



Michigan's AmeriCorps Program Descriptions

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4-H Mentor Michigan

By Betsy Knoll

The 4-H Mentor Michigan Initiative focuses on the expansion and strengthening of mentoring programs in targeted Michigan communities. This project has enlisted 80 full-time AmeriCorps members statewide to serve with Michigan State University Extension (MSUE), 4-H staff, and other community-based youth mentoring programs to recruit 2,000 volunteers to serve as mentors.

Members assist in training and matching 825 volunteers statewide to build the capacity of each community to establish one-

to-one or small group mentoring programs. As a result of these efforts, 1,650 low-income, at-risk, or underserved youth, ages 5 to 19 years, will participate in on-going mentoring relationships.

AmeriCorps members are also expected to work with local mentoring collaboratives, schools, civic organizations, and/or local faith-based organizations to develop or strengthen local partnerships related to mentoring. Fifty new partnerships will be formed statewide during the current year of the grant. If local mentoring coalitions do not



Members of 4H Mentor Michigan

exist in the targeted communities, a priority will be to organize and establish a community-wide group for this purpose. The program encompasses a 22-county area.

Camp Fire USA West Michigan Council

By Karlee Kage

Camp Fire USA is a national non-profit agency that seeks to build caring, confident youth and future leaders. Camp Fire USA West Michigan Council's AmeriCorps program currently enrolls three full-time and 20 part-time AmeriCorps members to facilitate after-school and summer programs in Kent County.

Through their year of service, members provide a safe, inclusive environment

during out-of-school time for more than 1,900 children at 11 sites in the Grand Rapids area. As a part of Camp Fire USA, AmeriCorps members work to meet the needs of elementary and middle school youth through programs that foster self-esteem, healthy lifestyles, character development, leadership skills, and social responsibility.

By emphasizing empowerment and positive choices, AmeriCorps members equip students to become leaders in their classrooms and communities. During the year,

members build meaningful relationships with youth, supporting them to become successful individuals. AmeriCorps members work closely with Camp

Fire USA staff throughout their year of service, assisting site coordinators and other staff in developing and orchestrating fun, educational activities. They also recruit volunteers to participate in special programs and events.

In the spring, members help youth develop and execute their own service project through Camp Fire USA's "Gift of Giving" curriculum that teaches students the importance of working together to make a difference in their community. AmeriCorps members also present Camp Fire USA's nationally developed Self-Reliance curriculum to elementary classrooms.



Campfire USA Members

(cont. next page)

Camp Fire USA, cont.

These courses help children learn how to handle conflict, solve problems, and make positive choices. Throughout the year, AmeriCorps members also get things done by organizing and participating in a wide variety of

service projects that positively impact the Grand Rapids community.

Char-Em ISD

By Janice Justice

Char-Em ISD AmeriCorps is a school-based program with 10 members placed within local elementary schools throughout the Intermediate School District in northern lower Michigan. Members work with at-risk students on literacy, life skills, and behavior.

The at-risk students are identified and referred by their classroom teachers. Each member has a caseload of 15-20 students in grades K-

5. The AmeriCorps members receive training and

information about various topics such as school protocol, classroom management, conflict resolution skills, reading assessment and teaching fluency.

Members are also trained in first aid and CPR, character education, and getting others involved in community service. Members are assigned to specific school sites and are under day-to-day direction of on-site supervisors who assist the member in creating areas of focus within their school setting.

Members also join at least one non-profit service organization, enlisting non-AmeriCorps members to volunteer at these organizations, attend three governmental board meetings, give two presentations to community agencies/organizations on what AmeriCorps is all about, and

attend state-sponsored member trainings.

Members are encouraged to attend Red Cross trainings, and two members are on local Disaster Action Teams. Members are also active in many community service projects, including volunteering for the United Way, Red Cross, Parent Teacher Organizations, and Habitat for Humanity .



Members of Char-Em ISD enjoy a team-building exercise.

Cherry Street Health Services

By Cathy LaPorte

The Community Health Corps of Cherry Street Health Services (CSHS) is a group of 13 federally qualified community health centers. The HealthCorps team is a national AmeriCorps program that is health focused, where each member has direct patient contact. There are members of the CSHS team at each of the 13 CSHS sites with some members serving with partnering programs.

