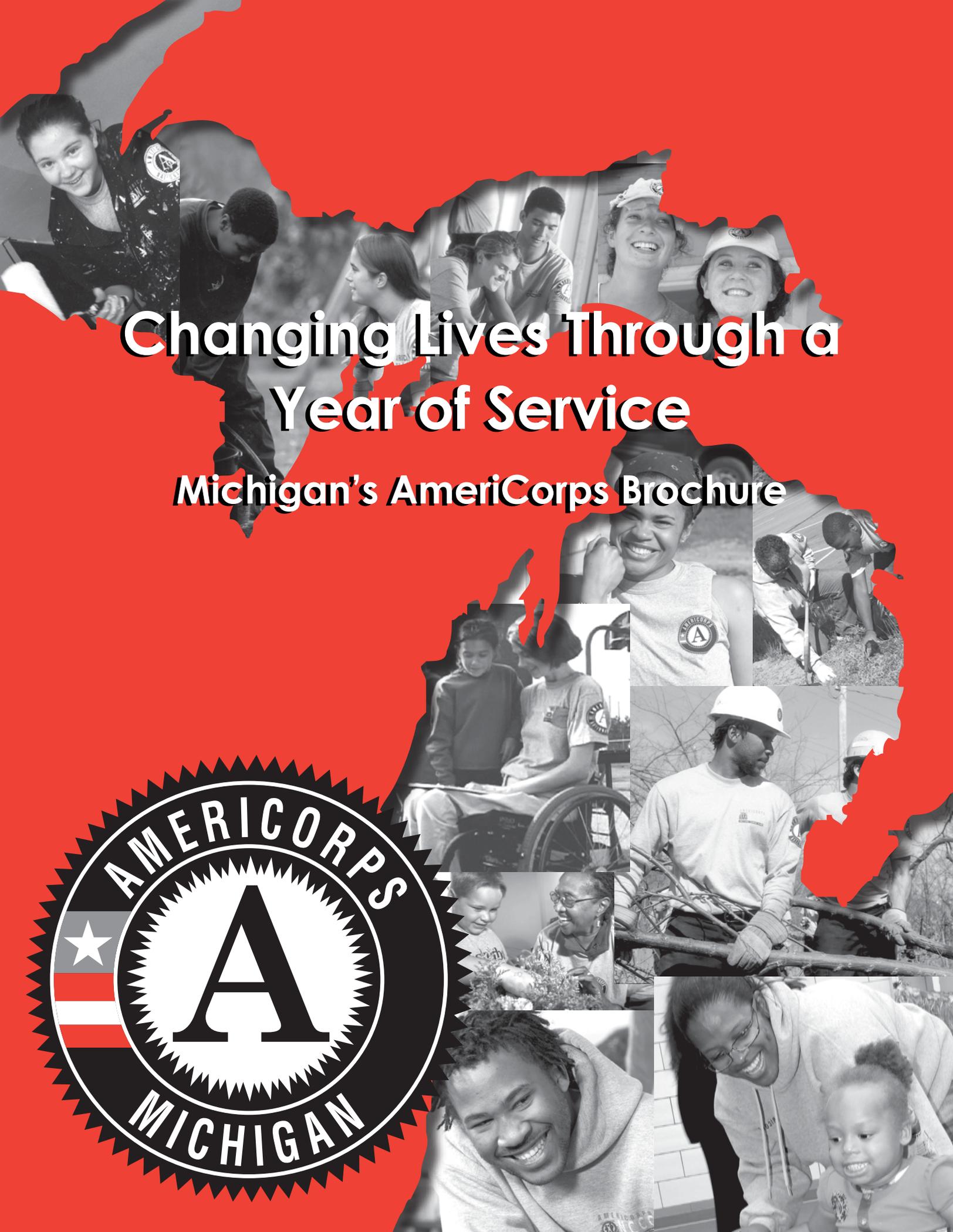


# Changing Lives Through a Year of Service

Michigan's AmeriCorps Brochure





## AmeriCorps: Changing Lives Through a Year of Service

If you ask AmeriCorps members to tell you about the children they've tutored, houses they've built, or volunteers they've recruited, you won't just hear statistical data. You'll hear first-hand about how communities are being strengthened, responsibility is being encouraged, and opportunities are being expanded.

