

THE MAGAZINE OF THE MISSOURI COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION

# SHOW-ME SERVICE

movolunteers.org | WINTER 2015



**Disaster Response**  
**AmeriCorps Responds**  
**to Winter Flooding | 10**



## First Look

AmeriCorps Members clean up from the winter flooding in the St. Louis area.



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### Get more of the MCSC online



↑ The 2016-2017 Service and Volunteerism application materials are now available on the website.

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In honor of the 9/11 Day of Remembrance, the MCSC volunteered.

PHOTOS FROM: ASHLEY JONES-KAUFMAN AND KMIZ-THE NETWORKS OF MID-MISSOURI

## Third Grade Success Ashley Pryor, AmeriCorps Member

### Poplar Bluff R-I School District

I started working with this student in first grade and he is now in third. I have been with this little guy through a lot of ups and downs. I have acknowledged the good times, but moreso, I have had the opportunity to pull him back up on his feet through the bad times.

This little guy has struggled in all areas: academically, emotionally, mentally, and with his home life. The first year I worked with him, we worked on the academic part; I quickly learned that he was struggling hard, and by that I mean not even knowing a simple word as "and" or "I" or even his numbers. As this was my first year, I was also placed with a lot more students who fit the same criteria; this was a challenge, but I knew never to give up. I worked with him every day. The beginning was rough because he wouldn't even respond, and I learned quickly that this is the type of student who felt he would have to trust you before he even opened up to say a word to you. As I worked with much silence in return, day by day he got a lot better. Soon he began to talk and do so much more. From reading small words, we sounded out the bigger words. We worked on our numbers and addition and he got that.

With my second year, he started second grade, and I wasn't in there with him. The teacher's room he was in never usually has AmeriCorps tutors in there, and this was the year that his life took a huge spiral: behavioral issues, being kicked out all the time, and more. I knew from working with him that if he feels he can't do something, he shuts down, and because I wasn't there, he didn't have anyone to look to or feel comfortable towards, so he turned away and rejected his work and acted out of character. Later on in the year, I was able to start seeing him and talking with him and encouraging him. The staff at the school realized this and were able to see that he opened up to me and worked well with me, so I did

get to work with him toward the end, but I will honestly say, no sugar coating, that his school year just wasn't very good. I felt so hurt seeing this little guy act like this because I knew the good inside, yet no one else did because he wasn't showing it.

Now that he is in third grade, I told him on the first day not to bring any problems from last year into this year. So far, he has not. I keep in contact with his teachers and they tell me he is doing so much better. I get to see him in the afternoons, and I know he is doing a lot better; I see it all over him. Not just academically, but emotionally and mentally as well. We were able to work on some math together and he responded well and even if he didn't know, he only got a little quiet, but I helped reassure him that it's okay and we need to try so we can learn. He is going to make it. I realized I can't always be around him every step of the way, but I can instill in him all the things he needs to know now, so that when he faces a situation he is not sure on how to handle, he can remember what Miss Ashley told him. If we think about it, AmeriCorps helps us reach so many lives. I may be the only figure in his life telling him something positive, and when everyone else is saying something negative, the child who heard a positive will remember it. I'm so proud of my little dude; I know he will have a great year! 

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## Great Story Michelle Welker, AmeriCorps Member

### CLAIM AmeriCorps Program

I served a man who is new to Medicare. He did not have insurance prior to Medicare because he could not afford it. He and his wife live on a very limited income and both have health issues. He has had two previous heart attacks and recently fell and broke his wrist. Their financial situation lead them to selling everything they owned including putting their home up for sale. Needless to say, he qualified for Extra Help and MORx which will help him offset the cost of his many prescriptions. I explained all

parts of Medicare to him and obtained quotes for supplemental insurance. He was so grateful to have the opportunity at not only health care, but the cost savings I was able to assist him with. His estimated savings is over \$4,000 for this year. In addition to assisting him with Medicare, I was able to help him with financial assistance paperwork for his unpaid hospital bills. 

