



Painting on canvas by AmeriCorps Member of Clayton State University

Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV)

2015-2016 Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE DCA COMMISSIONER	3
LETTER FROM THE GCSV	4
GCSV BOARD MEMBERS	5
ABOUT US	6
PURPOSE	6
EVENTS	7
2016 AmeriCorps Member Swearing-In Ceremony	7
Mayors and County Commissioners Day Service Project	9
AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAMS	10
Clayton State University AmeriCorps Program	11
Communities in School's (CIS) Reading Tutorial Program	12
Covenant House of Georgia	12
Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites	13
Georgia State University Research Foundation's Technology, Engineering, Environment, Ma	
Jekyll Island State Park Authority Georgia Sea Turtle Center (GSTC) AmeriCorps Program	15
New American Pathway's AmeriCorps Project RISE	16
Teach for America (TFA) Metro Atlanta	17
The University of Georgia's 4-H AmeriCorps Project	17
United Way's Project Health Access	18
WINGS for kids AmeriCorps Georgia	18
Youth Villages Inner Harbour Campus AmeriCorps Program	19
THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS	20
LEVERAGE	20
OTHER INITIATIVES	21
Georgia Student Service Award	21
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council	22
GCSV STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION	23

LETTER FROM THE DCA COMMISSIONER

Dear Friends,

As Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), it gives me great pleasure to present to you this 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV). I am proud to say that the GCSV is housed within DCA. While many of our other divisions provide the physical infrastructure for successful Georgia communities and neighborhoods in forms of housing, roads, and public systems, the GCSV, through its portfolio of AmeriCorps programs, continues to provide the infrastructure for job readiness, educational achievement, and support for a sustainable environment.

As you review this report, you will learn how AmeriCorps Members enhance student achievement. In return for their service, they may receive education awards to further their own education. During their term of service, they gain beneficial experience that helps them obtain full-time employment following their years of service. Whether AmeriCorps Members are tutoring, cleaning up communities, helping to sustain the environment or assisting our veterans and military families, they are touching the lives of thousands of Georgians to make our state a better place to live, work and play.

The GCSV, along with its panel of governor-appointed board members and the programs they award and oversee, is an important asset within DCA and is vital to the State of Georgia!

Sincerely,

Commissioner Camila Knowles

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

LETTER FROM THE GCSV

Dear Friends,

The mission of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) is to promote service and volunteerism in Georgia through AmeriCorps National Service grants, community volunteer recognition, and support of local volunteer organizations and efforts.

Since 1994 the GCSV has been instrumental in building a sense of community throughout the state of Georgia by promoting volunteerism and citizenship. Throughout this report, you will note that both volunteers and AmeriCorps Members are critical in building the infrastructures that support our state. Academic achievement, disaster response and relief, environmental stewardship, support for our veterans and military families, healthy futures, and economic opportunities are some areas where volunteers and Members have played critical roles in the lives of individuals and families.

This GCSV annual impact report highlights the return on taxpayer dollars that organizations and their AmeriCorps Members and volunteers have contributed to Georgia. In 2015-2016, the Corporation for National and Community Service invested \$3,452,514 in the State of Georgia. As a result of this federal investment, organizations leveraged an additional \$2,374,369.79. These organizations recruited a total of 519 AmeriCorps Members who recruited 10,317 non-AmeriCorps volunteers. These non-AmeriCorps volunteers served a total of 53,616 hours. The Independent Sector states the value of volunteer hours in the State of Georgia for 2015 was \$23.80 per hour. This equates to \$1,276,060.80. Combined, the value of volunteer time plus in-kind and cash leverage totaled \$3,650,430.59. This means that for every \$1.00 invested by the Corporation, the state of Georgia matched it with \$1.06, basically, dollar-for-dollar leverage.