Currently, 30 members perform a variety of services, including but not limited to the:

Patient Assistance Program

A program that assists patients with applications to

pharmaceutical programs for free or low-cost medication.

School-Based Health Center Health Advocate

A member networks with school personnel to provide case management for students and increases awareness of services available to students and parents.

Medical Case Management

The member provides appointment reminders, preparation for doctor's appointments, interpretation services, documentation, and appointment follow-up with patients.

Outreach/Advocacy

A program conducting outreach

events in the community and educating the community about health insurance eligibility, available health programs, and various health care options.

Additionally, each member is trained to provide services in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner, assist individuals with navigating health services, provide health education in a one-on-one and/or group setting, provide encouragement towards completing treatment and behavioral goals, and plan team service projects.

City Year Detroit

By Gopi Patel

City Year Detroit (CYD) is a non-profit organization comprised of young, idealistic adults between the ages of 17 and 24. These individuals commit 10 months and 1,700 hours of service to the city of Detroit.

This service entails tutoring and mentoring students Monday through Thursday in Detroit Public Schools, and one school in Dearborn. City Year Detroit has teams located throughout Detroit at Osborn College Preparatory Academy, Brenda M. Scott Middle School, Cody High School, Phoenix Middle School, Roberto Clemente Learning Academy, Academy of Americas, Salina Elementary School, and Vetal Elementary School.

CYD's tutoring and mentoring is focused on kindergarten through 12th grade. They also conduct after-school tutoring and other activities four days out of the week.

Staying after school allows members to be available to the

students if they need assistance with their schoolwork. The members are able to provide one-on-one tutoring with students, as well as group tutoring. The after-school activities are a great way to enrich the students' understanding of social issues that surround their community.

In addition to CYD's school-based teams, they have two teams that are Saturday-based programs called Young Heroes and City Heroes. These teams focus on recruiting and providing middle school and high school students the opportunity to perform physical community service and tackle the issues that are ever-present in the communities of Detroit.

Each Friday, the entire Corps performs physical service throughout Detroit, or participates in Leadership Development Days. In the past,



members have performed physical service with other non-profit organizations located in Detroit, such as Motor City Blight Busters and the Greening of Detroit. CYD's Leadership Development Days are a great way for the Corps to develop skills as leaders.

Their latest service was performed on the Friday before Thanksgiving, when 63 Corps members battled issues of hunger and homelessness. They provided service to All Saint's Church, New Day Multipurpose, Focus: Hope, and others.

In the upcoming year, the AmeriCorps members of City Year Detroit hope to make a difference in area schools, as well as with students.

Cross-Stream AmeriCorps*VISTA

By Matt Reaume

The Service to All AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) program was created through a partnership between the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) and the Michigan Corporation for National and Community Service State Office.

The program includes a newly created Cross-Stream VISTA position – the only one of its kind in the nation. "Cross-Stream" refers to the ways in which the different national service programs in Michigan can work together to pool information and resources to more effectively carry out their program's mission.

The Cross-Stream VISTA member will work closely with an advisory team comprised of representatives from the MCSC,

CNCS, Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, as well as all Michigan national service programs (Senior Corps, Learn & Serve America, and AmeriCorps State, National Direct, and National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) programs). The mission of the Cross-stream Advisory Team is to enhance and strengthen Michigan's national service efforts statewide through promotion, external education, internal communication, collaboration, and training.

This cross-stream initiative is the result of a general statewide trend where community service organizations have become strained in the face of steadily increasing needs for service coupled with a consistent decline in funding and resources.

These trends have forced national service programs in Michigan to come together through collaboration and partnership opportunities to make the

most effective use of time and money. As work continues to progress with the Cross-stream VISTA and Advisory Team, ongoing dialogue between the MCSC, CNCS, and partners will aim to ensure that national service programs in Michigan will continue to thrive and grow even in the face of economic hardship.



Downriver CARES

By Dawn Gould

The acronym of Downriver CARES AmeriCorps stands for Community, Action, Resources, Enrichment, and Service. The program's host site is The Guidance Center, which serves Southeast Michigan in several capacities.

