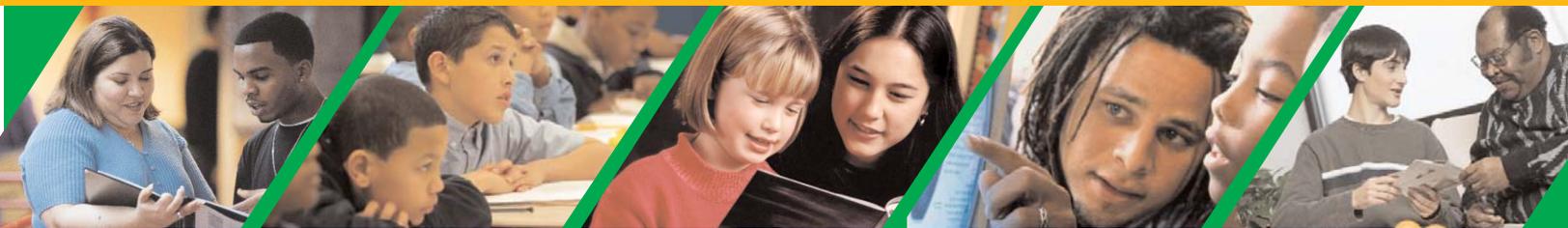


Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

presents the

2008

Spirit of Service Awards



Nominate an Outstanding Student, Educator, Grantee

Last Year's Winners:

Learn and Serve America Student Joey Bowman is a high school senior with an impressive list of accomplishments to look back on. For the past two years, as president of the Prescott Valley Charter School (PVCS) Youth Chamber of Commerce in Prescott, AZ, a service-learning club, Joey has led his peers in a variety of activities. He chaired the PVCS branch of the local Chamber of Commerce's "Burning Desire to Feed the Hungry Food Drive, a yearly event that supports the Yavapai Food Bank. Not satisfied with an annual food drive, he instituted 10 monthly drives, in keeping with his slogan, "Hunger is not seasonal." More than 1,600 food items were collected in one 10-day period at PVCS. In addition, he was the Youth Chamber representative at the Fall 2006 Learn and Serve Leadership Camp in Prescott, where he led other students in classes and teamwork exercises. As a result of the three-day camp, Joey and his fellow attendees were inspired to develop a list of new club activities to support their chosen cause, the Yavapai Food Bank. Activities to benefit the food bank include placing 15 bins at local businesses for food and clothing collection and a holiday craft and bake sale.

Learn and Serve America Program Coordinator Gail Robinson is a well-known leader in the service-learning and civic engagement community. The manager of service-learning for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in Washington, DC, Gail has overseen AACC's service-learning and civic engagement work for the past 13 years. During that time, the percentage of community colleges with service-learning programs has doubled to 60 percent. Whether facilitating the Learn and Serve "Community Colleges Broadening Horizons Through Service-Learning" grant at AACC or acting as a service-learning trainer, Gail brings a unique spirit to her work. Over the years, she has developed workshop sessions that bring ideas to life, such as interactive and reflective teamwork exercises that also provide donations for local food banks or homeless shelters. She also mentors colleagues on ways to combine service-learning into other programs, advances the importance of mentor/mentee relationships, and serves as a resource for staff managing other Learn and Serve America grants.

Learn and Serve America Educator Kari Simon-Pieters is a dedicated science teacher who has helped students answer the question, "What does chemistry have to do with the real world?" They find out the answer when Kari brings her classroom into the community to address environmental needs. In her "Chemistry and the Community" class, students join the Stony Creek Watershed Project to test water quality, report data to Michigan State University and watershed landowners, and post the data on the World Water Monitoring Day website. To reduce erosion and unwanted nutrients that were polluting the creek, students created a buffer strip by planting more than 50 trees. They also investigated a major loss in macro invertebrates in Stony Creek, and participated in the local Adopt-A-Stream program. In the summer of 2006, three of her students were accepted to study in Japan, where they spent two weeks performing water quality tests. They then hosted their Japanese counterparts for a two-week tour and study of the Great Lakes.

Do you know a student or champion of service-learning who has made a true difference in their community?

Share their Stories and the Spirit of Service.

Learn and Serve America and the Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation) are committed to recognizing and celebrating outstanding leaders and practices in service-learning. 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 AmeriCorps.

The awards will be presented during special ceremonies at the National Youth Leadership Conference, April 9-12, in Minneapolis, MN. Nominations of individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to their communities and the field of service-learning are currently being sought. Nominees must exemplify quality service-learning, demonstrate exceptional service or leadership, and provide a model to others in the field.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

This competition is open to any project or participant in a program supported by Learn and Serve America. We expect to make awards in each of the following categories:

- a student;
- an educator; and
- a Learn and Serve America grantee.

Nominees must be current or past Learn and Serve America grantees or part of a grantee-sponsored project.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations may be made by any person affiliated with a grantee organization, program director or staff, 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). All nominations must also include:

- Nominee's name, address, telephone number, fax, e-mail address and Learn and Serve America grantee affiliation.
- Nominator's name and title, organization name, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail address.
- Please indicate that your nomination is for the Learn and Serve America Spirit of Service Award and specify if the nominee is a student, educator, or grantee.

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 Sunday, February 10, 2008. 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 Learn and Serve America staff members at the Corporation and representatives of the service-learning 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 Atlanta, GA, 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 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.

