

*Changing Lives
Through a
Year of
Service*



The AmeriCorps Pledge

*I will get things done for America –
to make our people safer,
smarter, and healthier.*

*I will bring Americans together
to strengthen our communities.*

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.



AmeriCorps: Changing Lives Through a Year of Service

“AmeriCorps members are transforming communities across the country and Michigan’s members are some of our most exemplary leaders.”

*- David Eisner, CEO,
Corporation for National and Community Service*

Get things done. Strengthen communities. Encourage responsibility. Expand opportunity.

Ask an AmeriCorps member to tell you about the children they’ve taught, houses they’ve built, or volunteers they’ve recruited. You will not only hear numbers, you’ll learn the names of students, addresses of new homes, and places where new volunteers have served.

This is because AmeriCorps members work directly with the people or causes that need their help the most. Whether they are responding to a house fire, combating illiteracy, or mentoring young people, members are confronting communities’ toughest challenges related to education, public safety, health, and the environment.

Commonly described as the “domestic Peace Corps,” AmeriCorps is a national service program governed by a federal agency—the Corporation for the National and Community Service (CNCS). The CNCS administers the program in partnership with State Commissions and national nonprofit organizations.

Since 1994, more than 500,000 citizens have become AmeriCorps members and have served more than 637 million hours nationwide. Through AmeriCorps, individuals can serve with community and faith-based organizations, higher education institutions, and public agencies in several ways across the nation.

In the AmeriCorps*State program, members assist nonprofit organizations, such as the American Red Cross or City Year, with meeting critical community needs. Grants are awarded to the nonprofits to recruit, train, and place AmeriCorps members in service assignments. AmeriCorps*State is managed by governor-appointed State Service Commissions, such as the Michigan Community Service Commission.

AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is for full-time members dedicated to the specific goal of reducing poverty in low-income communities. VISTA members serve with organizations, such as the Literacy Partnership of Southeast Michigan and the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative. The CNCS State Office oversees VISTA programs. The CNCS Michigan office is based in Detroit.

AmeriCorps*National (Direct) grants are given to national organizations, such as the National Aids Fund and Boys & Girls Club of America, to run programs that will involve two or more states. The CNCS administers National programs.

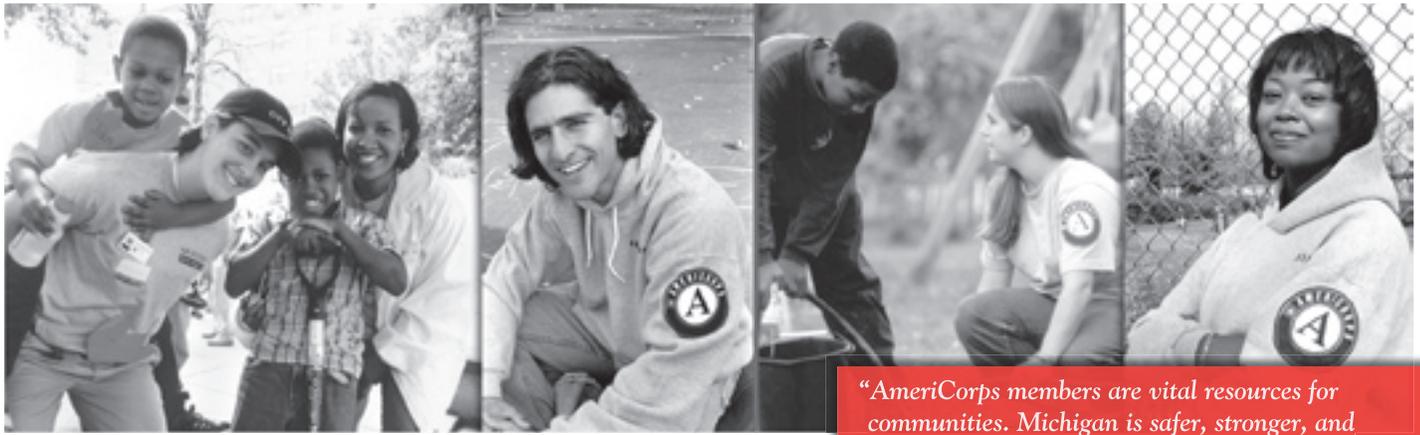
AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is based at three campuses. Members spend 10 months traveling within their regions engaging in short-term service projects. They are often one of the first groups to respond to national disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina or 9/11. Individuals apply directly to the CNCS to join.

