also knit hats for babies, made flowers for the Carnegie Library that will be used in "Pop des Fleur," a public art project in which the library is participating, and made puzzle books for patients at Allegheny General Hospital.

KEYS Director Helen Wachter secured a grant for the program in 1995 and it began operating in 1996. It is housed in the Department of Human Service (DHS) Office of Community Service (OCS).



KEYS Members (left to right) Val Dillard, Kristen Trichtinger and Beth Zovko helped out at Family House.

