

## AmeriCorps State

After achieving successful results teaching secondary math at U.S. Grant High School, Teach for America AmeriCorps member Lam Pham was able to replicate his success in his second year. Lam continued to leverage some of the strategies that proved effective in his first year, including providing extra math support in the form of weekend and after-school tutoring and teaching an additional remedial class during his planning period. For a second consecutive year, more than 90 percent of his Geometry students passed the end of instruction exam, with the majority scoring advanced. This school year, Lam has returned to teach a third year at U.S. Grant. and is also serving as a math content specialist for secondary math corps members in Oklahoma City and Lawton.

Two full-time AmeriCorps members associated with Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma are now in their second year providing legal assistance to the affected population of the May 2013 tornadoes in Moore. The information gathered is used to brief the legal staff in matters ranging from FEMA aid to contractual disputes. The AmeriCorps members work can be a key factor helping to create a legal path to make rebuilding or repair possible by any of the community charities under the umbrella of the Oklahoma's Disaster Recovery Program. One client came to the office after she had been taken advantage of by a fraudulent contractor multiple times. She complained that she had been recommended to the contractor by her insurance company. Legal Aid represented her at a mediation conference between herself and the insurance company. During the mediation, the client and the insurance company settled her claim for \$79,587, which is enough for the client to be able to complete her home.

## AmeriCorps National

Reading Partners is dedicated to helping children become lifelong readers by empowering community volunteers to provide individualized instruction that produces measurable results. The program's vision is that all children in Tulsa will have the literacy skills they need to reach their full potential. In 2013-14, AmeriCorps members served 234 students with the help of 387 volunteers in four schools across Tulsa. The program exceeded expectations with 93 percent of target students accelerating their rate of learning. On average, students more than tripled their rates of learning. Further, 78 percent of target students narrowed their literacy gaps with their peers who read at grade level. Reading Partners currently engages a group of 12 AmeriCorps members in service to manage reading centers, provide one-on-one literacy tutoring, recruit volunteers, and build capacity. In 2014-15, members are on track to help serve 469 students in 10 schools with the help of approximately 655 volunteer tutors.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

Southeastern Oklahoma Interlocal Cooperative (SOIC), an education service organization, oversees 48 schools that provide special education therapy and parent education services. The cooperative sponsors a team of 34 VISTAs that provides capacity-building services to schools and partner organizations. Partners include hospitals, chambers of commerce, and nonprofit community organizations in 17 southeast counties, including McCurtain County, designated as one of the top five most difficult places to reside in the United States. The AmeriCorps VISTA members have recruited 917 community volunteers that contributed 19,662 hours of service. These hours equate to more than \$410,000 to the service area. In addition, VISTAs leveraged \$406,270 in cash and in kind donations valued at \$179,950 to the schools and partner organizations.

Neighbors Building Neighborhoods, based in Muskogee, plays a vital role in improving the quality of life in Eastern Oklahoma through education, organizational support, and coalition building. Neighbors Building Neighborhoods (NBN) hosts six AmeriCorps VISTA members who strive to alleviate poverty in the community by building capacity of several citywide nonprofits. Some VISTAs promote and draw youth into education opportunities that lead to careers in the medical community, while VISTAs serving with the Crime Stoppers program and Muskogee Community Anti-Drug Network fight poverty impacted by crime and drug abuse. The VISTAs facilitates NBN's collaboration with parents, schools, employers, community leaders, and media to help the community take a stand against substance abuse. VISTAs also support the Martin Luther King Community Center, which operates the after school, night hoops, and summer feeding programs for area students. VISTAs helped organize "The Martin Luther King Community Center Fundraising Gala" to finance a new center facility.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity (COHFH) is currently working on assisting families affected by the May 2013 tornadoes and is expanding their "A Brush With Kindness" (ABWK) program. ABWK works with existing homes and assists in repairs, rehabs or rebuilds. An AmeriCorps NCCC team partnered with COHFH to help lead volunteer groups alongside site supervisors; assist with recruiting, working with and supervising community volunteers, expand new construction and the ABWK program, and further assisting the victims of the 2013 tornadoes. In working with COHFH, Corps Members were able to directly aid in the construction of 8 new affordable and energy efficient homes for families in Oklahoma City and surrounding neighborhoods. The team finished, weatherized, and painted many houses as well. By working in areas affected by the recent tornadoes, Corps Members were a direct part of the recovery effort. Not only did the team get to help finish homes, but they were able to meet and work with the people receiving these special houses, including a single mother and her four sons. It was very rewarding to do something truly life changing for the people of Oklahoma City.

## AmeriCorps NCCC Cont'd

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma is a federally recognized tribe based in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The tribe's mission is to strengthen its government's ability to provide for the educational, financial, cultural and social needs of its members and to achieve self-sufficiency through its financial enterprises and economic development endeavors. UKBCI requested an AmeriCorps NCCC team to partner with them in creating a walking trail. The creation of the walking trail required the NCCC team to chainsaw and cut away any brush, assess challenging areas where bridges or raised pathways would be necessary, install edging, lay gravel, install distance markers and label plant life. Upon completion of the trail, Corps members assisted the Elders in the Keetoowah Community who do not have the help they need or the ability to maintain their homes. They worked to help over 25 Elders on these properties, removing safety hazards in their homes, mowing, raking, clearing brush, weed eating, trimming, loading garages and sheds, moving rocks, and painting homes. The NCCC team was able to accomplish so much in a community that truly needed the extra hands.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

KI BOIS Community Action, Inc. is a private, nonprofit corporation operating in Southeast Oklahoma. The agency was organized as a part of the national "War on Poverty." Administered by a 24 member Board of Directors, the agency represents all segments of the community including elected officials, minority groups, businesses, social services, low-income and foremost the clients served. The Foster Grandparent Program sponsored by Ki Bois Community Action Foundation supports 145 volunteers providing one-on-one tutoring to 528 students at 50 Head Start Centers and elementary schools in eastern Oklahoma. These volunteers contributed 124,429 hours of volunteer service which represents almost \$2.6 million in monetary value to the program's 14 county service area.

## Senior Corps RSVP

RSVP of Central Oklahoma volunteers are well known for their Provide a Ride transportation project delivering seniors in need of transportation from door to door for medical appointments. However, 87 volunteers discovered a new calling as they sprang into action following the Moore tornado of 2013 as they answered hotlines that addressed disaster-related calls, telephoned victims of the tornado, provided medical rides, collected and distributed donated goods, served food, and maintained facility operations. Organizations supported included the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, Heartline 211, Serve Moore, and the Saint Andrews shelter. Due to the dedicated response, RSVP of Central Oklahoma received a \$50,000 Shell Oil gift to support volunteer efforts related to the tornadoes that blanketed Oklahoma in May and June of 2013. Nonprofit organizations, including RSVP, continue to join forces to assist the 28,541 individuals affected by the devastating tornadoes. The Shell Oil gift will enable RSVP of Central Oklahoma to provide disaster recovery and disaster preparedness to thousands of Oklahomans.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

For 40 years, Sunbeam Family Services' Senior Companion Program has made impacts in the Oklahoma City area by providing companion and respite services for isolated, homebound seniors. Over the last program year, only one client entered nursing home care out of 385 served. Every time a client avoids nursing home placement, the financial impact is an approximate community savings of \$48,000 annually. Caregiver clients, who receive respite services, and companion clients tend to be very low-income cohorts who without this service would not be able to keep their loved ones at home. By providing eight to 16 hours of service a week, Senior Companions provide compassionate care, helping seniors live independently in their own homes.