

AmeriCorps State

Children who are struggling with reading and math often don't get enough individual attention or help from busy working parents. AmeriCorps members serving with the Missouri Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs work with smaller groups of children or individually with these youth. One of the intended outcomes of the project has been to not only increase academic performance in literacy and/or math, but to also increase youth's confidence in their abilities. As a result of this effort they have reported that 799 of 974 youth served indicated increase confidence in their ability learn. Additionally, teachers are coming to the club staff and showing the improved academic performance by the youth in their spelling tests and homework scores.

The Child Abuse Prevention Association engaged AmeriCorps members in providing health education to more than 750 individuals through presentations, service projects, and resource fairs. An AmeriCorps member serving as outreach coordinator recruited 199 volunteers who provided more than 1,150 hours of service. Through the Back to School Bash, they developed a partnership with organizations to promote awareness about their clients' need for backpacks and school supplies. They raised more than \$1,000 to provide over 200 backpacks containing school supplies to children in their community and worked with local businesses, churches and individuals to provide the resources needed for this event.

AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA members serving the rural Waynesville R-VI School District raised nearly \$30,000 in cash and in-kind donations for the Snack In A Pack program in FY 2014. The program provides food on the weekends and extended breaks for more than 300 students who may otherwise go hungry. More than 75 percent of the students who participate are military dependents. To make operating Snack In A Pack possible, VISTAs develop and maintain partnerships with businesses, community groups, military organizations, nonprofits, and student clubs. They created a sponsor-a-child campaign and promoted it to families and local businesses. They also worked with a real estate enterprise that now supplies weekly a truck and fuel to retrieve bulk food for the program. They are now implementing a plan to allow school employees to contribute a portion of their salary to the program. Snack In A Pack clearly meets a significant need in the school district, where 76 percent of 5,900 students are military affiliated, and more than half the student population changes annually due to military relocations. Participation has grown from six students in 2009 to currently serving more than 300 students.

In 2014, College Bound in St. Louis tapped the skills of four AmeriCorps VISTAs, four VISTA Summer Associates, and 21 AmeriCorps State members to provide students from under-resourced backgrounds with academic enrichment, social supports, and life skills needed to succeed in college and careers. AmeriCorps members served more than 1,500 students and their families, including mentoring 604 students. Engaged behind the scenes in College Bound operations, VISTAs strengthened program development, recruitment, and enrollment. They also improved curriculum development and summer transition services for matriculating collegians, and helped create and pilot a new Mentor Program and Summer Tutoring Program. The VISTA members service helped 100 percent of College Bound students graduate from high school, 95 percent of students earn admission to at least one college or university, and 100 percent of high school seniors receiving College Bound assistance complete the FAFSA application.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The KC CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Coalition has helped thousands of low income Kansas City residents through the IRS sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. An AmeriCorps NCCC team was requested by the KC CASH Coalition to help continue this effort and better engage the public. With over 20% of Kansas City residents under the poverty line, programs like this are priceless. Corps Members operated the free tax site at the Full Employment Council and occasionally three other sites. Corps members completed two days of IRS training and seven members received Basic and Advanced certifications in tax preparation through VITA. Those who did not prepare taxes served as greeters and organized the client intake. Through one-on-one, interview-based tax preparation process, team members were able to help clients understand their taxing circumstances. The NCCC team prepared over 1200 returns, giving back over \$2 million dollars to Kansas City residents. The team also served at the Harvesters Food Bank, two separate Habitat ReStore locations, facilitated a 5K race and helped out at an annual triathlon at a local YMCA.

An AmeriCorps NCCC team partnered with the US Forest Service to rehabilitate and improve trails and natural areas in the Mark Twain National Forest. The forest, which encompasses roughly 1.5 million acres, mostly within the Ozark Highlands of southern and central Missouri, is the largest base of public land in Missouri open to the public for a variety of uses. Corps members were able to rehabilitate the following natural areas: Cupola Pond, Cowards Hollow, Haney Pond, Tunnel Bluff, Bald Hill Glade, Brushy Pond, Marg Pond, Greer Spring Pond, and Red Maple Pond. In addition, the NCCC team was able to rehabilitate 19 miles of the Ozark Trail, ten miles of the Irish Wilderness, restore three camp sites and construct six bat houses. Due to the work of NCCC, newly constructed trail signs will ensure the proper and safe use of the trails for the community. Additionally, NCCC members constructed bat houses for the endangered Indiana Bat, which is vital to the local ecosystem. Finally, the NCCC team rehabilitated trails and natural areas which helped the community by providing the public with a pleasant hiking experience, safer trails, and limiting the potential for lost hikers.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The Housing Authority of Sikeston Foster Grandparent Program serves the counties of Scott, Mississippi, and Butler in Southeast Missouri. In 2014, 51 Foster Grandparent volunteers served 48,544 hours on behalf of 285 children. Ninety-seven percent of K-12 students mentored by a Foster Grandparent demonstrated academic improvement during the school year. Eighty-three percent of Head Start children demonstrated social or emotional development gains. Foster Grandparents volunteers are able to maintain their commitment to the students of Scott, Mississippi and Butler counties in part due to the outpouring of community support for the program. Sikeston Public Schools provides free transportation assistance to Foster Grandparents living on their bus routes. All sites provide no cost meals for the volunteers. Physicals are provided for the Grandparents at a nominal cost and sometimes no cost. And the space used for monthly in-services is donated in each town served.

Senior Corps RSVP

The Southeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging RSVP partnered with the Cape Girardeau Parks and Recreational Department on the 2014 Annual Friends of the Parks Day. More than 1,700 volunteers removed three tons of debris in 12 areas of the town. They helped clean and beautify the community by planting trees and flowers, picking up trash, cleaning trails and creeks, removing graffiti, recycling, and conserving natural resources. RSVP/VIC provided 76 RSVP Volunteers to assist with this beautification project. Cape Girardeau is one of the most highly impoverished areas of the state of Missouri. RSVP volunteers also address food security and hunger issues for more than 1,600 individuals.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Phelps County Commission Senior Companion Program recently provided 436 respite care hours to clients of Central Missouri's Area Agency on Aging, for a total cost savings of \$6,540 to the volunteer station. In Phelps County, the Senior Companions can serve families that have reached their threshold for receiving respite services through the Central Missouri Area Agency on Aging. Through this partnership, families can stretch their respite time in spite of limited state resources.

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 Missouri, 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 \$261,240 in expanding the impact of two nonprofits in Missouri, selected and supported by two intermediaries.