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

Since 1994, more than 500,000 citizens have become AmeriCorps members and served millions of hours nationwide. Through AmeriCorps, individuals can serve with community and faith-based organizations, higher education institutions, and public agencies in many ways.

In the AmeriCorps\*State program, members assist nonprofit organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity or the American Red Cross, with meeting critical community needs. Grants are awarded to nonprofits to recruit, train, and place AmeriCorps members in service assignments. AmeriCorps\*State is managed by 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 Kalamazoo County Poverty Reduction Initiative and the Port Huron Housing Commission. The CNCS State Office, based in Detroit, oversees AmeriCorps\*VISTA programs.

AmeriCorps\*National 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 National Office administers National programs.

AmeriCorps\*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is based at five campuses in Denver, Colorado; Sacramento, California; Perry Point, Maryland; Vicksburg, Mississippi; and Vinton, Iowa. 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 hurricanes. Individuals apply directly to the CNCS National Office to join.

Across all AmeriCorps programs, members range in age from 17 to more than 70 years old and represent a wide spectrum of other demographic characteristics. 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 an education award to pay for higher education 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?

- **85,000** AmeriCorps members serve every year with more than 3,000 national and local organizations.
- In 2010, AmeriCorps members recruited, organized, and supervised more than **2 million** community volunteers nationally.
- Since 1994, AmeriCorps members across the country have earned more than **\$1.6 billion** in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to put toward their college education or to pay off qualified student loans.



# Michigan: Benefiting from AmeriCorps Member Service

In 2010-2011, nearly 1,700 AmeriCorps members will impact Michigan and its communities through more than 500 nonprofits. These members help mentor youth, provide housing and foreclosure resources, assist medically uninsured residents with gaining affordable healthcare services, respond to local and national disasters as they occur, and much more.

More than \$11 million in federal funds are invested annually in AmeriCorps programs in Michigan. These funds make critical differences in Michigan citizens having access to desperately needed services. In many cases, AmeriCorps members are implementing programs and administering services nonprofits previously might not have had the resources to offer.

Michigan's members will earn more than \$5 million in education awards this year, making higher education more affordable or paying back qualified student loans easier.

Michigan is home to three types of AmeriCorps programs – State, VISTA, and National. AmeriCorps members are currently serving in all of Michigan's 83 counties.

### Did You Know?

- Since 1994, more than **20,000** AmeriCorps members have served more than **27 million** hours in Michigan.
- AmeriCorps members in Michigan have earned more than **\$58.3 million** toward their college education or vocational training since 1994.



*“Members serving in the Michigan’s Habitat AmeriCorps program allowed us to support 43 partner families last year and capitalize on more than 6,400 volunteers. Additionally, AmeriCorps members enhanced the activities of 15 Habitat affiliates by deconstructing 59 homes and rehabbing 26 more.”*

*- Sandra A. Pearson  
CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan*

### AmeriCorps\* State

(Michigan's AmeriCorps)

**1,211** members\*  
**26** grantees  
**370** service sites  
 Funding: **\$7,982,247**  
 Education awards earned: **\$3,262,813\*\***

### AmeriCorps\* VISTA

**232** members\*  
**44** grantees  
**174** service sites  
 Funding: **\$3,311,640**  
 Education awards earned: **\$1,149,300\*\***

### AmeriCorps\* National

**244** members\*  
**30** grantees  
**24** service sites  
 Funding: **\$657,259**  
 Education awards earned: **\$701,982\*\***

\*This figure represents the number of awarded positions available to be filled in the 2010-2011 program year (as of March 2, 2011).  
 \*\*This figure represents the maximum potential value of AmeriCorps education awards that can be earned by AmeriCorps members serving in Michigan (as of March 2, 2011). The award can be used in any state to pay for higher education, vocational training, or to pay qualified back student loans.



# Michigan's AmeriCorps – An Initiative of the Michigan Community Service Commission

## Inner-City Neighborhood Project

The Inner-City Neighborhood Project is one of the Michigan Community Service Commission's newest Michigan's AmeriCorps projects operating in Detroit, Benton Harbor, Grand Rapids, and Saginaw; and it carries an important mission – public safety and national service. This project is unique in our state in that it is the first AmeriCorps program the MCSC has partnered with that enrolls returning prisoners as AmeriCorps members.

