



# I will get things done for America

Celebrating 20 years of AmeriCorps



VOICES *for* NATIONAL SERVICE





**I will get things  
done for America**

TO MAKE OUR PEOPLE SAFER,  
SMARTER AND HEALTHIER.

I will bring Americans together  
to strengthen our communities.

**FACED WITH APATHY,  
I WILL TAKE ACTION.**

Faced with conflict, I will  
seek common ground.

**FACED WITH ADVERSITY,  
I WILL PERSEVERE.**

I WILL CARRY THIS COMMITMENT  
WITH ME THIS YEAR AND BEYOND.

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



## FOREWORD

### **Service has been part of our American story**

from the beginning, from the first volunteer firefighters to the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Peace Corps. When my father ran for president, he believed that we needed to address our challenges and build our future together and that national service could be a vital part of strengthening the cords that bind us together as a people, for today and tomorrow. He created AmeriCorps to channel the energy of young people committed to that vision. In exchange for their hard work, AmeriCorps members would receive education awards to make college more affordable, helping develop a workforce for the 21st century.

Twenty years later, we celebrate the many accomplishments of AmeriCorps. Since 1994, when the first class began its service, more than 900,000 Americans have served as AmeriCorps members, contributing more than 1.2 billion hours of service to their communities and our country. These passionate young people have helped their fellow Americans graduate from high school, gain access to health care, transition to civilian life after military service and put their lives back together in the aftermath of natural disasters. Through their service, AmeriCorps members have gained a pathway to college and their first jobs, and developed the skills they need to become leaders across the country.

Given research into the experience of AmeriCorps members and other young people who have chosen to serve, we now know how meaningful, fun and life-changing service can be – for the communities impacted and for those who serve. The results of AmeriCorps members' service have proven time and again that we are stronger when we work together and when we give all Americans the opportunities to match their talents with their dreams. AmeriCorps continues to help give expression to new generations of young people's commitment to serve our country and create a stronger future for all Americans.

As I was growing up, my parents instilled in me the importance of giving back to our communities and working together to invest in our future. My family has always believed that encouraging and investing in national service is both the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. It's the right thing to do because any American who wants to serve our country deserves the opportunity to do so, through military or civilian service. It's the smart thing to do because it's a sound investment: AmeriCorps members gain valuable real-life skills early in their careers and national service has a return on investment of 4-to-1, a ratio that benefits all Americans.

Signing AmeriCorps into law was one of my father's proudest moments as president. It's one of the reasons I am proud to be his daughter. As my father said at the time and still says today, when we embrace the values of opportunity, responsibility and community together, we are the best of our country. As we celebrate the accomplishments of AmeriCorps and look forward to its next twenty years, I want to thank my father for his vision and all AmeriCorps members for bringing that vision to life every day.



Chelsea Clinton  
Vice Chair  
Clinton Foundation





## **Twenty years ago, 20,000 Americans raised their right hand**

and pledged to “get things done for America.” They were the first class of AmeriCorps members—a dedicated cadre of diverse Americans from communities all across the country. In the months that followed, they poured their hearts and souls into helping those who needed them in more than 1,000 communities nationwide.

Since then, more than 880,000 talented and dedicated Americans have followed in their footsteps. Over the past 20 years, more than 900,000 AmeriCorps members have provided over 1.2 billion hours of results-driven service across all 50 states. AmeriCorps members tutor and mentor students, help people to lead healthier lives, provide job training and other services to returning veterans, preserve the nation’s parks and public lands, and help communities to rebuild after natural disasters.

Created by President Bill Clinton in 1993, AmeriCorps is a national service program that harnesses the energy and ingenuity of citizens to improve communities and helps those who serve to earn money for college or to pay back student loans. Built on the ideal that all Americans have a role to play in strengthening the nation, AmeriCorps leverages a modest federal investment to secure matching support from private, philanthropic, and local sources.

In the 20 years since the first class of AmeriCorps members took their pledge, support for AmeriCorps has grown among bipartisan leaders, including Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. In 2001, during the traditional meeting of the incoming and outgoing presidents on Inauguration Day, President Bill Clinton asked President George W. Bush to support and expand the program that he envisioned and launched, AmeriCorps. In the years that followed, President George W. Bush worked to increase the size of the program by fifty percent. President Barack Obama signed into law the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which outlines a plan to expand and strengthen the AmeriCorps program. His administration is now seeking to expand service opportunities through innovative partnerships between federal agencies.

Thanks to the strong support of our nation’s leaders over the past two decades, AmeriCorps has celebrated many impressive accomplishments in its first 20 years. This report highlights some of the most notable events in the history of this great American resource. Here, we remember these events, recognize the champions of AmeriCorps who have helped to shepherd the national service movement forward, and celebrate the transformative impact AmeriCorps members have in local communities each day.

AmeriCorps is a powerful force that has the potential to unite us as Americans and make this nation stronger than ever before. As we reflect on the history of AmeriCorps, we also look forward to many more years of unleashing the power of dedicated individuals to “get things done for America.” To accomplish this goal and achieve the true vision for AmeriCorps, we must work together to ensure that national service becomes a cultural expectation, a common opportunity, and a civic rite of passage for all Americans.

Yours in service,

**AnnMaura Connolly**  
*President*

**Karen Baker**  
*Co-Chair, Steering  
Committee*

**Jason Patnosh**  
*Co-Chair, Steering  
Committee*





**"WE KNOW HOW POWERFUL WE ARE**

when we work together. We know how powerful it is when individuals decide to set aside their own interests and invest their time and talent in their youth, or their seniors, or their neighbor next door."

**– Mayor Dayne Walling, Flint, Michigan  
AmeriCorps Alumnus**





# The Case For National Service

**NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS ARE COST-EFFECTIVE AND REPRESENT A SMART INVESTMENT FOR THE NATION**

**For every dollar**  
invested in national service, there are  
**returns to society of \$3.95** in terms  
of higher earnings, increased output, and other community-wide benefits.

Every federal dollar invested in national service yields **\$2.20 in savings**  
**to other government programs.**

Source: Clive Belfield, Columbia University



**A MODEST FEDERAL INVESTMENT  
GENERATES SUPPORT FROM  
PRIVATE, PHILANTHROPIC, AND  
LOCAL SOURCES.**

Every AmeriCorps grant dollar results in another dollar in additional investment by community partners.

AmeriCorps programs leverage more than

**\$625 MILLION**

in outside resources from private, philanthropic, and local sources annually.

Corporate and philanthropic leaders have a vested interest in AmeriCorps.

Source: Corporation for National and Community Service

**THERE IS STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT  
FOR NATIONAL SERVICE.**

**4 in 5**

voters support a system of voluntary service in which people of all ages would be given opportunities to serve in the military or civilian capacity for one year and receive a living allowance and education award.

Despite voter concerns with government spending, more than

**3 in 4**

voters believe that increased funding for national service would be worth the added investment.

Source: Civic Enterprises

**AMERICANS ARE LINING UP TO  
SERVE THE NATION AND THEIR  
COMMUNITIES.**

**5 TO 1**

The average ratio of applications AmeriCorps programs receive for every available position.

For some AmeriCorps programs, the applicant to acceptance ratio can be

**13 TO 1** or higher.

**Hundreds  
of thousands**

of Americans who step forward to serve are turned away annually.

Sources: Corporation for National and Community Service; FoodCorps

**SERVICE HELPS AMERICANS  
FIND JOBS.**

Unemployed individuals who volunteer are **27%** more likely to secure employment than those who do not serve.

Unemployed individuals without high school diplomas who volunteer are **51%** more likely to secure employment than those who do not volunteer.

Unemployed individuals who live in rural communities and volunteer are **55%** more likely to secure employment than those who do not volunteer.

Source: Corporation for National and Community Service



# LEADING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS LEVERAGE AMERICORPS TO EXPAND THEIR WORK, INNOVATE, AND ACHIEVE RESULTS



As a part of the National Preparedness and Response Corps (NPRC), more than 100 AmeriCorps members serve with the American Red Cross annually. These AmeriCorps members are placed with 21 American Red Cross chapters across the country to help communities to enhance preparedness for disasters. Their efforts are critical to supporting the organization's local and national disaster response missions, spreading preparedness messages in the communities they serve, and helping to recruit volunteers to assist with relief and recovery efforts. Last year, AmeriCorps NPRC members reached more than 20,000 individuals through preparedness education, participated in more than 1,000 disaster responses, and assisted nearly 6,000 individuals after disasters. Since the program's inception, more than 1,000 AmeriCorps NPRC members have served with the American Red Cross.



Citizen Schools is a national education nonprofit organization that partners with public middle schools to extend the learning day. Citizen Schools mobilizes a team of AmeriCorps members and professional volunteers to enable public middle schools in low-income communities. These AmeriCorps members and professional volunteers provide schools with the resources needed to allow students to engage in additional academic instruction, foster rich relationships with caring adults, and experience innovative opportunities to develop 21st century skills. Approximately 225 AmeriCorps members serve with Citizen Schools annually, and more than 1,000 AmeriCorps members have served with Citizen Schools since 2002. Citizen Schools' students experience approximately three to five months of additional learning gains, and 70 percent of Citizen Schools' students report learning about the college admissions process, compared to only 38 percent of students who do not participate in Citizen Schools programming.