Across programs, members range in age from 17 to 70+ years old and represent a wide spectrum of other demographic categories. Members commit to a specific term of service (usually one year) to help meet the goals defined by each program. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a cash stipend or an education award to pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. During their service, members may also be eligible to receive a modest living allowance, health insurance, childcare, and student loan deferment.

Did You Know?

- More than 70,000 members serve each year with more than 2,000 national and local organizations.
- In 2006, members recruited, organized, and supervised more than 1.2 million community volunteers nationally.
- Since 1994, AmeriCorps members have earned more than \$1.2 billion to put toward their college education or to pay off student loans.





“AmeriCorps members are vital resources for communities. Michigan is safer, stronger, and healthier because of their service.”

- Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

In Michigan

What would Michigan be without AmeriCorps members?

Imagine losing the 1,380 AmeriCorps members currently being mobilized to serve 361 nonprofits in Michigan this year.

The 9-year-old little girl whose mom died of cancer won't have a mentor recruited by Antoine Jackson, a Mentor Michigan AmeriCorps member with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit.

The prisoner seeking to positively transition back into society will not get employment assistance from Erica Bailey, a Michigan Prisoner ReEntry AmeriCorps*VISTA.

Not having AmeriCorps members would dramatically reduce the number of medically uninsured Michigan residents assisted by Luiz Martinez, a Cherry Street Health Center's AmeriCorps*National member, who now have access to affordable healthcare services.

More than \$10 million of federal funds are invested annually in AmeriCorps programs in Michigan. These funds can make the critical difference in Michigan citizens having access to desperately needed services. In many cases, AmeriCorps members are running programs and services that nonprofits previously didn't have the resources to offer.

“Without our AmeriCorps members, we would have far less to offer the communities we serve,” said Lisa J. Marks, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids. The Red Cross' AmeriCorps Together We Prepare members teach emergency preparedness and safety in schools and communities, as well as respond to local and national disasters as they occur.

“Having them in our organization allows us to do things we wouldn't be able to otherwise. The time and energy the AmeriCorps members put in is phenomenal.”

Michigan is home to three types of AmeriCorps programs—AmeriCorps*State, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and AmeriCorps*National. The Michigan Community Service Commission administers the AmeriCorps*State program known as Michigan's AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps or AmeriCorps*VISTA members are currently serving all of Michigan's 83 counties. Members tutor and mentor disadvantaged youth, respond to local disasters and emergencies, build homes, teach environmental protection, and engage in many other types of service.

Michigan's AmeriCorps

994 members¹
 21 grantees
 242 service sites
 Funding: \$6,084,810
 Education awards earned: \$3,027,308²

AmeriCorps*VISTA

209 members¹
 31 grantees
 93 service sites
 Funding: \$3,237,312
 Education awards earned: \$987,525²

AmeriCorps*National

177 members¹
 16 grantees
 26 service sites
 Funding: \$1,241,494
 Education awards earned: \$633,056²

¹This figure represents the number of awarded positions available to be filled in the 2006 - 2007 program year (as of February 2, 2007).

²This figure represents the maximum potential value of AmeriCorps education awards that can be earned by AmeriCorps members serving in Michigan (as of February 2, 2007). The award can be used in any state to pay for college, graduate school, vocational training, or to pay back student loans.



AmeriCorps members expand the reach and capacity of organizations by providing intensive, results-driven service on a daily basis. They understand that AmeriCorps exists to “get things done,” and as a member, they are part of the solution.