As you read this report, you will discover how the impact of AmeriCorps reaches beyond dollars and cents by positively contributing to the long term quality of life of Georgians, thus making Georgia a great place to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,	
Claire Bartlett	
Chair	
Linda Thompson	
Executive Director	

GCSV BOARD MEMBERS

Claire Bartlett, Chair

Dr. Myra Tolbert, Vice Chair

Aimee Simpson

Amieko Watson, Ex-Officio

Cayanna Good

Christy Ellerbee

Cynthia Jenkins

Elaine Pritchard

Evan Karanovich

Glen Wilkins

Jen Guynn

Kathy Colbenson

Laurie Chandler

Lisa Perry

Mary Katelyn Williams

Mary Sawhill

Matt Westmoreland

Quintez Gurndy

Rachel Mast

Richard McIntyre

Sandra Gentry

Semba Brittain

William McCalley



From left to right: Mary Sawhill, Linda Thompson (DCA), Richard McIntyre, Quinntez Gurndy, Lisa Perry, Jennifer Guynn, Dr. Myra Tolbert, and Rusty Haygood (DCA)

Board Members meet quarterly to discuss topics directly related to its portfolio of programs. They also visit programs throughout the year in an effort to provide support and to develop a greater understanding of the various projects and their impact on the surrounding community.

The last meeting of 2016 was held at beautiful Jekyll Island where board members toured the Georgia Sea Turtle Center.

ABOUT US

The Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism is a part of the Department of Community Affairs. They promote and recognize service, volunteerism, and support quality service projects. They also serve as a pass-through agency for funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency located in Washington, DC.

The Georgia Legislature created the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) in 1994 in response to the National and Community Service Act passed by Congress in 1993. Its board has up to twenty-five members appointed by the Governor. Currently there are four GCSV staff located within the Community Development Division of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Staff's responsibilities are to provide oversight & compliance, technical assistance, and support to a current portfolio of nineteen programs.

PURPOSE

The Georgia Commission receives funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service located in Washington, DC. These funds are sub-granted to qualifying local organizations. These organizations recruit AmeriCorps Members to provide direct services in Georgia's communities and neighborhoods. Through AmeriCorps, organizations are provided the opportunity to address the most pressing local civic needs in their communities and neighborhoods in areas of Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures and Veterans and Military Families.



EVENTS

2016 AmeriCorps Member Swearing-In Ceremony

On October 7, 2016, the Corporation for National and Community Service honored its one millionth AmeriCorps Member!



AmeriCorps Members across the Country made a pledge to "Get Things Done for America". The Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism was honored to have over 250 AmeriCorps Members, supporters and friends present at this exciting event. The event took place in downtown Decatur.

Honored guests included Charndrea Leonard, Senior Program Officer for the Corporation for National and Community

Service, Ben Duda, President of the Georgia Chapter of AmeriCorps Alums; and Malika Berry, Points of Light Vice President of Programs who delivered the keynote address. The following individuals served on a discussion panel: Natalie Boyette, Development and Grants Manager for the Latin American Association; Eshe Collins, District 6 Representative on the Atlanta Board of Education and Field Program and Community Director for Jumpstart; Tray Deadwyler, civic engagement trainer, facilitator, and design consultant with Think For Good; Haylee Hammond, AmeriCorps VISTA Leader with Habitat for Humanity International in Atlanta; Summer Ladd, AmeriCorps Alum who served with AmeriCorps FoodCorps and Habersham County with the Northeast Georgia Farm to School Program; and, Matt Westmoreland, District 3 Representative on the Atlanta Board of Education and Board Member of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism. The Honorable Judge Kimberly Esmond Adams provided Words of Inspiration and lead the Members in the AmeriCorps Pledge. AmeriCorps Members of Clayton State University lead the group in a song pledging that they are "Ready to Get Things Done" in Georgia.



The event was truly "One In A Million" and on behalf of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV), "Thank You" to the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, all AmeriCorps Members and Alums, AmeriCorps VISTA and other National Service partners and friends, GCSV Board Members, friends and supporters of AmeriCorps for making this event a success and for helping us to make Georgia a better place for all people to live, work, and play!





Mayors and County Commissioners Day Service Project

On April 5, 2016, the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism, in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Corporation for National and Community Service State Office, and



the Franklin Project celebrated Mayors and County Commissioners Day by hosting a service project for homeless veterans at Action Ministries. Donations were collected from various sources including DCA. DCA placed a collection bin in the front lobby where employees deposited donations such as socks, soap, and other nonperishable items. 500 care packages were assembled for homeless veterans. 100

people were in attendance. Agencies present included Habitat for Humanity, the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps State and National, Senior Corps, Action Ministries, HOPE Atlanta and others. Fulton County Commissioner Joan Garner also attended and delivered an eloquent speech about National Service and how it is positively impacting Fulton County.

