

AmeriCorps State

The Ohio Stream Restore Corps, through Rural Action, Inc., engages 26 AmeriCorps members deployed across 11 sites reaching 17 counties in the coal-impacted region of Appalachian Ohio. Activities take place on public and private lands in the southeastern rural Appalachian Ohio counties. AmeriCorps members are serving to restore watersheds, improve natural assets through trails and clean-ups, provide environmental education to students and communities, and engaging volunteers for increased impact and sustainability while promoting a regional development and tourism strategy. Results from the program's most recently completed program year include: more than 8,800 youth and adult residents received environmental education on topics such as trail restoration, gardening, zero waste/recycling, and environmentally sustainable practices. From this education, more than 220 adults became engaged as volunteers or members in their local watershed and environmental awareness groups, while 43 teachers incorporated outdoor learning in their classrooms. Members sampled and treated over 280 miles of stream and trailways, of which 28 miles were reclaimed or restored.

Twenty-seven AmeriCorps College Completion Coaches, serving through the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, provide hands-on guidance and assistance to first-time community college students in order to successfully complete their remedial coursework and enter credit classes on 11 Ohio campuses. Members are embedded in remedial coursework including developmental English and Math courses, first year experience, and college skills courses. The program's accomplishments for the 2013-2014 program year include: 1,141 students progressed from developmental to college-level coursework and 1,469 students achieved anticipated first-year credit hour milestones. This represents 41 percent the total student cohort. In contrast, less than three percent of all students who start a two year degree will actually earn a credential within two years.

AmeriCorps National

Cleveland's rate of HIV prevalence rate is nearly three times that of the national average. To address HIV in Cleveland, six full time AIDS United AmeriCorps members provide direct services to the community, including HIV testing and counseling, health care access, prevention outreach, prevention education, and emotional and social services to at-risk populations. Since 2013, AIDS United AmeriCorps Members in Cleveland have informed over 150 individuals of their HIV status through HIV rapid testing and reached over 400 people through HIV prevention education sessions. Of surveyed educational session participants, over 90 percent reported an increase in knowledge of HIV transmission and prevention, as well as how to minimize their risk for HIV. AmeriCorps members have also mobilized more than 150 volunteers in the Cleveland area.

By 2030, an unprecedented 72 million Americans will be over the age of 65; many of these older adults will face barriers to living in their own home, such as lack of transportation, isolation, and limited mobility. Community HealthCorps AmeriCorps members help both seniors and individuals with disabilities to live independently by connecting them to essential support systems. In Ohio, Community HealthCorps places eight AmeriCorps members in four medically underserved communities. In 2013-2014, Community HealthCorps Members in Ohio served more than 2,350 individuals, including 150 seniors and individuals with disabilities. Members engaged these populations in their health care through community outreach and health education events, linking patients to affordable transportation, food, and health care resources while providing opportunities for social engagement. As a result of being served by a Community HealthCorps Member in Ohio, 67 percent of older adults and individuals with disabilities surveyed indicated that they felt more socially connected and supported.

AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA's mission to enhance the "promise" of low-income communities fits perfectly into the work of Springfield Promise Neighborhood. A collaborative, neighborhood-based initiative, Springfield Promise addresses the issues of generational poverty and children's academic and social success in one of the poorest communities in Springfield. VISTA members help Springfield Promise advance its work and create opportunities for children and families in four interrelated areas: Pre-School Readiness, Youth Development, Community and Civic Engagement, and Responsive Schools. The VISTAs help develop parent education classes and after school and summer programs. They also establish volunteer relationships with area institutions and create tutoring pipelines. This past year, the VISTA members designed a Literacy Parent Coaching session attended by 10 families; co-designed a six-week 'Summer Bridge' that readied 18 students for school; recruited and trained 50 leaders for school enrichment clubs that served 70 students; facilitated four community events that attracted more than 1,200 residents; and created nutrition and education programs that served more than 100 families.

The Ohio Association of Free Clinics VISTA project enhances the capacity of free clinics across the state to better serve and reach more clients. The clinic association currently sponsors nine AmeriCorps VISTAs members who serve across the state. VISTAs helps free clinics coordinate community volunteer recruitment and retention, medical staff volunteer recruitment and retention, and fundraising activities. The VISTAs also write grant proposals, develop programs, update policies and procedures, and conduct outreach and education. In the project's first year of operation, VISTAs developed a hypertension management clinic and converted files into electronic medical records. They wrote a grant proposal for a clinic to bring a full-time nurse practitioner on staff and coordinated efforts with a local Eagle Scout group to secure the donation of a computer lab to clinic. The VISTAs recruited 372 volunteers, who have served more than 4,000 hours. They also cultivated 137 new partnerships and raised more than \$250,000 that helped support additional staff.