Founded in 1988, City Year's goal is to dramatically increase the urban graduation pipeline. Now operating in 25 cities across the United States, City Year places more than 2,800 AmeriCorps members in 250 high-need schools to address the national dropout crisis. City Year AmeriCorps members provide targeted interventions in the areas of attendance, behavior, and course performance in English and math to ensure students have the support they need to achieve their full potential. To date, more than 22,000 AmeriCorps members have served with City Year. Ninety-eight percent of principals at City Year partner schools report that City Year AmeriCorps members helped to improve school culture and climate, and students at City Year partner schools regain more than 14,000 hours of instructional time annually as a result of attendance programs. City Year has a long-term impact strategy that, once realized, would enable more than 12,000 AmeriCorps members to serve in 38 cities reaching more than 700,000 students at greatest risk of dropping out. Sixty-two percent of City Year AmeriCorps members identify as people of color, and 42 percent of City Year AmeriCorps members are eligible for federal Pell grants to pay for college.







College Possible was founded in Minnesota with the goal of expanding college opportunity and access for low-income students. AmeriCorps members who serve with College Possible provide an intensive curriculum of coaching and support to low-income students as they navigate the college admissions process and beyond. Today, 168 College Possible AmeriCorps members serve nearly 19,000 students across five states, and students who participate in College Possible programming are two times more likely to enroll in a four-year college and five times more likely to graduate. Nearly 900 AmeriCorps members have served with College Possible since the program launched in 1999.



In 1995, the National Association of Community Health Centers recognized the role national service could play in expanding access to health care in America and launched Community HealthCorps. Community HealthCorps is now the largest health-focused, national AmeriCorps program that promotes health care in underserved communities across the United States, while developing tomorrow's health care workforce. Today, 535 AmeriCorps members serve in 16 states and Washington, DC with Community HealthCorps. These AmeriCorps members enroll more than 89,000 individuals in health services, health insurance, and other health benefit programs annually and provide access to preventive and primary health care services for nearly 129,000 economically-disadvantaged or rural residents. Since 1995, nearly 7,000 AmeriCorps members have served with Community HealthCorps.



The Corps Network provides critical leadership to the national service movement and to the nation's service and conservation corps programs. The Corps Network consists of more than 100 member organizations that operate in all 50 states and Washington, DC. Each year, these programs collectively enroll approximately 26,000 AmeriCorps members and other volunteers to participate in conservation service projects. One initiative of the Corps Network is the Veteran's Fire Corps, which is a partnership between the California Conservation Corps, the Southwest Conservation Corps, and the Student Conservation Association. The Veteran's Fire Corps engages nearly 300 veterans as AmeriCorps members to clear more than 3,000 acres of land, construct more than 3,400 acres of fire break, and create more than 2,700 slash piles annually.





Jumpstart helps to break the cycle of poverty by giving preschool-age children in low-income communities the "jumpstart" they need to enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. Jumpstart trains college students and community volunteers to serve as AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps Foster Grandparents who deliver an evidence-based, developmentally-appropriate program to young children in a preschool setting, focusing on language, literacy, and social-emotional skills. Last year, Jumpstart children averaged developmental gains of almost 30 percent as measured by the Jumpstart School Success Checklist. After concluding a year of service, 85 percent of Jumpstart AmeriCorps members indicate an intention to work in education, public service, or obtain a graduate degree in education or human services. This year, more than 3,500 Jumpstart AmeriCorps members will engage roughly 8,700 children in the Jumpstart program. Since 1994, 36,000 AmeriCorps members and other volunteers have served with Jumpstart.



Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) provides opportunities for AmeriCorps members to transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy communities through placements with nonprofit partner organizations. LISC AmeriCorps members build and strengthen sustainable communities by engaging neighborhood residents in community revitalization efforts and by providing financial counseling, employment and skills training, job placement services, and first-time home buyer counseling services. Since 1994, LISC has placed more than 2,400 full-time and part-time AmeriCorps members in more than 36 cities across the country. To date, LISC AmeriCorps members have helped to develop more than 8,300 affordable housing units, provided home ownership counseling to nearly 45,000 individuals, provided afterschool and other programs to more than 41,000 young people, helped to form more than 1,750 neighborhood groups and associations, and recruited nearly 95,000 volunteers who have contributed more than 518,000 hours of community service. This year, 160 AmeriCorps members will serve with LISC, and 110 of these members will serve in full-time AmeriCorps positions.



Public Allies uses integrated strategies to develop a new generation of values-based, results-driven leaders that are reflective of the communities they serve. Through AmeriCorps, Public Allies engages young adults from diverse backgrounds, and prepares them for leadership through service and rigorous training. Through their service, Public Allies AmeriCorps members enhance the capacity of nonprofits to serve more people in need with fewer resources. Since 1992, approximately 5,600 individuals have graduated from the Public Allies program in more than 23 communities nationwide. More than 87 percent of alumni continue to serve in nonprofit and public service careers. This year, 583 AmeriCorps members will serve with Public Allies. Approximately 77 percent of Public Allies AmeriCorps members identify as people of color, 67 percent are women, and 22 percent identify as members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) community. Of the 50 percent of Public Allies AmeriCorps members who have attained a college degree, 45 percent are first-generation college graduates.





Student Conservation Association builds the next generation of conservation leaders and inspires lifelong stewardship of the environment by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. Each year, thousands of young people serve with Student Conservation Association, working in parks, public lands, and urban green spaces to make improvements and to learn conservation and sustainability practices. These AmeriCorps members learn to plan, enact, and lead, all while making a tangible impact in conservation. In 2013, members serving with Student Conservation Association maintained more than 1,800 miles of trail, mapped or inventoried more than 884,000 acres of land, monitored more than one million fish and animals, and engaged more than one million individuals in service.



Teach For America places more than 11,000 AmeriCorps members to teach in high-need schools in urban and rural areas in 36 states and Washington, DC. These AmeriCorps members reach more than 750,000 of the nation's highest-need students each year. According to the most recent and rigorous independent studies on teacher effectiveness, Teach For America has seen academic gains equal to or larger than teachers from other preparation programs. Students of Teach For America teachers scored higher—roughly 2.6 months of additional learning—than peers taught by non-Teach For America teachers. Fifty percent of this year's incoming Teach For America teachers identify as people of color, compared to only 20 percent of teachers nationwide. Forty-seven percent of the 2014 corps received federal Pell grants while in college and one-third were the first in their family to attend college; 33 percent hold graduate degrees or have professional experience in another field; and 100 Teach For America teachers are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Since the launch of AmeriCorps, more than 44,000 AmeriCorps members have served with Teach For America.



YouthBuild USA offers 3,000 low-income AmeriCorps members in 80 urban and rural communities the opportunity to build affordable housing for homeless and low-income people in their own neighborhoods while learning construction skills and spending half their time working toward their own high school diploma or GED, honing leadership skills, and inspiring neighbors and community members. At the end of their service terms, YouthBuild USA AmeriCorps members are prepared for college and jobs in construction, and have earned an education award, helping to break the cycle of poverty. YouthBuild USA AmeriCorps members have built or refurbished more than 5,000 units of housing for low-income or homeless individuals, and 64 percent of YouthBuild USA AmeriCorps members who enroll in academic programming earn a GED, a high school diploma, or improve at least two grade levels. Since 1994, more than 26,000 YouthBuild USA AmeriCorps members have served more than 11.8 million hours. Seventy-three percent of YouthBuild AmeriCorps members are young men, and 78 percent identify as young people of color.







## AMERICORPS EXPANDS SERVICES

**AND FUELS THE IMPACT OF LOCAL NONPROFITS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY**



The Ohio Association of Foodbanks sponsored its first AmeriCorps VISTA program in 2006 with just nine AmeriCorps VISTA members. Since then, the program has grown to one of the nation's largest state-based AmeriCorps VISTA programs, supporting, at its peak, 80 full-term AmeriCorps VISTA members and 200 Summer Associates. AmeriCorps VISTA members were the backbone of the implementation of the Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB) from 2006 through 2012. AmeriCorps VISTA members trained more than 10,000 OBB counselors who have assisted Ohio residents in need with accessing critical work supports, benefits, health coverage, and free tax assistance. Collectively, OBB counselors have returned more than \$500 million to low-income communities in Ohio. Additionally, AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with the Ohio Association of Foodbanks have raised more than \$2.6 million in grants, cash, and in-kind donations, and have recruited and coordinated more than 31,000 community volunteers.



In 2009, the Washington Commission for National and Community Service, now known as Serve Washington, partnered with the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs to launch the first Vet Corps program in the nation. Washington Vet Corps is based on the belief that connected veterans are more likely to complete college by accessing state, federal and local resources. Through peer-to-peer mentoring, Washington Vet Corps connects veterans to veterans, matching those who have already navigated portions of the system with fellow veterans as they transition to civilian life. Each year, 50 AmeriCorps members, who are themselves veterans or military family members, serve with Washington Vet Corps to provide services to more than 12,000 veterans and military family members at more than 45 colleges and other facilities. Seventy-three percent of participants report that Washington Vet Corps helped them to better understand how to utilize Veterans Affairs benefits.



A collaboration between AmeriCorps, the Texas Department of Agriculture, PepsiCo, and local apartment communities, Food on the Move is a Texas-based mobile feeding program that combats childhood hunger by providing half a million meals to children living at low-income apartment sites. Through this program, meals are delivered daily to more than 15,000 children who are not enrolled or involved in any organized summer program. During the summer months, Food on the Move operates thirty mobile teams across Dallas, Houston and Austin, with each team rotating among seven sites daily. Meeting the truck at each site is a team of AmeriCorps members, who assist with food distribution and engage the children in at least 60 minutes of organized recreational activity based on the PlayWorks AmeriCorps program model. Nearly 100 AmeriCorps members serve with Food on the Move each summer, and many return to serve for multiple summers.





