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Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. fax cover sheet	[Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	11/22/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Cabinet Affairs
Anne McGuire
OA/Box Number: 14931

FOLDER TITLE:

Blair-AmeriCorps

2013-0661-F
rs3772

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



Anne E. McGuire

11/25/97 02:32:58 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kim B. Widdess/WHO/EOP

cc: Jamie B. Schwartz/WHO/EOP, Capricia P. Marshall/WHO/EOP

Subject: Disregard last email this is correct list

I am not sure who we had originally but here is our list as of 11/25

1's

Albright-given

Rubin-given

Cohen-given

Daley-given

Glickman- mad cow disease

Shalala - International health issues

Cuomo-went with the First Lady to England

Riley -requested to attend

Raines - went with the First Lady to England

Barshefsky-given

Browner-climate change

Yellen-requested to attend

LaChance -new OPM director, works extensively with the British Civil Service

2's

Slater

Pena

Apfel- new Cabinet

Duffey

do you want more?????

**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

Office of the Director



November 28, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: Anne McGuire
Cabinet Affairs
The White House

FROM: Joyce Kravitz 
Chief of Staff
United States Information Agency

SUBJECT: Request for Director Duffey to Attend United Kingdom State
Dinner

On behalf of Director Duffey, I would like to request that he and Mrs. Wexler be invited to attend the upcoming dinner in honor of Prime Minister Blair of the United Kingdom.

USIA's mission is to foster mutual understanding among nations through public diplomacy. Our programs in the United Kingdom are amongst our oldest and most successful. The US-UK Fulbright international scholarship program celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1996 and continues to thrive. The USIA post and the British government also cooperate to manage the esteemed Fulbright Teacher Exchange which is the oldest and largest secondary teacher exchange program worldwide. USIA's International Visitor Program brings up and coming British leaders and current Members of Parliament to the US to meet with their peers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Tom McMahon at (202) 619-5633.

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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United States
Office of
Personnel
Management

FAX
TRANSMITTAL
SHEET

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Number of Pages
(including this one)

1

WHITE HOUSE DIRECTORY

Please
Deliver
To:

Name:	ANN MCGUIRE	
Office:	CABINET AFFAIRS	Room:
Telephone:	456-6704 or 2525	

From:

Name:	LEIGH SHEIN	
Office:	Office of the Director	Room: 5A07
Telephone:	202-606-1000	FAX Number: 202-606-4489

Remarks

SUBJECT: OPM Suggestions for the Tony Blair Dinner/After Dinner
DINNER: JANICE R. LACHANCE, OPM DIRECTOR (HAS WHITE HOUSE PASS)
Janice has had extensive contact with the British Civil Service, working with their "Next Step" agencies (similar to our reinvention efforts). U. S. Citizen

AFTER DINNER:

LORRAINE LEWIS OPM GENERAL COUNSEL
D.O.B.: (b)(6) U. S. Citizen
LEIGH SHEIN, OPM CHIEF OF STAFF
D.O.B.: U. S. Citizen
MARK HUNKER, OPM SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE DIRECTOR
(HAS WHITE HOUSE PASS) U. S. Citizen

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NOTEBOOK



SUCCESS STORY

Clinton's Pet Program Makes Many Friends

AT LEAST ONE GROUP IN WASHINGTON HAS escaped the long arm of the LEWINSKY scandal: AmeriCorps. The national service program is a favorite of **PRESIDENT CLINTON'S**, and its supporters were worried that it might be a target for his congressional critics. But the four-year-old program has won over skeptics by emphasizing its grass-roots structure and its alliance with respected



Santorum

nonprofit organizations around the country. Members are selected by and work for such groups as Boys and Girls Clubs of America and Habitat for Humanity.

AmeriCorps prevailed on a key Senate funding vote in July by 58 to 37, winning over such former Republican critics as **RICK SANTORUM** of Pennsylvania and Daniel Coats of Indiana. On Friday, Clinton will preside at a White House swearing-in ceremony marking the program's 100,000th member—a benchmark the Peace Corps took more than 20 years to reach. —By Adam Cohen/New York

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Preserve the Citizen Service Tradition

By STEPHEN E. AMBROSE

It is the nature of youth to want to explore. Youngsters yearn for challenge and new experiences and the sense of belonging to something larger than themselves. They are idealistic and want to advance their ideals through service.

It is one of the principle misfortunes of our time that we do not provide our 18- and 19-year-olds with enough opportunity to do these things, and it is one of the chief differences between America today and America a half-century ago. Then, service of some sort to the nation by the young was taken for granted, along with the notion that society would provide them with a place to serve.

In the Depression, it was the Civilian Conservation Corps, universally praised for the projects it undertook and completed and for the way it provided impoverished youngsters with a chance to serve, to travel, to get to know other young Americans from different backgrounds and parts of the country. In the Second World War and during much of the Cold War it was the armed forces, where millions of young Americans served. President John F. Kennedy tapped the same vein to create the Peace Corps. Today AmeriCorps is extending that tradition of citizen service, giving young people opportunity to serve their country here at home.

The generation of Americans now in retirement faced and overcame great challenges, starting with the Depression and including the Nazis, the Japanese militarists, and the Communists in Korea, Vietnam, and the Soviet Union. The challenges of today are not so clear, or terrifying, or dramatic. Nor are they as unifying: During World War II, a popular saying, used to respond to a complaint about this or that shortage, was "We are all in this together." Today's youth have never had that feeling. They have missed the experience of work-

ing together for a common goal as much as they have missed the chance to serve others.

It seems to me that one of the great things that came out of World War II, and to a lesser extent out of Korea and even Vietnam, was the way in which millions of young men learned to work together, to take responsibility, to become part of a team. They learned, too, to savor deferred



CCC workers near Camp Au Sable, Mich.

gratification, and to take pride in contributing to their fellow man.

Today, too often, our youngsters hardly know one another. Middle class kids have little or no contact with inner-city kids. As we become a more diverse society, it is critical that we provide our youth with experiences that bring Hispanic-Americans and European-Americans, Jewish-Americans and Muslim Americans, Asian-Americans and African-Americans together, working, living, serving side-by-side. Lord knows there are plenty of challenges out there and much to be done, improving educa-

tion, fighting poverty, and protecting the environment.

In Europe, several nations require that, at 18, young people give a year of service to their country. In the U.S. it is not required, but AmeriCorps provides a voluntary opportunity to make a similar commitment. Instead of fighting enemies abroad these young Americans battle against the everyday enemies of illiteracy, poverty, and violence that plague our nation. In four years, AmeriCorps members have taught, tutored and mentored more than 2.2 million children, provided after-school programs to more than a million at-risk youth, removed close to 70,000 tons of trash from neighborhoods, and recruited more than 1.8 million volunteers to assist in these and other efforts.

AmeriCorps members, most of whom are between the ages of 18 and 24, receive a loan living allowance, and after a year of service a stipend of almost \$4,800 to help pay for college. This is similar to the 1944 GI Bill of Rights, which was the best piece of legislation Congress ever enacted. The GI bill sent hundreds of thousands of GIs to college—guys who never dreamed it would be possible for them to get a higher education—and after earning their degrees they went out and built modern America. They were part of the best educated, best disciplined, hardest working, most innovative generation of Americans ever. Today's young people, through AmeriCorps and other volunteer groups, can emulate them.

Our young people are our future. Our very soul as a nation is at stake. I cannot imagine a better investment than in youth who want to work for others and then go on with their education, taking a hand up rather than a hand out. Since 1994, more than 100,000 young men and women have pledged to "get things done" for America. This month, as AmeriCorps celebrates this milestone, let us congratulate them for their service to our country—and hope that future generations have the opportunity to follow in their footsteps.

Mr. Ambrose is author, most recently, of "Citizen Soldiers" (Simon & Schuster, 1997).

BY DAVID GERGEN / EDITOR AT LARGE



The nation's new patriots

A generation of idealists shuns politics and turns instead to volunteering

The news these days suggests that America is now raising a generation of hellions: Two young men stand accused of brutally murdering a college kid in Wyoming because he was gay; a 20-year-old girl was found guilty of inducing her boyfriend, a cadet at the Air Force Academy, to kill another young woman whom she detested; Eric Rudolph, hiding out in the Appalachian Mountains, is accused of planting that bomb at the Atlanta Olympics when he was 30; young punks show up on morning television shows with the damndest personal stories. And on and on.

But as is so often the case, the real news is contained in the stories that aren't snatching headlines. Last week, for example, the four-year-old AmeriCorps program inducted its 100,000th volunteer. Nearly all the young men and women are giving at least a year of service to their country. It's a remarkable feat: The Peace Corps took 20 years to reach the same milestone.

More to the point, almost every one of these AmeriCorps volunteers has been weaving an important thread into the fabric of community life. In Clearwater, Fla., a young woman named Sherry Thomas, who was living in the streets at the age of 14, helps to build community playgrounds and assists in neighborhood cleanups as she prepares for a career in law enforcement. Serving with Habitat for Humanity, Army veteran Phillip Wu and 22 other members on his team recruited 1,500 college students to come to Miami over a spring break to complete 50 new homes for working families. Monisha Poudyal, a Yale graduate from an immigrant family, worked for a year in California on HIV and substance-abuse issues with at-risk kids. She is now pursuing a career in nonprofit management. A graduate of Notre Dame, Robert Peters, joined the Sisters of Notre Dame AmeriCorps program and tutored migrant farm children and illiterate adults.

Doing something good. "We are tapping into a new patriotism among young people," says Harris Wofford, the former U.S. senator who now heads the Corporation for National Service, which runs AmeriCorps. "They have a

tremendous cynicism about politics but not for doing something for their neighborhood or for children."

Wofford's opinions are borne out by recent survey data. UCLA's mammoth survey of college freshmen found that last year's incoming class demonstrated the lowest levels of political interest in the 32-year history of the poll, even as volunteer work was at record levels. A recent survey for Public Allies, a multicultural group supporting civic service, found that today's young people are very public spirited, but they are "actively looking for new and distinctive ways to connect to the people and issues surrounding them."

AmeriCorps is not the only organization experiencing a surge in interest. Teach for America, the volunteer program started nearly 10 years ago by Wendy Kopp after she graduated from Princeton, receives 3,000 applications a year for 500 slots. Some 10,000 apply to the Peace Corps for 3,500 places, and young people often wait up to two years to gain a coveted spot.

Each of these programs has its critics but is building wider support. Republicans once bashed AmeriCorps as President Clinton's pet project, but Senate conservatives like Rick Santorum and Charles Grassley now back it. Millard Fuller, the inspirational figure behind Habitat for Humanity, was once a skeptic, too, but, after seeing volunteers in action on Habitat sites, has written enthusiastically about national-service programs to House Speaker Newt Gingrich. With 1 in 7 AmeriCorps members now serving in faith-based projects, support for the program among religious leaders has risen, too.