Diane Raison, 63, has experienced the value of volunteering. Before enrolling in the Superior AmeriCorps program in Houghton, she volunteered a couple of days each week at a local school. She formed a special relationship with a 5th grade boy struggling with learning disabilities. When it was decided his classroom would have an AmeriCorps member,

Diane was encouraged by the teacher to apply for the position—

and she was selected. Her enrollment in AmeriCorps allowed her to expand her role in the school to five full days per week, and afforded her more time to make an impact on that same young man. To her delight, after three years together, she’s seeing a significant change in him.

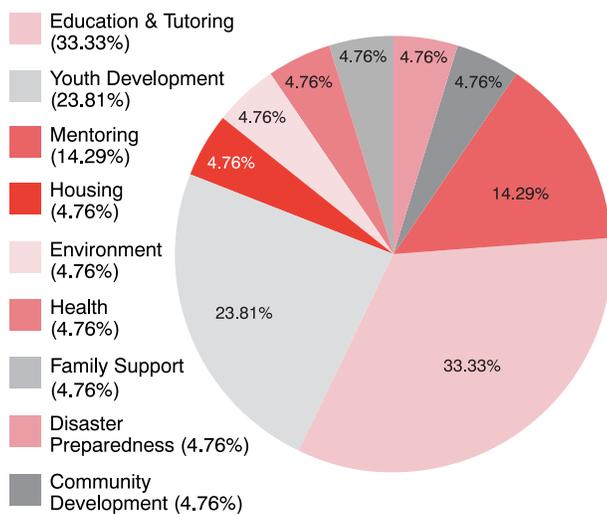
“We’ve seen a tremendous improvement,” she says.

“This year he seems to be more upbeat. He’s doing much better in math. I think that he can see that he’s making progress.”

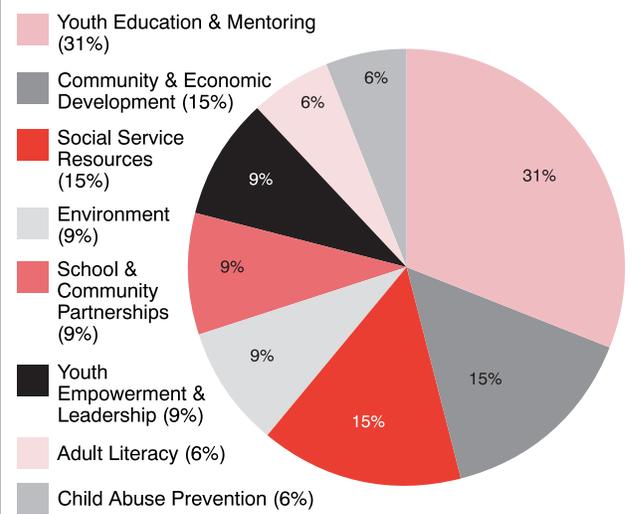
Did You Know?

- Since 1994, more than 13,500 AmeriCorps members have served in Michigan, providing more than 18 million hours of service.
- Members have earned nearly \$37 million toward their college education or vocational training.

Michigan's AmeriCorps



AmeriCorps*VISTA



*Community Needs Addressed by Michigan's AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps*VISTA Members 2006 - 2007*





Michigan's AmeriCorps

An initiative of the Michigan Community Service Commission

Wendi Brantley cries tears of joy at every Habitat for Humanity house dedication she attends. As a member of the Michigan Habitat's AmeriCorps team, she helps families prepare for homeownership, recruits volunteers to build homes, provides safety instruction, and forms partnerships with community organizations to support Habitat's work.

Just last year, the 38-year-old single mother and her two daughters moved into their own Habitat home in Detroit. Wendi grew close to the AmeriCorps members as she spent time in family support classes and completed the 300 service hours of "sweat equity" required by the Habitat homeownership process.

It was this experience that inspired Wendi to become a member of the Michigan Habitat's AmeriCorps team. In 2006, its 40 members took part in the process of building nearly 150 houses. They completed more than 39,000 service and training hours, as well as recruited, placed, and supported 8,000 volunteers.

"It was the best decision I ever made," Wendi says. "The network is awesome. I love the group I'm with. And, I'm doing something I love."

