

## AmeriCorps State

The College Advising Corps at Brown University provides in-school college advising to increase the number of urban, low-income, and first-generation students entering and completing higher education. Fourteen full-time AmeriCorps members serve throughout the state in urban-core high schools and the Community College of Rhode Island. In Rhode Island's urban districts, fewer than half of Providence public school graduates enroll in college. AmeriCorps members provide a combination of services that include college awareness, financial aid workshops, college application completion assistance; coursework advising and more. With a target of 750 high school seniors gaining acceptance to an institution of higher education, College Advising Corps exceeded the target with 1,427 students accepted to at least one college.

Providence Children's Museum MuseumCorps at Providence Children's Museum is designed to help close the achievement gap between advantaged and disadvantaged children by providing stimulating hands-on learning experiences not available to most low-income children. Twelve full-time AmeriCorps members serve at the Children's Museum, Providence Southside Boys & Girls Club and Highlander Charter School. To combat the 'summer learning loss' of math skills more often experienced by children in low-income communities, Learning Club hands-on, minds-on programming will continue during the summer season as well. Last year, 21 second, third, and fourth grade children who attended Learning Club activities at Boys & Girls Club-Southside Clubhouse demonstrated improved academic performance in math concepts and applications as evidenced by an average 10 percent score gain on the MBSP Basic Math Tests.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

The Rhode Island Free Clinic provides critical medical care and preventive health services for uninsured and under insured residents. AmeriCorps VISTA members have helped place 309 clinic patients into the benefits programs. In addition, 193 low-income adults have received comprehensive health care at no cost. VISTAs and the local volunteers they recruit and manage make the free clinic a successful health care program. "I really don't know how we could do all we do without our amazing team of VISTA Volunteers," said Julia Karahalis, the clinic's director of development. "They help coordinate the services of over 700 volunteers to ensure the highest quality patient care, and help us attract and sustain supporters for the clinic's vital work." The clinic currently boasts 815 volunteers that support an estimated 8,800 patient visits. The volunteer pool, composed of medical practitioners, retired professionals, student, and community member, contribute more than 20,000 hours per year.

Farm Fresh Rhode Island, a hub for fresh, healthy food, also works to reduce hunger and obesity throughout the state. AmeriCorps VISTA members at Farm Fresh have educated 700 low-income families and 260 seniors about nutrition and provided incentives to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables. They also organized cooking demonstrations and tasting events at eight housing facilities for seniors. In addition, 36 at-risk youth trained in Farm Fresh Rhode Island's Harvest Kitchen, a culinary and job-readiness program. Nearly 75 percent of the youth graduated and qualified for job placement assistance. To date, 30 percent of the youth have found jobs.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Statistics from Kids Count state that children living in households with incomes below the federal poverty threshold are less likely to succeed in school. These children have academic and emotional needs which the Foster Grandparents provide. There are currently 40 Foster Grandparents serving 240 children throughout the schools in Rhode Island. Survey results show 96.6 percent of these children have improved their academic performance. Currently 20 Foster Grandparents have served 168 children who have demonstrated gains in social and/or emotional development.

## Senior Corps RSVP

Hurricane Sandy taught Rhode Island it needs to have volunteers ready to serve in case of a disaster. The East Bay RSVP service area runs along Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It is imperative to have trained volunteers in this service area should disaster strike. More than 30 volunteers have been trained in disaster preparedness in coordination with the American Red Cross. These volunteers are ready to serve in shelters in case of a disaster, food distribution, and donation management. They also work to assist neighborhood crime watches, disaster preparedness efforts and emergency response assistance.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs serves as the statewide Senior Companion Program sponsor for Rhode Island. Currently 47 S volunteers serve as a companion to 237 clients, allowing clients to stay in their own homes. This arrangement provides respite care to the client's caregivers and saves the state by not having to provide clients with nursing home care. In addition, 21 volunteers have served 220 clients in Adult Day Centers providing socialization, supervision, and recreation activities. The program has designed an emergency preparedness plan where Senior Companion volunteers are trained in disaster preparedness support. Once these volunteers are trained, they share information with the clients they serve, providing each client with emergency preparedness materials and coaching them to ensure they know what to do in case of a disaster.

## 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 Rhode Island, 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 \$184,915 in expanding the impact of three nonprofits in Rhode Island.