

THE MAGAZINE OF THE MISSOURI COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION

SHOW-ME SERVICE

movolunteers.org | Winter 2015

Ceremony and Celebration

AmeriCorps honors the service of Americans and celebrates 20 years | 12

Newest addition

MCSC welcomes new Executive Director, Don Stamper | 19



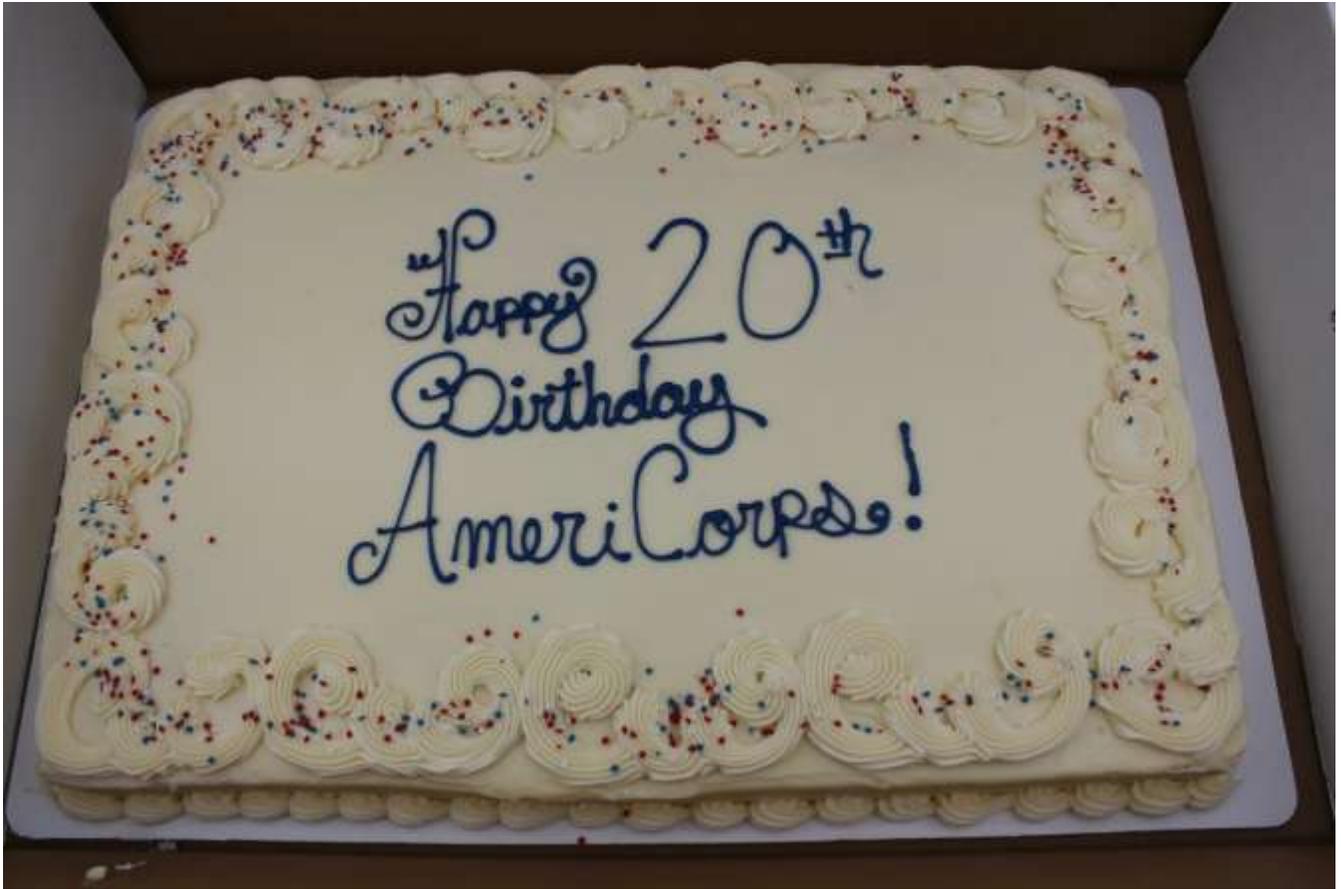


First Look

MCSC celebrates the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps with Governor Nixon. Watch the swearing in online at movolunteers.org



Features



↑ AmeriCorps celebrated its 20th Anniversary in September. The MCSC sponsored an event on the South Capital lawn in Jefferson City, Missouri.