Each week, 66 members of the Inner-City Neighborhood Project in Detroit provide nearly 700 hours of service to the three project neighborhoods: Brightmoor, Osborn, and Morningside. Members are quickly leaving a lasting impression on the neighborhoods where they serve by providing vital services such as initiating neighborhood clean-ups, raising urban gardens, boarding up vacant homes, and distributing food and clothing to the community. In exchange, returning prisoners receive valuable job skills training and an AmeriCorps educational award that allows them to readjust to society.

## Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Corps

As of October 2010, more than 8,800 Michigan homes were in active foreclosure – the housing emergency in Michigan is staggering. The 20 members of the Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Corps are taking action to sway the tide of this housing crisis.

Members increase housing counseling agencies' ability to serve homeowners in need by taking on critical supporting functions such as intake, triage, marketing, outreach, education, and generating a sustainable volunteer

base, thus allowing certified, nonprofit foreclosure counselors to focus on their core mission - increasing the number of clients served. Last year, members reached 5,150 individuals with their foreclosure prevention services and increased the effectiveness of housing counselors by 30 percent.

## City Year Detroit

In Detroit, nearly seven of every 10 kids will drop out of school. The 71 full-time AmeriCorps members at City Year Detroit strive to provide academic support and afterschool programming and build a positive school climate at an assigned Detroit public school building Monday through Thursday in an effort to address the drop-out crisis. Two teams of members also support the Heroes youth volunteer program with 620 youth Tuesday through Saturday.

Corps members provide the following services: literacy and math tutoring for 800 elementary, middle, and high school students; whole-class academic support at all schools; attendance or behavior coaching for middle and high school students; educational after-school programs at all schools; and enrichment programming at all schools, during the day, or after-school.

In any given year, City Year Detroit assists and/or supports 1,417 children through tutoring programs; 756 children in after-school programs; 74 physical service projects to transform the community; 128 middle and high school students in youth programs; and 2,525 community and corporate volunteers engaged through service.

These are just a few examples of the impact of Michigan's AmeriCorps programs.

## Did You Know?

In 2010, Michigan's AmeriCorps members:

- Helped **85,358** individuals access health care; including diagnosis, follow-up, and/or screening for needed care.
- Tutored or provided homework help to **9,180** students.
- Helped **8,058** children benefit from ongoing mentoring relationships.
- Provided more than **9,480** individuals with services related to housing and foreclosure assistance.



## Pam Burpee

Age: 45  
Program: Kalamazoo County Poverty Reduction Initiative  
Service Location: Kalamazoo  
Focus: Poverty

I am a firm believer that if you've helped even just one person, then you've done your job. As an

AmeriCorps\*VISTA, I like to believe I'm impacting many people in the Kalamazoo area, as well as several different organizations. Because I was born and raised in Kalamazoo, I am extremely passionate about this community and ensuring it continues to serve our citizens as effectively as possible.

Through the AmeriCorps\*VISTA program, I serve as the program and resource developer at the Kalamazoo County Poverty Reduction Initiative. My primary function is to maintain and obtain sustainability funding for the organization and those we serve and assist in coordinating activities for local low-income and homeless residents.

One of those activities is Project Connect, a one-day effort that unites 56 human service organizations in one location. Participants can come to a central location and meet with the Department of Human Services for applications and paperwork, get free haircuts and medical testing, and much more. This opportunity is critical to Kalamazoo residents. Due to a lack of transportation, many of them are unable to get from one end of the city to the other. Having us bring all of these human service organizations together in one location alleviates a huge burden for them.

I am so grateful for my VISTA service and the opportunities it has provided me. I am a person with a disability and a recipient of Michigan Rehabilitation Services. My employment specialist connected me with AmeriCorps. The lessons I am learning and the experiences I am gaining every day through my service have changed my life. Prior to my service I was considering attending law school. Now I am pursuing my Master's in public administration with an emphasis on nonprofit leadership.



