

AmeriCorps State

The Read Graduate Succeed, an AmeriCorps Governor/Mayor Initiative, has three components; elementary, secondary, and mentor tutoring. The Read Today elementary portion of the program provides schools with AmeriCorps members who recruit, train, and coordinate volunteers to individually tutor students who have been identified as needing extra help by their classroom teachers and principals. For the 2013/14 academic year, more than 8,000 individuals volunteered at their local schools and gave approximately 173,000 hours of service. More than 6,000 students improved their academic performance in literacy through participating. The Destination Graduation portion places AmeriCorps members in high schools to increase high school graduation rates and support students' efforts to engage in post-secondary education. This program more than doubled its target of 80 students, when 191 participating seniors graduated from high school. AmeriCorps members in Mentoring For Success mentor elementary school students who have been identified as needing support. The program's focus is to improve attendance. For the 1,300 students mentored, there was an average attendance increase of 92 percent.

The AmeriCorps Ending Chronic Homelessness Program is located in Salt Lake County and involves members across the state with mentoring and functions that supplement case management operations in segments of the population who are determined to be at 'high risk' for homelessness. The targeted populations include; chronically homeless who are now housed; young people who have aged out of foster care; children in homeless families and families at risk of becoming homeless. This program is receiving high praise for its innovative work in the area of homelessness.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Utah Refugee Services Office (RSO) seeks to improve the lives of refugees by maximizing integration, coordinating refugee services, and managing federal funding. RSO serves approximately 45,000 refugees from 22 countries. The RSO Project AmeriCorps VISTAs work directly with the refugee communities and organizations to develop sustainable programs.

RSO has six volunteer sites and 13 VISTA members who work on goals in the economic opportunity, education, and healthy futures focus areas. Chris Natalie, serving on the New Roots gardening program, helped secure more than \$375,000 in grants from federal, state, and private sources to support the project. Refugees learn farming techniques and marketing to create their own microenterprise business and a sustainable source of income. Through the support of volunteers recruited by the VISTA and workshop curriculum created by the VISTA, refugees who participate in these programs are able to become entrepreneurs, small business owners, and leaders within their communities.

South Franklin Community Center (SFCC) is a project of United Way of Utah County. AmeriCorps VISTA has been instrumental in its creation and success. The center was started to address issues facing the South Franklin community in southwest Provo. The founders believed these issues, such as high demand for public services, low educational attainment of youth, and illegal activities, could be mitigated by practicing asset based community development. VISTAs worked to secure apartment space for the center. It soon became apparent that a larger, more permanent space needed to be secured. A new building was constructed through donations of community partners including Provo City, Provo City Housing Authority, and Habitat for Humanity. Since the SFCC moved into its new building there have been several new community programs. In addition to working with the community, partners, and volunteers, VISTAs secure resources to support the center's programs. Recent successes include, grants totaling \$33,000. Additional grants from Google include a Google Fiber internet connection, 20 Chromebooks, and Google interns that hold computer literacy classes.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Kostopoulos Dream Foundation is an agency dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Since 1967 they have offered recreational opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities. Their longest running program, Camp Kostopoulos, is a residential summer camp where kids, teens, and adults with disabilities are able to engage in a variety of activities. Prior to the camp opening for the year, one AmeriCorps NCCC team assisted the camp by removing rocks, restoring trails, painting benches, and preparing the pool and lawn areas. Corps Members served as fulltime residential counselors for six weeks at the camp helping 200 campers with hygiene activities, feeding, and mobility, while facilitating recreational activities such as fishing, horseback riding, dancing, and other sports. Members also monitored camper safety and mitigated hazards. NCCC served the camp in a programmatic and administrative capacity, acting as liaisons between campers, group leaders, and staff. Members developed weekly goals and objectives for each individual camper, wrote daily progress notes to track camper growth, monitored and reported behavior, and filled out incident reports.

