

AmeriCorps State

At Serve Delaware's 9/11 statewide service project, AmeriCorps members placed flags at hundreds of gravesites at a veterans' memorial cemetery and helped collect items for 10,000 service members overseas. In addition, Teach for America AmeriCorps members engaged their students in writing cards for soldiers, and Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps members worked on a veteran's build and home rehab.

AmeriCorps VISTA

To educate the future workforce in Delaware and close the skills-education gap, the Delaware Economic Development Office (DEDO) has partnered with state agencies and non-profits to support the launch of the Success Pathways and Roads to Careers (SPARC) program. Currently being piloted in seven schools, the web-based SPARC program enables students to explore post-secondary options and engage with professionals in those fields. An AmeriCorps VISTA member played a critical role in recruiting and training volunteers and businesses to participate in the online platform, as well as to provide opportunities for job shadowing and career fairs. More than 90 businesses and 200 volunteers representing the diverse industries in Delaware are participating. The SPARC program will reach 1,750 student participants by June 2015, with the goal of a statewide rollout to all students in the 2015-16 school year.

The mentoring and technology center at Kingswood Community Center opened its doors in January 2015 to help close the digital divide and enable youth in northeast Wilmington to achieve their full potential. Developed in partnership with the Mike Clark Legacy Foundation, the center is modeled after the Skills Center at Fraim Boys and Girls Club. Both projects have been realized with support of AmeriCorps VISTA members playing a key role in renovation, partnerships and outreach, and program development. The newly renovated space serves as the home base for the KCC Mentoring and Technology Education Program, which utilizes a team mentoring approach where one mentor serves four students ages 10-17. The mentoring program will serve 12 youth in its inaugural year. The center offers additional activities and workshops to youth including STEM training, financial literacy, self-management and the arts.

AmeriCorps NCCC

Habitat for Humanity New Castle County is a non-profit organization building about 21 sustainable homes per year for lower income families. HFHNCC uses the recourses of volunteer labor, homeowner sweat equity, and donated fund/materials. HFHCC is requesting an AmeriCorps NCCC team to assist with a seven townhouse development project in Cooper's Run located in Wilmington, DE. An AmeriCorps NCCC team provided a consistent team of volunteers who would accumulate skills as their work days with Habitat increase. This would speed up building and shorten the work schedule. Members will be working with Habitat construction staff, skilled volunteers and prospective homeowners to complete seven townhouses by September 2014.

Winterthur's mission is to inspire, enlighten, and delight all of its visitors while preserving and enhancing its buildings and landscape, its collections and programs, and its history as a great American country estate. An AmeriCorps NCCC team was responsible for enhancing access to Winterthur's woodland trail by removing invasive non-native plant species in support of staff Horticulturalists. This team cleared trail in Natural Outlying Areas through brush removal and mowing with sensitivity to native plant development and animal habitat. This team also helped construct deer "exclosure" fences at several locations at Winterthur. Deer "exclosures" fences are designed to keep deer out and allow native tree, shrub and herbaceous layer to establish themselves. The NCCC team also pruned, raked, weeded, and mulched as part of overall fall clean-up which has as a goal increasing the native plant population and maintaining and improving the water quality of Clenny Run, the stream that runs through the estate. Through their hard work, the NCCC team was able to make this bucolic garden available to many members of the public who otherwise would not have access to such a space.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

For students who have fallen behind, the 239 Foster Grandparents sponsored by the Delaware State Office on Volunteerism represent an opportunity to close the gap academically and improve their social and emotional development. From July 2013 to June 2014, Foster Grandparents served more than 200,000 hours in elementary and pre-schools across the state, providing tutoring and mentoring to 1,434 children and youth. The average Foster Grandparents serves 20-30 hours per week, focusing on children 12 and under in need of educational support. The State of Delaware's Foster Grandparent Program continues to respond to new community needs, recently beginning to provide services at language immersion schools, where half of the instruction is taught in English and the other half in Spanish. The Foster Grandparents serving at these language immersion schools are bilingual, helping students to become proficient in both languages.

Senior Corps RSVP

The Hope Medical Clinic is Delaware's only 100 percent free medical facility, offering non-emergency primary medical and dental care services to uninsured, non-Medicaid individuals age 18-65. Comprised entirely of volunteers, the staff includes internists, surgeons, family practice physicians, dentists, nurses and additional medical and office support staff. For the more than 3,200 patients, the clinic has offered access to medical treatment that was once out of reach. The total value of the free medical services provided is more than \$500,000. From July 2013 to June 2014, 22 RSVP volunteers contributed 1,614 hours of service to the clinic as leadership, medical and support staff. The Hope Medical Clinic was founded and has continued to expand with the support of the Modern Maturity Center, adding additional services to meet the needs of Delaware's uninsured citizens.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

With respite care costs increasing, in-home care services are out of reach for much of Delaware's senior population. A report on the state of respite care in Delaware indicated that 53 percent of seniors surveyed could not afford the cost of respite care, forcing many to stay alone or rely on family for care. The First State Community Action Agency's Senior Companion Program focuses on those most vulnerable, the low-income frail and elderly that would not otherwise be able to access respite services. From July 2013 to June 2014, 12 Senior Companions provided respite care services four hours per day, five days per week. Thirteen low-income families received services, resulting in cost savings of more than \$300,000. First State Community Action Agency has proudly sponsored the Senior Companion Program in Delaware for more than 30 years.