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Year in Review

The Missouri Community Service Commission (MCSC) outlines its year in numbers.

PHOTO BY COLLEGE BOUND
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New to MCSC

The Commission welcomes a new executive director, commissioner, and staff member.

STORY BY SARAH EHRHARD REID

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Remember, Prepare, and Serve

MCSC joins country in celebration of AmeriCorps' 20th anniversary and remembers the service of Americans post 9/11

PHOTOS BY COLLEGE BOUND
WAYNESVILLE
DENNIS HALL
HARVESTERS
STORY BY SARAH EHRHARD REID

2014 brought growth to the Missouri portfolio. This is only a small part of the effort that our programs and members make in communities across the state. With this growth came great accomplishment.

College Bound's Top 5: A Year in Review

By: College Bound Staff

1. **This year we served over 600 students in our high school through college program! #Extra:** With our GYPO (Get your Prep On) Program we served an ADDITIONAL 600 students! Woo Hoo!!
2. **100% of the class of 2014 graduated from high school and 91% matriculated to college within 6 months of graduating. #dropsthemc**
3. **In 2014, we had the BEST year-to-year re-enrollment for college #sophomores and #juniors** in CB's 8 year history.
4. Our Bridgit pilot reached over 1,700 kids in 3 states, 3 college access nonprofits and 6 high schools. In other words, lots of people got ready for college!!!
5. **In 2014, we had the MOST fly-ins for HS seniors in CB history!! 12 universities to be exact. #ourkidsaregoingplaces** 🌐

PAVE AmeriCorps Adds Health Component

By: PAVE Staff

The PAVE AmeriCorps Wellness Program functions in conjunction with Mustang Wellness, a school-based program funded through a Missouri Foundation of Health grant. The Wellness Program serves over 1,200 students in ages K-8 in the Eldon School District.

The Wellness Program supports many health-related efforts in the school district, including: adding intramural activities to the afterschool program, implementing before-school walking clubs, providing healthy options for students during breakfast and lunch, and developing nutrition education programming. The Wellness Program currently has six AmeriCorps Members who serve as Wellness Coaches and support program delivery. The Wellness Coaches spend their days engaged with children and youth in physical activities. Wellness Coaches also participate in casual nutrition education with students during lunch—encouraging them to make healthier choices, try new foods, and model positive health habits. 🌐

International Institute Moves to New Location

International Institute of St. Louis, MO is relocating from their current location, 3654 South Grand, to 3401 Arsenal Street, site of now closed Catholic high school, **St. Elizabeth's Academy**. The Institute closed on the property in June 2014 and has spent the past few months renovating the space.

The International Institute currently helps refugees and immigrants resettle into the area by offering English classes and assistance in finding housing and jobs. International Institute is in its fifth year as an AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps Members provide adjustment services to help clients rebuild their lives. Services focus on AmeriCorps priority areas, economic opportunity and healthy futures.