Bay Area Community Resources places 117 AmeriCorps members at 27 San Francisco Bay Area community-based agencies annually. The program connects AmeriCorps members to nonprofit organizations with long-standing capacity to meet community needs, and the AmeriCorps members provide youth development services to more than 3,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade annually. AmeriCorps members serving with Bay Area Community Resources demonstrate positive impact on student academic engagement, and engage 350 community volunteers in service opportunities each year.



The Greater Chicago Food Depository is a nonprofit food distribution and training center that strives to end hunger in the Chicago community. At the Greater Chicago Food Depository, 12 AmeriCorps members connect local residents to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, and provide health and nutrition education. In November 2013, led by two AmeriCorps members who are themselves veterans, the Greater Chicago Food Depository collaborated with Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center and AmeriCorps to open a food pantry to serve veterans in need. AmeriCorps members serving with Greater Chicago Food Depository now coordinate food pantries for veterans at Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Hines Veterans Affairs Hospital. Between November 2013 and June 2014, more than 115,000 pounds of food was distributed to serve more than 4,900 households in the Chicago area.



The Green Iowa AmeriCorps program engages AmeriCorps members in full-time service opportunities to provide home energy audits and weatherization services to underserved communities in urban and rural areas. Through the program, 25 AmeriCorps members help to fill gaps in services by serving individuals and families who may not qualify for other utility company energy efficiency programs. The AmeriCorps members who serve with the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program also provide conservation and energy efficiency education, and train community volunteers on weatherization and other environmentally sustainable techniques. Each year, these AmeriCorps members engage more than 1,650 volunteers, conduct more than 700 energy audits, and weatherize more than 400 homes, resulting in more than \$1.2 million in long-term energy savings.



The Child Abuse Prevention Center has been an AmeriCorps program since the inception of AmeriCorps. Over the past 20 years, the Child Abuse Prevention Center has engaged AmeriCorps members to provide services to parents, children, and youth to prevent child abuse and neglect and to strengthen families in some of the most vulnerable communities across California. Since the program's inception, Child Abuse Prevention Center AmeriCorps members have provided parenting education and support to more than 75,000 at-risk parents, mentored 4,300 foster youth, and directly served more than 17,000 children. This year, 300 Child Abuse Prevention Center AmeriCorps members will continue to deliver these services, expanding and enhancing the impact of more than 60 nonprofit and public sector partner agencies in California.



Minnesota Reading Corps provides much-needed literacy support to Minnesota's youngest students. Now the largest state-based AmeriCorps program in the nation, Minnesota Reading Corps places more than 1,000 AmeriCorps members across nearly 650 preschools and elementary schools to serve as literacy tutors to more than 31,000 struggling readers annually. Students who participate in the program outperform their peers in kindergarten readiness and third grade literacy skills. Research by the Center for Learning Solutions also demonstrates that Minnesota Reading Corps participants are three times less likely to be identified for special education services than non-participants, which can result in a significant cost-savings for school districts. The success of the program and service delivery model has led to its replication in other parts of the country.



1993



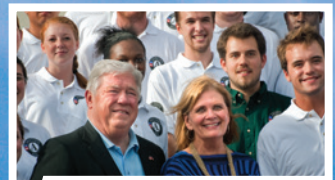
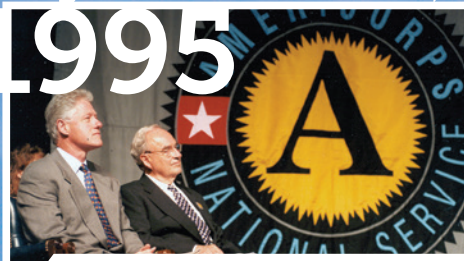
1997



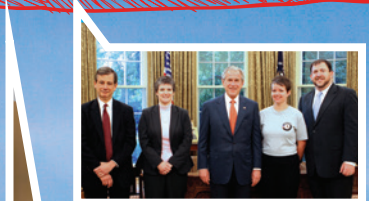
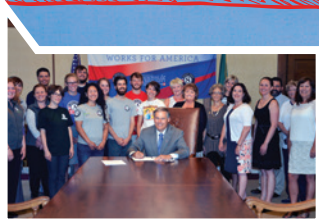
2003



1995



2005



2001







2014...



2007



2012



2009




 1993

## **President Bill Clinton creates AmeriCorps to expand opportunities for Americans to serve the nation and their communities.**

President Bill Clinton signs into law the National and Community Service Trust Act, which creates the Corporation for National and Community Service, a new federal agency seeking to expand service opportunities to Americans of all ages and backgrounds. The new agency combines the White House Office of National Service and the Commission on National and Community Service, which was launched by President George H.W. Bush. In addition to administering the AmeriCorps program, the Corporation for National and Community Service is tasked with overseeing existing domestic service programs, including Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companions. The National and Community Service Trust Act also calls for the creation of governor-appointed state service commissions that oversee state-based grant programs, and establishes a funding framework that ensures national service is a public-private partnership supported by the federal government, private, philanthropic, and local sources. Acknowledging the actions of previous presidents to expand opportunities for Americans to serve, President Bill Clinton uses the pens of Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy to sign the bill into law.



## **President Bill Clinton appoints Eli Segal as the first CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Shirley Sagawa as Managing Director, and Catherine Milton as Vice President for National and Community Service Programs.**

As the first CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Segal successfully launches AmeriCorps and manages the creation of a new federal agency that is now the largest grant-maker for service and volunteering. After leaving the Corporation for National and Community Service, Segal serves on the boards of several organizations and helps to build the AmeriCorps alumni movement. The AmeriCorps Education Award is later renamed in Segal's memory. Sagawa was a key architect of the AmeriCorps legislation while working as the Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and as First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's Policy Advisor. Milton previously served as Executive Director of the Commission on National and Community Service and was a leader in the development of AmeriCorps.



## "I HOPE, BELIEVE, AND DREAM

that national service will remain throughout the life of America not a series of promises but a series of challenges across all the generations and all walks of life to help us to rebuild our troubled but wonderful land. I hope that someday the success of this program will make it possible for every young American who wishes to serve and earn credit against a college education or other kinds of education and training, to do that. And I believe it will happen."

– **President Bill Clinton**













1994

**Governor-appointed state service commissions are established to administer AmeriCorps funding at the state level.**

AmeriCorps is a partnership of the federal and state governments, along with the private sector. Governors play a key role in determining the ways in which national service resources are used in states. Today, 53 governor-appointed state service commissions determine social needs in their state or territory, set policy and program priorities, and competitively award nearly two-thirds of all AmeriCorps grant funding.



**AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps campuses open in California, Colorado, Maryland, and South Carolina.**

Drawing on the successful models of both President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the United States military, AmeriCorps NCCC focuses on the belief that civic responsibility is an inherent duty of all citizens and that national service programs can work effectively with local communities to address pressing social challenges. Today, AmeriCorps NCCC members serve in teams across five residential campuses in California, Colorado, Iowa, Maryland, and Mississippi. Since 2000, AmeriCorps NCCC members have assisted nearly eight million people in disaster areas, recruited or coordinated more than 650,000 volunteers, constructed or restored more than 8,700 miles of trail, and removed more than 21,500 tons of debris.





**SEPTEMBER 12**

The first class of AmeriCorps members is sworn-in by President Clinton at the White House.

The first class of AmeriCorps members consists of 20,000 talented and dedicated young people who commit a year of their lives to service in communities across the country. They serve with organizations including City Year, Public Allies, Teach For America, and YouthBuild in 1,000 communities nationwide.

**"SERVICE IS A SPARK TO REKINDLE THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY**

in an age of uncertainty. When it is all said and done, it comes down to three simple questions: What is right? What is wrong? And what are we going to do about it? Today you are doing what is right – turning your words into deeds."

**– President Bill Clinton**





1995



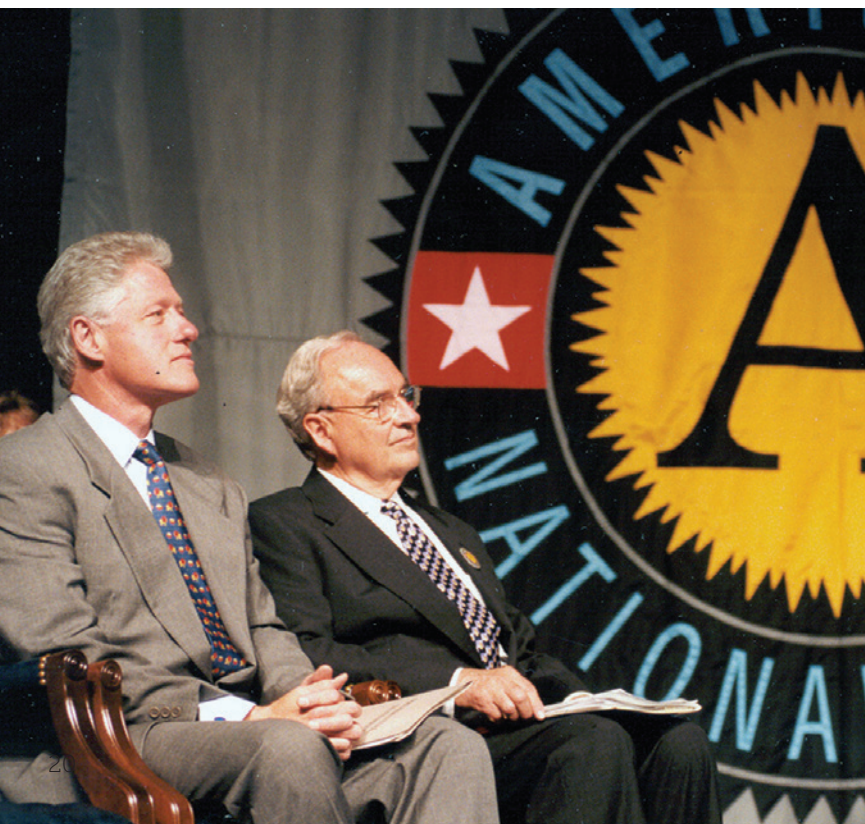
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is recognized as a National Day of Service in communities across the country.**

Championed by U.S. Senator Harris Wofford (D-PA) and U.S. Representative John Lewis (D-GA), Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed as a National Day of Service to honor the work and memory of Dr. King. To this day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day remains a unique opportunity for Americans to engage in service to their communities. In 2014, citizens in all 50 states delivered meals, refurbished schools and community centers, and collected food and clothing for individuals, families, and communities in need.