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## Volunteers Make Harvesters Go Round

Shelby Miller, AmeriCorps Member

### Harvesters-The Community Food Network

During my service at Harvesters, I have had the opportunity to interact with hundreds of people in many ways. It could be spending a few hours with fellow AmeriCorps Members doing service activities, or chatting with Harvesters' staff to learn more about this organization. But the most unique of these interactions are those I have with the volunteers.

At the food bank, we do not have too much contact with those that actually receive the help, so the closest we get to the community is the thousands of volunteers that come here every month. I get the pleasure of educating many of these volunteers through tours and talks. True, some of those that go on the tours did not have the choice because their group leader signed them up for it and they would rather get right to work than listen to me talk for 20 minutes about our mission and who we help. However, some, particularly those that choose to go on the tours, soak up every last fact that comes out of my mouth. Watching these volunteers, young and old, get so excited about what they are able to do to help feed hungry people is so inspiring to me.

One of the more memorable examples of this was a family of four that came in a week or so before Thanksgiving. The two children had just finished a food drive at their school and the parents wanted them to "follow the food" to see how it went from

their school to someone's home. They knew people were hungry, and that the food came to the food bank after the food drive, but they had no idea how big of an issue hunger is in our community. After the tour finished, they told me that they were going to look into volunteering at one of our partner agencies to serve food during the holiday to make sure the kids saw the final step to feed the hungry.

This family inspired me. The younger of the two children wasn't quite old enough to volunteer in the warehouse, so he and one parent did a different project in the volunteer break room. They were split up for the majority of their time here, but they couldn't stop talking about what they were going to do next to volunteer or their plans to have the sons' birthday here when he turned 8. They just kept thinking about how they could help others. It was amazing to see this young family take such an interest, and it taught me that being able to spread the word of the problem and strengthening the solution is the most rewarding aspect of my service so far. 

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## Answered Prayer

Janel Riley, AmeriCorps Member

### Purdy R-II School District

I thought I was ready to retire after 24 years of teaching elementary school. I found I missed working with children more than any other aspect of teaching. The AmeriCorps opportunity was an answer to my prayers. As an educator, I rarely had the luxury of working one-on-one every day with the same child. I had to divide my time with the whole class. Helping this group of children has become the best therapy for me. Each one comes to me with a different problem, a different lifestyle, and a different outlook. It has challenged me to get to know them and meet their individual needs instead of meeting the curriculum of a whole classroom. Seeing that light bulb come on as they finally understand a concept is so rewarding for them and me. Watching my students struggle, grow, and improve has given me back a sense of worth that I lost when I retired. 

## Missouri Honors VetCorps Members

Throughout the month of November, over 200 organizations in all 50 states hosted pinning ceremonies for veterans who are serving as AmeriCorps Members and AmeriCorps Members who are providing valuable service to veterans and military dependents.

As part of this national event, the Waynesville AmeriCorps Program hosted a Veteran Corps pinning ceremony on November 24, 2015, at the Waynesville High School Ninth Grade Lecture Hall in Waynesville, Missouri. More than 100 attendees, including AmeriCorps State and AmeriCorps VISTA Members, nonprofit leaders, corporate champions, family members, and Fort Leonard Wood leadership attended in honor of the VetCorps Members. The Missouri Community Service Commission and the Corporation for National and Community Service Kansas and Missouri State Office joined Waynesville to commemorate the Members.

This ceremony celebrated the extraordinary impact veterans are still making in their communities and the contributions of National Service Members who are providing valuable services to veterans and their families.



1. Representative Vicky Hartzler and Senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill sent letters in support of AmeriCorps.
2. MCSC Chief Program Officer pins a VetCorps pin on John Albright, Vice-Chair of the Missouri Community Service Commission.
3. Vet Corps Pins ready for the pinning ceremony. The attached note thanks the AmeriCorps Members and SeniorCorps volunteers for their service.





1.



2.

- From top to bottom:
- ↑ 1. Attendees at the VetCorps ceremony pose for a group picture.
  - ← 2. Members are pinned with the VetCorps pin.
  - ↓ 3. Veterans now serving as AmeriCorps Members and SeniorCorps volunteers pose with Waynesville R-VI School District staff and elected officials' representatives.



3.

## AmeriCorps Deployed to Assist Missouri with Flood Recovery Efforts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan 14, 2016.