None of this, however, should obscure the central point: Contrary to myths that they are slackers, generation X-ers are actually brimming with idealism, far outstripping what we saw only a decade ago. Instead of knocking young men and women, we ought to be providing more opportunities for them to give back. The day is not far off when a year or more of service to the country will once again be enshrined as an essential part of becoming an American citizen. ■

Contrary to myths
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Community service that works

By Marc Racicot

Governors meet together and routinely stake out areas of broad bipartisan agreement that transcend the partisan struggles that have become synonymous with election-year politics. One issue that enjoys strong support from governors of both parties is national and community service. The support for service is based on a simple conviction that I share with many other governors: that every generation of young people needs to accept responsibility for its country and its community.

As a first-term Republican governor in January, 1993, I asked, and our legislature approved, a proposal to create a Governor's Office of Community Service intended to enhance the ethic of service and elevate the importance of "community," particularly among our young people. Meaningful service, we believed, would nurture productive young citizens committed to the future of our state because they had invested their sweat and labor in that future. Here in Montana, we sought to encourage service as a life-long "habit of the heart."

When the National Community Service Act of 1993 was passed, Montana was in an ideal position to move forward with the opportunities offered through AmeriCorps. The Office of Community Service's mission and the mission of AmeriCorps was one and the same: to develop opportunities for young people to provide meaningful, direct and demonstrable service to their communities. It was our hope that AmeriCorps would help us to build unique partnerships with public and private agencies by engaging young people in productive and

meaningful service to their communities. These partnership would serve as clear examples of how we could work together in Montana to improve how we, as fellow citizens, respond to pressing needs.

Now in its fourth year, AmeriCorps offers a creative, effective, and non-bureaucratic means of addressing the unmet education, human, public safety and environmental needs of our state — and our country. Indeed, AmeriCorps has become a model of devolution, where real authority and ownership for a federal initiative is delegated to the states. Through governor-appointed bipartisan state commissions, priorities are established and projects are selected to receive AmeriCorps funding.

The results are impressive. Last year alone, our locally-run AmeriCorps programs generated nearly 51,000 hours of service to Montana communities. Their service directly benefits 50,000 children and families in Montana, and indirectly almost one-third of our state population. Nationally, similar results abound. This year, some 40,000 AmeriCorps members will get things done for more than 1,200 communities across the country.

When AmeriCorps was created, some feared it might replay the worst of the welfare state — an entrenched, expensive, Washington-run program. Many feared, even more, that it would undermine traditional volunteers with yet another federal program. I can say from experience that the fears were misplaced. As a governor who tries very hard to be careful with tax dollars, I have witnessed time and again the fruits of this prudent investment in Montana.

Now, after more than five years, we have seen a tremendous rekindling of a sense of public service and civic duty, in many ways,

through the programs and opportunities generated through the National Community Service Act. I am convinced national and community service promotes core values — hard work, self-discipline, civic duty, personal responsibility, the cherishing of human life — that we too often sadly find lacking. If the era of big government is finally over, certainly the era of big citizenship must begin.

I have joined twelve of my fellow governors in urging not only continued federal funding of AmeriCorps, but also reauthorization of the Act, increasing the partnership with states and the authority of directing these programs at the state level. We join with our peers from the New England Governors' Conference in urging Congress to support reauthorizing the National Community Service Amendments Act, in order to improve the law's current language. As their resolution notes, we support the bill's "devolution provisions that add authority and flexibility to states . . . [to] provide Governor-appointed state commissions more control over program selection."

Community service is a vital element in the chemistry of our existence as a society, renewing our sense of community and civic initiative. It is the glue that bonds free peoples together. We in Montana have seen how vitally important this is, recently having completed our state Governors' Summit on Youth, and witnessing the real necessity of promoting opportunities for young people to give back to others. Through community service they learn what it's like to belong to something good and solid and decent. AmeriCorps helps provide that opportunity and truly puts the states in the driver's seat, which translates into meaningful ownership, and impact, at the state and local level.

Marc Racicot, a Republican, is governor of Montana.

Religious groups play bigger AmeriCorps role

Agency begins fifth year of helping students, towns

By Larry Witham
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

AmeriCorps opens its fifth year of national volunteer service today, marking the involvement of 100,000 college students who increasingly do their community work via religious agencies.

The religion-related segment under the Corporation for National Service, a Peace Corpslike agency begun in President Clinton's first term, has reached 8 percent of all volunteers since 1994.

AmeriCorps officials said that sector is "rapidly expanding."

The AmeriCorps budget also has grown. Congress gave it \$438.5 million for next year, an \$18 million increase over 1998.

"We got into AmeriCorps as soon as we could," said John Stoesz of the Greater Dallas Community of Church. "Volunteers we get from churches are very dedicated, but they are not there every day and every week."

Since the national agency opened in 1994, the Dallas coalition of 300 churches has had about 50 of AmeriCorps' full-time college students assisting its community work annually.

AmeriCorps gives the students a living stipend, of which groups like the Community of Church must provide 15 percent.

Students also get a \$4,725 voucher to pay college costs. A student may serve in AmeriCorps a maximum of two years.

A strength of such programs, Mr. Stoesz said, is that a funded core of volunteers inspires more temporary volunteerism and increases community donations. "We can raise money locally when we have a good program," he said.

The Sisters of Notre Dame were an AmeriCorps site from the beginning as well, and in the District the sisters for three years have operated a service project out of Trinity College in Northeast.

"We've never made any appeal for people in the parishes to help us," said Sister Joanne Schneberger. "The AmeriCorps volunteers are just great young people."

Her 12 volunteers each year have helped District residents complete GED tests, and

also helped immigrants learn English. *

The National Council of Churches (NCC) Ecumenical Program for Urban Service has been a primary outlet to religious agencies. This year, it will coordinate about 5,600 AmeriCorps volunteers at 5,000 sites.

The locations are churches, synagogues and mosques, said Charles Rawlings, the NCC's director of urban programs. "We started as a small program with a grant of \$400,000," he said. "Now we have grants in the area of \$3.2 million."

All such programs must pay their own bills, and then file for reimbursement from AmeriCorps, participants said.

The NCC project awards only the college voucher. The living expense of an AmeriCorps volunteer is covered by the religious groups.

While some college students are from middle-class families and go to expensive universities, others are minorities attending community colleges — and they benefit greatly from the voucher, participants said.

The church council tries to "target needful populations." As a result, 30 percent of the AmeriCorps awards go to work with blacks and 30 percent to assist Hispanic concerns. The rest goes to general work by volunteer religious agencies, Mr. Rawlings said.

None of the participants reported disputes over the church-state issue of federal money being dispensed through a faith-based organization.

Sister Schneberger said that while they operate out of a religious college, there is nothing sectarian to the work. "I pray a lot for the volunteers," she said.

In Dallas, Mr. Stoesz said a picture of Jesus may hang on a church wall where volunteers conduct a program, but no one is teaching Sunday school. "We're not going to take the picture down," he said.

Similarly, the NCC work follows a well-established pattern in which church agencies receiving government money neutralize the religious setting of the work.

"We police it very carefully," Mr. Rawlings said. Still, he said, religious groups in partnership with government funding "is a good adjustment in American culture."

Volunteers bring shine to Rainbow

By Dave Curtin
Denver Post Staff Writer

Inside the Rainbow House, a free day-care center for children with AIDS or special needs, hangs a young child's self portrait that reads, "I Have AIDS. Please Hug Me. I Can't Make You Sick."

On Saturday, 20 volunteers donned work gloves and sweat shirts to spruce up the Rainbow House, in northeast Denver, scheduled to open next month after a five-month hiatus.

The effort was part of national Make a Difference Day, coordinated by the Volunteers of America, a national non-profit organization with a chapter in Colorado. This marks the sixth year for Make a Difference Day.

Several of Saturday's volunteers were from AmeriCorps, a domestic Peace Corps devoted to community-service projects.

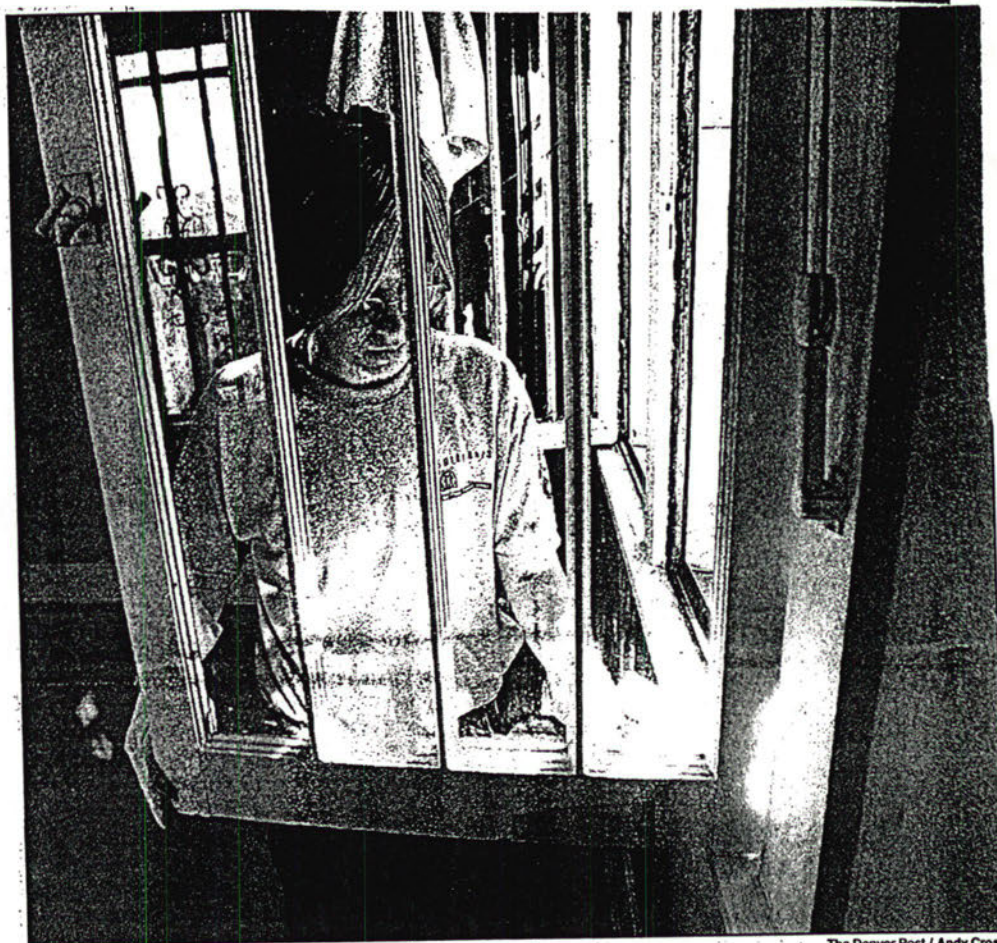
The Rainbow House, 3400 Bruce Randolph Ave., has been closed since May for relicensing by the state.