## Lukas Dietz

Age: 23  
Program: Superior AmeriCorps  
Service Location: Painesdale  
Focus: Education

I'm serving with Superior AmeriCorps, a program dedicated to education in several counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. As part of my service, I tutor and mentor students

who need support to achieve academic success.

When I first started my term of service at Jeffers High School in Painesdale, I was told I would be tutoring several members of one family. I heard many horror stories about their bad behavior and saw their poor grades from teachers and administrators. Every student from this family was taking at least one class a second time and it was uncertain if they would be able to graduate with their respective classes come senior year.

As I started assisting with them individually the stories I had heard began to make more sense. They were very hard to work with. They didn't like being at school, especially when they have to take a math course they had hated the first time over again. I started to dread the hours they came in for their online classes.

But as they began to understand the material and their grades went up they became more motivated to keep going and keep doing well. One of the brothers in the family received a "C" in the online math class that he had not passed in the classroom. Through tutoring, I was able to create a good relationship with them and made them change their mindset about taking the class online.

While they still have bad days, it has been a lot more fun to work with them and their grades are improving as we continue to work together. I am glad I am helping to ensure a brighter future for these students.



## Anita Patel

Age: 24  
Program: Detroit Youth Energy Squad  
Service Location: Detroit  
Focus: Clean Energy

I was first introduced to AmeriCorps in Louisiana after the advent of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita where I witnessed firsthand how powerful and impactful this program has on the people it serves. Several years have passed since I spent that spring break in Louisiana, but that initial introduction to AmeriCorps did not leave my mind.

I am now serving as AmeriCorps member with the Detroit Youth Energy Squad. Our team is comprised of six full-time members and 20 quarter-time members – all of whom are students of Detroit Community and Cody High Schools. We visit the homes of Detroit residents to provide energy bill education and install basic retrofits to decrease water and energy consumption.

For many of these families, meeting their basic needs is a daily struggle and they feel there is no point in caring for the environment when they have much

more pressing issues to deal with. However, through behavior modification and our installations, we show them it is possible to take control of their energy bills while contributing to a greener environment.

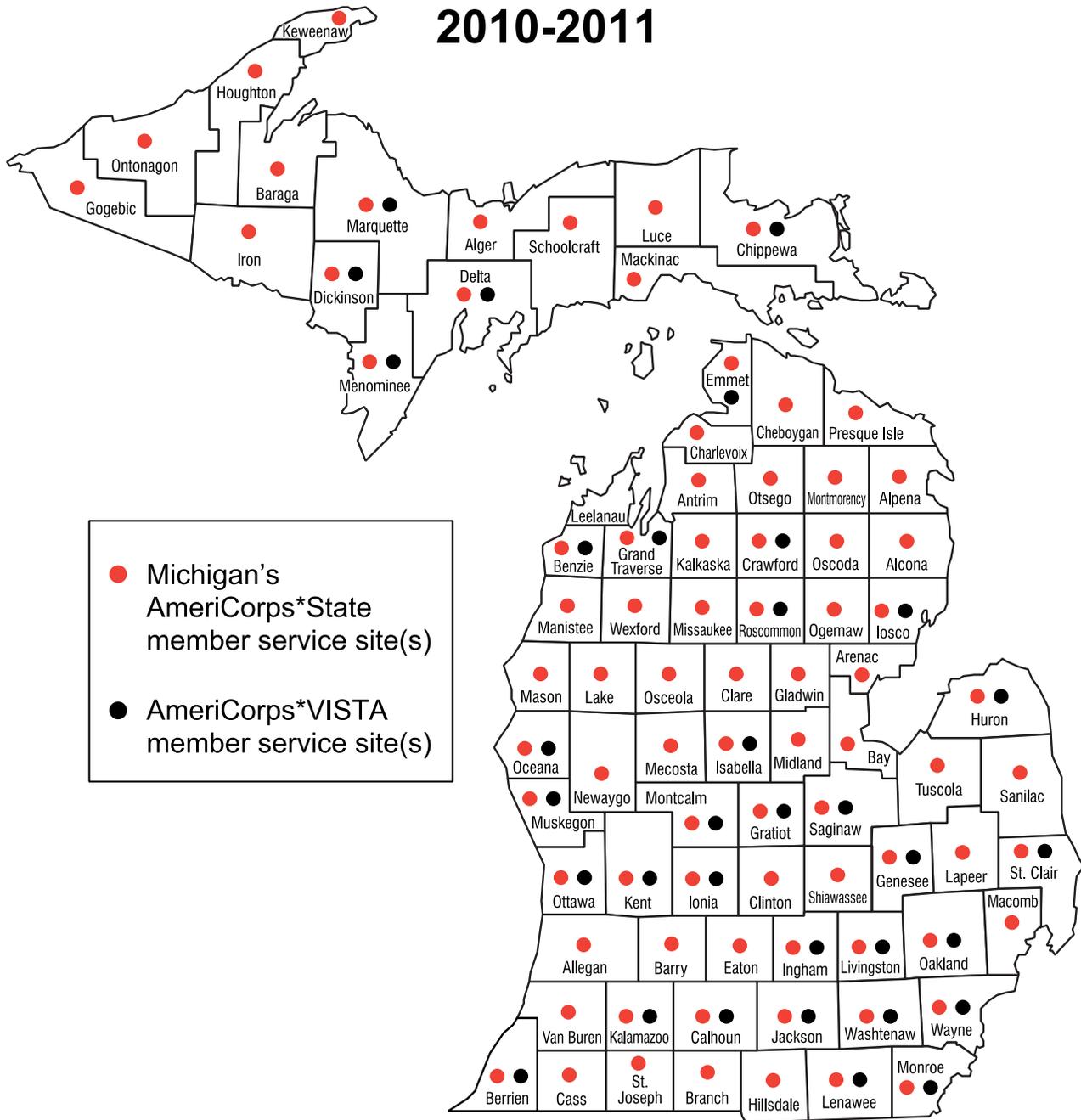
Throughout home visits and student sessions I have been able to teach others and empower them to take charge against the issues they are faced with. Serving with AmeriCorps has been an incredible experience and has allowed me to grow as an individual in so many ways during my term of service.