### AmeriCorps Deployed to Assist Missouri with Flood Recovery Efforts

More than 100 AmeriCorps members from across the country arrive in St. Louis region to help rebuild

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps, announced that more than 100 AmeriCorps members have been deployed to areas devastated by massive flooding in Missouri.

In partnership with the State Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, the Missouri Community Service Commission, and voluntary agency partners, these AmeriCorps members are coordinating the volunteer response efforts as well as providing direct assistance to homeowners by removing debris and mucking out homes. A team from local organization AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team has been in the area since December 29 supporting response activities. They were joined this week by AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams from Washington Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa, and Hoopa Tribal Civilian Community Corps. AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams are CNCS' elite, specialty-trained crews deployed at the request of local and federal emergency managers. These teams provide expert manpower for everything from coordinating volunteers to donations management, sandbagging to shelter operations, and debris removal to home repairs.

Wendy Spencer, CEO of CNCS, was in the area on Tuesday of this week, when she met with some of the deployed AmeriCorps members, as well as other

local residents. She was joined by Kelly DeGraff, the agency's Senior Advisor for Disaster Services.

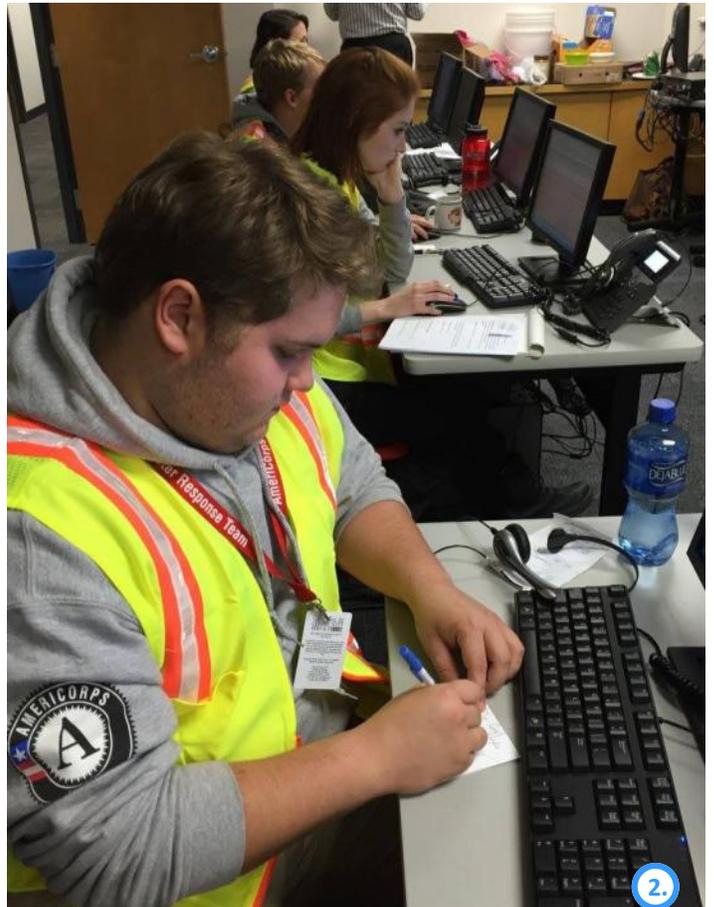
"As Missourians dig out and begin to rebuild, the national service family stands shoulder to shoulder with them in their time of need," said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "During my time in the St. Louis region, I was inspired by the resilience of the community and the swift and coordinated response of emergency personnel, government agencies, and nonprofit and faith-based groups whose work is helping the community recover and rebuild. Our AmeriCorps teams were fast on the ground, and are providing vital relief to survivors. Through these additional resources we are announcing today, we will continue to support Missouri over the long haul."