The Guidance Center's programs focus on treatment, prevention, and education, and serve nearly 20,000 clients each year. In addition, members are placed at other non-profits in the metro Detroit area, such as United Way, Starfish Family Services, and the City of Wayne.

Downriver CARES has 42 full-time and 10 part-time AmeriCorps members serving with children, adults and families in areas of literacy, education, mental health, and other human needs areas. Members provide resource coordination to hundreds of mentally ill clients, provide outreach and connection to needed resources to the homeless and serve within schools providing outreach, prevention, and summer camp services to hundreds of at-risk youth.

Members serve thousands of toddlers and preschool age children by providing literacy services and playgroups, educational and emotional support to youth who have been placed on probation, and tutoring and mentoring services.

In addition, members come together every Friday to perform a community service project with a new non-profit. Members take turns planning each event. The program completes more than 60 service projects each year.

Last winter Downriver CARES was able to rehabilitate a closed elementary school in the River Rouge school district, now named Walter White Community Center in River Rouge, MI. This Community Resource Center offers several programs including: GED tutoring, grades K-5 tutoring, Head Start preschool, parent-child interaction groups, a computer lab, and a clothing closet.

The program also hosted a free summer day camp that served more than 80 young

people, from kindergarten through high school. It ran for seven weeks and was coordinated by Downriver CARES AmeriCorps members. Members are excited to be a part of the new service opportunities, and to be able to make such an important difference in the lives of children.



Members of Downriver CARES AmeriCorps

Faith in Youth Partnership

By Trevor Pegues

Faith in Youth Partnership, through various West Michigan faith-based organizations and Good Samaritan ministries, empowers 15 AmeriCorps members' (6 full-time, 5 half-time, and 4 quarter-time) in an endeavor to establish mentoring relationships with children of varying backgrounds.

Collaborating with the Holland-Zeeland area's seven middle schools, members seek to

improve academic achievement and promote positive decisions, particularly for youth in an at-risk environment due to isolation, poverty, or parental abandonment.

Mentors are recruited and the program is supported through partnerships with local churches and six to eight of the faith-based organizations located near the schools served. AmeriCorps members serving out of five area churches will assist with the recruitment of more than 100

community volunteers to serve as one-to-one mentors for youth attending the individual programs.

Members also provide after-school activities at least two days per week and academic assistance at least once per week. The program strives to help 75% of the 400 youth served to achieve positive behavioral changes, as measured by youth surveys, progress report cards, and parental feedback.

Foreclosure Corps

By Jenny Ziegler

The Michigan Foreclosure Corps (MFC) program is new to Michigan's AmeriCorps. The Foreclosure Corps originated from a growing need for foreclosure prevention assistance. Members serve at non-profit agencies in Michigan, which are HUD, MSHDA, or NeighborWorks certified for housing and foreclosure prevention counseling.

The foreclosure crisis has been and continues to severely impact individuals and families from various backgrounds. In the wake of the financial crisis, and with the bottom falling out of the housing market, foreclosures are on the rise. This reality exposes the instability and

hardship many families and individuals are dealing with as they fight to remain in their homes. Homeownership brings stability, comfort, and has historically been a means for people to generate wealth. As this foundation is shaken, members of Michigan's Foreclosure Corps are working diligently to assist those in need of foreclosure prevention counseling.

Currently there are 19 members serving across the state of Michigan assisting with foreclosure prevention and financial literacy. Michigan Foreclosure Corps members work alongside certified counselors, assisting with intake and triage for clients who are seeking to reinstate their mortgage or find other alternatives to foreclosure.

Marketing and outreach of counseling services are other key roles members play in various agencies. Members also serve as community educators around issues of foreclosure and address the impact foreclosures have on a neighborhood. Members take part in some or all of these activities on various levels.

The goal of Foreclosure Corps is to increase the capacity of agencies addressing issues within the foreclosure crisis. During these difficult economic times when people are losing jobs and incomes are being reduced, the response of Michigan Foreclosure Corps matters. It matters to individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities. Foreclosures affect everyone, and it is the job of MFC to prevent those devastating effects.

Huron Pines

By Abbey Ertel

The State of Michigan is rich in natural beauty that is enjoyed by our citizens in a variety of ways every day. In northern Michigan there is a network of conservation organizations working to steward and protect these resources.