The nation's mayors and county officials are increasingly turning to national service as a cost-effective strategy to address local challenges. By unleashing the power of citizens, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs have a positive and lasting impact – making our cities and counties better places to live. In 2016, 73 Georgia officials participated and 3,539 officials participated nationwide.

Thanks to all of you who were able to participate in the April 5, 2016
Mayors and County Commissioners
Day of Celebration. We truly appreciate your generosity. The
Service Project for Homeless Veterans was a huge success!

The 2016 Mayors and County
Commissioners Day of Celebration —
Service Project for Homeless Veterans
was a collaborative effort of the
Georgia Department of Community
Affairs — Georgia Commission for
Service and Volunteerism, The
Corporation for National and
Community Service's State Office and
The Franklin Project.



AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAMS

In 2015-2016, the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism funded fourteen AmeriCorps Programs. Of these fourteen programs, nine addressed various areas of education including early childhood intervention, homeless youths, college access, STEM, teaching, developmental learning, and public speaking. Some of these programs even provided nutritional meals for their students and taught them living skills and independence. Other programs addressed environmental stewardship and provided services in some of the States National Parks such as removing evasive species, promoting public trails and rescuing Georgia's wildlife. One program provided resettlement services for refugees from other countries while another program provided services to Georgia's Veterans and military families. This particular program helped to provide medical and dental care to people without income, people with low income, homeless individuals and families, and to our veterans. Regardless of economic or social status, they made sure their clients were able to receive medical and dental services.

Whether it is providing tutoring, promoting healthy futures, or assisting our veterans, all of these things serve to improve the quality of life for Georgia's citizens. Just as in Maslow's Theory of Hierarchy of Needs, it is difficult for children to learn if their basic needs aren't being met. Some examples could be a child with an empty stomach, or a child without shelter or one who does not feel safe in their home or community.



You will read in this annual report about the leverage obtained as a result of federal dollars, but there are some things in life that just cannot be measured in dollars and cents. We can measure the improvement and success in terms of grades as a result of tutoring and homework assistance, but this is a gift that keeps on giving and the returns are endless. We can tell you how many low-income or no income citizens received medical attention, but we'll never know how many lives were saved or how many illnesses were prevented. One can only imagine.

Following are descriptions and accomplishments of the Georgia Commission's portfolio of programs for the 2015-2016 program year:

Clayton State University AmeriCorps Program

Clayton State University students serve as AmeriCorps members who provide mentoring and tutoring to local K-12 students in Clayton County. These AmeriCorps members also conduct service projects to support the surrounding community.

Student Development with High School Students: In 2015-2016, Clayton State AmeriCorps Members



facilitated a total of 17 development sessions for 525 Clayton County students from Forest Park, Jonesboro, Morrow, and Mt. Zion High Schools on a variety of topics including: college preparation, stress management, the key to doing better in class, smart goal setting, resume building and interview tips, college admissions, leadership styles, and financial aid for college. As a result of participation in the development sessions:

- 82% of the students committed to behavioral changes.
- 81% of the students indicated that their knowledge on the session topic increased.
- 76% of the students indicated that the development sessions helped to develop them as student/person.

Civic Engagement and Responsibility Development: AmeriCorps Members facilitated 10 service events in which Clayton County high school students were encouraged to participate. There were a total of 71 high school students who participated in the projects providing a total of 558.5 service hours to the community.

The AmeriCorps Program hosted its inaugural AmeriService Summer Camp. The week-long camp introduced 16 high school students to volunteerism and civic engagement and taught them the importance of becoming engaged with their community and the value of serving others. The high school students served alongside AmeriCorps Members at local nonprofits including Trees Atlanta, Books for Africa, Grant Park Conservancy, and the Southern Crescent Habitat for Humanity as well as participating in leadership trainings and gaining team building skills. As a result of participation in the civic engagement events, 86% of the high school students indicated that their awareness on social issues increased.

Communities in School's (CIS) Reading Tutorial Program

The CIS AmeriCorps reading tutorial program is designed to help students from kindergarten to 8th grade who are not reading at the appropriate grade level. Members serve metro Atlanta and surrounding rural

counties, providing small group and individualized tutoring on a daily basis.

Photo of AmeriCorps Member Leah Register and Program Director Erin Littles. Leah was a 4th year member who has served with the Dodge County affiliate. All 4th year members receive special recognition for their continued service. Leah is holding a frame of notes and cards from the children she has served, they are all thanking her for her love and service.