CNCS has an established record when it comes to disaster response, particularly in Missouri. The first team of AmeriCorps members arrived within hours after the tornado ripped through Joplin in May 2011. In the first year after the tornado, more than 350 AmeriCorps members arrived in the area – providing vital services and coordinating more than 75,000 volunteers who were essential to the city's

*Continued on page 12*

Clockwise from top right:

- 1. AmeriCorps Members plan their response.
- 2. AmeriCorps Member serves in a the United Way's 2-1-1 volunteer reception center.
- 3. Kelly DeGraff, Senior Advisor, Disaster Services Corporation for National and Community Service poses with Bruce Bailey, Executive Director of AmeriCorps St. Louis.
- 4. AmeriCorps Member cleans up after the St. Louis flood.



## Volunteering in America Report

The report, “Volunteering and Civic Life in America 2015” is the most comprehensive look at volunteering and civic life in the 50 states.

Overall, in Missouri in 2014:

- 30.2% of residents volunteer, ranking them 17th among the 50 states and Washington, D.C.
- 1.30 million volunteers
- 30.9 volunteer hours per capita
- 146.1 million hours of service
- \$3.4 billion of service contributed
- 55.8% of residents donate \$25 or more to charity



*Continued from Page 10*

recovery. AmeriCorps members were instrumental in coordinating an influx of volunteers and donations that saved the City of Joplin more than \$17.7 million.

Following a disaster, national service acts as a force multiplier, providing key resources and significantly expanding the capacity of existing organizations on the ground. More than 40,000 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members were deployed in response to Hurricane Katrina. In the decade since, AmeriCorps teams have provided critical support after countless disasters, including Hurricane Sandy, the 2013 floods in Colorado, tornadoes in Joplin, Mo., Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Moore, Okla., and the October 2015 floods in South Carolina.

Through all its programs and initiatives, CNCS helps communities to prepare for, mitigate, respond, and recover from disasters. Beginning with Hurricane Katrina, AmeriCorps teams have provided critical support after numerous disasters in the past decade, including tornadoes in Joplin, Tuscaloosa, and Moore; flooding in the Colorado and the

Midwest; Western forest fires; Hurricane Sandy; and many others. Since Katrina, the agency has developed innovative programs to support disaster survivors, including FEMA Corps, AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams, and Resilience AmeriCorps.

This deployment is possible through close coordination and support from the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, National Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, United Way of Greater St. Louis, and the Missouri VOAD (Voluntary Agency Active in Disaster). In addition, the agency is working closely with the Missouri Community Service Commission, the state service commission responsible for implementing national service programs in Missouri. 

- 1. MCSC staff and Commissioners pose with staff and residents of Welcome Home, Inc.
- 2. MCSC Commissioners and staff assemble care packages for the veterans.
- 3. MCSC Commissioners assemble care packages.

# Missouri Community Service Commission Volunteers for 9/11 Day of Remembrance

As a part of the national day of service for 9/11, the Missouri Community Service Commission put together care packages for and wrote letters to residents of Welcome Home, Inc. The care packages included personal care items like socks and

deodorant and non-perishable food items, which the agency was in great need. Welcome Home, Inc. is a non-profit in Columbia, MO that serves homeless veterans. 



## AmeriCorps

# What's New With You?

As a part of a new series, "What's new with you?", the MCSC interviewed two programs that are currently a part of our 2016-2017 portfolio.

## Kingdom House St. Louis, MO

### **What's your name and title?**

Yvonne M. Hart, MSW, MA  
Director of Youth Development

### **Who is Kingdom House?**

Kingdom House believes in transformation...from the inside out. Through holistic programs and services, we promote empowerment and growth in individuals and families. We help the economically disadvantaged achieve economic independence, self-sufficiency and a path out of poverty.

Kingdom House has been working for over 100 years to address community needs. Our goal is to provide pathways out of poverty. We achieve this by supporting and equipping those in need so that they can find their own pathways to a better life. When a family is ready to invest in their future and achieve something better, we must be prepared to invest in that future with them. We have a holistic approach. Highlighted programs include: family development services, early childhood center, youth development services (K-12), and senior programming

Kingdom House has launched the "Investing in Lives, Impacting Community" initiative for Kingdom House to expand our reach, increase our impact, and ensure our sustainability for years to come. We have a goal to:

- Expand our educational programs for youths, adults and seniors.
- Increase the number of people served.
- Deepen the commitment and advocacy of our volunteers.
- Ensure our future and maintain a safe place for our neighbors and learn to grow.