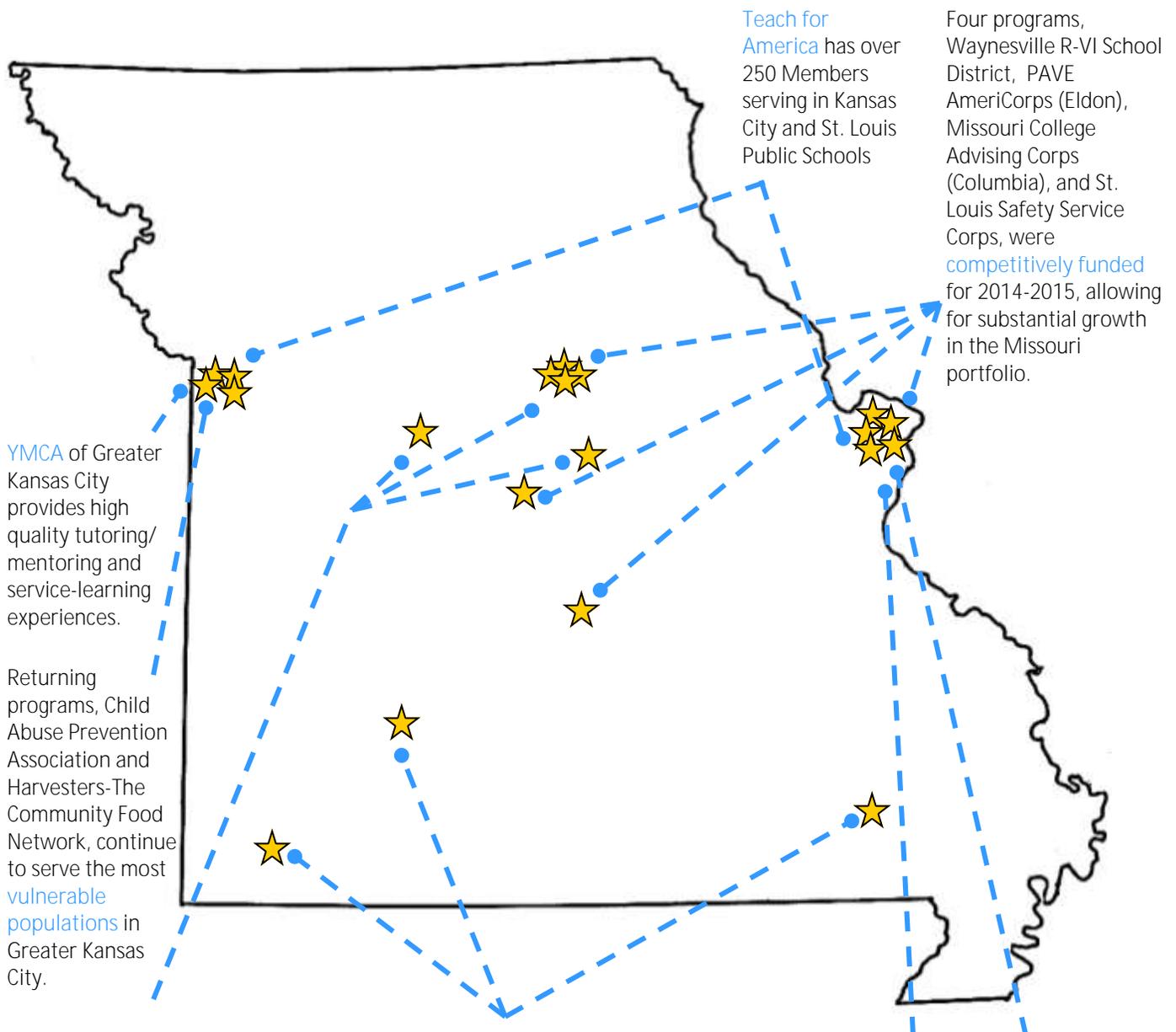
The new property will allow for increased growth, as it is four times the size of their current office space. They hope to use the bigger space to host additional community events, increase outreach through a low-power FM station, and enhance their employment training programs.

In an interview with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Anna Crosslin, president and CEO at the International Institute, stressed the need for growth, **"We feel we need to be above 12,000 [clients], and there is no way we can do that now"** (Moore 2015).

Last year the Institute served about 7,500 individuals. They plan on beginning operations at their new site on January 20, 2015. 🌐

WHERE'S THE 'A'?

Introducing the 2014-2015 Portfolio



One Check Off My Bucket List

By: Anne-Elise Baiotto

As I complete the end of my AmeriCorps service term, I am remembering all the experiences I have had so far being a Nutrition Educator at Harvesters. I have had many positive and encouraging experiences with my participants in classes and with my team members. Just as I challenge my participants to make healthy goals each week, I also challenge myself to make these goals. I feel like I am a healthier person as a result. Even the small things I started to do, like reading food labels, drinking more water or eating just one more serving of fruit each day, can add up to make a huge difference.