Volunteers of America took over the facility in July and hopes to reopen it in two to three weeks, said Catherine Pisano, Rainbow House director and a Volunteers of America project coordinator.

"It's the only child-care facility in this area that serves this population," she said.

The license is expected to arrive as soon as the staff is in place, Pisano said. The center is to be licensed for 25 children and 6 infants, serving children 6 weeks to 12 years old, five days a week, year-round.

It will offer hot meals, snacks, a clothing bank, holiday and birthday



The Denver Post / Andy Cross

AmeriCorps volunteer Angel Podraza washes a window Saturday in an old home next to the Rainbow House child-care center in northeast Denver. Twenty volunteers gather-

ed to work on the building, which will be renovated and used as a support facility for the center. The Rainbow House caters to children with AIDS or special needs.

gifts for the youngsters, holiday parties and on-site counseling by the Mental Health Association of Colorado and the Mental Health Corporation of Denver, including a program called "Living and Learning with HIV."

While the child-care center is shiny clean and ready to reopen, volunteers worked Saturday on an ancillary house next door whacking waist-high weeds, trimming trees, scrubbing floors and walls and hauling trash.

"I think it's very important to give back to the community and to people that are in need," said volunteer Louisa Coons, as she took a break from the smell of ammonia emanating from the house. "There's a lot of people in need who have less than I have," said Coons, a former geological technician for Amoco who resigned three years ago and now gives more of her time to volunteer work.

The once run-down property, previously used storage, will be renovated and used as a support facility for Rainbow House, though its exact use has been determined, Pisano said. The backyard probably be used to expand the current playground she said.

"A lot of contract work needs to be done but it start," Pisano said.

Children with AIDS or exposure to the virus from immediate families with HIV/AIDS are eligible for day care at the Rainbow House. Children with other special needs also are considered. (303-355-9581 for eligibility information.

New crop of volunteers



AmeriCorps worker Autumn Dial plants a Sitka spruce on Ebey Island Friday after a swearing-in ceremony at Naval Station Everett.

AmeriCorps *to the rescue*

Volunteers help themselves by helping communities

"I get to go out every day and make a difference. I get to help kids who were in a predicament like I was in ..."

— Jacob Kirwin, AmeriCorps worker

By JIM HALEY
Herald Writer

EVERETT — When Jacob Kirwin started high school, he was a little overwhelmed.

He had trouble with grades and lacked self-esteem.

That changed when he found something he could grab hold of in the context of a young student's life.

His life ring was the art of debate, his love for it and the requirement that he get his grades up in order to complete. He did.

So Kirwin, now 23, has himself become a life ring to freshmen students at Snohomish.

He's one of 500 mainly young people who were sworn in Friday as AmeriCorps volunteers during a ceremony at Naval Station Everett.

AmeriCorps is a national organiza-

tion established five years ago by President Clinton and a bipartisan coalition of congressional leaders with the aim of providing domestic community service.

Work can vary from stenciling pollution warnings on storm drains to living with and caring for the disadvantaged.

With the volunteers sworn in Friday in Everett and 16 other locations around the country, 100,000 people have signed up for one or two years of service.

Volunteers get a small monthly payment and earn credits to pay for education. Most are under 25 years old, although there are some volunteers approaching 60, said Danika Best, spokeswoman for the Washington Commission for National and Community Service.

Last year, Kirwin wound up at his

old high school as an AmeriCorps volunteer giving one-on-one attention to students with reading disabilities.

"It's not just for the money because we're being paid a stipend of \$700 a month, which is actually less than minimum wage," he said. "It takes something more inside. I get to go out every day and make a difference. I get to help kids who were in a predicament like I was in when I was first in high school."

Outside of satisfaction, Kirwin and the other volunteers are earning education credits. He wants to use his debating skills by going to law school.

Kirwin is starting his second year in the program. He was one of three AmeriCorps speakers at Friday's ceremony.

He told the other recruits that some

See CORPS, Page 4B

CORPS

from Page 1B

young people he sees in school are bullied by others if they are a bit slow or don't quite fit in.

"The bullies we face today are insecurity, fear and lack of education," he said, commending his fellow AmeriCorps members as people willing to help make the world a better

coming obstacles.

Local organizations sponsor various AmeriCorps chapters. One such organization is the Neutral Zone in Mountlake Terrace, where young volunteers have been credited with reducing crime by finding constructive things for youths to do.

Those sworn in Friday were from chapters around the state.

Helen Jackson, widow of the late Sen. Henry M. Jackson and chairman of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, said her husband

Corps projects.

Speaker U.S. Sen. Patty Murray told the volunteers their service will change them.

"You will grow. You will find your community is much bigger than you thought it was," she said. "This will be a year that will change your lives forever."

Following the ceremony, about 300 of the new volunteers were bused to Ebey Island east of here to help in a Snohomish County Surface Water Management restoration effort.

The volunteers planted 1,200 Sitka spruce

HARTFORD

AmeriCorps Is Prepared For Start Of A New Year

By STEVEN GOODE
Courant Staff Writer

It was early and cold, but Tim Green was right where he wanted to be, standing on the steps of city hall in Hartford.

"This is the day I've been waiting for," said Green, who endured the morning chill Tuesday with about 20 other Hartford AmeriCorps members to kick off this year's community service program.

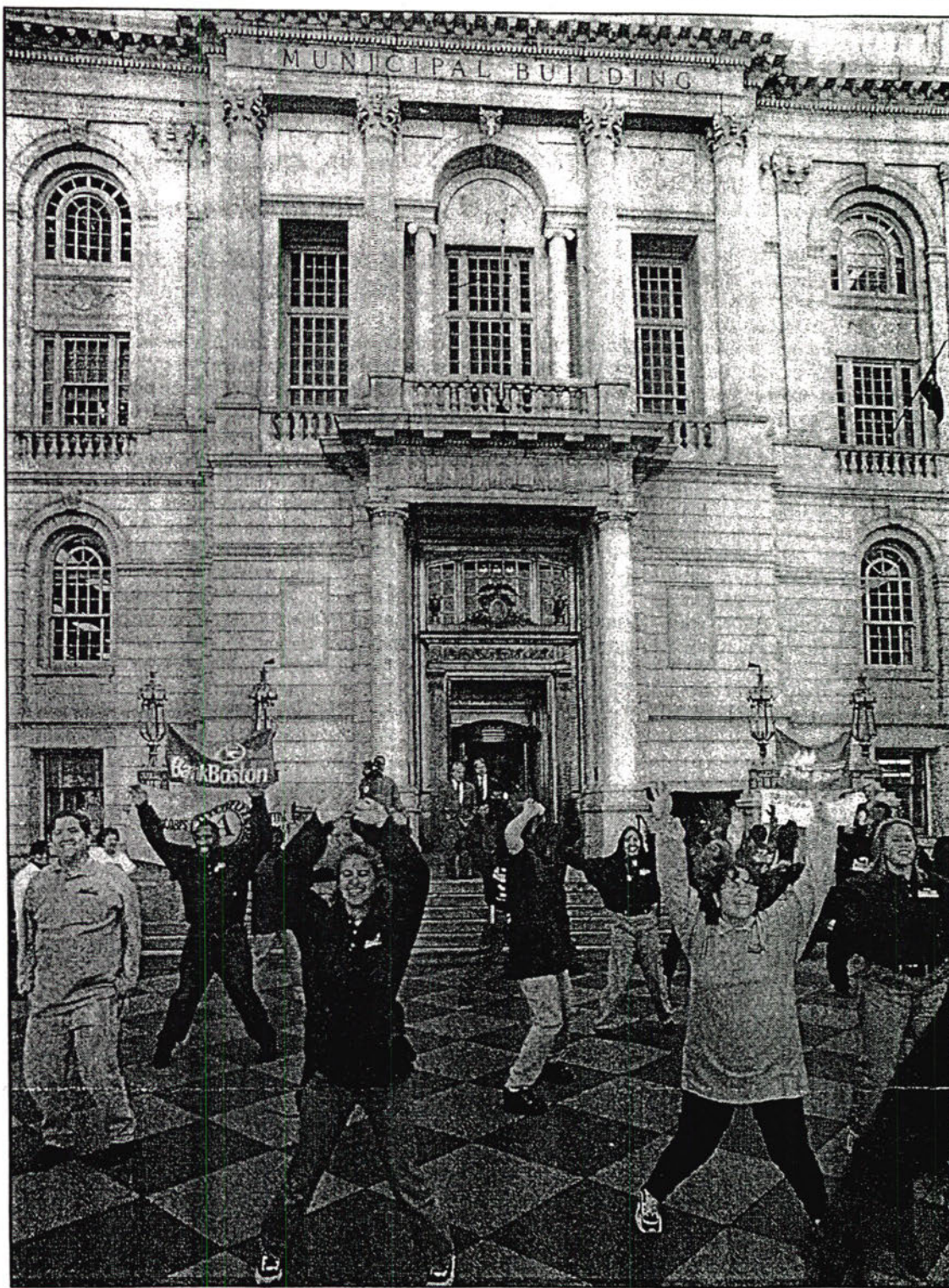
Now in its third year in the city, the group traditionally begins its program with encouraging words from Mayor Michael P. Peters and Hartford AmeriCorps Program Director Jeffrey E. Parks and calisthenics to get people warmed up. Then it is off to city classrooms, where they will be assisting for the school year.

The local program's objectives include improving educational achievement, offering English and mathematics tutoring, implementing or supporting existing community learning centers and homework clubs, recruiting parents to participate in their children's education, mentoring and sponsoring weekend community service projects. Members will work in Betances, Parkville SAND, Sanchez and Wish schools.

For Green, 20, the journey to SAND School, where he will be working, began during the summer. Green, who was unemployed after working as a cook, looked into the national program on the advice of his sister Mary, who had gone through it two years ago.

After passing a written test that included an essay and English and mathematics questions, Green went through an arduous series of interviews before finally getting the call that he was accepted into the program.

In mid-September, the group's members, who are 17 to 25 and must have at least a high school diploma, gathered for training sessions in stress management, sexual harassment, expectations, goals and,



STEPHEN DUNN / THE HARTFORD COURANT

FROM THE STEPS OF CITY HALL in Hartford Tuesday, Mayor Michael P. Peters watches as this year's Hartford AmeriCorps members do calisthenics to warm up for their duties assisting in city schools. In foreground a Heather DeDominicis of East Lyme, left, and Geysey Andino of Hartford.

Green's favorite, child-care development.

Parks said the members, who are expected to put in a minimum of 1,700 hours, receive a stipend of about \$160 a week, transportation allowances and a \$4,500 educational

award for college or vocational schooling if they complete the program. He said they receive little tangible reward for their efforts, but that that is not why they enrolled.