Huron Pines AmeriCorps is an AmeriCorps program focused on conserving the forests, lakes, and streams of Michigan's northeast 11 counties. AmeriCorps members help non-profit organizations meet their goals to steward the region's natural resources by serving in four key areas: volunteer engagement, habitat restoration, environmental stewardship, and through developing new conservation services. Through these efforts Huron Pines AmeriCorps is strengthening the organizations it serves, which in turn creates more effective natural resource conservation.

Last year, Huron Pines

AmeriCorps met and surpassed its goals in all its program areas. During the 2008-2009 service year Huron Pines AmeriCorps members restored 15,880 linear feet of stream bank. This was accomplished through river clean-ups, native green belt plantings, and restoration projects. Members created 13 new conservation service projects, 12 of which have been implemented by their host organizations. Environmental stewardship benefited from 300 member presentations spreading the message of natural resource conservation and community service to more than 10,000 people. All of this took place while engaging 647 volunteers in 2,645.5 hours of service to their community.

This year Huron Pines AmeriCorps continues to develop leaders in conservation as nine full-time members and six half-time members to take on new natural



Members of Huron Pines AmeriCorps

resource and environmental stewardship challenges. Members will have a real impact on northern Michigan by completing conservation projects that would otherwise be left undone, and engaging their communities in the process.

Member responsibilities will range from cataloguing the effects of small dam removal, organizing native plant sales, developing place-based education opportunities for local schools, creating new volunteer opportunities, and helping Michigan's AmeriCorps program get things done!

MARESA

By Kathryn Johnson

MARESA (Marquette Alger Regional Education Service Agency) Michigan's AmeriCorps members provide service in local schools in Alger and Marquette counties. MARESA - Michigan's AmeriCorps enrolls 10 full-time members.

Members serve the community by providing direct educational support, such as tutoring K-12 students individually or in small groups, conducting after-school programs, and teaching employability skills.

AmeriCorps members provide support to schools, community-based family resource facilities, or youth development programs, as well as create and facilitate cultural

and recreational programs within those venues.

MARESA – Michigan's AmeriCorps offers several opportunities to get involved and help make a positive difference in the lives of students in Alger and Marquette counties.



A salute from MARESA-Michigan's AmeriCorps members

Michigan AmeriCorps Partnership

By Rachel Freedman

The Michigan AmeriCorps Partnership (MAP) began in 1995 as a collaboration between the University of Michigan and the Michigan Neighborhood Partnership. It has since grown to include seven graduate and undergraduate programs at the University of Michigan that annually serve more than 40 diverse non-profit organizations, based primarily in Ann Arbor and Detroit.

MAP strives to address local human needs through direct service and capacity-building program activities related to education, urban planning, social work, health, and economic development. MAP has a core of 46 members who work at 33 sites and log more than 40,000 service hours annually.

During their term of service, members learn about the rewards and challenges facing human needs-based non-profit organizations, work in culturally rich

environments, and network with potential employers.

MAP members frequently engage with people who want to make a difference in their communities and participate in meaningful service projects that strive to build capacity for community-based organizations. Because MAP members serve at different sites, no single experience is ever the same, but each challenge gives members the opportunity to grow, learn new skills, and serve others.



AmeriCorps MAP members ready for action

Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness

By: Donna McCarthy

Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps program is about to begin its second year with almost 60 members. Members are engaged in varied service activities, reflecting Michigan's geographical make-up. Some sites are defined as "rural," such as the one located in the Upper Peninsula's Menominee County. At the other end of the state, Wayne County members work in an extremely urban environment. Homelessness wears many faces, but the critical level of need is shared by all. AmeriCorps members are responding to that need by providing a wide array of services

that reflect the many talents and skills offered to their communities through the program.

Outreach members venture out into the community, forming relationships with people who are living without shelter, under bridges, in tent communities, or in abandoned buildings. They serve as the connecting link for those among us who have become cut off from society. Many times members are able to bring these consumers "in from the cold" and assist them in applying for and receiving much-needed benefits and services.

Other members serve in office settings or shelters and act as liaisons to community services. They create lists of affordable and subsidized housing, assisting those in need to complete applications, make phone calls, and conduct apartment searches.