**The National AmeriCorps Association is founded by a small group of dedicated AmeriCorps alumni.**

Later renamed AmeriCorps Alums, the alumni association is designed to provide networking opportunities for individuals who served through AmeriCorps. Since 2005, AmeriCorps Alums has been an enterprise of Points of Light. The organization's mission is to connect the nearly one million alumni of all AmeriCorps programs to the people, ideas, and resources that support their commitment to a lifetime of service.



**Former U.S. Senator Harris Wofford (D-PA) is appointed as CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service.**

A longtime champion for national service, Senator Wofford was influential in the creation of the Peace Corps during the Kennedy Administration, and was appointed Associate Director of the Peace Corps in 1964. He later represented Pennsylvania in the U.S. Senate, and, upon his departure from the Senate, President Bill Clinton appoints Senator Wofford as CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. During his tenure, Senator Wofford provides strong leadership to expand opportunities to serve, build bipartisan support for service, forge new partnerships with the nonprofit sector, and strengthen the Corporation for National and Community Service's operations. Today, Senator Wofford remains an unwavering proponent of the unique benefits of national service to both citizens and the country.



# 1996

Bipartisan governors recognize the unique benefits of national service and the impact of national service programs in their states.

Just two years after the creation of AmeriCorps, governors from across the nation and from both sides of the political aisle sing the program's praises.



"AmeriCorps is a great success."

– New Hampshire Governor Steve Merrill

"AmeriCorps captures the promise found in all citizens."

– Michigan Governor John Engler



"AmeriCorps is one of the most intelligent uses of taxpayer money ever."

– Massachusetts Governor William Weld

"AmeriCorps works. It is cost-effective, and achieves results all Americans want – safer streets, better schools and healthier children. At the same time, by teaching young people to serve their country, AmeriCorps is rekindling a sense of patriotism and civic duty that our country sorely needs."

– Montana Governor Marc Racicot





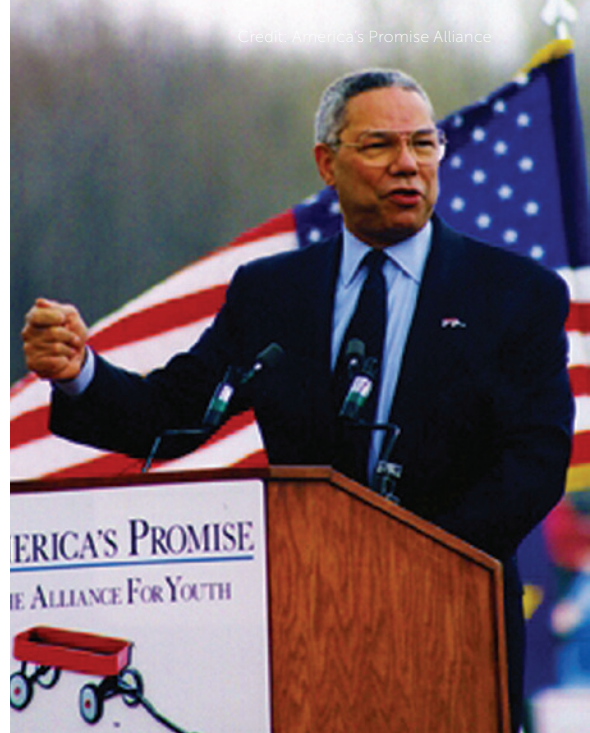


1997

## General Colin Powell chairs the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

In Philadelphia, the Presidents' Summit for America's Future brings together President Bill Clinton, former Presidents George H. W. Bush, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter, and Mrs. Nancy Reagan to discuss the needs of America's children and youth. Nearly 30 governors, 100 mayors, 145 community delegations, and prominent business leaders attend the Summit organized by Points of Light, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and United Way of America. The Summit sparks many new commitments, including the targeted expansion of AmeriCorps efforts focused on children and youth. The Summit also leads to the creation of the America's Promise Alliance, which now encompasses more than 400 partner organizations representing businesses, nonprofits, communities and policymakers committed to leveraging national service to address the needs of the nation's youth.

Credit: America's Promise Alliance



Credit: America's Promise Alliance



## State service commissions and commission staff from across the country unite to form the Association of State Service Commissions.

Now known as America's Service Commissions (ASC), the membership organization represents state service commissions, national service, and volunteer programs throughout the country. America's Service Commissions advocates for the field through national representation, peer-to-peer support, and public policy initiatives.

2000

## Bipartisan support for national service grows as governors urge Congress to expand service opportunities.

Forty-nine out of 50 governors, 29 of whom are Republicans, sign a letter to Congress, expressing their support for AmeriCorps. One of the signers of the letter is then-Texas Governor George W. Bush.



2001

JANUARY 20

Credit: U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald

## "CITIZENS, NOT SPECTATORS"

– President George W. Bush

In his first inaugural address, President George W. Bush calls for a nation of "citizens, not spectators."

At the traditional meeting between incoming and outgoing presidents on Inauguration Day in 1993, President George H.W. Bush, the first president to establish an Office of National Service in the White House, asked President Bill Clinton to support Points of Light, and President Clinton agreed. In 2001, President Clinton continues this legacy and asks President George W. Bush to support AmeriCorps, and President Bush agrees. President Bush uses his inaugural address to encourage Americans to build communities of service, and later launches the USA Freedom Corps and a faith-based and community initiative to expand support for grassroots organizations meeting local needs. The Corporation for National and Community Service continues to support many faith-based service organizations, including Notre Dame Mission Volunteers, which has engaged AmeriCorps members to help 90,000 individuals learn to read, finish high school, and develop necessary life skills over the past nine years.





## SEPTEMBER 11

Terrorist attacks cause a surge in patriotism and volunteer service among Americans.

After the events of September 11th, Americans come together to support one another and rebuild a nation stronger than ever before. U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) writes a piece in *Washington Monthly* that outlines the case for expanding service opportunities through AmeriCorps to meet the desire of Americans to serve.

"There should be more focus on meeting national goals and on making short-term service, both civilian and military, a rite of passage for young Americans."

– U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ)

### U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Evan Bayh (D-IN) introduce the bipartisan Call to Service Act of 2001.

The Call to Service Act would expand opportunities for Americans to serve through national service programs and the U.S. military. The bill would expand AmeriCorps to five times its current size, and dedicate half of all AmeriCorps positions to projects focused on homeland security. Demonstrating the bipartisan support for national service in both chambers of Congress, U.S. Representatives Harold Ford (D-TN) and Tom Osborne (R-NE) are co-sponsors of the legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

# 2002



### President George W. Bush announces launch of USA Freedom Corps in State of the Union Address

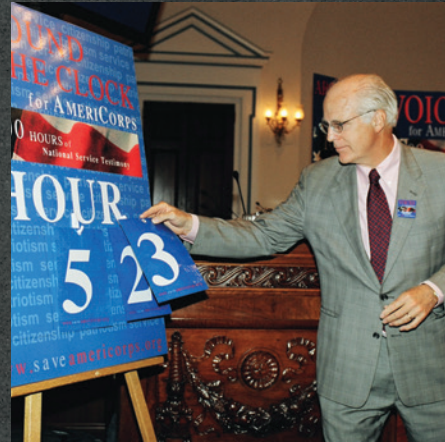
President George W. Bush asks all Americans to devote two years or 4,000 hours to volunteer service during their lifetimes. As part of this call to service, he creates USA Freedom Corps, a program that expands service opportunities in the United States and abroad. President Bush proposes to expand AmeriCorps and Senior Corps by more than 200,000 positions through this new initiative, and appoints John Bridgeland as the first Director of USA Freedom Corps.



# 2003

National service community launches a coalition to fight proposed budget cuts to AmeriCorps.

The Save AmeriCorps Coalition brings together leaders of AmeriCorps organizations, champions of national service, government officials, academics and corporate leaders in the wake of devastating budget cuts to national service. Less than two months after the coalition is created, 44 governors, 147 mayors, 250 business leaders, and 50,000 citizens sign letters to the nation's leaders calling for continued funding for AmeriCorps. This powerful showing of support, along with Voices for AmeriCorps: 100 Hours of National Service Testimony, a five-day event in Washington, DC, highlighting the role of national service across the country, contribute to the passage of the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act. The coalition is later renamed Voices for National Service to reflect an expanded mission in support of all streams of service.



"I give them enormous credit, for elevating the issue and mobilizing around the issue.... They [are] incredibly effective."