"They are interested in making a difference in a child, a school and a

community," Parks said.

Occasional stories reporting Tim Green's experiences in the Hartford AmeriCorps program will appear on this page. More information about the program is available at (860) 296-3521.

CLARION-LEDGER

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New AmeriCorps volunteers ready to take on world

6097AT
By Collin Johnson
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

If the 600-plus AmeriCorps volunteers sworn in Friday had any doubts about what they could accomplish, they shouldn't have.

All they had to do was look at the event's guest speaker.

On the stage before them, Tony Melendez played guitar, belting out classics like *La Bamba* and *Twist and Shout*. He finished with a flourish and stayed after the show to sign autographs for his fans.

And he did it without arms.

More than 25,000 around the country volunteered for AmeriCorps — the domestic Peace Corps — on Friday. All told, 950 Mississippians signed up to volunteer one year to community service.

Melendez, born without arms due to his mother's use of the drug thalidomide, has been playing guitar with his toes for 20 years.

He's played at prisons and before

the Pope. On Friday, he had the Crowne Plaza shaking with the enthusiasm of 600 new AmeriCorps members.

"I get something out of singing," Melendez said. "I inspire them, but the feedback inspires me. It makes me feel good."

The volunteers will carry that inspiration into difficult and varied tasks, said Marsha Meeks Kelly, executive director for the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services.

"They will be going into neighborhoods they normally wouldn't want to go into," she said. "AmeriCorps volunteers will tutor children, organize community watches, help build housing and work with senior citizens."

AmeriCorps, now in its fifth year, has had "a huge impact on this country," Kelly said. "It will change their lives. They will always look at the world a little different after this year."



Brian Broom/The Clarion-Ledger

Cherie Labat (left) of Oxford and Tequilla Shipp of Holly Springs take their oath as they and 650 others become AmeriCorps volunteers Friday.



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'The gift of reading'

Collegians get first-graders off to a good start

By ANALISA NAZARENO
Herald Staff Writer

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Accepting the help offered to students and staff at Kinloch Park Elementary School was easy for Principal Leticia Milian.

"Our students did not do well in reading. Our reading scores were not very high," Milian said.

The principal readily agreed when district administrators offered the Flagami neighborhood school help through the America Reads tutoring program.

Teachers were struggling to give students — most of whom live at or near the poverty level — individual attention in their crowded classrooms, much less all the help they needed to master reading.

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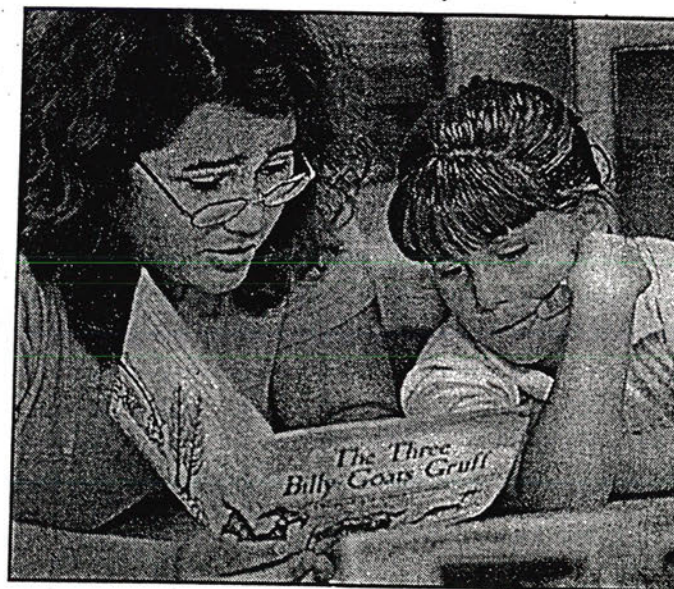


"I know that our children need this. It has been a weak area for our children," Milian said.

President Clinton introduced the America Reads Challenge two years ago, calling on college students, churchgoers and other volunteers to tutor elementary school students who needed help learning to read, especially those still behind by third grade.

Nationwide, more than 1,000 colleges have taken up the challenge. They dedicated some of their federal work-study dollars for students willing to serve as reading tutors at area schools.

Here, Miami-Dade Community College organized a coalition of local colleges and universi-



CANDACE BARBO

INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION IS CRUCIAL: Tutor Cristoballine works with Bianca Diaz, 7, at Kinloch Park Elementary.

PLEASE SEE READING, 4B

first-graders build foundation for a lifetime of learning

Forty schools with more critical reading needs were already participating in a district program called Success for All.

Last year, 34 schools participated in Miami Reads. School and district officials are singing its praises.

'Kids love it'

"The results are excellent," said Margarita Barrett, the district's reading specialist. "The kids love it because the tutors make them feel so special."

"What happened was that we were so successful, we have states that are buying our curriculum guide," said Alicia Moreyra, reading supervisor for district's division of language arts.

Moreyra said the tutoring program fits perfectly with the district's emphasis on reading.

Last fall, first-graders at the 34 schools took a reading exam. Students who could not identify at least 20 letters in the alphabet, understand what a word was, or read more than 80 percent of the words on a list were placed in the tutoring program.

At Kinloch Park, 83 of 150 first graders were tutored. In May, when they took the test again, 85 percent demonstrated the necessary skills.

This year, first-graders at the 38 participating schools took the exam right after school began. Teachers will begin placing students who need tutoring this week.

Since the program is new and lacks funding for formal study, the local college coalition has not analyzed whether it has improved reading districtwide, said Jeanne Schumm, chairwoman for the University of Miami Department of Teaching and Learning in the School of Education.

'Built on sound principles'

"The program is built on sound principles and it's manageable for the college students," she said.

Though the plan is a good one, Schumm said, other measures including reducing class size, may be more effective in giving stu-

dents the opportunity to get the one-on-one attention they need.

"Teachers need support. They want to give the students the individual attention they need, but they can't," Schumm said. "We have to think creatively on how to provide students and teachers with additional support."

"It would be ideal to have one-to-one with a trained professional, but things that are desirable are not feasible with the limited resources that many schools have."

The individual attention students get from tutors, Schumm said, is critical for them.

At schools like Kinloch Park, where 88 percent of students live at or near the poverty level, individual attention is crucial. Children who live in poverty are more likely to have parents who are not formally educated, and thus less likely to read to their children at home, Schumm said.

Parents' reading a factor

Another factor complicating reading at Kinloch Park Elementary is that 46 percent of the students primarily speak a language other than English.

"The kids are learning to read in English, but they don't speak English and their parents don't read English, and that's tough for the children," reading specialist Barrett said. "The individual attention helps give those students the confidence to learn and not feel shy or intimidated."

Barrett said many parents who don't speak English don't read to their children in their native language either because they worry it will conflict with them learning English.

"So what they get at school is all they get," said reading tutor Natividad Treminio, 19, an MDCC psychology student who tutors at Kinloch Park with her sister Cristobalina, 18, a criminal justice major.

Read in any language

Barrett said school officials are encouraging parents to read to

their children, no matter what language they speak.

"Demonstrating reading, showing them how to read — reading is the same skill, whatever language it is," Barrett said.

Coordinators for the Miami Reads program said they are

developing a parental involvement component with federal VISTA volunteers.

"The tutors said that we have to do something to get the parents more involved and we know that's going to be hard," said Joshua Young, director of the MDCC

Center for Community Involvement. "Whether it's having relations, getting them into adult literacy programs or making visits, we recognize it's not easy. But we're going to do something to promote parental involvement."



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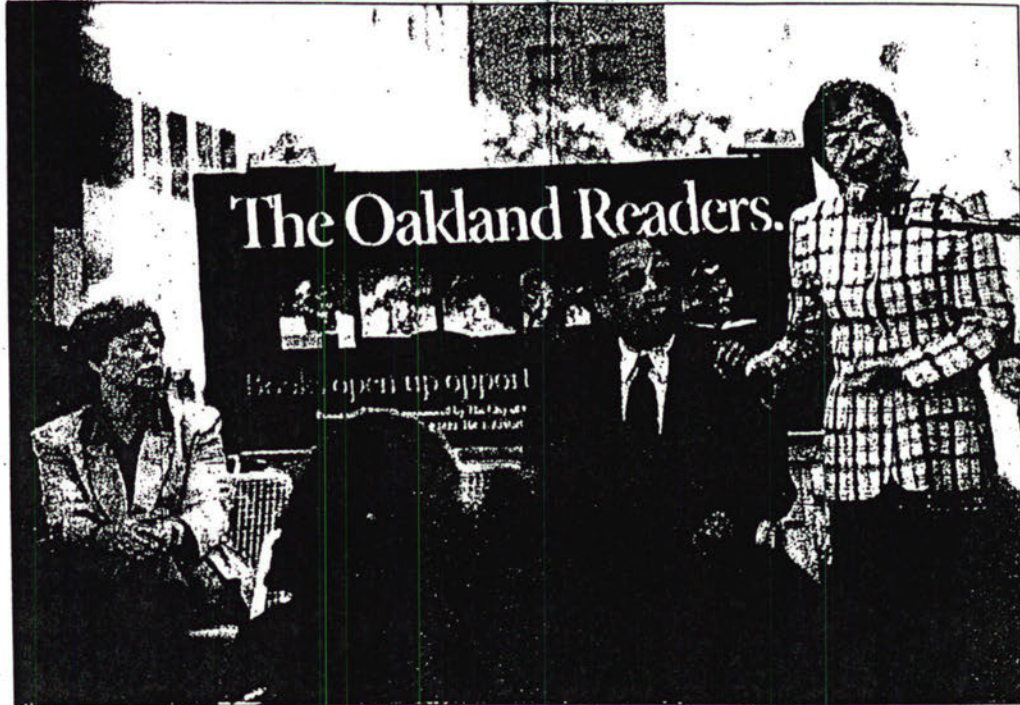
☐ One-fourth of Oakland adults cannot read above third-grade level

☐ Two-thirds of Oakland public school students do not read at their grade level

☐ Experts agree reading well by third grade is crucial

FRONT PAGE

MENTORS WANTED



RON RIESTERER — Staff

Oakland Schools Superintendent Carole Quan (right) speaks at the kickoff Wednesday of a drive for volunteer reading tutors. Mayor Elihu Harris and Mills College President Janet Holmgren (left) look on.

By Jonathan Schorr
and I. Shaun Gholston
STAFF WRITERS

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Volunteers mount campaign against illiteracy

Illiteracy is an epidemic in Oakland.

One adult in four cannot read beyond the third-grade level. Two out of three public school students cannot read at the level expected for their grade.

There is opportunity, however, to help change the dismal numbers.

The Oakland schools have set a goal: All third-

graders should read well. That goal, seen as crucial by experts on reading, also is central to the Clinton administration's America Reads initiative.