After my service I will be attending medical school. Following that I hope to continue serving others in disadvantaged communities as I have been with the Detroit Youth Energy Squad. The knowledge I have gained from serving closely with some of the nonprofits and residents of Detroit will help pave the steps to make this possible.

AmeriCorps is about so much more than being a volunteer. AmeriCorps is an opportunity to bring together communities. It is a way to brighten up futures and give Americans a helping hand with hope for a better tomorrow.

# Michigan's AmeriCorps & AmeriCorps\*VISTA

## 2010-2011



## Michigan's National Service Directory

In July 2010, the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) launched the Michigan National Service Directory. This online tool provides information about AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve, and Senior Corps programs across the state of Michigan for interested users. To access the tool, just visit [www.michigannationalservicedirectory.org](http://www.michigannationalservicedirectory.org). The MCSC created the tool in an effort to connect interested individuals with respective national service programs in their area and to assist current national service programs with member recruitment. It also allows national service program staff and members to quickly identify the different groups and organizations in their area that have a similar programmatic focus for the purpose of establishing collaborative partnerships. The Michigan National Service Directory is one of the first comprehensive online tools in the country to compile all relevant national service data into one place. Data on the Michigan National Service Directory includes all AmeriCorps (State, VISTA, and National), Learn and Serve, and Senior Corps (Foster Grandparents, RSVP, and Senior Companion) programs in the state. Users are able to search by their city or county, by service program, and/or by program focus/issue area. Each search will provide relevant contact information for each national service program listed.

