

## AmeriCorps State

Playworks enhances and transforms recess play into a positive experience that helps kids and teachers get the most out of every learning opportunity. Playworks AmeriCorps coaches support healthy, inclusive play that moves kids off the sidelines and engages them in action. Kids learn basic sports, playground and cooperative games, as well as lessons on physical health and fitness and principles of violence prevention and safety. The Playworks AmeriCorps program at Hendley Elementary School has impacted recess in a tremendously positive way. Last year, Hendley had an excessive amount of fighting and bullying because of free play supervised by staff members who were not trained in organized recess. Recess last school year had to be adjusted to one grade level a day for student safety. This year, students have recess daily because of the coordination and direction of Playworks AmeriCorps Coach Chris. Different recess centers have been created on the playground with Hendley recess staff members managing them with students to ensure safe and fun play. In addition there have been fewer office referrals for recess disruptions. Teachers have gained instructional time not having to resolve carry over issues from the playground.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

The See Forever Foundation's Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools (MAPCS) involves four AmeriCorps VISTA members in data analysis, project resources development, student engagement, and curriculum design. The VISTAs also develop and strengthen volunteer and mentoring program opportunities. The Foundation designs learning communities in low-income urban areas, where all students, particularly those who have not succeeded in traditional schools, can reach their potential and prepare for college, careers, and a lifetime of success. At the MAPCS High School, located in an underserved area east of the Anacostia River, the learning community program is experiencing great success, as 73 percent of its graduates enroll in college, compared with about 50 percent of high school graduates among African-Americans in local, low-income communities.

Higher Achievement's rigorous afterschool and summer academic program closes the opportunity gap for middle school youth in under-resourced communities. The program's proven model provides a demanding year-round learning environment, caring role models, and a culture of high expectations, resulting in college-bound scholars with the character, confidence, and skills to succeed. On average, 95 percent of scholars who complete Higher Achievement advance to top academic high school programs and 93 percent advance to college. With the support of AmeriCorps VISTA in the areas of program quality and evaluation, core research model development, volunteer/mentor recruitment and alumni support; by 2016, Higher Achievement aims to serve 70 percent more students directly and impact more than 7,000 students in Washington, DC, Pittsburgh, PA, Richmond and Alexandria, VA.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The United Planning Organization's Foster Grandparent Program has more than 200 Foster Grandparents serving in various types of educational institutions across the District of Columbia. From pre-school to Job Corps, District area seniors are making a difference in young people's lives, helping them achieve academic goals. The accomplishments of the DC Foster Grandparent Program have been highlighted in segments on CNN and Rock Center with Brian Williams, as well as in recent articles in the Washington Post. Currently, the work of 75 Foster Grandparents placed in regular and special education classrooms in Title I elementary schools like Plummer, Miner, and Malcom X, has helped increase the academic achievement of 85 percent of the students they work with, according to their teachers.

## Senior Corps RSVP

The Washington, DC RSVP program is administered through the nonprofit Family Matters of Greater Washington. More than 150 volunteers serve in various capacities around the city. From working with veterans, to assisting low income students with literacy; residents over the age of 55 are making an impact in key areas like education and aging in place. Recently, RSVP in collaboration with the AARP Foundation launched an innovative program called Connecting to Communities where low-income seniors build connections and technology skills in a peer-to-peer setting. Since its inception, senior volunteers have trained more than 100 low income senior residents in the use of the Internet, email, social media, and common computer applications that would further their connections to information and other groups of people with similar interests. After successful participation in the program, all participants receive an iPad and in-home Internet service to help them stay connected.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Washington, DC Senior Companion Program is administered by the University of the District of Columbia's Institute of Gerontology. The program recruits and trains senior volunteers 55 years and older to serve other residents in their homes or at group facilities such as senior housing buildings and senior centers. These dedicated volunteers assist ill and home-bound elderly persons with errands, light housekeeping, meal preparation, and many other activities that allow them to remain in their home, stay connected with others, and age with dignity. For example, the VA Medical Center is a DC facility that houses veterans with various illnesses and diseases connected to their tours of duty. Many of these veterans do not have friends or family members in the area. Currently, 33 Senior Companions support 107 veterans at the VA Medical Center.

## Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund transforms lives and communities using limited federal investment as a catalyst to grow the impact of nonprofits with evidence of strong results. It harnesses the expertise of grantmaking intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits and engages funding partners to contribute nearly three dollars to every one federal dollar invested. As the Social Innovation Fund network grows programs that work in the District of Columbia, more people are able to overcome their most pressing challenges in the areas of economic opportunity, health, and youth development. The Social Innovation Fund is investing \$1,522,425 in expanding the impact of nine nonprofits in the District of Columbia, selected and supported by five intermediaries.