

## State Commission

The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) partners with the CNCS State Office for Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service, and 106 elected officials were involved, making Kentucky fourth in the nation for participation. This partnership continues for all national days of service, including MLK Day and 9/11 Day. KCCVS assisted with the Central Appalachia Community Solutions Spotlight for the AmeriCorps VISTA 50th Anniversary. KCCVS partnered with the KY YMCA Youth Association for the annual service year celebration. During the event, AmeriCorps members packed 41,256 meals; attached handwritten notes to 1,600 stuffed animals to be given by first responders; wrote 2,000 notes to veterans; and participated in team-building trainings. The YMCA partnership is continuing by establishing a service fellowship for college students. Berea College's PartnerCorps School Turnaround program was awarded "Best New AmeriCorps Program Design" in the inaugural Tom Harkin Excellence in AmeriCorps Awards. Some programs are located in Eastern Kentucky communities and part of the SOAR initiative. After combining grant awards, local match and education awards, AmeriCorps programs produce a statewide investment of \$10.7 million.

## AmeriCorps State

Operation UNITE Service Corps has 44 AmeriCorps members who tutor at-risk students in math and teach students, parents, guardians, and school staff about drug awareness and prevention. AmeriCorps members are active in their county's anti-drug coalition, are liaisons between the community and school, and raise funds for UNITE Clubs, trainings, and school assemblies. They partner with local organizations and faith-based groups to bring resources to schools. They encourage students to serve so that their school and community benefit. Thanks to AmeriCorps members in Wolfe County, the "Stuff the Bus" efforts by students in all schools and grade levels produced the largest charitable donation of food in the county's history. Members help with Camp UNITE, a youth leadership/adventure program. In the past year, members mentored 4,055 students. They tutored 1,935 students in math; 80 percent improved, with an average growth of 42 percent. Of the 2,463 students they engaged in "Too Good for Drugs," 86 percent had an average 30 percent increase in knowledge. Members recruited 2,538 volunteers who served 22,500 hours. Nineteen members are also trained and ready for deployment in the event of a disaster.

Economic Empowerment Corps AmeriCorps has 11 members who give financial management tools to domestic violence survivors so they can become independent and financially stable. In some cases, particularly at smaller crisis shelters, the AmeriCorps members are the sole providers of economic empowerment services such as financial education, credit counseling, public benefits aid, and employment resources. At larger crisis shelters, members help existing staff reach more clients in outreach or transitional housing programs. The members enroll a large portion of participants in asset-building programs. They organized an end-of-year service project at a shelter in Lexington, cleaning and painting an area to be used as kennels, so survivors may come to the shelter without having to leave beloved pets behind. In the past year, the members helped nine survivors purchase an asset through the matched savings program; helped 151 survivors gain new or better employment; and, through financial counseling, helped 318 survivors reach their financial goals. Members also recruited 356 volunteers who served 8,675 hours.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

Northern Kentucky University and Kentucky Campus Compact partnered with SOAR (launched by Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear and Congressman Hal Rogers) to place 52 AmeriCorps VISTA members in southeastern Kentucky during the year. This included two VISTA members who served with the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program and supported the Hiring Our Miners Everyday initiative. This program, supported by the U. S. Department of Labor, gives laid-off mine workers on-the-job and classroom training, plus academic certification and licensing. The VISTAs created a database of 700 Eastern Kentuckians, former coalminers who were dealing with unemployment or job insecurity. They researched jobs that had a telework option and posted them to the Teleworks USA website, reaching two goals for the Teleworks Project: to list more than 400 employment opportunities and to register more than 5,000 Kentuckians for Teleworks employment.

United Way of Central Kentucky's AmeriCorps VISTA project brought in \$1.2 million in cash and in-kind donations in its most recent program year. Its VISTA members helped to build capacity and develop anti-poverty measures for eight organizations, including nonprofit agencies and school districts. During their terms of service, two USA Cares VISTAs brought in \$628,800 in cash donations support veterans. One of the VISTA members wrote and was awarded 14 grants totaling \$297,990, which will support USA Cares' four core programs: Combat Injured, Jobs Assistance, Emergency Assistance, and Housing Assistance. USA Cares awarded grants of \$75,000 to the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, \$100,000 to the Disabled American Veterans Charitable Trust Fund, and \$50,000 to the Greens Foundation. Another VISTA member's coordinated charitable events that raised \$330,800 for USA Cares. Her events included an annual gala that raised \$214,000; the Flags Ride for USA Cares motorcycle ride, which raised \$25,000; the Monarchs and Ladies for Liberty concert, which raised \$10,000; and the General's Challenge Golf Tournament, which raised \$39,261.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