Wendi's program is just one of 21 programs in the Michigan's AmeriCorps family impacting lives everyday. Michigan's AmeriCorps, administered by the Michigan Community Service Commission, has the largest number of AmeriCorps members in the state.

send nearly 1,000 members into communities all over the state. In 2006, AmeriCorps members completed nearly 700,000 service and training hours during their term of service. They not only provide services directly, they recruit volunteers to support the work of their service sites. Last year, 25,050 community volunteers were recruited, placed, and/or supported by Michigan's AmeriCorps members. These volunteers provided a total of 158,505 hours of service.

Did You Know?

In 2006, Michigan's AmeriCorps members:

- Trained 16,747 individuals in disaster relief services.
- Tutored 2,943 students.
- Helped 1,843 children benefit from ongoing mentoring relationships.
- Assisted 68 families prepare to take ownership of new homes.

The 19 members serving with **Explore, Experience, Achieve Through 4-H Mentoring** recruited and prepared mentors to be matched with at-risk youth in one-on-one and small group mentoring relationships. They matched 199 volunteer mentors with 311 youth. The members also focused on establishing and expanding local mentoring collaboratives in the state. Explore, Experience, Achieve Through 4-H Mentoring is hosted by Michigan State University Extension – 4-H Youth Development.

The **Michigan Groundwater Stewardship AmeriCorps Program's** team of 18 members performed 15,331 groundwater risk assessments. They also presented educational information about groundwater conservation and safety to 22,835 school children. The Michigan Groundwater Stewardship AmeriCorps Program is hosted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The **Michigan Primary Care Association's Community HealthCorps** placed 18 members in eight counties to serve local health centers. Members supported 17,170 Michigan residents in addressing patient self-management goals, preventative health care measures, and school-based health concerns, as well as provided information about health plans available to the medically uninsured.

During 2006-2007, Michigan's AmeriCorps programs will

Michigan's AmeriCorps Member Spotlight



Kristian Edwards, 21

Program: *City Year Detroit*

Service location: *Detroit, Michigan*

Focus: *Youth Development*

Kristian Edwards knows what it's like to grow up without a father. It's what compelled him to get close to Raiheym, a fifth grader he tutors at Roberto Clemente Academy in southwest Detroit. Raiheym is being raised by a single mom. As they've labored over multiplication tables, they've become much closer than just tutor and student.

Kristian is working hard to counteract peer pressure and negative influences. He doesn't want Raiheym to end up a casualty as he's seen others in his own neighborhood become.

"I look at myself as a mentor to him," Kristian says. "I was fortunate to have my uncle. He was the male figure I needed in my life. I'm trying to be that positive influence for Raiheym. I don't want him to go down the wrong path."

An Ohio native, Kristian took a leave from his sophomore studies at Central State University and is serving with City Year Detroit. He is one of eight AmeriCorps members who offer

tutoring and mentoring four days a week at the Roberto Clemente Academy.

A first-year AmeriCorps member, Kristian had little experience with children before joining City Year. He now works with first and fifth graders, and assists with the afterschool program. Sometimes, reaching the students is such a challenge that it makes him question if he's doing enough.

The first-grade teacher assured Kristian that the students are responding to his efforts. She showed him test scores from the beginning of the year and recent grades. There was great improvement in the scores.

He also proudly talks about the first grader who normally struggles with the most basic vocabulary words. But as he and Kristian work together, the student is making progress. So much so, that Kristian has been writing A-plus scores on the quizzes they do together.

"He goes running out of the classroom with a smile on his face and taps his teacher, saying, 'Look what I got. Look what I got.'"

"The kids influenced me to apply for a second year in AmeriCorps," Kristian says. "I know I made a difference. It's the sole reason I want to come back."



Guy Buckingham, 41

Program: *Michigan Groundwater Stewardship*

Program, sponsored by the Michigan

Department of Agriculture

Service location: *Montcalm, Ionia, and*

Mecosta counties

Focus: *Environment*

Guy Buckingham was at the Ionia Fall Festival to educate the public about the risks to Michigan's groundwater—the source of our drinking water and one of the state's most precious resources. The second-year AmeriCorps member often does this type of outreach through his service with the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program.

But, on this day, he got an unexpected ally.