I am encouraged when my participants make goals for themselves each week and are surprised by how well they feel in consequent weeks. The goals are always small, but they feel more encouraged by completing those small steps. Goal setting is a really important part of what I do in my classes because it encourages the class to push themselves. One lady in one of my classes completely cut soda from her diet. She was drinking several sodas every day. She was appalled by how much sugar was in a single soda can when I showed the classes a sugar model. She started to drink tea and more water everyday instead of soda. She came back to class the following week stating that she had felt much better. She continued throughout the rest of the series of classes not drinking a single soda. Another lady made significant progress adding physical activity to her day. She began walking a little bit further down the street each week. Others have become more aware of products that are high in sodium and sugar and began to watch for those things. Personally, I felt very encouraged about my service because of these experiences. My participants are actually making significant changes in their lives because of what I have taught them. Many of my participants have neither adequate resources to be able to eat servings from each food group every day, nor are they physically able to do much, but the fact that they do what they can and still try to improve is what is amazing about the effects of this Harvesters curriculum.

I feel that I have become more empathetic because of reaching out to so many members of this community. Most of my participants are low income, older adult minorities who have lived through some very tough times in Kansas City. I feel that they definitely need the nutrition education and I am glad that Harvesters has invested in teaching the community about nutrition and healthy cooking. I feel that I have a much better understanding of the community of Kansas City because of the places I have been to and the folks I have talked to. I feel that Harvesters is a great resource for those in need and I am happy to have joined in for a time with such a great organization. I wanted to invest some of my time in the community during college but I never had the chance. I am glad that I can say that I have given back to my community. 

The End

By: Benjamin Barber

What a year. What a crazy, and down, topsy-turvy year. To say that **"This year was what I expected."** would be (in certain respects) the complete opposite of the truth. I was expecting structure, a set schedule, precision... and I received chaos. I was expecting nature's glory... and I received nature's wrath. I was expecting to be challenged, and I was; expecting to love it... and eventually, I think I did.

This program stretched me both physically and mentally. It made me think critically about my life, about each and every decision that I make and the reasons behind those decisions. I would not be the same without it. I can only hope that it would not be the same without my contributions.

AmeriCorps St Louis Emergency Response Team, I gave you my time. I gave you my energy. I gave you my heart. In return, you gave me more than I could have ever asked for. You gave me the opportunity to serve those in less than opportune situations. You gave me skills that I never thought I would possess. And, most importantly, you gave me life-long memories with life-long friends. 

DATA

MCSC Year in Review

2014 brought great accomplishment to the Missouri portfolio. This is only a small part of the effort that our programs and members make in communities across the state.

20

AmeriCorps State Programs in Missouri in 2014-2015.

15th

place out of (50 states) in the United States in percentage of citizens that volunteer. 31.6% of residents in Missouri volunteer.

7,309

volunteers leveraged as a result of AmeriCorps Members in Missouri.

441

pages included in the 2014-2015 Program Director's Handbook. This resource, developed by the Commission staff each year, is provided to directors at the annual training in June.

281

service site locations in 2014-2015, a 60% increase from the year prior.

743

AmeriCorps Members enrolled in service for the 2014-2015 program year.

36.75

hours of training provided to Program Directors of 2014-2015 AmeriCorps programs in Missouri. Topics included Member management, financial reporting, performance measurement, and application guidelines for the 2015-2016 program year.

77,573

hours of volunteer service leveraged as a result of AmeriCorps Members in Missouri.

1994

AmeriCorps began nationwide, thus marking 2014 the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps. Members from College Bound, pictured below, strike a pose to show their commitment to getting things done for America!



The Missouri Community Service Commission welcomes new faces and celebrates the service of those continuing.

Janis VanMeter

The Missouri Community Service Commission thanks Janis VanMeter for her continued service. Janis was appointed as a Commissioner in 2009, and has served as Chair of the Commission since 2010. Her term for Chair ended in December 2014.

In a previous letter from the Chair, Janis explained, **“One of the greatest gifts that people can give to each other is time. Nothing can compare to the benefits reaped when individuals come together with the goal of improving and enriching the lives of others.”** It is clear that she understands the value of National Service. Her leadership has been invaluable to the MCSC staff during her tenure. 