461 students received tutoring services from AmeriCorps Members. 280 students improved grades by moving from "C" level to "B" level. 442 of those students were promoted to the next grade level or graduated. 271 of those students were in elementary school, 136 were in middle school and 35

students were in high school.

72% of the students tutored by AmeriCorps Members maintained an average daily attendance of 95-100%. Of the 461 students tutored by AmeriCorps Members, 68 had behavioral disorders resulting in suspension from school. After working with AmeriCorps Members, 53 of the 68 students decreased their number of suspensions and 43 were suspension-free while participating in the AmeriCorps Tutorial Program.

Covenant House of Georgia



AmeriCorps members leverage volunteers to serve homeless youth in a mentoring capacity in Atlanta at the Covenant House. AmeriCorps members provide mentoring relationships for youth to move them toward their educational, vocational or employment goals.

AmeriCorps Members provided services to advance economic opportunities for youth enrolled in their program. These Members were instrumental in placing 95 individuals in full- or part-time jobs. Additionally, AmeriCorps Members and volunteers contributed to the personal growth and education of residential youth by bringing their own young adult experiences to the workshops. They conducted workshops on citizenship, financial literacy and budgeting,

time management, professional communication, goal-setting, communication strategies, engaging with law enforcement, and personal responsibilities. They also assisted 19 unique youth with Adult Basic Education and seven with TABE (GED) readiness testing.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites

AmeriCorps Members, in conjunction with the Georgia DNR program, provide interpretive, educational, and



recreational programming and enhance and maintain the state's natural resources through the removal of invasive species. Fifteen members were active in 32 state parks throughout Georgia.

Over the past year these members contributed 23,258 total service hours to the Ga State Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites, making a significant impact within the Ga State Parks system.

AmeriCorps Members provided programming to 30,991 participants and treated for nine varying invasive species at thirteen State Parks. Some of the

varieties of treatment included hack and squirt, cutting slits into the bark and spraying chemicals, foliar spray and cutting down the whole tree and spraying to prevent regrowth.

In addition, Corps Members:

- provided 45.85 miles of trail maintenance
- treated 136.94 acres and 7.5 miles for invasive species removal
- cleared 11.1 miles and 2.5 acres for prescribed burn preparation
- surveyed 46.4 property boundaries
- completed 1 pollinator project
- completed 0.7 acres of river cane restoration
- treated 44.7 acres of Hemlocks
- planted 25 American Chestnuts over 0.75 acres

In addition, Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites (GSPHS) AmeriCorps members participated heavily in our state's response to disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Matthew during the fall of 2016. Members who were trained in chainsaw use felled trees and broke down large tree sections. The entire team ran tree chippers and loaded and removed significant amounts of debris. This service was provided at multiple parks, primarily at Skidaway, Fort McAllister and Crooked River. They were instrumental in the GSPHS effort to return the parks to safety for use by visitors and to enable employees to return to work.

Georgia State University Research Foundation's Technology, Engineering, Environment, Math & Science (T.E.E.M.S.)

T.E.E.M.S. AmeriCorps is a STEM focused program housed in Georgia State University's Alonzo. A Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence. Their mission is to optimize the life opportunities of children and families in urban communities by ensuring the availability of a prosperous and equitable school environment. They believe that through their work they can create a world where all children have equal access to educational opportunities that prepare them to be academically excellent, culturally competent, and critically conscious.

In 2015-16 the program focused on achieving at least 10% gains in math and/or science scores in urban schools and community learning centers, by providing supplemental instruction and support in the areas of math and science during the school day and leading dynamic after-school programming designed to provide homework assistance in math and science, all while creating fun strategies to learning.

In 2015-16, T.E.E.M.S. AmeriCorps Members contributed 14,752 service hours, serving 1,875 students at 15 Metro-Atlanta schools and community learning sites, through partnerships with the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, Create Your Dreams, The Algebra Project, Young People's Project and Communities in Schools.

- Each T.E.E.M.S. AmeriCorps Member pre/post-assessed a respective focus group in math and/or science (totaling 172 students identified as having the greatest need) at the start and end of their service year. These focus group students received intensive 1:1 or small group tutoring, 3x/week, producing an average gains of 32.15% in math and/or science scores and overall improvements on STEM dispositions.
- T.E.E.M.S. AmeriCorps Members received comprehensive training on topics including but not limited to:



T.E.E.M.S. AmeriCorps member's partner with The Children's Museum of Atlanta and facilitate interactive STEM stations for over 300 children at the 2016 Super Hero Science Night!