– Congressional staffer on Voices for National Service

# 2004

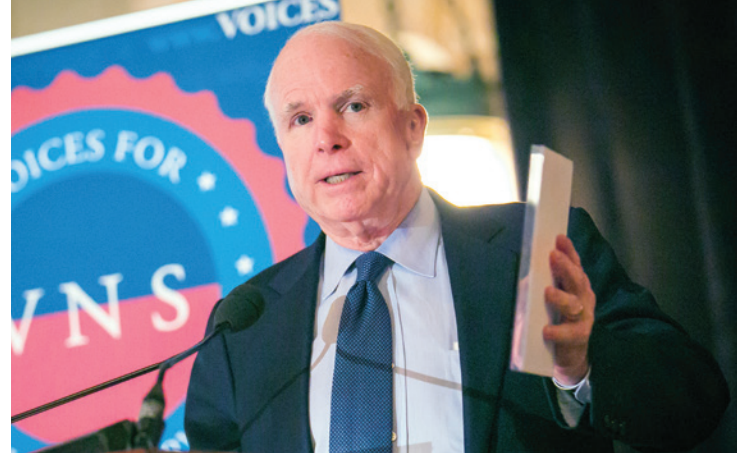
With strong support from Congress and President George W. Bush, AmeriCorps funding increases and expands available service positions by 50 percent.

The 2004 appropriations bill includes funding for AmeriCorps at the highest level since the program's inception in 1993.

Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service







Credits: Elliot Haney for Voices for National Service

2004

## Voices for National Service honors national service champions at first annual Friends of National Service Awards Reception.

The Friends of National Service Awards Reception celebrates the work of leaders from across the country in expanding opportunities for Americans to serve. Now an annual event that attracts hundreds of members of the national service community and recognizes prominent national service supporters, Friends of National Service honorees include President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, General and Mrs. Colin Powell, then-U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ), U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), U.S. Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Chelsea Clinton, and many others.

## The National Service Congressional Caucus is established in the U.S. House of Representatives.

U.S. Representatives Christopher Shays (R-CT), David Price (D-NC), Tom Osborne (R-NE) and Harold Ford (D-TN) lead the charge to create the National Service Congressional Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. The National Service Congressional Caucus is a bipartisan group of legislators dedicated to raising awareness of national service and expanding service opportunities for all Americans. Caucus membership now includes 74 U.S. Representatives, and Caucus chairs have included U.S. Representatives Vernon Ehlers (R-MI), Todd Platts (R-PA), and Doris Matsui (D-CA).

2005



Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service

## AmeriCorps VISTA marks 40 years of fighting poverty in the United States.

Since 1965, more than 200,000 VISTA members have used a hands-on, grassroots approach to create and expand programs that help low-income individuals and communities break the cycle of poverty. Several members of Congress, including U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and U.S. Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI), have served as VISTA members. A 40-year longitudinal study demonstrates that VISTA alumni are more likely to be employed and earn higher wages than non-VISTA members. Incorporated into AmeriCorps in 1993, the AmeriCorps VISTA program continues today with more than 8,000 members building the capacity of organizations fighting poverty annually.



## "WHEN I LOOK BACK

on VISTA beginnings, I see my own roots – the foundation on which I have built the rest of my life. Everything that I have done in my career in public office has been grounded in the VISTA experience and in those kids and families who taught me so much about life."

– **U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller**  
(D-WV)





Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service

## National service members contribute 9.6 million hours of relief and recovery services after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

In late summer, three major hurricanes devastate the Gulf Coast of the United States, destroying homes, separating families, and leveling communities in their wake. After the storms, more than 110,000 national service participants contribute more than 9.6 million hours of service to the relief, recovery, and rebuilding effort. These committed individuals coordinate an additional 648,000 community volunteers, representing a significant share of the overall volunteer force that is mobilized in the area. Collectively, they assist three million people, complete nearly 55,000 damage assessments, refurbish more than 10,500 homes, construct 2,000 new homes, serve 1.6 million meals to residents and recovery workers, and distribute more than 6,000 tons of food. In response to Hurricane Katrina, U.S. Representative Harold Ford, Jr. (D-TN) introduces legislation to expand AmeriCorps by 10,000 members.

## Habitat For Humanity

Within weeks after Hurricane Katrina, Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps members and volunteers help to build houses and rebuild lives in the affected area. Habitat for Humanity's Operation Home Delivery helps low-income, hurricane-affected families in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Alabama achieve simple, decent, and affordable housing. More than 2,700 Habitat for Humanity homes are built as a part of the hurricane recovery. Tens of thousands of volunteers pitch in to the effort, including an estimated 150,000 volunteers who help with rebuilding efforts in New Orleans alone. Since the launch of AmeriCorps, 8,000 AmeriCorps members have served with Habitat for Humanity, mobilizing more than 3.1 million community volunteers, and serving more than 20,000 families in need.



Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service

## AmeriCorps NCCC

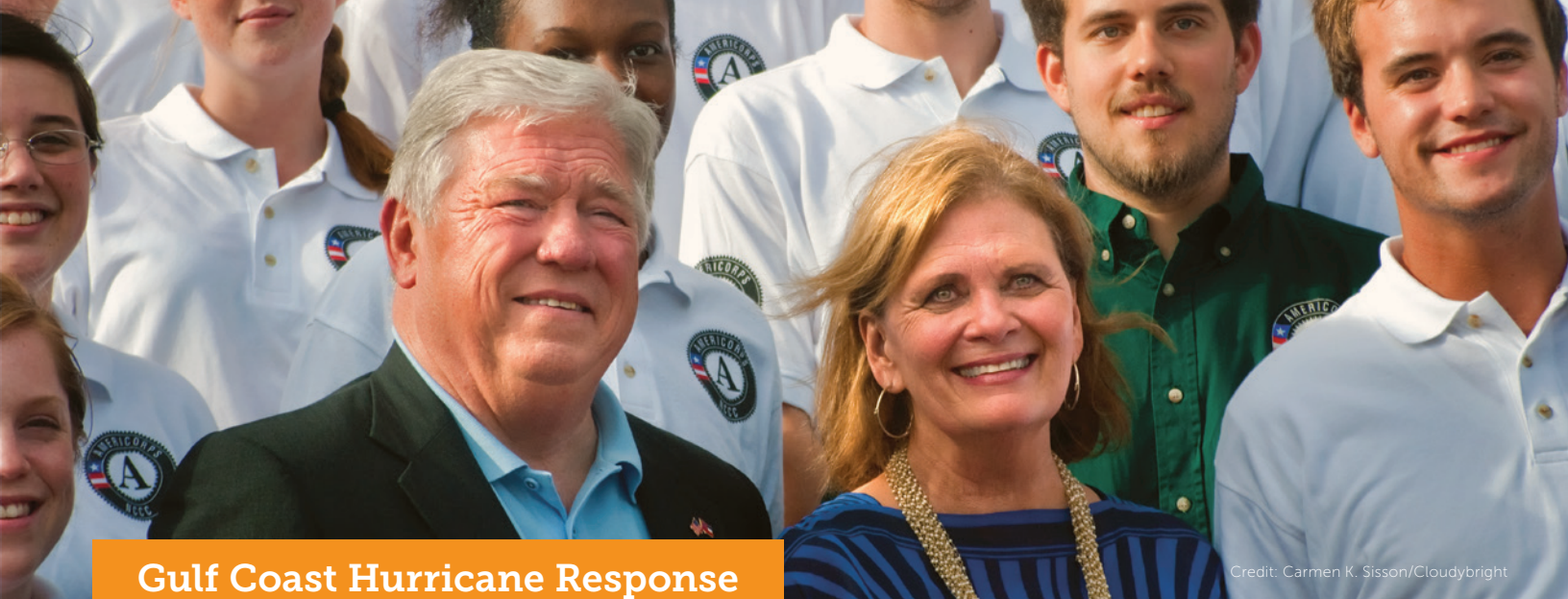
All but eight of the 27,000 homes in St. Bernard Parish are damaged or destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. Faced with a tremendous recovery effort, AmeriCorps NCCC members step forward to manage the volunteers needed to rebuild the local community. AmeriCorps NCCC members mobilize and organize thousands of volunteers to clear out and rebuild 1,200 homes in St. Bernard Parish.



"The Parish would not have been able to accomplish this task but for the efforts of these personnel. They have been a force multiplier."

– Lieutenant Colonel David Dysart,  
Director of Recovery for St. Barnard Parish





## Gulf Coast Hurricane Response

Credit: Carmen K. Sisson/Cloudybright

"Much of the work in the wake of Hurricane Katrina...fell on the shoulders of volunteers and AmeriCorps members. These volunteers have helped rebuild a stronger and better Mississippi. I'm proud and honored to be a friend and proponent of national service."

– Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour

**110,000** NATIONAL SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

HOMES REFURBISHED:

**10,500**

**9.6** MILLION HOURS OF SERVICE

NEW HOMES CONSTRUCTED: **2,000**

**3** MILLION PEOPLE ASSISTED

**1.6** million meals served to residents and recovery workers





# 2006

Young Americans seek service positions with AmeriCorps and Peace Corps in record numbers.

**USA TODAY** features a front page story on the growing interest in AmeriCorps positions. According to the article, "college graduates, shaped by such events as September 11th, Hurricane Katrina, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, are applying to service organizations such as AmeriCorps and Peace Corps in record numbers."



# 2007



The Corporation for National and Community Service celebrates the first annual AmeriCorps Week to thank AmeriCorps members and alumni for their service.

