

## AmeriCorps State

Twenty ScholarCorps AmeriCorps members are placed at select colleges and universities across Indiana and serve as an on-campus resource to first and second year 21st Century Scholar students. Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Program ensures that every Hoosier student can afford the opportunity provided by a college degree. Eligible students who keep the Scholar Pledge to excellence in school and life receive a Scholarship to help pay for their college education. The ScholarCorps AmeriCorps program aims to increase 21st Century Scholar retention and success by providing on-campus programming, direct support and connecting students to various on-campus resources, information and services needed to be successful in college. Each ScholarCorps member will be charged with providing Scholars with resources in four programmatic areas, including Academic Performance and Persistence, Student Engagement and Enrichment, Career Exploration and Preparation, and Financial Literacy and Debt Management. Members are located in Bloomington, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Hammond, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Lafayette, Marion, Muncie, New Albany, Richmond, South Bend, Terre Haute, Vincennes, and West Lafayette.

## AmeriCorps National

The majority of HIV positive individuals in the state of Indiana reside in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. To address HIV in Indianapolis, six full time AIDS United AmeriCorps members provide direct services to area residents, including HIV testing and counseling, health care access, prevention outreach, prevention education, and emotional and social services to at-risk populations. Since 2005, AIDS United AmeriCorps members in Indianapolis have informed almost 800 individuals of their HIV status through HIV rapid testing and counseled them on their risk behaviors. Additionally, members have reached almost 15,000 individuals through community outreach, providing information HIV/AIDS risk reduction, community resources, and accessing care. Members have also mobilized more than 1,100 volunteers in the Indianapolis area.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

The AmeriCorps VISTA program at the Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs has demonstrated significant results in education. VISTA members help increase academic performance in some of the area's poorest performing schools, bring STEM-related opportunities to low-income schools, and increase access to high-quality education. As a result of VISTA member contributions to educational resources and systems, an estimated 3,450 students improved their academic performance in 2014. VISTAs raised \$118,000 in sponsorships for the City of Indianapolis VEX Robotics Championship, a competition that engages students in the application of STEM activities, which advance a child's capacity to escape the cycle of poverty. Students from 84 middle and high schools participated in the VEX Robotics Championship in 2014. Through the SPEA VISTA program, members developed an improved charter schools spring application project plan that resulted in the approval of two new charter schools. The new schools will bring a high-quality education to more than 600 students.

The Economic Opportunity VISTA Project at United Way of Madison County serves a community that has struggled economically since the once thriving automobile manufacturing industry left the area permanently. AmeriCorps VISTAs help United Way mobilize resources and develop partnerships to create opportunities for residents to gain skills that lead to stable employment and build assets. The VISTAs at United Way and JobSource, a nonprofit providing workforce development and community action services, connect partners to training, education, and other services. VISTAs members developed a partnership with Hinds Career Center and Ivy Tech that resulted in program expansions and generated \$100,000 for additional equipment to support training opportunities. There is now a dual credit program with Ivy Tech and Hinds, a dual certificate program with Work One and Adult Basic Education, and an Ivy Tech express enrollment process for Elwood residents.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

An AmeriCorps NCCC team partnered with the Jameson Camp to assist in the delivery of outdoor education programming, the removal of invasive species and trail maintenance. Jameson Camp's main goal is to make a difference in the lives of boys and girls, equipping them for productive, responsible lives. Corps members worked directly with the Environmental Education Director to teach Environmental Education (EE) classes and teambuilding to the urban youth of the Indianapolis community. The team was able to teach 994 children, ranging from 2nd to 7th grade, and 51 EE classes, such as the Wellness Course, Shelter Building, Archeology, and Birding. In addition to the EE classes, members assisted the camp in the removal of 700lbs of invasive species, helping to clear 2.5 miles of trail behind the main camp. The team deep cleaned five cabins, including gutters, clearing 30 cinderblocks from the creek, and mucking out the camp's 20x30 foot industrial kitchen. The NCCC team also teamed up with Gleaners Food Bank, the Jameson Camp's food supplier, to move and weigh 8,546 lbs. of food.