Best Practices in Urban Education, STEM
Engagement, Lesson Planning, Perspectives
on Race, Power & Privilege, Behavior
Management, Culturally Responsive
Pedagogy, etc. Training was facilitated by
T.E.E.M.S. Staff, College of Education &
Human Development Faculty and Crim Center
Staff.

• T.E.E.M.S. AmeriCorps Members planned, coordinated and facilitated the D.R.E.A.M.S. (Developing Relationships to Enhance All Mentee's Success) 2016 Summer Institute. D.R.E.A.M.S. is a summer program that supports urban youth's transformation into scholars. Each year, our program works to provide high quality academic and social support to 80 Metro-Atlanta students invited to participate in our program, their

parents and their families. During the program, members, community organizations, speakers and volunteers dedicate time and/or resources to teach, guide and mentor our urban youth to prepare them for a successful life. This year's program was focused on: STEM, Academic Development, Personal Development and Communication/Leadership.

Jekyll Island State Park Authority Georgia Sea Turtle Center (GSTC) AmeriCorps Program

AmeriCorps members serve in every aspect of the Center's mission. Members are dedicated to educating the center's guests and school outreach program participants in environmental stewardship, participating in sea turtle rehabilitation and diamondback terrapin monitoring, conducting night time sea turtle saturation tagging and nest management, and coordinating volunteers. Additionally, all members are trained and available to the Glynn County Emergency Management Agency for community disaster response.



During the 2015-2016, 5,767 guests participated in episodic one-time conservation-based programming and upon completion of the program, 2,709 participated in a GSTC post program evaluation and reported that they were more environmentally conscientious as a result of the training.

In 2015-2016, the Georgia Sea Turtle Center treated 479 turtles of many species and provided emergency triage to 87 birds. The veterinary care team and husbandry members trained 14 visiting vet students as well. The education department delivered programs to 3,187 children, teachers, and community members. The GSTC was visited by 88 school groups, reaching approximately 3,187 students and over 15,426 students through outreach programs. 14 Boy and Girl Scout troops totaling 248 scouts and 127 different tours attended GSTC programming. In addition, 138 children attended 7 weeks of Sea Turtle Day Camp, 1,537 guests participated in 92 Turtle Walks, and 149 guests participated in 15 Nest Walks. The research department encountered 241 sea turtle activities, tagged 38 new nesting sea turtles, and monitored 170 sea turtle nests of three different species. Since 2011, staff and members have documented 54 amphibian and reptile species and marked 295 individuals as part of population health studies and biodiversity sampling. Additionally, 146 individuals of 8 species received radio transmitters to study movements in developed areas and developed conflict reduction solutions.

New American Pathway's AmeriCorps Project RISE

Project RISE (Refugee/Immigrant Success through Education) AmeriCorps members serve the needs of refugee children, youth, and adults from Sudan, Burma, Cuba, Bhutan, Iraq, Burundi, Afghanistan, Syria, and Somalia through afterschool programs, adult client services, workshops, and trainings.

In 2015-2016, Project RISE was able to accomplish the following:

- A total of 863 adults received services from Project RISE AmeriCorps members this program year. These services included various educational and support services designed to increase self-sufficiency. They also provided workshops and one-on-one assistance around financial literacy, health services, building and creating resumes, and providing direct educational services to Cuban and Central American minor clients. AmeriCorps members were responsible for educating clients around pertinent issues allowing them to become self-sufficient. RISE's model of safety, stability, self-sufficiency, success, and service stem from AmeriCorps members who make it possible for their organization to build capacity.
- 3,581 individual services were provided by Project RISE AmeriCorps members. For example, throughout the entire year, the Adult Education Member provided individual services to clients including MARTA orientation, financial literacy workshops, housing workshops and home management assistance. The Career Services Member assisted with job applications, certificate evaluation, follow-up, foreign credential evaluation and application, interview assistance, and new hire workshops. The Cuban Education Services Member provided a total of 646 individual services to their clients. This included DFCS initial benefits and benefits sign-up, DFCS renewal, Employment Authorization, benefits activation, walk-in orientation, and health screening referrals. AmeriCorps members treated clients with respect and dignity and all of these attributed to the organization meeting RISE's goals of helping refugees and Georgians thrive.
- AmeriCorps members engaged and recruited a total of 853 volunteers and interns producing a total
 of 12,190 volunteers hours; building capacity for Project Rise. Volunteers included college groups,
 faith-based organizations, corporations, co-sponsorship partners and unaffiliated volunteers.
- Project RISE AmeriCorps members served in the afterschool programs of five area schools in the Clarkston, Georgia area in order to provide comprehensive tutoring, ESL support, summer, and recreation programs for refugee youth grades k-12 through pre-identified partner schools. At