A U.S. Army private in fatigues stopped by and asked what he was doing. They struck up a conversation and Guy learned that the serviceman would be leaving soon for Afghanistan.

Shortly before walking away, he thanked Guy for his service.

"He told me that what we were doing was very important, as important as his service," Guy says. "I was stunned."

Guy was even more surprised when the private returned—out of uniform.

"He said he'd really like to help out, he wanted to volunteer. He spent the next several hours helping me."

Guy says that he could tell a number of powerful stories about the people he's met through his service. He frequently goes into homes, schools, businesses, and other places to assist the community with understanding the risks to groundwater quality and ways to protect it.

In the last year, he has conducted more than 1,200 home, lawn, and lake assessments. He also spread the word of this critical environmental issue to more than 2,000 people at events and nearly 3,000 students in schools. His service includes training others to do assessments.

Guy specifically chose to serve with the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program because he believes their work is critical to galvanizing Michigan citizens to engage in environmental protection.

"I have been here a year and half, and, if I could, would stay for life," he says.



Michigan's AmeriCorps Member Spotlight



Jilianne Emans, 24

Program: *MPCA Community HealthCorps, sponsored by the Michigan Primary Care Association*
Service location: *Sterling, Michigan*
Focus: *Health*

Jilianne Emans is often frustrated by the healthcare system. At the Sterling Health Clinic, she sees many people who don't have the means to get proper medical treatment.

"I see so many kids with problems that go untreated because their parents can't afford insurance or their insurance doesn't pay for it," says Jilianne, who has a son and is expecting her second child in August. "I'm lucky that my son doesn't have to worry about that. I wish that all kids could have that security."

Jilianne is an AmeriCorps member of the Michigan Primary Care Association Community HealthCorps team. This is her second year serving at the clinic in her hometown of Sterling.

"It's important to give back to the place where you grew up," she says. "Make it a place where people want to stay and raise their families."

In a day, Jilianne might assist a family without health insurance find resources, help elderly patients understand how to manage their diabetes, or give a talk to the community about preventative healthcare. The goal of HealthCorps is to reduce the health disparities in Michigan.

One of the projects most important to her is the Baby Pantry, where parents can get free diapers, clothing, and other baby items. "It's a really poor area, a very underserved area," she says. "At the pantry, we don't ask for income. We assume if you come there, you need it."

Serving at the clinic and pantry has inspired her to become a healthcare advocate.

"I would eventually like to go into the healthcare field and try to change some policies," she says. "I want there to be a better healthcare system for everyone."



Deborah Bonds, 48

Program: *AmeriCorps Together We Prepare, sponsored by the American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids*
Service location: *Battle Creek*
Focus: *Safety/Disaster Preparedness*

The children in Deborah Bonds' Battle Creek neighborhood mean a lot to her. So, she worries about them.

Will they remember to stay away from strangers on the way home from school? Will they be safe when left home alone? Do they know how to get help if they need it?

Rather than simply being concerned, Deborah is arming the kids in her neighborhood with safety skills. A first-year AmeriCorps member, she developed and launched the "Safe on My Own" program at the American Red Cross in Battle Creek.

"I told my supervisor that the kids in my neighborhood needed this program," she said. She was supported by teachers, school administrators, and her neighbors.

Deborah is the sole AmeriCorps member at the Battle Creek site. She is an instructor of safety and disaster preparedness. She gives presentations to schools,

businesses, retirement homes, and other places in the community. She also offers classes in CPR and first aid, as well as babysitting training.

She spends much of her time in schools, which she loves. Deborah said she saw the need for children to be educated in safety techniques after learning about the death of a child in the community. The child was home alone, used the stove, and caused a deadly fire.

"I think it's my responsibility to tell them what actions to take to protect themselves," Deborah says. "And, teach them not to put themselves in situations where they could get hurt. It has a lot to do with me being a mom."

A former military police officer in the Army, Deborah sees her AmeriCorps experience as a continuation of service to her country. Proud of how she's been able to protect the most vulnerable of her community, she's thinking of serving a second year with AmeriCorps.

