

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

presents the

2009

Spirit of Service Awards



Nominate an Outstanding Volunteer

Last Year's Winners:

Antonio Almeida, AmeriCorps State/National

AmeriCorps member Antonio Almeida serves with YouthBuild in Fall River, Mass., where he contributes to his community by building or rehabilitating low-income housing while working toward a GED. His great personal accomplishments in the program, his involvement in promoting the program to other young people, and his focus on addressing mental health issues in his community make him a role model for his peers. He has gone from homelessness and receiving mental health services to becoming an active citizen who addresses issues within his community.

David Karst, AmeriCorps Alum

AmeriCorps alum David Karst served as an AmeriCorps VISTA in 1997 with the AIDS Service Association of Pinellas County in Florida. Toward the end of his service, he began exploring how he could get HIV-testing into the community. He sought funding for his dream of having a community health center and found private foundations willing to support his concept. The Suncoast Resort Project opened in May 2002. Knowing this was a unique concept in the prevention field, Karst decided to apply for funding to expand the program. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is funding the project for five years.

American Red Cross, Bay Area Chapter, VISTA

The eight-member team of AmeriCorps VISTAs serving with the American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter is helping the region's most vulnerable residents prepare for natural disasters and other emergencies, meeting the great demands of serving a population of 4 million people. Lindsay Dumas, Emerson Chen, Nikki Nichols, Jeff Schurke, Alicia Esterripa, Juan Carlos Pinzon, Francine Williams, and Chester Ng are targeting the needs of specific populations as they design and offer disaster training programs and conduct outreach activities.

Ashley Sloan / Greg Loushine / Jackie Smith, NCCC

Former AmeriCorps NCCC members Ashley Sloan, Greg Loushine, and Jackie Smith served at the former NCCC campus in Charleston, S.C., during the 2006-07 program year. While serving on a project in St. Bernard Parish near New Orleans, they recognized that Gulf Coast recovery efforts were being hampered by the need for more volunteer housing. Their response was to create Live St. Bernard, an organization that renovated an 1,800-square-foot home where up to 16 volunteers can be housed while participating in rebuilding projects. The fundraisers they organized garnered \$15,000 in donations. They then led 50 volunteers to clean mold, install insulation, and paint the Live St. Bernard home. Their efforts were chronicled by CNN and USA Today.

Team Blue Four, NCCC

Blue Four, a team based at the AmeriCorps NCCC Western Region campus near Sacramento, traveled to New Orleans for its first project with the Recovery School District immediately after completing training in Denver. Team members focused on their assignment, the physical rehabilitation of schools, while undertaking a variety of

additional projects to leave a lasting mark on the school district and the community. Members brainstormed creative ways to increase interaction with students, teachers, and the community. They helped create a more pleasing environment at modular schools by painting signs and murals, using discarded tires and other materials to landscape gardens, planting flower beds, installing benches, and spray painting mascots on school grounds. They also organized two field days, seeking various donations such as play equipment to entertain 925 students. The team members, led by Tiffany Zapico, include Jennifer Armstrong, Kelly Comley, Kathleen Delahunty, Ashley Duquette, Raven Hughes, Jonathan Lee, Emily Lewis, Brian Tirey, Danielle Trezek, and Miranda Williams.

Do you know a current or former member who exemplifies the purpose and meaning of AmeriCorps?

Share their stories and the spirit of service.

AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation) are committed to recognizing and celebrating outstanding service by their members and alumni. The Spirit of Service Awards pay tribute to the most outstanding participants in each of the Corporation's programs, which also include Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America.

The awards will be presented to the winners during special ceremonies at the 2009 National Conference on Volunteering and Service, June 22-24 in San Francisco. Nominations are currently being sought. Nominees must exemplify the spirit of national service, demonstrate exceptional service or leadership, and serve as role models for others in their community.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Four award recipients will be selected among AmeriCorps nominees. One winner will be selected from each of the following categories:

- an AmeriCorps member including State, National, Tribes, Territories, Education Award programs;
- an AmeriCorps NCCC member;
- an AmeriCorps VISTA member; and
- an AmeriCorps alum.

Members may be nominated under only one category within AmeriCorps. Members who have completed service in an AmeriCorps program before September 30, 2008, should be nominated under the "Alumni" category. All members completing service after that date or currently serving should be nominated under one of the other appropriate categories.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations may be made by any person affiliated with an AmeriCorps grantee or sponsoring organization such as fellow members, team leaders, project directors, or organization staff; any state commission staff member; or any Corporation staff member. Self-nominations also are permitted.

All nominations must include a narrative of 250 words or less in support of the nomination (see guidelines below). Nominations must also include:

- Nominee's name, address, telephone number, fax, e-mail address, and dates of service.
- Nominator's name and title, organization name, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail address.
- The category of AmeriCorps program (see eligibility requirements) for which you are nominating.

Incomplete nomination submissions will be disqualified.

There are three easy ways to submit a nomination:

1. Fill out an online nomination form at www.nationalservice.gov/spiritofservice
2. Send by e-mail to spiritofserviceawards@cns.gov
3. Fax to 202-606-3460

Each nomination must be submitted separately. If you have questions, please call 202-606-6717. The nomination deadline is Monday, March 30, 2009 at 5p.m. Eastern time. Nominations received after this date may not be considered.

NARRATIVE GUIDELINES

The narrative should address how the nominee exemplifies the spirit of service by addressing the following questions (in 250 words or less for each):

1. Tell us about the person you are nominating. Where is this person serving currently? What are this person's service responsibilities? When did he or she start serving? What qualities set this person apart from other individuals who serve in your program?
2. Tell us about the leadership qualities of the person you are nominating. How has this person inspired others and encouraged others to serve? Has he or she taken on particular leadership roles in your organization or in the community that set them apart? If so, please describe these roles.
3. Provide some examples of tangible outcomes the person you are nominating has achieved. For instance, discuss problems solved, measurable changes (like test scores, truancy rates, changes in rates of infection, mentoring matches, etc.), dollars saved, effective leveraging of volunteers and resources, or number of people served. Please be as specific as possible and identify some examples of the impact the individual has made.
4. Tell us about the extraordinary efforts made by the person you are nominating. Has this person had to overcome any personal challenges? Has this person's service changed your programming, capacity for service delivery, or sustainability in any way? What makes this person's efforts stand out from others?

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of AmeriCorps staff members at the Corporation and representatives of the AmeriCorps service community. The committee will make its recommendations to the executive staff of the Corporation. Final selections will be determined by the executive staff of the Corporation. All decisions about award recipients are final.

If a nominee is selected, the nominee and nominator will be contacted by telephone. Award recipients will be invited to travel as a guest of the Corporation to San Francisco, CA, where they will be recognized during special ceremonies at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service.

Nominators will be notified of the status of their nominations once the selection process is completed. The list of all award recipients will be posted on the www.nationalservice.gov website. Information submitted becomes the property of the Corporation and will not be returned to the nominator.

Privacy Policy: You are advised that a nominee's name, as well as all submission material, may be used for news or publicity programs connected with the Corporation for National and Community Service. Contact information, however, will not be shared with anyone outside the Corporation, and will be shared only with individuals within the Corporation who have an official need to know the information. Finally, if a nominee or nominator does not want his or her name and/or narrative information used for purposes of news, publicity, and publications, please indicate this within your submission.

The Spirit of Service Awards are sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