To commemorate the first AmeriCorps Week and recognize the program for enrolling its 500,000th AmeriCorps member, President George W. Bush invites AmeriCorps members to the Oval Office. At the event, President Bush says, "I am grateful for all those involved with AmeriCorps for your dedication to a cause greater than self. Your compassionate efforts demonstrate the great character of our country and inspire others to build a more hopeful society." The following year, the U.S. House of Representatives passes a resolution with 344 affirmative votes, formally designating AmeriCorps Week.



Longitudinal study documents lasting impact of national service on both the communities served and the individuals who step forward to serve.

## "AMERICORPS: CHANGING LIVES, CHANGING AMERICA"

presents the results of a longitudinal study of AmeriCorps members and the organizations with which they serve. Findings reveal that AmeriCorps alumni are more connected to their communities, continue to participate in community activities, and choose public service careers after their term of service with AmeriCorps.



90% of AmeriCorps members report that they gained useful skills from their AmeriCorps experience.



91% of AmeriCorps alumni report that since completing their service term, they have used the skills they gained during their AmeriCorps experience.



72% of AmeriCorps alumni report continuing to volunteer after completing their service term.

66% of AmeriCorps alumni report going into a public service career, with 35 percent working in the public sector and 31 percent working in the nonprofit sector.



84% of host organizations report that AmeriCorps members helped to leverage additional volunteers in the community.



88% of host organizations report that AmeriCorps members contributed to the organization's ability to develop additional partnerships with other organizations.



# 2007

## The U.S. House of Representatives passes the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax (HEART) Act of 2007.

The HEART Act contains a provision, championed by U.S. Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA), which expands opportunities for individuals with disabilities interested in serving with AmeriCorps. The provision ensures that serving as an AmeriCorps member will not interfere with an individual's ability to receive certain disability benefits. President George W. Bush signs the bill into law in June 2008.

## TIME magazine launches an annual national service issue under the leadership of then-Managing Editor Richard Stengel.



# 2008



## National Service Congressional Caucus is launched in U.S. Senate.

A counterpart to the National Service Congressional Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Christopher Dodd (D-CT) launch the caucus in the U.S. Senate. Today, 19 U.S. Senators are members of the National Service Congressional Caucus, which is chaired by U.S. Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD).





Credit: Ezra Millstein for Habitat for Humanity International

## AmeriCorps members provide relief and recovery services after record-breaking flooding in Iowa.

More than 5,000 homes and 1,000 commercial properties are damaged as a result of severe flooding in the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City area. Working in coordination with Volunteer Iowa and local nonprofits, the Corporation for National and Community Service mobilizes hundreds of AmeriCorps members to assist in response and recovery efforts by assessing damage, mucking out homes, connecting flood victims with resources, and supporting the volunteer reception center that coordinates more than 7,400 volunteers who collectively provide 205,000 hours of service.

## "I HAVE LONG BEEN A BELIEVER

that our community volunteers, charitable nonprofits, and faith-based institutions are often best equipped to provide long-term solutions to the challenges we face. Promoting service is an issue that Republicans and Democrats should both wholeheartedly embrace, especially during times of austere budgets... Through national service, essential public services can be provided more efficiently and effectively. To me, service is a 'no brainer'."

—Iowa Governor Terry Branstad



"That spring and summer, Iowa had been hit by relentless downpours, floods of biblical proportions, and disastrous tornadoes. To have that influx of AmeriCorps NCCC members, at that time of dire need, was truly a godsend."

—U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)





2008

Credit: John Gillyooly/PEI for City Year, Inc.



Credit: John Gillyooly/PEI for Be the Change, Inc.

## Presidential Candidates John McCain and Barack Obama participate in nationally-televised forum on national service.

On September 11, 2008, U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Barack Obama (D-IL) take a day off from partisan politics to visit Ground Zero in New York City. Later that day, they join each other again at a forum on national service where both candidates are interviewed by co-hosts Richard Stengel of *TIME* magazine and Judy Woodruff of PBS. Both candidates express strong support for expanding service opportunities in America. The forum is part of a two-day ServiceNation summit co-convened by City Year, Civic Enterprises, Points of Light, and Be the Change that brings together national service champions, elected officials and other national leaders to discuss strategies for dramatically increasing service opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds.

2009

## The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 includes an additional \$200 million in funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The supplemental investment in national service is intended to deploy an additional 15,000 AmeriCorps members to sites across the country.



## Mayors from across the United States unite to form the Cities of Service coalition.

Founded by the 108th Mayor of New York City, Michael R. Bloomberg, and 16 mayors from across the United States, the Cities of Service coalition effectively leverages citizen service as a reliable tool to achieve measurable impact on pressing local challenges. Today, nearly 200 mayors, representing more than 50 million citizens, are committed to working together to engage citizens in addressing critical city needs through impact volunteering.

"Cities around the country are facing enormous challenges, and mayors have an opportunity to make the most of our greatest asset: public-spirited citizens and organizations. This new coalition will encourage mayors to find new ways to tap the power of their citizens, help us identify and share the most effective approaches, and empower us to speak with one voice in Washington." – New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg



President Barack Obama signs into law the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE AMERICA ACT

### JUNE 27, 2007

The House Education and Labor Committee holds a hearing to review the Generations Invigorating Volunteering and Education (GIVE) Act, legislation sponsored by U.S. Representatives Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) and Todd Platts (R-PA) to reauthorize the Corporation for National and Community Service.

### SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Based in part on the model of the GIVE Act, U.S. Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) introduce the Serve America Act to expand service opportunities and impact through AmeriCorps. Reintroduced in January 2009, the bill seeks to expand the AmeriCorps program by 175,000 positions to address specific national challenges. The original cosponsors of the bill include both presidential candidates, U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Barack Obama (D-IL), as well as U.S. Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Thad Cochran (R-MS), and Chris Dodd (D-CT).

### FEBRUARY 24, 2009

In his first State of the Union address, President Barack Obama calls on Congress to pass the Serve America Act. President Obama says, "And to encourage a renewed spirit of national service for this and future generations, I ask this Congress to send me [the Serve America Act,] the bipartisan legislation that bears the name of Senator Orrin Hatch as well as an American who has never stopped asking what he can do for his country, Senator Edward Kennedy."

Both chambers of Congress accelerate their coordinated work on the legislation.

### MARCH 2009

Maintaining a spirit of bipartisanship, the bill is shepherded through the legislative process by U.S. Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), and Mike Enzi (R-WY) and U.S. Representatives George Miller (D-CA), Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), and Todd Platts (R-PA). The bill passes the Senate with 79 affirmative votes, followed by a unanimous approval to rename the legislation after the bill's sponsor, Senator Edward Kennedy.

"Volunteer service is the lifeblood of our nation. It brings out the best in our people and strengthens our communities. That is why the Serve America Act is so important."  
– U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT)

"This bill is not about programs, it's about American values – the spirit of volunteerism and neighbor helping neighbor. By creating opportunities for Americans to participate in their society, this bill will make a major contribution to our country."  
– U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)

### APRIL 21, 2009

During the first 100 days of his presidency, President Barack Obama signs into law the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. The Act focuses service opportunities on addressing national priorities, including education, health, clean energy, veterans and military families, economic opportunity, and natural disasters. The Act also authorizes the largest expansion of national service in generations, setting AmeriCorps on an eight-year growth trajectory from 75,000 members in 2008 to 250,000 members by 2017.

### APRIL 21, 2014

Five years later, AmeriCorps has not kept pace with the vision of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. Despite strides in many areas, fewer than 80,000 AmeriCorps members serve annually, which is significantly fewer than authorized by the Act.

Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service





A photograph of First Lady Michelle Obama, a young man, and a young woman. Michelle Obama is on the left, looking towards the young man in the center. The young man is smiling and looking towards the young woman on the right. They are all wearing yellow shirts. The young man's shirt has a logo that says "LEO" and "AMERICO" with a circular emblem. The young woman's shirt has a logo that says "AVID" and "60".

# "NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

is near and dear to my heart. For those of you who have committed your lives to careers in service...you probably understand that feeling that you get when you help somebody achieve their goals, when you help a group of young people learn more about themselves by working with others, when you hire young diverse people, and you see them grow and develop. There is nothing more fulfilling. It's an opportunity to put your faith into action in a way that regular jobs don't allow; to use your larger talents for the greater good."

– **First Lady Michelle Obama**

## **First Lady Michelle Obama visits the Corporation for National and Community Service.**

First Lady Michelle Obama discusses her personal journey growing up in Chicago, rising to a high-paying legal job, and then shifting her career into public service – a journey that helped to lead her where she is today. The First Lady's experience founding and running the Chicago Public Allies AmeriCorps program had a transformative effect on her life.





Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service



## The first annual September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance is marked by service projects in all 50 states.

Across the country, tens of thousands of volunteers help to paint and refurbish homes, run food drives, spruce up schools, reclaim neighborhoods, and support and honor veterans and first responders. On the first annual September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama join AmeriCorps members and volunteers to paint a Habitat for Humanity home in Washington, DC. Inspired by the work of 9/11 Day, an initiative started by David Paine and Jay Winuk in memory of Glenn Winuk, September 11th was formally designated a National Day of Service and Remembrance under the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.



## Congress increases investment in national service to a record \$1.15 billion.

The federal investment in the Corporation for National and Community Service for fiscal year 2010 includes a 29 percent increase over the previous year to support some of the program expansions and new initiatives included in the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. The increased budget funds 85,000 AmeriCorps members, an increase of 10,000 service positions over the previous year.