By that standard, Oakland's students

have a long way to go: In a test last spring, only 23 percent of third-graders turned in satisfactory reading scores.

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Please see **Reading**, NEWS-9

Reading: Just 115 of 500 mentors enlisted so far

Continued from NEWS-1

In the service of that goal, both the city and federal AmeriCorps VISTA workers have been trying to find volunteer reading tutors. They can't find enough.

"The shortfall is significant," said Brenda Lynch, senior program director with the Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute. The agency, which oversees Oakland's school volunteers, hopes to recruit 500 mentors, but so far has found and trained only 115.

day's news conference at City Center Plaza. "Ours is a knowledge-based economy. People who cannot read would not be able to compete."

Experts agree that if students do not read well by the third grade, they rarely catch up — with disastrous consequences. Studies show children who cannot read well in the early grades are more likely to drop out and to get pregnant as teen-agers.

"The child who's still struggling in third grade or fourth grade is in real trouble."

and not fall behind," said Darlene Hardin, the school's literacy coach. "It's essential that they get that help as soon as there's the first sign of them beginning to fall behind."

John Bassel, a retired biophysics researcher who tutors at Allendale, said the individual attention he gives seems to have a significant impact.

"You can feel like you're really doing some good," he said. "The possibility of making a difference in these children's lives is real."



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TREASURE VALLEY

AmeriCorps volunteers will start at Bogus

After orientation, they'll help others around the area

By Kathleen Mortensen
The Idaho Statesman

New AmeriCorps members will spend the next three days at Bogus Basin, learning the ins and outs of service.

That's appropriate, considering they've just signed on to volunteer a year of their time to the national equivalent of the Peace Corps.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that uses adults of all ages and backgrounds to work with national, state and local non-profit organizations.

In exchange for 1,700 hours of service, AmeriCorps volunteers receive a modest stipend to pay for living expenses. At the end of the one-year contract, each also will receive an education award worth \$4,725 at any accredited college, university or trade school.

"Some of them serve because they simply want to give a year of service to their country or state," Kelly Houston, executive director of the Idaho Commission for National and Community Service, said. For others, AmeriCorps is their one shot at a college education.

Now in its fourth year, the program has 40,000 volunteers

"It's not so much about growing economically, but helping the people of Idaho really become invested in their community."

KELLY HOUSTON
executive director of the
Idaho Commission for National
and Community Service

For more ...

To learn more about AmeriCorps, check out the organization's Web site at www.americorps.org or call 1-800-942-2677.

nationwide serving in more than 600 programs.

In Idaho, those programs include:

► The Idaho TRIO AmeriCorps Program, involved with tutoring and mentoring projects.

► The Young Community Builders, who work on construction projects such as Habitat for Humanity.

► The Idaho State Parks In



Cleaning up the town: Teamed up with a buddy for the day, Cindy Mendenhall, an AmeriCorps volunteer from Kamiah, and Daniel, 14, from the Nampa Boys Home, tackle graffiti in an alley behind buildings on Jefferson Street earlier this year.

Statesman file photo

Education Program, involved in environmental education and related service projects.

About 80 people are involved in this weekend's training session, entitled "Making Idaho Grow."

"It's not so much about growing economically, but helping the people of Idaho really become invested in their community," Houston said.

Volunteers will learn what AmeriCorps is, how they fit into the national picture, and what they can do to better work together as a team. They'll also learn more about Idaho's cultural makeup, and how to develop an appreciation for diversity. While most of the volunteers are from Idaho, some are not.

"It's hard sometimes to feel

like you're part of that greater whole here in Idaho," Houston said. "We let them know what's happening on a national level."

Several activities, such as hikes and a talent show, are aimed at building team spirit.

In the past, volunteers have ranged from 18-year-olds to a 73-year-old woman. Most Idaho volunteers are in their late 20s.



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Q&A/Anthony deGuzman

Going One on One With the Very Young

By MIMI G. SOMMER

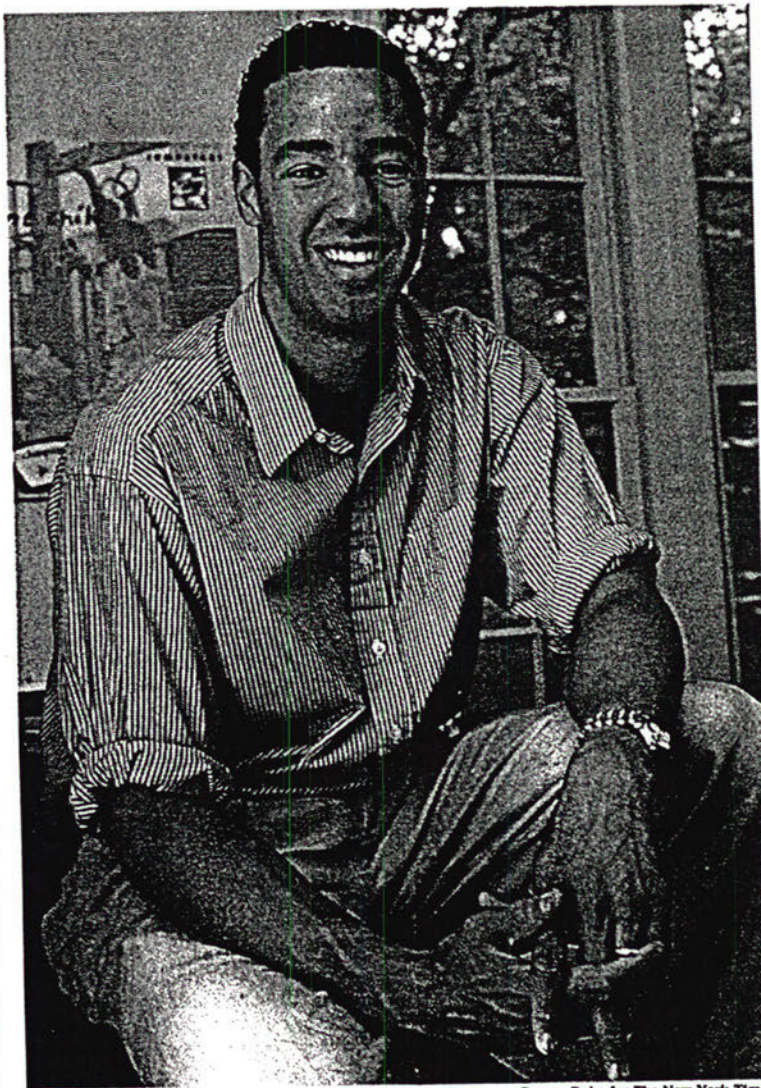
It all began in New Haven in 1993 with two students at Yale University, Aaron Lieberman and Rebecca Weintraub. It's called Jumpstart, a one-on-one mentoring system for preschoolers that is now a member of the Americorps National Service Network with programs in Manhattan; Washington, D.C., and Boston, the head office.

Jumpstart New Haven is now run by 28-year-old Anthony deGuzman, its executive director. The program, meant to bolster educational efforts like Head Start, continues to recruit college student mentors for 3- to 5-year-olds.

Mr. deGuzman, a graduate of Georgetown University, class of 1992, became a member of Teach for America, part of the Presidential educational and service initiative called Americorps and in 1994 and 1995 taught elementary school in the Bronx.

At Jumpstart, he is continuing an American tradition of combining education and service to community that reaches far back. Under President Franklin Roosevelt, there was the G.I. Bill, college education for military service. President Kennedy's Peace Corps took needed help to other countries. President Bush signed into law in 1990, and President Clinton in 1993, the National and Community Service Trust Acts that spawned Americorps.

In Jumpstart's new offices at the corner of Grove and Church Streets in New Haven, Mr. DeGuzman recently discussed Jumpstart's contemporary niche. Excerpts from that conversation follow.



George Ruhe for The New York Times

Anthony deGuzman recruits college students to work with preschoolers.

dations and in-kind donations — classroom space, supplies, summer housing for the college students. We make the best use of the community's resources. Because of the program America Reads, President Clinton's initiative to have all children read independently by the end of third grade, the Federal Government will pick up 100 percent of the Federal work/study money used to support college students working in America Reads projects. Jumpstart is an America Reads project.

Q. What is your association with the Bush Center in Child Development and Social Policy in New Haven, and Yale University?

A. We have a strong connection to both. The Bush Center evaluates the effectiveness of the program. Yale is working hard in improving its relations with the community.

Q. Given some skepticism about the efficiency of broad public programs, can you attest to Jumpstart's managerial excellence?

A. The Corporation for National Service — they make sure that we administer the Americorps grant appropriately. We have internal accounting. We have an audit every year.

Q. Is a community service program made more effective, if run as a business?

A. Yes, when service organizations think more entrepreneurally, they create more opportunities, not only for the people within their organization, but people within the community, to get involved — important to create a sustainable funding base.

Q. What does Jumpstart do?

A. We recruit college students and train them to work with preschool children, one on one, children in Head Start and other early child care programs from low-income neighborhoods.

We work with parents and schools to prepare children to enter kindergarten. School readiness is one of the most important factors in the child's success in education. We build skills, so that the first day they enter kindergarten they're prepared to participate in activities and develop literacy and mathematical skills.

Q. Literacy and mathematical skills at that age?

A. What a lot of people don't recognize is that children are constantly learning from age zero on, and they're learning preliteracy skills, such as how to hold a book, colors, if they can write their name, read signs. Cooking, for example — there are measurements. We work with the family to understand that reading to their child is such an important component to their education.

Q. Are there criteria for choosing children for Jumpstart?

A. There are. We ask teachers to identify children who are somehow struggling in their preschool classrooms. By struggling, I mean developmentally behind. In addition to the academic realm, there's the social and mental. Academic and social needs of the child play into our selection process.

Q. Why target 3- to 5-year-olds?

A. Generally, programs work with children in the late elementary ages and up. It's incredibly important to

work with children who are younger — to prevent a lot of problems, to really mentor children.

Q. What of children who could benefit from Jumpstart but don't get to preschool for the chance of being selected?

A. That's a real challenge. There are young children, particularly in inner cities, also in rural areas, that never have a preschool experience. We would like to provide services to all young children from low-income neighborhoods.

The parent is a child's first teacher. If the parent is doing a great job, their child will be prepared to learn when entering kindergarten. Realistically, that doesn't always happen. Single-parent homes and mothers needing to work, they need help.

So I think programs like Head Start and working with 3- to 5-year-olds is important. Children need stimulating experiences.

Q. How do you get the word out to families with children at risk?

A. In Connecticut, there was legislation this year to broaden the reach of preschool programs.

Q. What distinguishes day care from preschool?

A. Day care is less academic. Preschool has an academic tinge to it, has trained professionals in the field of early childhood development.

Q. How does Jumpstart differ from Head Start?

A. It's a service program designed to enhance preschool services. Every school needs help from the com-

munity to work with certain children in families that need extra help. A lot of children get lost in Head Start classrooms, all classrooms, because there are few adults.