Partners for Education at Berea College asked an AmeriCorps NCCC team to help them put in place a Traveling Enrichment Program that would bring STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education to rural students at summer camp. The STEM program used proven, hands-on curriculum that are unlike the experiences these students usually have in the classroom. For eight weeks, the NCCC team, AmeriCorps VISTAs, and Partners for Education staff taught the STEM curriculums to 261 middle school students in math and science at seven locations throughout SOAR and Kentucky Promise Zone counties. Many of the schools that hosted the STEM summer camp also take part in a summer feeding program. This program ensures that children from low-income homes get nutritious meals when school is not in session. The STEM camps served 2,548 meals.

In response to an unprecedented storm in Johnson County, two AmeriCorps NCCC teams were sent to help All Hands Volunteers with the massive damage over an eight-mile stretch of the community of Flat Gap. NCCC members served in the County Donation Center to organize volunteers and unpack, organize, and restock donations. They spoke with homeowners and worked to give a sense of hope and stability to people facing the massive task of recovering from the disaster. Community members continually reminded team members how much of a difference the team was making in the Flat Gap community. NCCC members who responded in the field accomplished a tremendous amount of work in a short time. Along with All Hands project leads, members coordinated volunteers; bucked, limbed, and felled trees; dug floodway trenches; cleared multiple creeks that were clogged with debris; demolished structures; cleared mudslides; mucked and gutted homes; and completed numerous assessments of damaged properties.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

During the last school year, 71 Foster Grandparents served with Save the Children's Literacy Program in Berea. The Foster Grandparents tutored 505 students in kindergarten through 6th grade who reading below grade level. The goal was for the students to show significant improvement in reading, and 446 students – 88 percent – met their goal. Foster Grandparents gave their assigned students one-on-one help, but also helped other students in the Save the Children Literacy Program and in regular classrooms. These Senior Corps volunteers gave more than 72,000 hours of service in 24 schools in 7 counties throughout the Appalachian Mountains of southeastern Kentucky. The Foster Grandparents far exceeded their goals for the number of children served and the number of children who improved in reading.

## Senior Corps RSVP

In response to the July 2015 flooding that destroyed towns in Eastern Kentucky, Morehead State University's RSVP Program has expanded programing. It added three new staff positions to help Carter/Rowan Counties and Johnson County manage volunteers for repairs and cleanup. Because of this new effort, RSVP will recruit and organize 400 volunteers to help with immediate response and long term recovery in these counties. Johnson County, where the damage and loss of life were the worst, ended search and rescue work by a week after the disaster, but has an ongoing case load and volunteers – many who arrived from out of state – to help with rebuilding. More than 800 hours of volunteer support have gone into the rebuilding and repair work. Disaster case managers are helping people who have appeals to FEMA greater than \$150,000. RSVP will support the Long Term Recovery Committees and work with the local communities to increase preparedness.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

Senior Companion Viola Stone was given the Professional Caregiver of the Year Award for 2015. During a ceremony in May at the Galt House in Louisville, the Kentucky Housing Corporation and Louisville HUD Office Award recognized the hard work and dedication of award winners. Every week, Ms. Stone gives 20 hours of service to four older adults who need assistance so they can stay independently in their own home. Ms. Stone's dedication as a Senior Companion volunteer is representative of the essence of all Senior Companion volunteers. According to Ms. Stone, "the Senior Companion Program means the world to me – to be able to give back to the world what God has given to me, to be able to put a smile on my clients' faces, to show them love and they show me love back. I thank God every day for ElderServe Senior Companion Program."

## Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) is currently investing to expand the impact of three nonprofits that help Kentuckians. In 2015, the Brighton Center, a subgrantee of LISC, provided financial services to 227 people and placed 56 people in jobs. SIF transforms lives by using evidence to find what works and make it work for more people. The SIF Classic and SIF Pay for Success programs harness the expertise of grant-making intermediaries to identify, evaluate, and expand effective nonprofits serving low-income communities.