Fugees Academy, 67 out of 73 students enrolled in afterschool programming achieved a class grade average of C or higher and was able to be promoted to the next grade level. A total of 239 students were enrolled in afterschool programs and 231 students completed the programming. AmeriCorps members assisted in helping students grasp the English language, conducted tutoring around homework and assigned tasks, and assisted them with additional social and emotional support throughout the school year. Attendance in the New AP afterschool program was high, with a 94% overall attendance rate for elementary school students and a 77% overall attendance rate for middle school students. At Fugees Academy the overall

attendance rate was 95%. Afterschool program participants with an attendance rate of 75% or higher achieved an average increase of 5.87 reading levels, as measured by the Reading A-Z Assessment tool. All AmeriCorps members were vital in making sure the students excelled and remained engaged.

Teach for America (TFA) Metro Atlanta

Teach for America – Metro Atlanta provides a critical source of well-trained teachers who help break the cycle of education inequity. Corps Members teach for two years, going above and beyond traditional expectations to help students achieve at high levels. Armed with experience, conviction, and insight that come from leading children to fulfill their potential, TFA alumni work from all sectors to shape our schools, policies, and investments in low-income communities.

12 Teach for America Corps Members reported that their plans are to remain in the education field in a role other than classroom teacher while at least 72 indicated they are staying in the field of education in general. Another 53 indicated they would continue to be a classroom teacher.

The University of Georgia's 4-H AmeriCorps Project

Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps State Program engages AmeriCorps Members in direct service and capacity-building to address critical community needs. Through sixteen counties across the state, AmeriCorps members serve to further the 4-H mission and build capacity in their communities by addressing critical issues like (1) childhood obesity, (2) military family support, (3) providing youth development through in-school 4-H club meetings, and (4) supporting youth in their endeavor to build confidence and develop their public speaking skills.



Corps Member Sonja Armstrong organized a collection of baby items for the MLK Day of Service in Chatham County. The 5th grade 4-H'ers told Sonja they wanted to help provide necessities to children living in homeless shelters in their community. With the help of Sonja, the youth were able to provide donations of diapers, wipes, toiletries, blankets, and towels.

AmeriCorps members engaged a total of 12,801 students in the 4-H Project Achievement process. Of the 12,801 youth, 7,315 gave presentations. Of those 7,315 presenting, 1,250 competed at district-level Project Achievement. 579 children of military families participated in 4-H educational club meetings and demonstrated knowledge of the content presented.

United Way's Project Health Access

AmeriCorps members help to build the capacity of community clinics to increase the health outcomes of the uninsured and underinsured in the metro area and in targeted communities. Corps Members also help to ensure access to SSDI/Medicaid for disabled and/or homeless individuals.



Through Project Health Access, Corps Members provided patient care coordination services, resources, and classes to 322 individual clients who reported increased knowledge in health education. United Way Corps Members provided assistance to 2,926 individuals who were uninsured or underinsured, enabling access to health care services. These Corps Members were also instrumental in enrolling 435 individuals in health benefits such as SSDI.

WINGS for kids AmeriCorps Georgia

The vision of WINGS is that all kids will develop social and emotional skills so they can be successful in life. Their mission is to teach these skills – how to behave well, make good decisions and build healthy



relationships - to elementary school age kids. AmeriCorps members help do this by weaving a comprehensive social and emotional learning curriculum into a fresh and fun after school program. Kids get the life lessons they need to succeed and be happy and they get a safe place to call home after school. In 2015-2016, 817 elementary school students participated in WINGS programming. WINGS also had the following outcomes:

Academics: 25% of WINGS kids reached the Proficient level in Reading on the Georgia Milestones exam, compared to 16% of their non-WINGS peers.