Members provide valuable information and referrals to programs that help those with special needs and disabilities, many of which provide housing or funds to obtain housing. For those consumers who are placed in housing, AmeriCorps members

provide follow-up support that may include home visits, monthly potlucks, and informational presentations by speakers from local organizations.

Along with the Campaign's Volunteer Coordinators, members contribute to their sites by recruiting, training, and motivating new volunteers. There are five members specializing in Foreclosure Prevention to keep at-risk residents in their homes.

Even though the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps program is relatively new, the commitment of its members to ending homelessness and providing meaningful service have affected the lives of many Michigan residents in significant and life-changing ways.



Michigan Habitat for Humanity

By Lisa Beedon

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry seeking to eliminate poverty, housing, and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. To accomplish these goals, the program invites people of all backgrounds, races, and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Habitat Michigan's AmeriCorps

programs focus on helping affiliates engage communities, mobilize volunteers, build capacity, and increase productivity. [\(cont. next page\)](#)



Members of AmeriCorps' Habitat program help construct a new home

Habitat, cont.

Habitat Michigan's AmeriCorps programs focus on helping affiliates engage communities, mobilize volunteers, build capacity, and increase productivity.



Habitat Team building homes!

The Michigan Habitat's AmeriCorps Program enrolls full-time, half-time, and summer-time AmeriCorps members to serve more than 70 Habitat for Humanity affiliates throughout the state. Members serve as:

- Construction Liaisons to ensure the training, safety practices, and overall satisfaction of volunteers on a construction site.
- Volunteer Recruiters to form partnerships between their affiliate and local businesses, industries, service groups, churches, and/or community members.
- Family Supporters to create systems, serve as mentors, and implement programs to assist Habitat's partner families in becoming self-sufficient and responsible homeowners.
- Vision 2020 Community Liaisons to mobilize volunteers in targeted neighborhoods to

eliminate substandard housing and stimulate economic development.

- Sustainable Building Specialists to champion energy star and sustainable building practices for the affiliates.

Habitat has had more than 240 AmeriCorps members serve in Michigan. They have recruited more than 27,200 volunteers that provided more than 183,000 service hours. Eight-hundred families went through the application process and qualified to be Habitat partner families. Habitat affiliates with AmeriCorps members realized an increase in home production of 25% each year, constructing more than 60 homes in several Michigan counties, including: Berrien, Calhoun, Dickinson, Ingham, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lapeer, Macomb, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne.

MPCA Community Health Corps

By Beth Leonard

Michigan Primary Care Association's (MPCA) mission is to promote, support, and develop comprehensive, accessible, and affordable community-based primary health care services to everyone in Michigan.

Thirty-two Community Health Centers provide quality, comprehensive, community-oriented primary health care for nearly 500,000 patients annually at 160 sites across the state. Currently, MPCA has the opportunity to place 37 AmeriCorps members at sites across the state of Michigan. Fifteen of these positions were funded through the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Michigan AmeriCorps members serve throughout the state in order to further improve the health status of Michigan residents. Members serve as patient self-management specialists, community outreach specialists, literary outreach specialists, and school based/school-linked community outreach specialists.

Patient self-management specialists assist the clinical staff at the Community Health Centers with programs that help patients become more proactive in the management of their chronic illnesses.



Team MPCA

Power of We Consortium

By Eric Shovein

The Power of We Consortium is a diverse collaboration of efforts in Lansing - the heart of the state. The program's goal is to promote better health, but more specifically the Power of We wishes to reduce the incidence of chronic disease due to lack of exercise and nutrition by making a healthy lifestyle accessible to all income levels.

The two ways in which the program hopes to address this problem are related to the environment. The first way is the creation, expansion, and maintenance of trails and greenways. Likewise, the other is the creation, expansion, and maintenance of community gardens, sustainable food systems, and also access to healthy foods.

Volunteers therefore often

work with nature, or by using natural resources to help better peoples' lives. For example, one member works at a food bank putting together weekend meals for low-income families, and other volunteers grow produce in order to benefit the community. There is also a member who is helping with the beautification of Lansing, as he creates new and better trails throughout the Lansing park system.

The program consists of nine sites where the AmeriCorps members teach, coordinate volunteers, grow produce, beautify neighborhoods, and help engineer food distribution programs. Because the long-term goals of the project are common among sites, members are able to share ideas,



AmeriCorps' Power of We

networks, and resources.