Russell Unger

In January 2015, the Missouri Community Service Commission selected their newest Chairperson of the Commission. Russell Unger has served on the Commission for four years and previously served **as Committee Chair of the Commission’s Program Committee.**

When interviewed by the Missouri Department of **Boards and Commissions**, Russ said, **“One of the things I really enjoy is visiting the AmeriCorps programs across the state. ...You don’t realize the need in the communities and how much the AmeriCorps members are doing until you go out and see them working.”**

MCSC welcomes Russ as the new Chair. 



Reena Hajat Carroll

In June of 2014, the Missouri Community Service Commission gained a new commissioner, Reena Hajat Carroll. She joins eleven other members that serve as Commissioners.

Reena currently serves as the Executive Director of the Diversity Awareness Partnership. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis. Reena has extensive experience in areas of diversity and inclusion, faith-based initiatives, community relations, fiscal management, organizational development, and social and economic development. She is also affiliated with a number of boards and organizations and has received awards from the St. Louis Business Journal, Bank of America, and Washington University. 

Ashley Jones-Kaufman

Ashley Jones-Kaufman is the newest staff member at the Missouri Community Service Commission, starting in January 2015.

Ashley previously worked for the Department of Social Services as a Child Support Enforcement Specialist. She graduated from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale with a Major in Journalism, concentration in Advertisement, and a minor in Psychology. She has 30 graduate hours in Guidance in Counseling and is one semester away from obtaining a **Master's Degree in Teaching and Technology**.

Ashley is married and has an amazing one-year-old daughter. She is passionate about her family, fitness & healthy living, technology, helping others, and paying it forward. 







REMEMBER, PREPARE, AND SERVE

AmeriCorps celebrates its 20th anniversary and honors national service.

CELEBRATION AND DAY OF REMEMBERENCE

September marked the the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps, the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and Disaster Preparedness Month. In honor of the lives lost and the spirit of volunteerism that followed the attacks in 2001, 9/11 is now an important day for AmeriCorps. It is a recognized day of service, a time for all involved in national service to remember, prepare, and serve.

On this day in Jefferson City, Missouri, AmeriCorps Members, program staff, and community members joined to honor the legacy of those fallen on 9/11 and to celebrate the rebuilding power of community service evident in AmeriCorps.

The day began with cloudy skies, fitting for a day to remember such a tragic event. Crowds gathered around organizations and their display booths to learn more about how different disaster response organizations continue to serve America. The Missouri Community Service Commission provided t-shirts for Members to wear to commemorate the day.

MCSC Executive Director Don Stamper greeted the participants to begin the ceremony. The crowd observed a moment of silence to honor the significance of the day. The JR. ROTC from Waynesville R-VI School District followed by presenting the colors.

Keynote speakers Chuck Leake and Dee Smith spoke next regarding their experiences with 9/11 and the power of volunteerism. Chuck Leake is a 35 year veteran of Fire and EMS services. As a founding member of Missouri Task Force One, he deployed to New York on 9/11. Chuck Leake is currently the Boone County Fire District Battalion



Chief. Following 9/11, Dee Smith served nine weeks at the World Trade Center as Operations Chief and Incident Commander. She is currently a consultant and trainer with Bionik Monkey and she provides disaster training for The Salvation Army in the Central Territory.

Following both speakers, AmeriCorps Members and other participants had the opportunity to enjoy a hot meal provided by the Missouri Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Convention. Throughout lunch, visitors toured the Capital and admired the quilts made in honor of the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps. Each organization in the Missouri Community Service Commission submitted a quilt square that represented their organization. Local volunteers, Catherine Jones and Shams Chughtai created the quilt and stand respectively.



In order L to R, top to bottom.

↑ JR ROTC Color Guard Waynesville R-VI School District presents the colors.

↑ Quilt made in honor of the 20th Anniversary of AmeriCorps, features all 20 current programs in the MCSC Portfolio.

→ A second quilt features programs in the AmeriCorps family, featuring RSVP, SeniorCorps, and VISTA programs.

Previous Page:

← Jerron Johnson leads the group in reciting the AmeriCorps Pledge





After lunch, Stamper began the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of AmeriCorps. He shared the history, vision, and mission of AmeriCorps and read the governor’s proclamation of AmeriCorps Day.

MCSC’s Jerron Johnson followed as the afternoon’s keynote speaker and lead the audience in reciting the AmeriCorps Pledge. Jerron has dedicated most of his life to national and community service. During his speech he recounted his time as an AmeriCorps Member and the importance of service.

