

# National Service Impact in North Carolina

## AmeriCorps

The AmeriCorps ACCESS Project helps immigrants and refugees gain access to human services and become economically self-sufficient. In the 2011-2012 program year, 60 ACCESS members served at 30 nonprofit agency sites across North Carolina, providing interpreter services, teaching English, and referring newcomers to human services. Approximately 20 of the bilingual ACCESS members provided 5,161 interpretation services to 1,999 clients, saving agencies \$206,440 in interpreter fees. Additionally, seven ACCESS members who specialized in volunteer management recruited 559 volunteers who provided 7,776 hours of community service, valued at \$148,444, including tutoring children and adults, providing childcare, transportation, teaching English, and helping with agency events. More than \$192,000 in cash and \$258,000 of in-kind services were generated by partner organizations to support the project.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC Team Delta 3 worked with Habitat for Humanity of Goldboro-Wayne County to construct an energy efficient house for a family. The team framed the house, built walls, placed roof trusses, and led YouthBuild volunteers. The team also built a simulated roof for future training purposes, measuring 400 square feet. A family of six is the direct beneficiary of safe and decent housing built by NCCC Team Delta 3. Team members gained leadership skills and also learned how to properly and safely use construction tools.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

North Carolina Campus Compact's AmeriCorps VISTA project is at work in Chapel Hill's Northside neighborhood, where low-income homeowners and residents face increasing pressure from rising rents, high property taxes, and student housing development. The Marian Cheek Jackson Center supports community development programs, including a food pantry, home repair program, and referrals to other providers. For two years, AmeriCorps VISTA members have built the Center's capacity by coordinating volunteers, creating programs with UNC Chapel Hill and other local agencies, and developing new administrative systems. Each month, the food pantry serves 5,000 residents and engages dozens of community volunteers. An annual clinic helps 20 elderly homeowners with estate planning; housing repair projects have improved eight homes; and community check-ins allow staff to identify housing issues, orient new residents, and share neighborhood news.

## Senior Corps

One-third of families and individuals in Buncombe County do not have enough income to be self-sufficient. In 2012, 101 RSVP volunteers from Land-of-Sky RSVP volunteered across the region helping human service agencies meet requests for basic necessities. RSVP volunteers assisted 25,619 clients during crisis situations to provide food, shelter, income, and housing assistance. As a result, 96 percent of clients reported they are less stressed and better able to care for their families.

## Social Innovation Fund

Children's Home Society of North Carolina (CHSNC) provides a range of services to youth, with an emphasis on child welfare. With their initial Social Innovation Fund subgrant of two million dollars through intermediary the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation and their dollar-for-dollar nonfederal matching funds, they will expand their Family Finding and Wise Guys programs. The first is an intensive intervention to identify and engage family members and other resources in the lives of youth who are in or aging out of foster care. Family Finding staff members are specially trained, carry small caseloads, and spend three to four months working with each youth. Wise Guys is a 12-session teen pregnancy prevention program that informs middle-school males about appropriate sexual behavior, including abstinence and contraception, as well as communication and healthy relationships. With this investment, CHSNC plans to implement rigorous evaluations of the programs and to serve 350-500 youth aged 9-24 through Family Finding, and 600 to 1,100 young people through Wise Guys between 2012 and 2014.