### **Why did Kingdom House apply for an AmeriCorps grant?**

Kingdom House has a strong history of having volunteers assisting in service delivery to our clients. We believed AmeriCorps provided a great opportunity for volunteers to join Kingdom House during a time when we are strengthening and expanding our programs to better service our families. The agency not only benefits from the hard work of the Members, but Members also gain valuable work experience in a desirable field, and receive a stipend and education award for their service. Kingdom House goals also aligned well with National Service priority areas focused on preparing children/youth to succeed in school.

### **What activities will your Members do?**

Currently we have Members assigned to Kingdom Academy (high school component). They are involved in coordinating special events, facilitating life skills workshops, serving supper, engaging youth in community service, exposing youth to different hobbies (zumba, knitting, crafts), chaperoning field trips, and assisting youth with homework. Overall, full-time Advisors keep youth on track to graduate from high school and getting them prepared to succeed in work/college post high school.

**What is one thing you want people to know about your program?**

Every day is different - brings different challenges - but worth all the effort.

**Why should people care about national service?**

There is so much work to be done to make sure the next generation is prepared to be successful. Every child/youth benefits from interacting with a caring adult. It only takes one person to make a huge impact in the life of a child. Join the national movement to make a positive change. 

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# Child Abuse Prevention Association Independence, MO

**What's your name and title?**

Melody Morgan, Program Director.

**Who is CAPA?**

CAPA is a non-profit in Independence, MO who's mission is to prevent and treat all forms of child abuse and neglect by creating changes in individuals, families and society that strengthen relationships and promote healing.

**How long has CAPA had AmeriCorps Members?**

In July 2016, CAPA will have completed its sixth year of having AmeriCorps Members.

**What activities do your Members do?**

All CAPA AmeriCorps Members are senior level Bachelors students in Social Work or Masters level Counseling or Social Work students. The type of activities that Members perform are based on which level of education they are completing. Master's level counseling students provide therapeutic counseling to children and families who are recovering from abuse-related traumas as well as facilitate ongoing three week intake groups for all new clients. Bachelors level students provide family support services in the form of in-home case-management for families with young children. They

also provide parenting classes and groups on an ongoing basis. All Members actively recruit volunteers to support CAPA service projects as well as provide child abuse prevention educational activities in the community.

**What is one thing you want people to know about your program?**

The neat thing about our program is that all of our Members have already chosen a helping profession and actively demonstrate their commitment to service. Many continue to serve as counselors and social workers in the Kansas City area after completing their AmeriCorps service. This means that by investing in our Members, we are also making a lasting investment into the larger community.

**Why do you think people should care about national service?**

National service is core to the identity of the United States. The willingness of one citizen to selflessly serve another is what makes our country great and enables us to not only survive but surmount some of the most terrible hardships. AmeriCorps Members remind me on a daily basis of the beauty that is created through volunteerism and service. 



↑ CAPA AmeriCorps Member, during a St. Patrick's Day Parade, promotes national service.

## SHOW-ME SERVICE

Missouri Community Service Commission  
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## UPCOMING DATES

**February 29, 2016**

Final Day of MCSC Holiday Coat and Food Drive

**March 9, 2016**

End of Technical Assistance for Formula Grant Applications

**March 11, 2016**

Formula Grant Applications Due  
2015-2016 Service and Volunteerism Nominations Due  
2015-2016 MCSC/Monsanto High School Scholarship Applications Due

**May 12, 2016**

Annual Celebration of Volunteerism and Service

*For additional details regarding funding opportunities for 2016-2017, please visit [www.movolunteers.org](http://www.movolunteers.org).*

**MCSC VISION:** To strengthen Missouri communities through volunteerism and service.

AmeriCorps engages more than 80,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Since the program's founding in 1994, more than 800,000 AmeriCorps Members have contributed more than 1 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

The Missouri Community Service Commission (MCSC) is located within the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Its mission is to connect Missourians of all ages and backgrounds in an effort to improve unmet community needs through direct and tangible service. The MCSC serves as the administrator for AmeriCorps State funding in Missouri by awarding monetary grants and providing technical assistance and support to its sub-grantees.

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