The celebration concluded with a rousing rendition of “Happy Birthday”, birthday cake for all, and appreciation gifts for AmeriCorps Members.

To close the day, Commission members, MCSC staff, and program representatives presented the Governor with an oversized check for the amount of dollars and value of volunteer hours leveraged in the State of Missouri as a result of AmeriCorps in 2013-2014 and an IOU for the amount promised in 2014-2015. The day ended with the Governor and attendees reciting the AmeriCorps Pledge. 



← Staff from Missouri College Advising Corps pose with Commissioners of the Missouri Community Service Commission.

← AmeriCorps Members and program staff join in the pledge.

← AmeriCorps Program Director, Steve Johnson, stands with an AmeriCorps banner.

↑ Members and staff from Harvesters pose with the sign.

↑ AmeriCorps Member checks out the give away provided by the MCSC in honor of the 20th birthday of AmeriCorps.

→ Members say good bye at the end of the day.

↓ College Bound Staff and Members pose for a photo on the steps of the Capital.



MCSC Sponsors Food and Coat Drive

The Missouri Community Service Commission Sponsored requested donations of shelf stable food and winter coats to benefit the Samaritan Center in Jefferson City, Missouri as part of their annual food and coat drive

The Samaritan Center is an interfaith social service agency that serves Mid-Missouri. Since 1987 they have provided food, clothing, and short term financial assistance to those in crisis or with an immediate financial need.

This year's drive was held from November 2014 through January 2015 and featured donation drop off locations in the Truman state office building in Jefferson City. The food and coat drive is held each year in conjunction with the day of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. , which encourages a day 'on' not a day 'off'.

As time passed, excitement and participation increased. The Division of Workforce Development-Central Office decided to join in the giving by hosting their own coat drive to supplement the MCSC efforts. The Office of Administration Division of Purchasing and Materials Management also joined in the drive. They collected canned and shelf stable food as a part of a friendly office competition to see who could bring in the most items. Girl Scout troop 71075 also joined in the spirit by making holiday cards .

This was the fifth annual food and coat drive sponsored by the Missouri Community Service Commission.



↑ Rob Didriksen and Nicolle Backes pose with some of the 635 items collected as a part of the MCSC Food and Coat Drive. The Office of Administration, Division of Purchasing and Materials Management hosted a friendly competition in the office to help give back during the holiday season.



Don Stamper Starts as Executive Director



emergency situations and the ability to critically think on his feet, the EMS world was a perfect fit. Don also worked at state, regional and national levels in advancing the profession and improving patient care standards, educational curriculum and accreditation.

While working in this area, his interest in politics and public service grew; and he became involved in his local community working on local campaigns.

Late in 2002, Don moved to the private sector. This position continued his work on public issues with a private sector emphasis.

**Don's work in the private sector proved to be invaluable in gaining a complete understanding of the public process. He worked on policy issues, funding for public infrastructure, enhancing community process, improving communications, and on dealing with diverse interest groups while pursuing community progress. It didn't take long to understand that leadership is less about title and more about a willingness to work with others-
-sometime sacrificing one's own preferences in the spirit of achieving new levels as a community.**

Building upon his previous experience, Don is looking forward to what the new year has to offer: combining a passion and a profession. 

Don Stamper joined the Missouri Community Service Commission in August, 2014. Prior to the commission, he enjoyed careers in emergency medical services and emergency management; elective office and public service; and community development in the private sector. His career and work experience focused on leadership in these three primary areas.

His first career served as a great foundation and experience for the other positions that he has held. Initially drawn by the urgent nature of emergency services and the challenges of

← Coats and Food fill the MCSC office as the drive continues.

← A group of kindergartners in Girl Scout Troop 71075, from Jefferson City, made holiday cards to accompany the food and coats collected.

SHOW-ME SERVICE

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UPCOMING DATES

March 2
Formula Applications Due

March 6
Service Award and High School Scholarship Applications Due

April 7
Mayor's Day

May 7 (*Tentative*)
Annual Celebration on Volunteerism and Service

May (date tbd)
Notice of Funding Awards

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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