School Discipline: The average WINGS kid had only one disciplinary referral last year. Non-WINGS kids averaged four behavior disruptions.

Social-Emotional Skills: End of year assessments showed that 91% of kids with low social-emotional skills significantly increased their displayed positive behavior during the WINGS Program.

Youth Villages Inner Harbour Campus AmeriCorps Program

Youth Villages AmeriCorps is partnered with the Youth Villages-Inner Harbour Campus, a not-for-profit residential treatment facility serving youth with emotional and behavioral challenges, with the majority in the foster care or juvenile justice system, in addition to children of military families. Corps members are responsible for increasing academic performance and engagement, improving civic engagement, and facilitating the acquisition of life skills to support school, work and future success in a vulnerable population of students.

In 2015-2016, 100 students received 2,012.5 hours of life skills tutoring. Of students who met criteria, 100% reported improvements in deficit areas related to resiliency factors, workforce behaviors and soft skills acquisition. In core subjects tutoring, members provided 1,706.25 hours of tutoring to 117 youth, in which 86% of students meeting criteria improved by at least a quarter of a grade level. The program also engaged 203 students in service learning for a total of 3,161 hours, lending to 95% of students meeting criteria reporting that they made a difference in their community and will continue to volunteer following discharge from care.



THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS

During 2015-2016, 519 Georgia AmeriCorps Members served a total of 316,127 hours. These AmeriCorps Members recruited 10,317 non-AmeriCorps volunteers who served a total of 53,616 hours. Together, they served a total of 170,465 clients.



Based on the "Value of Volunteer Time" by the "Independent Sector"

(http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time) the value of volunteer hours in the State of Georgia for 2015 was \$23.80 per hour. This equates to \$1,276,060.80.

LEVERAGE

In 2015-2016, the Corporation for National and Community Service invested \$3,452,514 in the State of Georgia. These dollars were sub-granted to qualifying agencies by the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism, located within the Department of Community Affairs. As a result of this federal investment, those organizations leveraged an additional \$2,374,369.79.



Combined, the value of volunteer time plus in-kind and cash leverage totaled \$3,650,430.59. This means that for every \$1.00 invested by the Corporation, the state of Georgia matched it with \$1.06, slightly greater than dollar-for-dollar leverage.

AmeriCorps Works







OTHER INITIATIVES

Georgia Student Service Award



In an effort to engage high school youth in service and high-quality service-learning, the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) instituted the Georgia Student Service Award during the 2011-2012 school year as a pilot project to recognize teenagers who make significant contributions to their communities through volunteer service. The GCSV continues to promote this program to recognize students engaged in volunteerism. More than 65 schools have participated in the program since its inception.

The Georgia Commission awards certificates and service honor cords at graduation ceremonies to Georgia students who meet a predetermined threshold of service hours in their communities. To qualify for the Georgia Student Service Award, an average of 75 service hours per year or 300 hours by graduation is required. Graduating seniors who reach the milestone will receive a certificate and a red, white and blue service cord to be worn at graduation ceremonies. During the Spring of 2016, 207 Georgia students received awards and together, these students served a total 57,746 service hours.

A member of the school staff must act as sponsor/administrator and register their school by going to https://www.dca.ga.gov/ServiceAwards/About.aspx. The sponsor/administrator must certify and submit student information and service hours. This record of service may only include direct contact hours (hours on task).

Service can be performed through school sponsored activities and/or through outside organizations such as churches and other clubs. Both public and private schools are eligible to participate in the Georgia Student Service Award program. Home schooled students may also participate if hours can be certified by an adult.

GCSV is located within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) whose mission is the promotion and support of service and volunteerism by Georgians in communities across the state.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Dr. King believed that people have the power and responsibility to change their community for the better. "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve," Dr. King once wrote. The truth in these words has never faded. The legacy of his life and teachings live on not only through physical memorials and the echoes of his words, but also through the acts of dedicated men and women across the world.

On May 9th, 2011, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal signed the bill to create the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council, which consists of nine Georgians serving four-year terms.

"It will be the duty of this council to promote the principles of nonviolence, peace, social justice and the awareness and appreciation of the civil rights movement and the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.," Governor Deal said during the signing of the bill.

Supported by the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council will promote and plan statewide activities advocating Dr. King's principles and teachings on MLK Day and beyond.



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