AmeriCorps NCCC

Flying Horse Farms is located on 200 acres of rolling hills just outside Mt. Gilead, Ohio. Flying Horse Farms is where children with serious illnesses come to experience the magic of camp. For a week, being sick takes a backseat to simply being a kid. The camp is a member of the SeriousFun Children's Network, a growing global community of camps for children with serious illnesses founded by Paul Newman. During the spring of 2014, an AmeriCorps NCCC team served with Flying Horse Farms, where they did a number of improvement projects. Corps members renovated the camp's Discovery Center and constructed new seating and shelter for campers, to make the camp more accessible for campers with disabilities. The team was also able to work directly with camp activities. The team prepared the facilities for camp events and served as camp counselors for two weekend family camps that supported 28 children and 46 family members. As camp counselors, members coordinated activities such as boating, fishing, and arts and crafts. While finishing camp sessions, the entire team worked to close the activity centers, clean common areas and cabins, and prepare camp facilities.

In March of 2014, an AmeriCorps NCCC team served with the United Way of Greater Cincinnati, where the team assisted in enrolling Americans in health care coverage. The mission of United Way is to lead and mobilize the caring power of individuals and organizations to help people measurably improve their lives. During their time in Cincinnati, the team participated in 13 enrollment events for the Affordable Care Act. Community members could come to speak with someone face-to-face to assist them with the application process. Corps members were able to assist with three phone-a-thons, where they answered phone calls to provide information and directed community members to local enrollment events. Team members made nearly 2,000 follow-up phone calls and entered data from 2,500 community members into the Get America Covered online databases.

The work the team did helped to educate Ohioans about the Affordable Care Act and helped ensure that individuals had healthcare coverage. The team informed many of the 80 percent of Ohioans who qualify for various types of assistance about how to obtain health care coverage.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

In Appalachia Ohio, the Corporation for Appalachian Development (COAD) places 214 Foster Grandparents in 22 counties dedicating 233,871 hours of service. The Appalachian region of Ohio maintains poverty rates higher than the state average. In the counties served by the program, 31 percent of all residents live at or below the poverty level. In addition, the poverty rate among children in the area is alarmingly high at an average of 47 percent. In 2013, Foster Grandparents demonstrated how they are making an impact by serving 823 high need children in increasing their social emotional development, mentoring, and tutoring for academic improvement. Fourteen Head Start Centers are a key placement for COAD's Foster Grandparents. Eighty-eight percent of the children served have demonstrated gains in social and emotional development. COAD Foster Grandparents contributed to improved academics in 99 percent of the children they served through tutoring at 27 public schools.

Senior Corps RSVP

The RSVP program sponsored by Washington County Commissioners provides free rides to individuals 55 years and older through their Senior Wheels program. Senior Wheels volunteers make medical runs to Columbus, Zanesville, Cambridge, Cleveland, Morgantown and Charleston. RSVP volunteers use their own vehicles to transport seniors to doctor appointments, medical treatments, shopping, and on personal business. Unlimited medical transportation is provided to clients, and passengers are also allotted one personal trip each month. Nineteen volunteer drivers were recruited from rural towns and villages, allowing Senior Wheels to cover virtually the entire county which spans over 650 square miles. Drivers take training in defensive driving, inclement weather driving, passenger assistance, and in the procedures of the Senior Wheels Program. In one year volunteers provided 258 medical trips, totaling more than 8,746 miles to clients in Washington County. Additionally, more than 238 trips were provided to seniors for personal business, including transportation to the grocery store. All of these services were provided to 178 clients by 17 RSVP volunteers.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Senior Companion Program sponsored by Catholic Social Services is making a difference across Central Ohio. The 105 Senior Companions who served in the last year provided 482 clients the opportunity to remain independent in their homes. Through companionship and assistance, these dedicated volunteers gave a combined contribution of 107,108 hours of service to their community. Of those clients that responded to a survey to measure the impact of the Senior Companions' services, 94.8 percent reported feeling less lonely and having close ties to another person. A unique component of this program is the extensive outreach to the immigrant and refugee communities living in or near Columbus. Senior Companions serve clients from their native land, with as many as 16 countries around the globe represented by the volunteers. Many Central Ohio Senior Companions provide elderly and disabled clients the tools they need to embrace a new life in the United States. Of the client respondents who identified as new Americans, 94.9 percent reported they feel they have close ties to more people and that they are more satisfied with their life due to their participation in the program.

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 Ohio, 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 \$842,667 in expanding the impact of six nonprofits in Ohio, selected and supported by four intermediaries.