The sites include: The Greater Lansing Food Bank, Mid Michigan Food Bank, Northwest Initiative, Ingham County Land Bank, The Garden Project, MSU Extension Family Center Youth Garden, South Lansing Community Development Association, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance/ Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, and Ingham County Parks. To learn more about the Power of We, visit them on the web at <http://www.powerofwe.org/>.

readetroit corps

By Javon Hunter

Communities In Schools' *readetroit* corps (RDC) utilizes 52 full-time AmeriCorps members to address the critical literacy needs of children identified as having extreme reading deficiencies, with two members focusing on volunteer recruitment and development.

Specific activities include conducting individual and group tutoring sessions, starting book clubs, taking students on library trips, arranging for volunteers to read with students, conducting information sessions designed to help students prepare for tests, and facilitating

family literacy nights. The program strives to increase the reading levels of students, as well as recruit community volunteers to further support local youth.

The three core components to the RDC program are tutoring, mentoring, and volunteer management. Members placed in teams of two at elementary and middle schools address local needs by (1) providing individual and group tutoring, (2) recruiting and training community volunteers to serve in DPS, (3) providing after-school program support, (4) offering

parental literacy activities, (5) implementing activities designed to build relationship between schools, parents, and the community, and (6) providing mentoring to five children, each of whom have a parent incarcerated.

Currently, members are placed at 26 Detroit Public Schools and serve as agents to increase reading levels throughout Wayne County.

Schools of Hope

By Tracy Lee Taylor

Research has shown that a significant number of parents with school children in Grand Rapids are reading below a 9th grade reading level, or are not able to communicate well in English. This reality can

negatively affect a child's success in school. The good news is that by improving a parent's English or literacy level, the child's success in school will improve as well. Therefore, in an effort to bring the MEAP scores of the students at

Grand Rapids Public Schools in line with the scores of the surrounding suburban school districts and to help adults improve their literacy skills, the Grand Rapids Public Schools has partnered with Heart of West Michigan United Way and the Literacy Center of West Michigan to

Schools of Hope, cont.

expand the Schools of Hope Program.



AmeriCorps' Schools of Hope ESL class

The new program is offered at multiple elementary school sites within Grand Rapids Public Schools. Each elementary school has been selected based on test scores, parent involvement, and staff commitment. AmeriCorps members serve as part

of the Schools of Hope program as teachers, curriculum developers, and school program administrators to facilitate success and growth of the program.

The goal of Schools of Hope is to make a difference in the lives of families by improving the reading ability of children in school, increasing the ability of parents to support their children's education, and to help parents compete more effectively in the workplace. The program incorporates a three-pronged approach to school success through raising the reading levels of at-risk children.

The three prongs include in-school weekly volunteer tutoring for children, neighborhood after-school sites based on the YET Program, and the Family Literacy Program led by the Literacy Center of West Michigan. The Family Literacy program includes all four

components of a complete program: parent education, parenting workshops, child education, and parent and child together (PACT) time.

Each week, parents are offered four hours of classroom instruction reflecting the National Career Readiness Certification Process, one hour of parenting discussion/workshop, and one hour of PACT time. In addition to regular daily instruction, children are given optional computer lab or supplemental tutoring and an additional 30 minutes of reading time. Monthly literacy events for the entire family, featuring group interaction, literacy activities, and refreshments, round out the Schools of Hope program. For more information, visit www.literacycenterofwm.org.

Superior Americorps

By Yasmine Lennon

Superior AmeriCorps currently has members serving within a five county region in the Western Upper Peninsula that includes Baraga, Dickinson, Houghton, Iron and Keweenaw Counties. Members' on-site service typically falls into one of three categories: school-based youth outreach, early education, or community organizations.

With the funding allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Superior AmeriCorps was able to place 11 additional members for the 2009-2010 service year across our sites. This brings Superior AmeriCorps to a grand total of 46 members that provide a wide spectrum of services that include tutoring, mentoring, and recruiting volunteers to engage the community.