It makes her day when the children are able to show that they're learning from her.

"When I returned to one of the schools, I tested a student I'd seen before. I asked her if I was a stranger. She said, 'Yes, Ms. Bonds, you are a stranger. A nice stranger, but you're still a stranger.' I couldn't help but laugh."

Michigan's AmeriCorps Programs

American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids (Statewide)
B-H-K Child Development Board (Houghton)
Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor (Benton Harbor)
Camp Fire USA West Michigan Council (Grand Rapids)
Catholic Family Services (Benton Harbor)
Charlevoix-Emmet County Intermediate School District
City Year Detroit (Detroit)
Communities in Schools Detroit (Detroit)
ConnectMichigan Alliance (Statewide)
Michigan State University Extension –
4-H Youth Development (Statewide)
Good Samaritan Ministries (Holland and Zeeland)

The Guidance Center (Detroit)
Habitat for Humanity of Michigan (Statewide)
Ionia County Intermediate School District (Ionia County)
Jumpstart – Michigan (Ypsilanti and Dearborn)
Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency
(Marquette)
Michigan Campus Compact (Statewide)
Michigan Department of Agriculture (Statewide)
Michigan Primary Care Association (Statewide)
The Regents of the University of Michigan (Detroit)
Volunteer Muskegon (Muskegon)

AmeriCorps* VISTA Programs

Allen Neighborhood Center (Lansing)
Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (Statewide)
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
(Dearborn)
Area Agency on Aging (Southfield)
Child Abuse Council of Muskegon County (Muskegon)
Child and Family Enrichment Council (Mt. Pleasant)
City Year Detroit (Detroit)
Creston Neighborhood Association (Grand Rapids)
Detroit Parent Network (Detroit)
Detroit Safe Neighborhood Action Plan, Inc. (Detroit)
North Menominee Schools (Menominee County)
Gladstone Area Schools (Delta County)
Growing Hope, Inc. (Ypsilanti)
Habitat for Humanity of Michigan (Statewide)
Literacy Partnership of Southeast Michigan (Detroit)
Looking Glass Community Services
(Laingsburg)
Mentor Michigan (Statewide)
Michigan Campus Compact (Statewide)
Michigan Communities in Schools (Statewide)
Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative
(Statewide)



Mixed Greens (Grand Rapids)
Oakland Community College (Pontiac)
Points of Light Foundation (Nationwide)
Power of We Consortium (Ingham County)
The Greening of Detroit (Detroit)
The Leaven Center (Ionia County)
The Village Initiative (Ann Arbor)
Youth Empowerment Project (Ann Arbor)
Flint Community Schools (Genesee County)
Youth 4-H Enrichment and Empowerment
(Beulah)



Interested in becoming involved in AmeriCorps?

Become an AmeriCorps member

Individuals interested in becoming an AmeriCorps member (State, National Direct, VISTA, or NCCC) can learn more about these opportunities at www.americorps.gov. Potential members can search available programs at <https://recruit.cns.gov/quicksearchform.asp>. Each AmeriCorps program performs its own recruitment and selection of members so please contact the program(s) directly.

Host a Michigan's AmeriCorps or AmeriCorps*VISTA program

Michigan's AmeriCorps

Organizations interested in sponsoring a Michigan's AmeriCorps program may contact the Michigan Community Service Commission. Request for Proposals are typically issued in fall with the program year beginning the following fall. Please note that organizations are selected through a grant application process and must host a team no smaller than 10 full-time-equivalent members.

AmeriCorps*VISTA

Organizations interested in sponsoring an AmeriCorps*VISTA program should contact the CNCS State Office. AmeriCorps*VISTA project applications are accepted throughout the year. There are no minimum requirements for the number of VISTAs an applicant must request. The CNCS State Office will provide technical assistance during the application process. The length of the application process varies, but the average length of time is three to five months.