## AmeriCorps NCCC Cont'd

As a year round outdoor center, Flat Rock YMCA serves the community through a variety of ways including: Family Camp, Parent-Child Weekend, and an annual summer camp. An AmeriCorps NCCC team partnered with the Flat Rock YMCA to maintain high quality programs by helping in four main areas: program expansion, program delivery, facility preparation, and targeted renovation. To accomplish these goals, Corps members facilitated 268 classes including archery, canoeing and other activities for 280 fourth and fifth graders. The team assisted with targeted renovation of the camp by repairing the water drainage system and cleared an 1800 sq. foot area of vegetation. Members built a bocce ball court, six new archery stands, remapped the entire campgrounds, constructed seven trail map signs and 13 intersection posts, and cleared an archeological dig site. NCCC Corps members also accomplished a variety of tasks to support facility preparation and getting the camp ready for the upcoming season. They had multiple small painting projects, organized and inventoried different activity rooms, and waterproofed the Alpine Tower and the Amphitheater.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis sponsors the Foster Grandparent Program and deploys 62 senior volunteers at 32 sites serving 320 children throughout Marion County. The grandparents are assigned to public schools, homeless shelters, domestic abuse centers, and afterschool programs to mentor children with special needs. A grandparent is assigned two children over a nine month period and spends four to five hours each day enriching the child's academic progress. Examples of the support Foster Grandparents provide include word identification, vocabulary, reading proficiency and basic math. In pre and post test scores, 75 percent of children had improved their reading, math and social skills. A three-year-old named "Bryce" received the support of a grandparent for two years. At entry, he exhibited emotional outbursts, tantrums, and did not recognize the ABC's, count, or recite his name. Foster Grandparents altered his course in life by using flash cards, reading to him, and providing emotional support. Today he is able to read, count, add, recite the ABC's and count to 100 in English and Spanish.

## Senior Corps RSVP

The RSVP Program of Monroe and Owen Counties, Indiana focuses on healthy futures for homebound seniors and older adults. In 2014, the program maintained 488 volunteers serving more than 15,000 clients. One-hundred and twelve volunteers served 162 vulnerable clients through the Caring Companions program. This program connects clients with a volunteer for life-sustaining companionship and assistance with daily living tasks. Ninety-six percent of clients reported an increase in their quality of life and/or safety as a result of the program. Also focusing on healthy futures, the Healthy Senior Independence Service works to increase the health and wellness of homebound seniors in the community through nutritious home-delivered meals/groceries, wellness programs, exercise and fitness classes, and mentally challenging activities. A total of 215 volunteers served 10,819 clients through this program. Ninety-eight surveyed reported increased health, well-being, and independence. The RSVP program has also demonstrated results in education and capacity building, always working to recruit, retain, and recognize the volunteer impact in Monroe and Owen Counties.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

Catholic Charities Indianapolis sponsors one of the largest Senior Companion programs in the country. Senior Companions respond to the acute community need for care and assistance of frail adults struggling to remain in their own home and respite for their caregivers. Companions receive pre-placement and on-going training to offer the best possible care as well as enhancing their experience. Companions provide one-on-one in-home assistance. Their average visitation of five hours a day three to five 5 days per week provides time to build relationships while assisting with meal preparation, light housekeeping, escort to doctors' appointments, and other needs. This year, six community partners and three low-income senior housing sites enabled 107 volunteers to serve 128 frail adults and respite for 45 caregivers. Veterans Hospital matched a Senior Companion (himself a veteran) with a veteran avoiding his imminent move to costly long term care. The Companion's visits brought the 90-year old joy and dignity the last year of his life. Surveys found that 96 percent of care beneficiaries found Senior Companions prevents social isolation and provides stress relief for caregivers.

## 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 Indiana, 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 \$576,989 in expanding the impact of seven nonprofits in Indiana.