Members based in area elementary

schools, middle schools, and high schools serve under the supervision of a lead teacher, principal, or superintendent. Youth outreach entails tutoring, mentoring, and developing extracurricular activities such as after-school programs and homework help. Members work directly with students and school staff to identify the most urgent needs and initiate programs to meet those needs.

Members serving in early education settings help in preschool classrooms by working directly with children and enhancing the quality of care by increasing the adult-to-child ratio. Members also work with parents to ensure the best educational experience for children.

Other services covered in this setting are provided by the BHK

Even Start program, which serves teen mothers, low-income parents and other at-risk families, and the BHK Wellness Board, which helps to organize wellness activities as well as reinforce preschool wellness programs in Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly are two agencies that have teamed up with Superior AmeriCorps to enhance community educational experiences through a host of projects. For example, a member serving with the High Five Mentoring program through Big Brothers/Big Sisters, helps match elementary student referrals to high school mentors. In addition, these members provide orientation, training and support to the mentors.

(cont. next page)

Superior, cont.

The mentoring program, through Big Brothers/Big Sisters helps match elementary student referrals to high school mentors. In addition, these members provide orientation, training, and support to the mentors. Members placed with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly spend the majority of their time in service to the elderly while recruiting volunteers



- especially youth - to help with the visiting program and to provide direct services such as transportation, wood cutting, snow shoveling, etc.

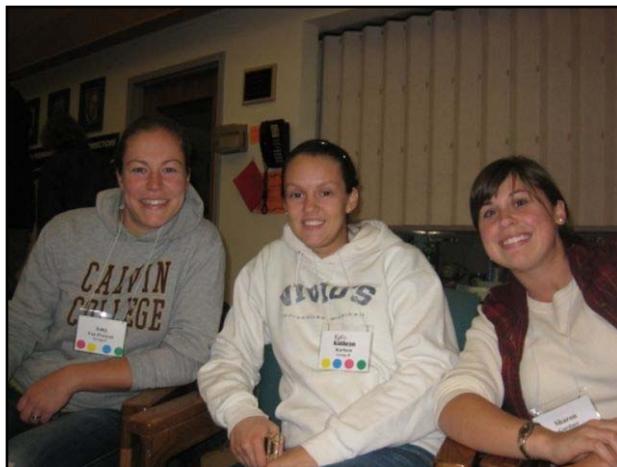


Superior AmeriCorps members making a difference!

Together We Prepare AmeriCorps

By Lindsey Pals

The 'Together We Prepare' AmeriCorps program at the American Red Cross provides vital emergency assistance to victims and communities affected by disaster and increases preparedness in the areas of greatest need before disaster strikes. This is accomplished by recruiting, training, and supporting individuals who provide integrated community outreach and education through Red Cross service activities focusing on homeland security.



Team members of Together We Prepare

Since AmeriCorps at its base is designed to meet our nation's critical needs in education, public safety, and health, the marriage of the American Red Cross and the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) with AmeriCorps is an intuitive one. AmeriCorps members' roles are imbedded within every facet of the Red Cross, in chapters all over the state of Michigan. In total, the program is involved with 14 out of the 25 chapters in Michigan, encompassing both urban and rural counties - 32 counties total. Within the home chapter in Grand Rapids, a four-county area is covered, and AmeriCorps members are involved in development, fundraising, international services, disaster

services, procurement, education, and community outreach. The Grand Rapids chapter has the population and resources to justify its current

number of AmeriCorps members. But in smaller chapters, AmeriCorps members wear two to six different hats, depending on how that specific chapter runs and what the local need is.

Some of the greatest qualities the Together We Prepare AmeriCorps members develop are innovation, compassion, and flexibility. To continue to run efficiently and smoothly, flexibility is key in that policies change, chapters change, volunteers change, and resources change, some even on a day-to-day basis.

In the same vein, innovation is necessary, especially in the non-profit sphere. Resources are limited, and one AmeriCorps member can only do so much. And finally, there is compassion. Disaster levels all of humanity. When involved with the American Red Cross, one sees humanity at the most common denominator - that of basic human need. It is impossible to *not* see everyone else as ourselves, to *not* know that in his or her situation, we would be feeling the exact same thing. Compassion fuels our service.

Without compassion, AmeriCorps members wouldn't be able to serve at all.

***A complete list of contact information for each program is located on the back page.**

Program List and Contact Information

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