# 2010



Credit: ServiceNation

## ServeNext launches grassroots movement to expand national service.

ServeNext places its first class of grassroots organizers on the ground to build support for national service. The organization later merges with ServiceNation. Today, ServiceNation continues to build the movement, engaging more than 140,000 members and a coalition of more than 400 organizations to change American culture and influence politics in support of national service.



# 2011

## America Forward, ServiceNation, and Voices for National Service launch the Save Service in America campaign.

In response to H.R. 1, a federal spending bill that proposes to eliminate AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service, the America Forward, ServiceNation, and Voices for National Service coalitions unite to launch a mobilization initiative in support of national service. The campaign spurs nearly 5,000 visits to congressional offices, 18,000 phone calls to Congress, more than 200 articles published about the proposed budget cuts, and letters of support signed by 1,200 national service program leaders, 430 university presidents, 200 business leaders, 172 mayors, and 12 governors. Through the significant grassroots effort, the national service field defeats the deepest of the proposed cuts to national service and secures significant funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service in 2011. In 2013, U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) joins the effort by launching the "I Serve, Because..." video campaign.



**Make the Call  
September 15!**

**Tell Congress to protect  
funding for service.**

**Call 1-855-US-SERVE  
[www.saveservice.org](http://www.saveservice.org)**

## Deadliest tornados in nearly four decades sweep across Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, and Virginia, and AmeriCorps members step in to provide support and assistance.

National service participants operate volunteer reception centers and staff 211 call centers while approximately 150 AmeriCorps NCCC members assist with debris removal, food distribution, and volunteer coordination. After many devastating natural disasters in recent years, Americans begin to recognize the unique value of national service members in disaster relief and recovery efforts.





## AmeriCorps members help to provide recovery services to tornado-ravaged Joplin, Missouri.

The devastating tornadoes in Joplin, Missouri kill 161 people and destroy more than 7,000 homes and businesses. In the days and months after the disaster, more than 350 AmeriCorps members from seven states are deployed to Joplin, providing 76,000 hours of critical services and coordinating more than 75,000 local volunteers. Joplin city officials report that the city received donated resources and volunteer hours totaling \$17.7 million, the largest amount in Missouri's history. AmeriCorps members are instrumental in coordinating this influx of volunteers and donations. More than 25 AmeriCorps members continue to serve in Joplin for more than a year, assisting with home-building and repair, offering legal services to low-income families, providing support to students in Joplin public schools, and managing volunteers, donations and homeowner requests through the AmeriCorps Recovery Center led by the AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team. On January 31, 2012, the Missouri House of Representatives unanimously adopts a resolution calling the work of the AmeriCorps members "indispensable to the recovery" of Joplin. A bronzed AmeriCorps helmet is now permanently displayed in Cunningham Park in Joplin, honoring the significant contributions of AmeriCorps members to the relief and recovery effort.



Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service

## "NO CITY IN AMERICA IS MORE GRATEFUL FOR AMERICORPS

than Joplin. No city believes more in the group's mission. These young people have been with us since day one, and while their hours can be counted and a dollar value put on their labor, what they have given to and done for Joplin since May 22 is immeasurable...AmeriCorps has done heroic service for Joplin."

– Joplin Globe, March 16, 2012



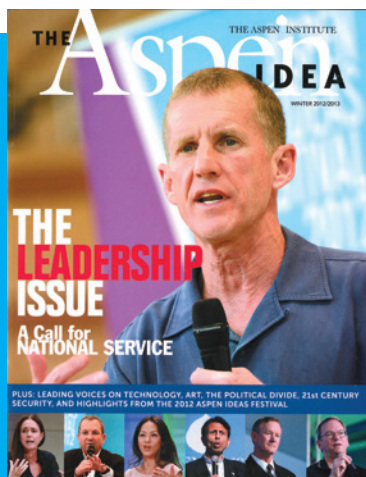


## FEMA Corps launches to strengthen nation's disaster response capacity through national service.

In the first three years of his presidency, President Barack Obama declares a record 229 significant weather events as natural disasters. From hurricanes and tornadoes to floods and wildfires, the increase in extreme weather events places a strain on disaster recovery resources in the nation. Recognizing the unique role national service members play in responding to natural disasters, the Obama Administration launches a new initiative to coordinate AmeriCorps' efforts to respond to disasters with the existing efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA Corps, a partnership between the Corporation for National and Community Service and FEMA, deploys specially-trained AmeriCorps NCCC members to respond to natural disasters. Since the launch of FEMA Corps, 1,600 FEMA Corps members serve each year in affected communities across the country to enhance and expedite recovery efforts. The partnership is projected to save taxpayers \$60 million annually.

## Wendy Spencer is unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and becomes the first CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service to come from the national service field.

As CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Wendy Spencer guides the administration of AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund. With a proven track record of more than 30 years in volunteer management, Spencer served as CEO of the Florida Governor's Commission on Volunteerism under Florida Governors Jeb Bush, Charlie Crist, and Rick Scott. She is a fearless and inspirational leader in the service community, and has made significant strides for service in her time at the Corporation for National and Community Service.



## General Stanley McChrystal champions national service at Aspen Ideas Festival.

The Aspen Ideas Festival gathers some of the most interesting thinkers and leaders from across the nation and abroad to discuss their work, the issues that inspire them, and their ideas. At the 2012 event, General (Ret.) Stanley McChrystal, Former Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan, explains his desire to see a civilian counterpart to military service in the United States. General McChrystal later launches the Franklin Project at the Aspen Institute. Co-chaired by John Bridgeland and Alan Khazei, the Franklin Project seeks to improve citizenship by giving every young person in America the opportunity to do a service year.

Credit: The Aspen Institute/Dan Bayer



When Hurricane Sandy leaves a trail of destruction along the East Coast, FEMA Corps members provide immediate disaster relief and recovery services in coordination with FEMA.

The devastating storm causes 160 deaths and \$65 billion in property damage along the East Coast of the United States. In the year that follows, more than 3,800 national service participants respond, managing shelters, mucking and gutting homes, and coordinating more than 30,000 volunteers to provide critical recovery services. AmeriCorps members deployed to the area work with the American Red Cross to muck out more than 3,000 homes in New York and New Jersey. Among the responders are the first FEMA Corps units trained in disaster response.



"AmeriCorps volunteers lifted the spirits of the people of our state."

– New Jersey Governor Chris Christie

Martin Heinrich is the first AmeriCorps alumnus elected to the U.S. Senate.

After serving two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Martin Heinrich (D-NM) now proudly serves as a U.S. Senator. Reflecting on his service with AmeriCorps, Senator Heinrich says, "I spent the better part of a year doing construction, education, and fieldwork for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and I know firsthand that these programs are essential to improve the lives of those around us." Senator Heinrich now serves on the National Service Congressional Caucus.

"...I know firsthand that these programs are essential to improve the lives of those around us."

– U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich



Credit: Jacob Frank, Utah Conservation Corps

Federal agencies announce National Council to build 21st Century Conservation Corps.

Leaders of eight federal departments and agencies sign an agreement setting up a national council to guide the implementation of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC), a national service effort to engage 100,000 American youth and returning veterans in service protecting, restoring and enhancing America's great outdoors every year. The 21CSC National Council includes the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, as well as the EPA Administrator, Chair of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and Assistant Secretary for the Army. Council members have worked together to develop innovative service opportunities, including the U.S. Forest Service AmeriCorps Partnership, which will engage more than 300 AmeriCorps members and other youth in national service projects to restore the nation's forests and grasslands.





Credit: Claire Duggan for City Year, Inc.



Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service

2013

## U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announces School Turnaround AmeriCorps, a partnership between the U.S. Department of Education and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The School Turnaround AmeriCorps program is designed to enhance and accelerate school improvement efforts in some of the nation's lowest performing schools through national service. School Turnaround AmeriCorps members help to keep students on track to high school graduation by working to increase student academic achievement, attendance, and high school graduation rates, improving college and career readiness, and providing college enrollment assistance and advisement. In the first grant cycle, 13 organizations are selected to place approximately 650 School Turnaround AmeriCorps members in 70 schools across 14 states and Washington, DC. First round recipients of School Turnaround AmeriCorps grants include Austin Independent School District, City Year, Detroit Parent Network, LearningWorks, and Teach For America.



Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service

## The first annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service is held to honor the impact of national service members across the country.

The first annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service unites mayors across the country to highlight the impact of national service and honor those who serve in their communities. Championed by Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, 832 mayors representing all 50 states, Washington, DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico officially recognize the work that AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members are contributing to their communities. In 2014, 1,760 mayors join in the celebration. This initiative is now led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Cities of Service, and the National League of Cities.



Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service

## President Barack Obama launches STEM AmeriCorps at the White House Science Fair.

A growing number of jobs require skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and the United States needs a world-class STEM workforce to address the challenges of the 21st century. In response to this national need, President Obama announces STEM AmeriCorps, a multi-year initiative to place hundreds of AmeriCorps members in nonprofit organizations across the country to inspire young people to excel in STEM education. In 2014, the Corporation for National and Community Service significantly expands the program by supporting 256 AmeriCorps VISTA members in six Southern states to connect 18,000 at-risk students in low-performing schools to STEM opportunities.