A lot of children unfortunately are put on a special ed track. We're strong proponents for working with every child to make sure that if they are not special ed, they don't go to special ed, which ends up saving every taxpayer money, because special ed is expensive. Working one on one can identify what a child's specific needs are and then build the curriculum around them.

Q. What makes Jumpstart unique?

A. Other than the fact that we work with young children, what truly separates Jumpstart from other service organizations is the quality and amount of training we provide. We hire professionals to participate in the training. We've designed a program where college students can have a direct impact. One parent likes to say, "Jumpstart saved my child from going into the educational junk drawer. Now, he's an honor roll student in second grade."

Q. What is the program's major challenge?

A. Language. Children we work with have a limited vocabulary. We try to strengthen the child's primary language, whatever they're most comfortable speaking. That leads to success when you learn to read.

Q. How is Jumpstart funded?

A. Our budget in New Haven is from a combination of sources — from Americorps, local private foun-

Q. Do you support the idea of compensating Jumpstart's college students for their community service?

A. College students need to earn money. I don't see any reason why they shouldn't be paid, particularly when that money is going into their education. When you complete the Jumpstart program, you receive an Americorps Education Award — used to pay student loans, tuition or for future loans, graduate school. Americorps creates service opportunities.

Q. What triggered your interest in community service?

A. If I could point at one thing, it has to be my experience with the Teach for America program in New York City, where I taught 6th grade for two years. I was interested in helping a community like the one I actually came from. I was born in inner-city Washington, D.C. Biologically, my father was African-American, my mother was Irish. I was adopted when I was 1 year old.

Q. Has the diversity in your background enhanced your career skills?

A. Very very much so. My father is Filipino, my mother is Caucasian. They have two biological children. My younger brother is half African, half European, also adopted. Diversity has never been an issue. We proved it can work.

Q. Is Jumpstart expanding nationally?

A. We're opening two new sites, one in San Francisco, and one in Los Angeles. Our goal is to have a 1,000 college students working by the year 2000, which translates into over 10,000 children per year. ■



BURRELLE'S

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New era sees new forms of vocations

Sisters become partners in program to aid the poor

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
Catholic News Service

No one needs to tell Sr. Ann Kendrick, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, about the vocations shortage. "We just don't have women joining our order like we once did," she said.

But despite the decline in numbers, she still said she feels like a "novicemistress of a new era" overseeing a "new crew of missionaries."

She's hardly talking about empty convents, but of working side by side with young adults from across the United States — members of the Notre Dame AmeriCorps, a program run by her order in partnership with the federal AmeriCorps program.

The volunteers work in some of the sisters' long-established programs in low-income neighborhoods across the country, tutoring children and adults, setting up after-school programs, training people to resolve conflicts or to be better parents.

In exchange for their service, the volunteers receive a yearly stipend of about \$8,000 and get a \$4,725 educational grant after a year to pay off student loans or to use for future education.

This partnership with AmeriCorps, which started in 1994, has grown from six volunteers to 129.

"It's like a dream," the program's director, Sr. Katherine Corr, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, told Catholic News Service during a recent five-day orientation program for the volunteers in Washington.

She said her order was one of the first faith-based groups to become partners with AmeriCorps, U.S. President Bill Clinton's domestic program fashioned after the Peace Corps.

The groundwork for such a partnership was already established by the sisters, who have been working for years in cities and rural areas across the country. Four years ago, Corr, working in her province's administration office, attended a meeting where she found out about the newly established AmeriCorps. Then and there she knew she had a perfect match for her order's service work. She applied for funds and received a grant to get started.

She views the partnership as not only a financial one, but as a way of working together to do what the government and the religious communities cannot do alone to best help the nation's poor.

The volunteers are primarily in their 20s, but some are older and may include single parents who want to finish their own schooling.

Kendrick, who has worked with Florida's farm workers for nearly 30 years, is joined this year by 12

the needs of the child, but the needs of their parents as well."

One of the more rewarding parts of her work was teaching a 75-year-old man how to read.

'This is the wave of the future'

"You feel sad. You wish you could stay with them your whole life and make a difference in their lives," she said.

That's the kind of optimism Kendrick calls a shot in the arm for the sisters who've been working with the poor for years and could

easily get cynical or jaded.

She said the volunteers come to them "fresh and full of energy" while she and the other sisters are like "tired old workhorses (who) still have a lot to offer because we've been doing this for a long time and we do a good job."

She describes the new recruits as people who "get it," meaning they understand the bottom line of mission work. "It's not just a job. It's not tutoring kids. They see it in the big context."

And she's confident they'll carry that understanding with them

over the next 50 years, volunteering to help in various community causes.

Kendrick wishes every nun of her order could have seen the volunteers' orientation session — where they got tips on solving conflicts, tutoring and living in community — just to see the energy these young people bring.

"This is the wave of the future for the Sisters of Notre Dame," she said, adding that it certainly beats meetings where the sisters only discuss how to prepare for retirement.

SUNDAY STAR-LEDGER

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FINANCIAL AID

Seek and ye shall find funds

6297AT Americas

By Morgan Peterson
Special to The Star-Ledger

Paying for college has become just as big a part of the college experience as attending classes.

Nowadays, most students rely on some type of financial aid to help foot the ever-increasing bill of their higher education.

Government and private loans, grants, scholarships and work-study programs are the usual forms of aid. But, within each category, there are little-known products available to help students and their families.

"If a student is willing to do some research, they will find a lot out there," said Catherine Boscher-Murphy, director of financial aid at Bloomfield College.

Boscher-Murphy's comments echo those of many financial aid experts throughout the state. They

point to a state loan program, federally sponsored work-study programs, college- and community-based scholarships and scholarship-finding Web sites on the Internet.

"The New Jersey CLASS (College Loans to Assist State Students) Loan is an attractive way to finance an education," said Claire Alasio, director of financial aid at Monmouth University, in West Long Branch. "It is one of the better loan programs in the country."

Under the supplemental loan program, students or their families can borrow up to the cost of attendance—that includes tuition, room and board, books and fees—minus any other aid the student is receiving, Alasio said.

The loan is funded by the state and offers a flexible repayment

Continued on next page

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schedule. A borrower can make monthly payments plus interest while the student is in school, or defer the principle and pay just quarterly interest.

"You can prepay the loan while the student is in school, so they don't come out with a huge debt," she said.

The loan, she said, is ideal for families with a good credit history—a credit check is involved.

Alasio said she encourages families to take advantage of this program, to the point that last year, Monmouth University tripled the number of CLASS loans its students took out. That number represents one-third of the CLASS loans taken out from throughout the state.

New Jersey students attending college in other states would be eligible; out-of-state residents attending New Jersey schools also are eligible. It can be used for two- and four-year undergraduate and graduate programs.

Loan applications are available at the colleges or through the New Jersey Office of Student Assistance.

Two federal programs, the America Reads program and the Americorp program, help foster community involvement while learning, said Benjamin Silliman, acting director of Financial Aid at New Jersey City University.

"These programs develop stronger self-esteem, work skills and time management," Silliman said.

Last year, nine students at New Jersey City University took part in the America Reads program,

which brings college students into kindergarten classrooms to read to the children and get them interested in books. Silliman said the school initially targeted education majors

who wanted to teach.

Each student receives minimum wage and a differential for transportation. It is a form of federal work-study.

The Americorp program, very popular at New Jersey City University, brings students out into the community to refurbish housing and playgrounds, Silliman said.

Students receive a stipend and credits toward a reduction of student loans, or they receive a tuition voucher worth up to \$5,000.

**The Americorp
program brings
students out into
the community to
refurbish housing
and playgrounds.**

Continued on next page



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Workers give second life to ghost town

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ny Maestas
sociated Press

ANIMAS FORKS — High above any tourist community of Silverton, six 20-something workers weathered wood and rusty tin to a half-dozen buildings on a hillside covered with Indian brush and columbine. Much-needed rainstorms recently washed mosquitoes from the valley to the high country. They buzz like the workers saw.

These Americorps volunteers are putting their carpentry skills to preserving the remains of a town, whose inhabitants fled less than a century ago.

Today, the mining-town bust is nearly as busy with tourists as it was during its heyday in the 1800s. The crumbling buildings draw curious visitors from their wheel-drive vehicles.

Buildings evacuated more than a century ago have stood the test of time's often violent forces at Animas Forks. When these workers arrive, historians hope their place will be secure for at least 75 more years.

The Americorps workers are doing projects for the San Juan County Historical Society and the Bureau of Land Management. The groups received a \$28,000 grant in 1997 from the state histor-

Americorps youths stabilizing remaining structures

ical fund to stabilize the six remaining buildings at Animas Forks.

Most of the buildings were collapsing and wood was rotting. Beverly Rich, a historical society member, said the group wanted to preserve what little history of Animas Forks is left.

Prospectors built the town in 1873 when they were looking for prime silver and gold mining sites. In the summer, the town's population reached 450. Miners deserted the town when it began to snow; winters at Animas Forks were too harsh for them. The town became inaccessible.

A fire in 1891 destroyed most of the town. By the 1920s metal prices fell worldwide and the town slowly transformed into a ghost town. In 1943, an avalanche wiped out half of what remained.

The disasters weakened the buildings and prompted the historical society to apply for emergency stabilization funds.

"Keeping a roof on and keeping water out of structures will do more for the stabilization of the buildings than anything," Rich said.

The Americorps workers have dug trenches along the outside walls of the buildings hoping to divert water from melting snow. Roofs that have caved in have been rebuilt with used tin or wood shingles. Workers also jacked up building frames to keep them from collapsing.

Durango residents Rod and Donna Cook dismantled an old barn on their property and donated the wood, tin and nails to the San Juan Historical Society. Rich said the old materials were in good enough shape to use in the stabilization project.

"It's so great because the wood is already weathered and in a lot of places you can't even tell it's not the original material," Rich said.

Some buildings are in better shape than others, she said. Several also have visible reminders of mining life. Shreds of linen used in wallpaper still hang from inside walls. Brick chimneys that are intact still have soot on them.

Rich said Animas Forks is an important part of San Juan County's mining history. In addition to preserving it, the historical society is teaching the Americorps work-

ers an educational lesson.

Americorps is a volunteer program that college students or graduates ages 18 to 25 can apply to for tuition money or to pay off student loans. Created by President Clinton, Americorps is modeled after the Peace Corps that President Kennedy started in the 1960s.

The workers at Animas Forks are part of the National Civilian Community Corps, an arm of Americorps that is modeled after the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps.

None of the six workers had ever

been to Silverton before. Stabilizing the buildings at Animas Forks is the last project for this group. They have spent 10 months completing 40 projects throughout the country.

In Michigan, they rebuilt a YMCA. They provided disaster relief in Nebraska. After the North Dakota floods, they built new houses for flood victims. They recently worked on a trail-building project in Dolores.