An AmeriCorps NCCC team served with the Golden Spike National Historic Site during the spring of 2014. A National Park Service area, the Golden Spike National Historic Site encompasses 2,700 acres around where the final spike was placed to form the first Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869. The NCCC team primarily worked on historical restoration projects, including repairing and renovating replica steam locomotives. Corps Members restored over four tons of brass trim and hardware, by removing, stripping, and re-lacquering the brass. The team also prepared the Golden Spike National Historic Site for the 145th anniversary of the placing of the Golden Spike. Team members painted the bathrooms at the Visitor's Center, prepared an acre of land around the Center, and set up temporary fences and chairs in the designated historical area. On the day of the event, the team acted as safety officers to prevent the public from getting on or near the tracks, coordinated 30 volunteers and placed ten informative signs around the site. The members also assisted 430 Senior Citizens, 50 disabled visitors, and 260 Veterans during the event.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Salt Lake County Aging Services Foster Grandparent Program is closing the academic achievement gap in Salt Lake Area pre-K and elementary schools. The program engages 85 Foster Grandparent volunteers serving one-on-one with more than 300 children falling below grade level in six Title I schools. Fifty-one percent of the children fall below the benchmarks in literacy and 70 percent lack grade-level math skills. In the last academic year, Foster Grandparents provided more than 83,500 hours of tutoring. Teachers reported that 91 percent of the children showed significant improvements in their academic skills. Teachers also reported that 86 percent of the children demonstrated improvements in positive attitudes and academic achievement. The Foster Grandparent Program continues to be an invaluable partner in education and is positively impacting the lives of children in Salt Lake.

Senior Corps RSVP

The 6 County RSVP responded to a need to help veterans in this vast southern Utah service area. A regional survey reported a strong need for veterans to receive rides to their VA medical appointments to Salt Lake City; a 442 miles roundtrip. Some veterans also need help enrolling in benefits, assistance with activities, and other services within the community. The VA provides the van for 17 RSVP volunteers to drive to the Salt Lake VA Hospital. Volunteers received orientation, training, background checks, health screenings, and TB tests to qualify to drive the van. Many of the veterans are home bound, poverty stricken, or have no means to get to the veteran's hospital in Salt Lake City. Clients are very satisfied and happy about the veteran van transportation program. Eighty percent of the veterans utilizing the service reported that the transportation allows them to remain independent living in their own home and to continue to take care of themselves. The veteran clients are very appreciative of transportation to their much needed medical appointments.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The documentary film, *Alive Inside*, describes the Music & Memory program for Alzheimer's and dementia sufferers. After viewing the film, Weber Human Services SCP Project Director, Karyl Chase, said, "We can help make our clients' lives better." She set to work to certify the Senior Companion program as a Music & Memory facility. Listening to their own favorite music can stir clients' lost memories, relieve anxiety, and bring joy into their lives. The music helps improve the quality of life for clients and provides volunteers with a powerful tool to connect with their clients. Senior Companions help clients identify their favorite music. A Senior Companion, whose client loves Tex-Mex, reports spending time singing, and dancing to Flora's favorites. The director is pleased with early results and looks forward to music impacting the lives of more clients and as they go to scale. Partners have emerged to support the program: The Ralph Nye Foundation helped with start-up costs. Weber State University and Weber School District collect used iPod Shuffles and music cd's. The sponsor is implementing a Service Learning project with students who help load personalized playlists.

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 Utah, 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 \$88,889 in expanding the impact of one nonprofit in Utah.

Volunteer Generation Fund

UServeUtah has used the Volunteer Generation Fund grant to provide Volunteer Management Training to organizations statewide and support projects for the 9/11 National Day of Service and the MLK Day of Service. In the past year, organizations across the state spearheaded service projects for these days of service engaging 10,620 volunteers for a total of 40,421 service hours. Projects focused on meeting pressing community needs, and many new partnerships were created that will continue to benefit those communities and the state in general. With more than 150 individuals attending trainings in the past year, the Volunteer Management Training courses provided by UServeUtah have had significant impact on our nonprofits throughout Utah as they learn to take a more strategic approach to volunteer management. Moving forward the UServeUtah Volunteer Generation Fund program will focus in three areas: providing volunteer management trainings that will ensure organizations are prepared to effectively use volunteers; supporting businesses in creating employee volunteer programs throughout the state; and helping local municipalities recognize and utilize volunteers as an effective means of addressing community needs.