## VetSuccess AmeriCorps program is launched to enhance support for returning veterans.

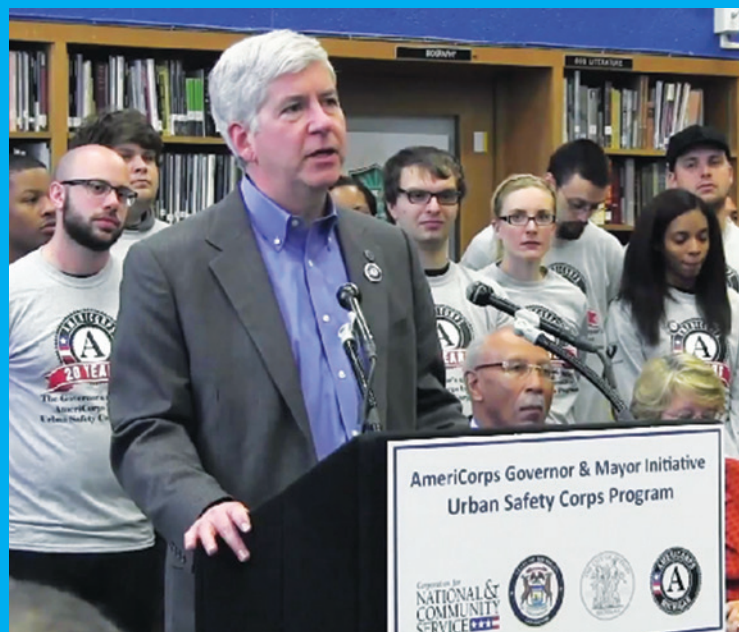
VetSuccess AmeriCorps combines the resources, expertise, and infrastructure of AmeriCorps and the existing VetSuccess on Campus program at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The purpose of the initiative is to expand and strengthen existing supports for returning veterans to increase college completion rates among the veteran population. The partnership places 64 AmeriCorps members across approximately 32 college campuses to support veteran students.



Credit: Corporation for National and Community Service

## The Corporation for National and Community Service launches the Governor and Mayor Initiative, a new grant program to spur public-private partnerships at the state and local level.

As thousands of service leaders gather at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service, the Corporation for National and Community Service announces the Governor and Mayor Initiative. The 2013 AmeriCorps grant competition pilots the new program, providing an opportunity for state and local officials to identify a pressing need in their area and partner with local nonprofits to address that challenge by deploying AmeriCorps members. In the first year of the program, nine states are awarded Governor and Mayor Initiative grants.



### URBAN SAFETY PROGRAM

The Urban Safety Program, one of the first Governor and Mayor Initiative grantees, championed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder and Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, utilizes 36 AmeriCorps members as catalysts to mobilize and recruit community volunteers to improve public safety in targeted Detroit neighborhoods. The program has reduced crime in targeted neighborhoods by 44 percent, decreasing the cost of crime in the city of Detroit by \$62 million.





## President Barack Obama creates the Task Force on Expanding National Service.

President Barack Obama announces the Task Force on Expanding National Service at a White House event honoring the contributions of President George H.W. Bush to the service and volunteering community. Recognizing the value of national service in improving lives and strengthening communities, the Task Force on Expanding National Service is created to develop strategies to expand national service to meet national needs through collaborations with other federal agencies and the private sector. The Task Force is co-chaired by Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the Domestic Policy Council.

The Task Force has helped to launch the following national service initiatives:

## FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY CORPS

Working with Bank of America and Points of Light, the new Financial Opportunity Corps program will bring financial coaching to 10 communities across the nation.

## JUSTICE AMERICORPS

This partnership between the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Department of Justice will enroll approximately 100 lawyers and paralegals as AmeriCorps members to provide legal services to the most vulnerable of the unaccompanied immigrant children crossing the border without a parent or guardian.

## SERVICEWORKS

As part of a three-year project to help 25,000 low-income youth develop the skills needed to prepare for college and career, 225 AmeriCorps members will engage youth ages 16 to 24 in a volunteer response effort in 10 cities. This is a collaboration between AmeriCorps, Points of Light, and the Citi Foundation.

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITY AMERICORPS

The Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention are investing up to \$10 million over three years to create Youth Opportunity AmeriCorps, a new program to enroll disconnected youth in national service programs.

## U.S. FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PARTNERSHIP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Corporation for National and Community Service have joined in a partnership to engage more than 300 AmeriCorps members and other youth in gaining valuable career skills and experience while restoring the nation's forests and grasslands. This initiative is a result of the National Council that was created to implement the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps.

## ASPIRE MENTORING ACADEMY CORPS

AT&T is joining with AmeriCorps and MENTOR to launch a new program to place AmeriCorps members in regions across the country and engage thousands of at-risk youth in mentoring activities.



"Community service is at the core of our country's national character."

– President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton

In an article in the *Chicago Tribune*, President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton track the history of service in the United States, celebrate the impact of AmeriCorps members across the country, and call for the expansion of opportunities for Americans to serve their communities.



Courtesy: William J. Clinton Presidential Library

2014

**The Franklin Project, National Conference on Citizenship, ServiceNation, and Voices for National Service join together to launch the National Service Alliance.**

Comprised of the four partner organizations, the National Service Alliance seeks to make national service a cultural expectation, a common opportunity, and a civic rite of passage for all Americans.



**The U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously passes a resolution endorsing national service as a cost-effective solution to the challenges facing the nation's cities.**

At the 82nd annual meeting of U.S. Conference of Mayors held in Dallas, Texas, 238 mayors from across the country unanimously approve a resolution supporting national service. The resolution endorses national service as a critical and effective solution to community challenges facing mayors across the country, and encourages mayors to partner with the Corporation for National and Community Service to create additional sources of funding for national service.





## AND COUNTING...

In the 20 YEARS since AmeriCorps was created:

More  
than

**900,000 INDIVIDUALS** have taken the AmeriCorps pledge.

More  
than

**1.2 BILLION HOURS OF SERVICE** have been contributed by AmeriCorps members across the country.

**\$2.7 Billion**  
in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards

has been earned to make higher education more accessible and affordable for alumni of AmeriCorps programs.

**MILLIONS  
OF LIVES IMPROVED**

by AmeriCorps members, more recently targeting their efforts toward six focus areas: education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, veterans and military families, economic opportunity, and disaster services.

**ALUMNI**

are doing outstanding work and making valuable contributions after their term of service.

"[Serving as an AmeriCorps member,] I realized that I loved teaching. Here I am some 15 years later."

— Kathy Hollowell-Makle, 2013 Teacher of the Year, District of Columbia Public Schools





## "THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON

that I learned from working with AmeriCorps is that you can't get anything done in a silo. How do you get things done? You can't do it on your own."

– **Christine Riley, Director of Corporate Responsibility, Dunkin' Brands**

## "SERVING AS AN AMERICORPS MEMBER

with Teach For America gave me an opportunity to find my passion, helping students dream big and working every day to ensure those dreams become a reality."

– **Miguel Solis, President, Dallas Independent School District Board of Trustees**

## "I TOOK EVERYTHING I LEARNED

from AmeriCorps: first you get a plan, and then you find the key players involved."

– **Rhonda Ulmer, Founding Director, University for Parents (UP)**





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Eli Segal, 1993-1995  
 Harris Wofford, 1995-2001  
 Wendy Zenker, January-October 2001\*  
 Leslie Lenkowsky, 2001-2003  
 James Manning,  
 August-December 2003\*  
 David Eisner, 2003-2009  
 Nicola Goren, 2009-2010\*  
 Patrick Corvington, 2010-2011  
 Robert Velasco II, 2011-2012\*  
 Wendy Spencer, 2012-Present

\*Acting Chief Executive Officer

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 Reatha Clark King,  
 February 1996-June 1996\*  
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 Tom Ehrlich, September 1999\*  
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 Bob Rogers, September 2000\*  
 Dorothy "Dottie" Johnson, May 2001\*  
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 Stephen Goldsmith,  
 February 2010-May 2010\*\*  
 Mark Gearan, 2010-2011  
 Laysha Ward, 2012-2014  
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 Diana V. Rodriguez Algra, 1994-1998  
 Deborah R. Jospin, 1998-2001  
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# VOICES *for* NATIONAL SERVICE

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**Mary Ellen Sprenkel**

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The Corps Network

**Dorothy Stoneman**

President and Founder  
YouthBuild USA

**Marty Weinstein**

CEO  
Bay Area Community Resources

**Adren Wilson**

CEO  
Public Allies

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**AnnMaura Connolly**

President  
Voices for National Service

**Jennifer Ney**

Managing Director  
Voices for National Service

## Join Us!

Voices for National Service is a diverse coalition of national service programs, state service commissions and individual champions, who work to ensure Americans of all ages have the opportunity to serve and volunteer in their communities. Founded in 2003, Voices for National Service has built strong bipartisan support among our nation's leaders and has helped to position national service as a viable policy solution to tackle unmet needs, expand opportunity, and leverage human capital. Drawing on the combined experience and knowledge of the service community, Voices for National Service led the effort to design, develop and pass the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act in 2009. This bipartisan legislation, which earned 79 affirmative votes in the U.S. Senate, serves as a road map to a revitalized and more innovative national service infrastructure in America. Voices for National Service has also worked to build a strong body of research that demonstrates the high return-on-investment and other unique benefits of national service.

To learn more about Voices for National Service and to find out how you can become a member, please:

Check out our website - [www.voicesforservice.org](http://www.voicesforservice.org)

Follow us on Twitter - [@voices4service](https://twitter.com/voices4service)

Contact us - [info@voicesforservice.org](mailto:info@voicesforservice.org)

*Contributing Authors: AnnMaura Connolly, Jennifer Ney, Mary Billington, Nate Treffeisen, and Nicole Kennedy*

*Designed by: Andy Dean and Kristie Collman*