Michigan Community Service Commission

1048 Pierpont, Suite 4
Lansing, Michigan 48913
(517) 335-4295
www.michigan.gov/mcsc

CNCS Michigan State Office

211 W. Fort Street, Suite 1408
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 226-7848
www.americorps.gov



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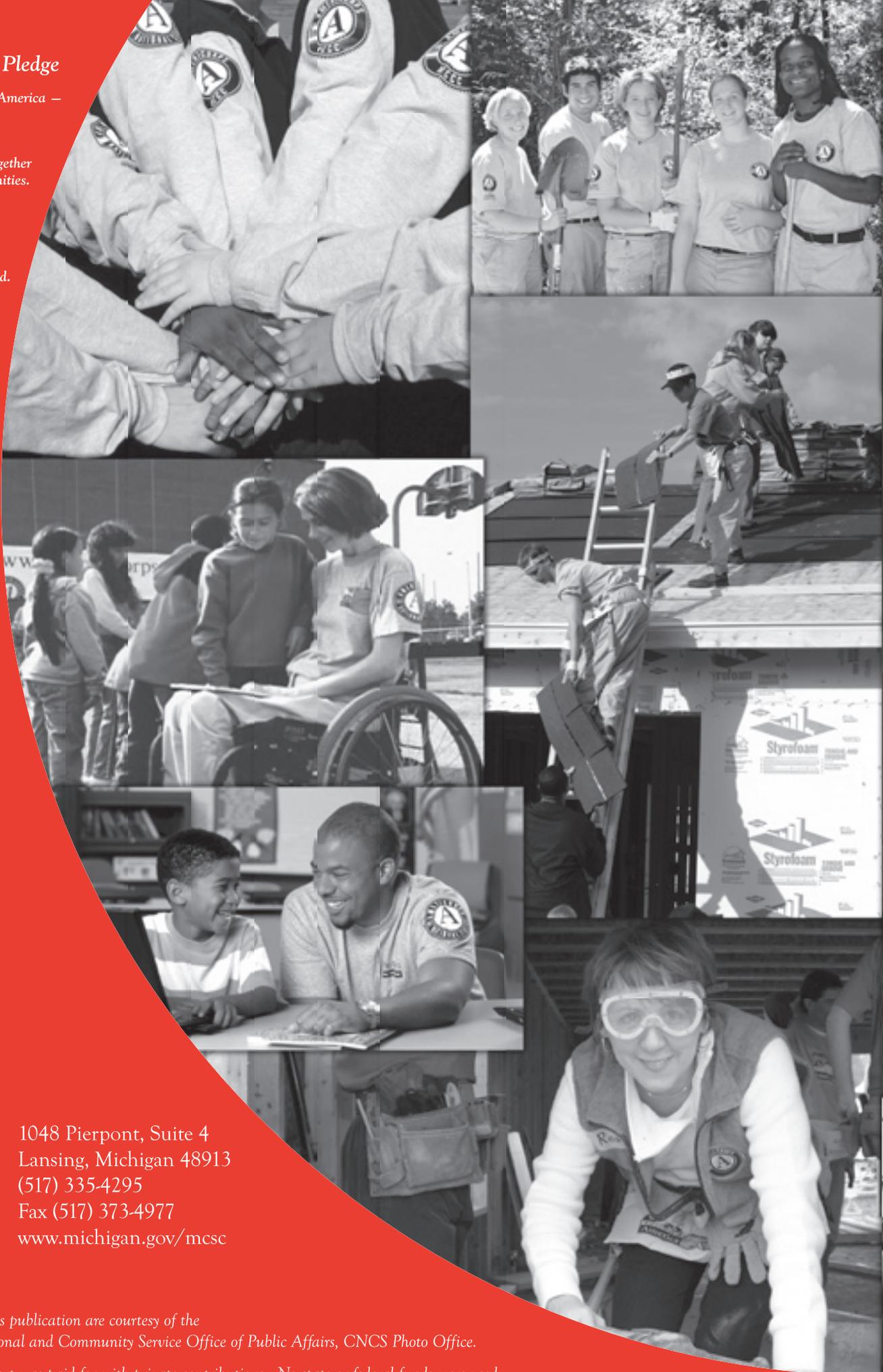
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MICHIGAN



**COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

COMMISSION

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The printing of this report was paid for with private contributions. No state or federal funds were used.