"This is great learning about how a mining town came to be and ceased to be," said Dave O'Neill, a

junior at the University of Florida in Boca Raton.

The workers must spend 40 hours a week working on projects. While working at Animas Forks, they are living at a campsite down the canyon. Each night the group meets a new person from Silverton who has something to teach them about the town's mining history.

They have toured numerous abandoned mines in the mountains above Silverton. They also rode the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

"It's beautiful up here," said Darci Hertel, a college graduate from North Dakota. "I can't believe how much history is in these mountains."

MIDDLESEX NEWS

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Save AmeriCorps

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EDITORIAL

Back when his presidency was young and unsullied by scandal, Bill Clinton envisioned a new wave of young volunteers inspired to public service just as President Kennedy had inspired him. By the time the Republicans in Congress got through with it, what Clinton hoped would be the centerpiece of his domestic agenda was reduced to little more than a token effort. Now, while Clinton fights to save his presidency, AmeriCorps may be killed entirely.

Even in its reduced state, AmeriCorps has made a difference. An analysis in the Sept. 25 Chronicle of Higher Education concludes that last year, AmeriCorps participants tutored half a million children, helped immunize 45,000 people and restored or preserved 28,000 acres of public land. AmeriCorps members have planted trees, helped renovate buildings, and assisted with literacy programs.

In return for their service work, AmeriCorps members earn scholarships, and more than 30,000 young people have converted AmeriCorps scholarships into college tuition. Participants have also developed a taste for community service. After AmeriCorps, more than a third went on to work for nonprofit groups, and about half do volunteer work for at least six hours a month, according to the Chronicle.

But while even some of Clinton's critics concede AmeriCorps has produced results, it's still one of Clinton's few signature initiatives, which makes it a target for his opponents. The House has eliminated AmeriCorps entirely from the budget for the federal fiscal year that begins today.

In his scandal-weakened state, Clinton is in no position to vigorously defend even programs close to his heart. Fortunately, AmeriCorps has friends in the Senate, which has voted to continue the \$425 million program at current levels. As House and Senate leaders hammer out a compromise budget, we hope the Senate will prevail on this one. AmeriCorps is too good a program, for its volunteers and the communities they serve, to fall victim to scandal politics.

SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE

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Public service at a savings

E 6297AT EDITORIAL

AmeriCorps workers are volunteers only in the sense that they haven't been drafted to perform public service jobs. The \$7.69 per hour they are earning in Sarasota County is meager compensation for the labor they perform. Braving mosquitoes, snakes, fire ants, poison ivy, pressure-cooker heat and humidity, and the sticky sap of Brazilian pepper bushes, they are saving public agencies major expense while removing exotic vegetation from park lands.

Recently, workers in the federal program have stripped Brazilian peppers and other exotic plants on public lands throughout south Sarasota County. Their labors have taken them to Oscar Scherer State Park, properties adjoining the Intracoastal Waterway and other areas. They were hired by Chuck Listowski, executive director of the West Coast Inland Navigation District,

who said the contract cost about one-fourth the expense of hiring independent contractors.

AmeriCorps workers earn a living allowance of \$8,340 and an education stipend of \$4,725 per year for approximately 1,700 hours' labor. Their stipend can be used to pay off a student loan or for further education. They contract to serve one year and can serve a maximum of two. Public service areas available include education, public safety, human needs and the environment.

AmeriCorps is one of the Clinton administration's singular successes. We commend the WCIND and parks officials for taking advantage of the opportunity represented by AmeriCorps to complete some much-needed, hard work. Most of all, we applaud the AmeriCorps workers, whose ambitions led them to this commendable and difficult public service.

Corporation for National Service: Update on Press and Marketing Efforts

Public Service Announcement:

- AmeriCorps television and radio PSA's have received more than \$23 million in free airtime over past 18 months.

OpEds:

- David Gergen "The nation's new patriots" *U.S. News & World Report*, November 2, 1998
- Stephen Ambrose "Preserve the Citizen Service Tradition", *Wall Street Journal* October 23, 1998
- Marc Racicot, governor of Montana "Community service that works" published in *The Washington Times* on August 31, 1998 and *The Hill* on September 2, 1998

Editorials:

Top 50 Newspapers:

- *Wall Street Journal* "Who should teach?" July 15, 1998
- *The New York Times* "Punishing AmeriCorps" September 19, 1998
- *Houston Chronicle* "Serving Houston: Youth Corps here demonstrated its value" May 10, 1998
- *The Dallas Morning News* "Building Blocks: Well-regarded program shows the value of AmeriCorps" May 26, 1998
- *The Philadelphia Inquirer* "Return of the dollar: Congress should keep investing in AmeriCorps" June 1998
- *The Columbus Dispatch* "AmeriCorps: National Service program seeks renewal" July 28, 1998
- *Columbus Dispatch* "Bright spots: Program gets youths thinking, helping" June 3, 1998
- *The Salt Lake Tribune* "Support National Service" April 26, 1998

Other Newspapers:

- *Concord Monitor* "No more games: Public service programs like AmeriCorps deserve support" July 22, 1998
- *South Bend Tribune* "Slashing AmeriCorps budget would have local consequences" July 23, 1998
- *Philadelphia Daily News* "Jettison AmeriCorps? No, expand it" July 29, 1998

- *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* "Savaging Service: Why is Congress stalling on extending AmeriCorps?" August 27, 1998
- *The Providence Journal* "Let AmeriCorps Serve" September 27, 1998
- *The Oregonian* "The few, the proud: AmeriCorps proves a useful alternative to military" January 14, 1998
- *Johnson City Press* (TN) "Why not national service?" April 19, 1998
- *The Tribune* (Mesa, AZ) "Continue national service effort" April 20, 1998
- *Bradenton Herald* (FL) "Your Tax \$ at work" May 2, 1998
- *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* "National Service" May 4, 1998
- *Courier-Journal* "Corps' constituency" October 3, 1998

Press Highlights:

- *Catholic Register* "New era sees new forms of vocations" October 21, 1998
- *Chicago Sun Times* "Harnessing American Ideals" July 3, 1998
- *The Chronicle of Higher Education* "AmeriCorps at 5 Years" September 25, 1998
- *Clarion Ledger* "New AmeriCorps volunteers ready to take on world" October 24, 1998
- *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* "President salutes U.S. youth volunteers" June 4, 1998
- *Consumer Reports* "The College Challenge": AmeriCorps used as an example of how to pay off college debt August, 1998
- *The Dallas Morning News* "Cool Crew: N. Texas heat prompts group to install donated air conditioners" July 28, 1998
- *The Denver Post* "Volunteers bring shine to Rainbow" October 25, 1998
- *The Denver Post* "Workers give second life to ghost town" August 15, 1998
- *The Hartford Courant* "AmeriCorps Is Prepared For Start Of A New Year" October 7, 1998
- *Idaho Statesman* "AmeriCorps volunteers will start at Bogus" October 8, 1998
- *Miami Herald* "The gift of reading" September 6, 1998
- *The New York Times* "Going One on One With the Very Young" September 27, 1998
- *The Oakland Tribune* "Volunteers mount campaign against illiteracy" October 8, 1998
- *Time* "Clinton's Pet Program Makes Many Friends" October 26, 1998
- *The Washington Times* "Religious groups play bigger AmeriCorps role" October 23, 1998.

Web:

- AmeriCorps site receives nearly 140,000 hits per month.

**Comments by General Colin Powell at the
South Carolina Promise Summit
October 28, 1998**

“...I kept seeing all these things and I kept trying to figure out how I could do something about it, how I could serve my country in a new way. And that’s when President Clinton and President Bush asked me to chair the Presidents’ Summit on America’s Future in Philadelphia in April of 1997, and to work with great leaders who were going to be partners in that summit such as Harris Wofford, a man who has given so many years of service to his nation. And earlier this week in a program a lot of people thought was not going to work, the Corporation for National Service, and especially AmeriCorps; the 100,000th AmeriCorps volunteer was sworn in this week and now everybody knows that program works. That program is terrific as are the other programs that are under Harris Wofford’s supervision, and he was going to be my partner...”

ANTICIPATING OPPOSITION

As more people have been in AmeriCorps and more organizations have come to find AmeriCorps a valuable resource, our adversaries have looked to other potential weaknesses. This is a catalog of the issues on which AmeriCorps' detractors have focused.

Management issues

- ⇒ auditability of books
- ⇒ weak management practices- procurement, record-keeping, Y2K
- ⇒ insufficient monitoring of grants
- ⇒ staff size- the Corporation is too large for what we do

Old controversies

- ⇒ Investigation of Partnership
- ⇒ Acorn Housing grant
- ⇒ Michael Woo question- keeping political appointees on staff

Cost issues

- ⇒ cost per member
- ⇒ cost (size) of Corporation
- ⇒ spending on public relations
- ⇒ attrition

Policy Questions

- ⇒ paid volunteering
- ⇒ not a good way to pay for college- Pell Grants are better
- ⇒ utilization rate for education awards
- ⇒ interfere with military recruiting
- ⇒ specific policy controversies- "abortion clinics," condom distribution, needle-exchange programs

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—Allen H. Neuharth
Founder, Sept. 15, 1982



David Mazzearella
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Today's debate: Public service

AmeriCorps comes up short

OUR VIEW Modeled after G.I. Bill, costly program's scholarships underused.

When AmeriCorps was created in 1993, its supporters predicted it would do for community volunteerism what a volunteer force does for the military — popularize national service.

What's more, AmeriCorps' educational benefits were touted as a G.I. Bill for the public sector — grants that would turn college into a reality for a people who otherwise wouldn't have access to higher education.

Five years later, AmeriCorps is making much of the fact that the federal service corps has just sworn in member number 100,000.

Even better, some of AmeriCorps' most vocal congressional critics have shifted their attention elsewhere. After a half-hearted attempt to kill off the program, Congress increased AmeriCorps' annual budget to \$436 million.

But AmeriCorps still is falling short of its architects' vision.

The idea of citizen soldier has yet to catch fire with the public. AmeriCorps members dutifully perform public-service activities ranging from park cleanups to tutoring in 1,200 communities. Yet the T-shirted brigade is most well known nationally as the youthful backdrop for White House photo ops.

More importantly, the program has yet to serve as an effective magnet for attracting a new breed of college student. On average, only slightly more than half of the program's gradu-

ates use their \$4,725 education grants. And two-thirds of its members already were attending college or holding degrees.

AmeriCorps officials predict the number of college-bound participants will increase, since the education awards are good for seven years. Even so, when it comes to expanding educational opportunities, AmeriCorps doesn't compare to the G.I. bill model. About 80% of World War II veterans used the educational benefits, though the current use is lower.

Unfortunately, even AmeriCorps' limited mission involves substantial costs. Under an agreement with Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, AmeriCorps has promised to cut per-participant costs from a much-criticized \$18,000 in 1996 to \$15,000 in 1999.