# AmeriCorps\*State (Michigan's AmeriCorps) Programs



**American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids** - Statewide  
**Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Child Development Board** - Upper Peninsula  
**Camp Fire USA** - Grand Rapids  
**Charlevoix-Emmet County Intermediate School District**  
**Child's Hope** - Dearborn  
**City Year, Inc.** - Detroit  
**Communities In Schools of Detroit** - Detroit  
**Community Economic & Development Association** - Statewide  
**Good Samaritan Ministries** - Holland/Zeeland  
**Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids** - Statewide  
**Habitat for Humanity of Michigan** - Statewide  
**Heart of West Michigan United Way** - Grand Rapids  
**Huron Pines** - Statewide

**Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency** - Alger & Marquette Counties  
**Michigan Campus Compact** - Statewide  
**Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency** - Statewide  
**Michigan Nonprofit Association** - Statewide  
**Michigan Primary Care Association** - Statewide  
**Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness** - Statewide  
**Power of We Consortium** - Lansing  
**The Guidance Center** - Oakland & Wayne Counties  
**United Way of Saginaw** - Saginaw  
**University of Michigan – Detroit Center** - Washtenaw & Wayne Counties  
**Vanguard Community Development Corporation** - Detroit  
**WARM Training Center** - Detroit  
**Wayne State University** - Wayne County

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## AmeriCorps\*VISTA Programs

**Andre Bosse Center** - Oceana County  
**Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living** - Statewide  
**Bethany Christian Services** - Kent County  
**Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Flint** - Flint  
**Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids Youth**  
**Commonwealth** - Grand Rapids  
**Bridging Communities, Inc.** - Detroit  
**Catherine's Care Center** - Grand Rapids  
**Center for Empowerment & Economic Development** - Detroit  
**City Year, Inc.** - Detroit  
**Detroit Parent Network** - Detroit  
**Elder Law of Michigan, Inc.** - Lansing  
**Great Lakes Center for Youth Development** - Marquette  
**Greening of Detroit** - Detroit  
**Growing Hope, Inc.** - Washtenaw County  
**Heights of Hope, Inc.** - Holland  
**Ionia County Intermediate School District** - Ionia County  
**Jewish Vocational Service** - Oakland County  
**Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes** - Statewide  
**Kalamazoo County Poverty Reduction Initiative** - Kalamazoo County  
**Life Services System** - Statewide  
**Michigan Campus Compact** - Statewide

**Michigan Community Service Commission** - Lansing  
**Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency** - Statewide  
**Michigan Department of Human Services** - Statewide  
**Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth** - Statewide  
**Michigan State University Extension North Region 4-H Programs** - Statewide  
**Muskegon Community Health** - Muskegon  
**Neighborhood Service Organization** - Detroit  
**Oakland County Child Care Council** - Oakland County  
**Piast Institute** - Wayne County  
**Port Huron Housing Commission** - Port Huron  
**Power of We Consortium** - Ingham County  
**Rotary Charities of Traverse City** - Traverse City  
**SEEDS** - Traverse City  
**Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency** - Berrien County  
**The LEAGUE Michigan** - Statewide  
**University of Michigan** - Wayne County  
**Upper Peninsula Health Access Coalition** - Upper Peninsula  
**Volunteer Centers of Michigan** - Statewide  
**Volunteers in Prevention, Probation and Prisons** - Detroit  
**Washtenaw Community College** - Washtenaw County  
**Wayne-Metropolitan Community Action Agency** - Wayne County  
**Youth Empowerment Project** - Ann Arbor

*"The love and appreciation I feel from the community because of my service is overwhelming. This has changed my life and my way of thinking. I now feel as if I'm judged for myself, not for my previous actions."*

*- Ronald Long Jr.*

*Current member of the Next Steps Community Reintegration AmeriCorps Program*



## Interested in becoming involved in AmeriCorps?

### Become an AmeriCorps member

Individuals interested in becoming an AmeriCorps member (State, National, VISTA, or NCCC) can learn more about these opportunities at [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov). Potential members may search available programs at [my.americorps.gov](http://my.americorps.gov). Each AmeriCorps program performs its own recruitment and selection of members; please contact programs directly.

### Host an AmeriCorps\*State or VISTA program

#### AmeriCorps\*State (Michigan's AmeriCorps)

Organizations interested in sponsoring a Michigan's AmeriCorps program may contact the Michigan Community Service Commission. The Request for Proposals is typically issued each fall with the program year beginning the following fall. Please note 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 in Detroit. 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

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Lansing, Michigan 48913  
(517) 335-4295

[www.michigan.gov/mcsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mcsc)

[www.facebook.com/MichiganAmeriCorps](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganAmeriCorps)

[www.twitter.com/miamericorps](https://www.twitter.com/miamericorps)



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