

National Service Impact in Delaware

AmeriCorps

Delaware Habitat for Humanity's 20 AmeriCorps members serve the state by providing economic opportunity and housing services state-wide through three Habitat for Humanity affiliates. The AmeriCorps members had a direct impact on 31 families through home ownership programs that impacted 112 people, 67 of whom were children. In addition, 27 poverty owner-occupied houses received A Brush With Kindness repairs that included building handicap access ramps and repairing dangerous entrances and exits, making homes more energy efficient by replacing damaged doors and windows, and brightening the homes and neighborhoods with paint and yard clean-up.

AmeriCorps NCCC

Delaware State Parks provides Delaware's residents and visitors with safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities and open spaces, delivers responsible stewardship of the lands and cultural and natural resources, and offers resource-based interpretive and educational services. AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) members working with Delaware State Parks helped maintain the safety and accessibility of the parks by removing 2,500 pounds of trash, repairing 2,500 feet of irrigation systems, and removing 3,500 pounds of underbrush. The NCCC team worked at eight state parks in Delaware and helped restore 88 campsites.

AmeriCorps VISTA

To help close the digital divide impacting the Wilmington community, the Mike Clark Legacy Foundation funded the new Skills Center which opened in November, 2012, at the Fraim Boys & Girls Club. An AmeriCorps VISTA member assisted with planning, renovation, technology installation, and program development. After a needs survey of over 100 club members, the Center was renovated and equipped with technology including computers, iPads, digital cameras, Lego Mindstorms kits and a Smart Board. A team developed and launched an IT Works Lite program that involves volunteer instructors teaching lessons about computer hardware, Microsoft software, resume writing, and professionalism. Approximately 30 teen club members have been served. A bank of 200 Smart Board lessons for K-12 club members is being built. The Skills Center continues to expand the number of programs it offers.

Senior Corps

Falls are a leading cause of injury and death for older adults. Seniors who fall frequently face costly hospitalizations and nursing home stays. A Matter of Balance is a program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase the activity levels of participants. A Matter of Balance program was presented by 26 RSVP volunteers to 147 seniors in 2013. Participants attend classes presented by RSVP volunteers for eight, two hour sessions. More than 80 percent of the participants report they have increased their activity levels and have made changes to their home environment resulting in less risk of falling. Offered only in New Castle and Sussex Counties in 2009, the program expanded and is now offered statewide. The Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities provides funding to support this program.

Social Innovation Fund

The Children's Aid Society-Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program (CAS-Carrera), a program of the Children's Aid Society, is an evidence-based pregnancy prevention model that helps young people avoid becoming parents during the second decade of their lives. They were selected to receive an initial Social Innovation Fund (SIF) subgrant award of \$1.5 million through intermediary The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, which they will match dollar-for-dollar with nonfederal funds. Wilmington is one of 12 locations served by the program through their SIF subgrant. CAS-Carrera engages young people year-round, beginning in the 5th or 6th grade, and continues through graduation from high school and beyond. The program is currently delivered in two modes: a proven afterschool model and an innovative adaptation of the afterschool model that is integrated into the school day. CAS-Carrera plans to serve 10,000-11,000 youth between 2012 and 2014.