Plenty of explanations are offered for AmeriCorps' problems. Supporters contend the pared-down program approved by Congress denied AmeriCorps the chance to be as successful as President Clinton envisioned.

Meanwhile, critics claim that the administration has needlessly politicized AmeriCorps by using its members as cheerleaders for pet education and environmental programs.

Both charges have merit. And taken together, they help explain why AmeriCorps doesn't measure up to the military-service model it was designed to emulate.

Until it can muster bipartisan support and national enthusiasm, AmeriCorps won't fulfill its original mission. And the nation will be left with an expensive way of combining public works and college scholarships.

ANOTHER VIEW Expand AmeriCorps so more can use funds.

By Harris Wofford

Since 1994, more than 100,000 AmeriCorps members have pledged "to get things done for America."

They have taught, tutored and mentored more than 2.2 million children; recruited and trained nearly 2 million volunteers; helped make thousands of schools and neighborhoods safer; and done much more to strengthen our nation's hard-pressed communities.

Together, these AmeriCorps members have earned \$250 million in education awards (\$4,725 for a year of service). They have seven years to use their vouchers to pay for college, and almost 70% of AmeriCorps' first graduating class already have used their awards. Under the current G.I. Bill, by contrast, roughly half of those eligible use their awards.

Like the armed forces, the purpose of AmeriCorps is service, not scholarships. Like the G.I. Bill, the AmeriCorps education award is an investment in those who have served their

country. Should AmeriCorps open the doors to college even wider? Yes. The way to do this is to expand AmeriCorps.

President Clinton and many others of us envisioned AmeriCorps as a way to help hundreds of thousands of young people serve their country and pay for college.

Congress decided to start small — with 20,000 AmeriCorps positions in the first year. Thanks to increased congressional funding, this year more than 40,000 will serve with AmeriCorps. I hope Congress will continue to increase the number, so far more young people have this opportunity.

AmeriCorps is built on the principle of reciprocity and mutual obligation. It asks young people to give something back to the community in exchange for help with college.

As an Army Air Corps World War II veteran who went to college on the G.I. Bill, I'm glad to see that kind of opportunity offered — on a growing scale — to the new patriots on the home front who answer the AmeriCorps call to service.

Harris Wofford is the CEO of the Corporation for National Service.

Through the Looking Glass



A CAGW SPECIAL REPORT

AMERICORPS THE PITIFUL

October 30, 1998



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CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE

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AMERICORPS THE PITIFUL

An Investigative Report from Citizens Against Government Waste

Introduction

In 1992, presidential candidate Bill Clinton pledged he would renew the spirit of community service by creating a program to promote volunteerism on the part of high school and college students. What he didn't say is when educational awards, living stipends, and administrative costs were factored in, his AmeriCorps program would cost an average of \$27,000 annually per "volunteer."

Although the president claims that AmeriCorps volunteers are "doing work that won't get done any other way," volunteer and charitable activity is, in fact, flourishing among college students across the country. In reality, instead of an army of selfless do-gooders envisioned by the president, AmeriCorps recruits have become just another layer of taxpayer-subsidized bureaucrats, working in government agencies or mimicking the work of lobbyists and political organizers for agenda-driven community organizations.

AmeriCorps' track record of imbuing students with a sense of "opportunity and responsibility" is dismal. Nearly 40 percent of AmeriCorps employees drop out of the program.¹ Meanwhile, the program's budget has doubled, from \$217 million in 1994 to \$438.5 million for fiscal year 1999.

The Genesis of AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, which was heralded as a domestic version of the Peace Corps, is the largest national and community "service" program since the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. Its parent organization, the Corporation for National Service (CNS), was created in 1993 to administer several federal service grant programs, including AmeriCorps. The program has three statutory goals: to advance youth volunteerism; to use volunteers to address pressing community problems; and to leverage private sector financial support using CNS grants as seed money. These goals are supposedly achieved by giving volunteers an "educational award" to help pay for college or pay off student loans. Thus, AmeriCorps helps those students who would normally not be able to afford college tuition.

AmeriCorps is open to young adults who are at least 17 years of age, and who have earned a high school diploma (or the equivalent) or will earn it during their

¹ Kenneth Weinstein, "Time to End the Troubled AmeriCorps Program," ("Weinstein"), *Government Integrity Project Report No. 13*, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C., May 22, 1997, p. 3.

AmeriCorps tenure. AmeriCorps recruits who fulfill their end of the bargain can earn an award of \$4,725 for their college education. They earn the full amount in exchange for full-time service and half of that amount for part-time service. A minimum of 1,700 hours of service within a year, or 10 months of work, is required to earn the full \$4,725 award. In addition to the educational award, full-time participants receive a living allowance stipend that ranges between \$7,640 and \$15,280 annually, as well as other benefits, including health insurance and child care.²

Withered Volunteerism

The most obvious and striking anomaly about AmeriCorps is that, despite all the grand rhetoric, it is not a volunteer program at all. Rather, it recruits college-age students for paid positions and then uses taxpayers dollars to subsidize the organizations and agencies that hire these recruits. Organizations that would like to be certified as AmeriCorps sites must submit proposals and compete to be selected by state commissions. In 1995, according to the General Accounting Office (GAO), there were more than 400 certified AmeriCorps sites.³ Until 1996, other taxpayer-funded federal agencies, such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the Department of Energy could qualify as AmeriCorps sites.⁴ In this scenario, federally funded agencies and departments hire unskilled, entry-level workers from another federally funded agency and call it "volunteerism."

The recruits hired by AmeriCorps cost taxpayers a bundle. An August 1995 GAO audit of 93 AmeriCorps grantees found that "programs operated by nonprofit, state, and local agencies received about \$25,800 in cash and in-kind contributions per participant. . . in contrast to \$31,000 for federal agency grantees."⁵

Current AmeriCorps Director Harris Wofford argues that AmeriCorps is necessary because people are volunteering less and that most of their volunteer work consists of baby-sitting or singing in a church choir. Thus, reasons Wofford, if the nation wants to give local groups more control over important community functions and activities, taxpayers should pay volunteers to strengthen those organizations.

There are several problems with this argument. First, Wofford argues that civic enterprises are flagging, and second, he asserts that the reason for this

² U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), *National Service Programs: AmeriCorps USA – Early Program Resource and Benefit Information* ("AmeriCorps USA Report"), (GAO/HEHS-95-222), Aug. 28, 1995, p. 4.

³ GAO, *National Service Programs: Role of State Commissions in Implementing the AmeriCorps Program* ("State Commissions Report"), (GAO/HEHS-97-49), Feb. 20, 1997, p. 7.

⁴ GAO, *U.S. National Service Programs: Status of AmeriCorps Reform Efforts* (Correspondence), (HEHS-97-198R), Sept. 3, 1997, pp. 2-3.

⁵ GAO, *AmeriCorps USA Report*, p. 9.

phenomenon is the paucity of volunteers. However, the facts contradict him on both points.

The volunteer sector in the United States is fundamentally robust. According to a biennial survey by Independent Sector, a Washington-based nonprofit group that monitors volunteerism, almost 93 million Americans put in a combined 20.3 billion hours of community service in 1995. This is up from 89.2 million volunteers who offered 19.7 billion hours of service in 1993.⁶ Campus-based student volunteer groups are expanding, and more schools are encouraging students to volunteer by broadening their regular curricula to include service jobs.⁷ Americans spend an average of more than 4 hours a week working in soup kitchens, tutoring, and building low-income housing, for example.

By comparison, 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers are a relatively insignificant portion of the overall volunteer picture. Critics say that efforts such as baby-sitting and bake sales should not be counted as volunteering, but who is to decide what constitutes volunteerism? The beauty of traditionally understood volunteerism is that it flourishes outside the purview of any reporting and regulatory apparatus and is not required to meet any government's definition of community service.

In addition to its inherent contradictions, AmeriCorps is not a transparent program. Program recruits do not receive money directly. Instead, funds flow through multiple layers, first to the groups selected by state commissions, and then, in many cases, further downstream to subgrantees, and lastly to the recruits. Although it can be argued that many of the AmeriCorps sites are engaged in traditional charitable work, many of the groups and organizations who take on AmeriCorps recruits are political in nature, governmental in origin, and national in scope. Indeed, thousands of taxpayer-financed AmeriCorps recruits were assigned to work for political advocacy organizations that either were heavily dependent upon federal funding or had missions to agitate for increased federal spending:

- The *Los Angeles Times* reported that, in 1994, AmeriCorps funded a project that used the program's recruits to protest legislation designed to put violent criminals in prison for life after a third violent crime.⁸

⁶ Carol Horowitz, "Paying Americans to Volunteer," *Investors Business Daily*, May 8, 1997, p. A1.

⁷ Mary Jordan, "Hot Courses on Campus: Volunteerism 101," *The Washington Post*, Mar. 2, 1992, p. A1.

⁸ Don Feeder, "Kill AmeriCorps Before It's Too Late," *The Boston Herald*, Sept. 18, 1995, p. 25.

- In 1995, AmeriCorps gave a large grant to an advocacy group called ACORN (Association for Community Organizations for Reform Now). AmeriCorps recruits were assigned to lobby for legislation, collect dues, register voters, and participate in political demonstrations. After its activities came under scrutiny by AmeriCorps' own Inspector General, the ACORN Housing Corporation was forced to return a \$1.1 million grant.⁹
- Although federal agencies can no longer receive AmeriCorps grants, local subgrantees of federal agencies can still qualify as AmeriCorps sites. In the past, AmeriCorps recruits have been tasked to the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Legal Services Corporation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. AmeriCorps placed nearly 3,000 of its first 20,000 recruits in such federal agencies.¹⁰

AmeriCorps funding was touted as an enabling mechanism to increase private volunteer activity. According to President Clinton:

While the federal government will provide seed money for national service, we are determined that the participants — the individuals who serve the groups that sponsor their service — will guide the process. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy would be self defeating.¹¹

Yet 83 percent of AmeriCorps funding continues to come from the taxpayer. A GAO report found that in 1994-95, total resources available per AmeriCorps participant averaged \$26,654, of which about \$17,000 came from AmeriCorps, \$3,200 from other federal sources, and \$4,000 from state and local governments. The remaining amount —roughly \$1,800, a meager one percent — came from the private sector.¹² Further, AmeriCorps recruits cannot claim to attract volunteers for the organizations they work for. A study of the program for the Independent Sector found that the presence of AmeriCorps recruits created only a "3.5 percent increase in hours volunteered by genuine volunteers."¹³

⁹ Jason Lewis, "For the Good of the Taxpayer, Unload Pricey AmeriCorps 'Volunteers,'" *Star-Tribune Newspaper of the Twin Cities Mpls.-St.Paul*, Aug. 7, 1996, p. 11A.

¹⁰ Weinstein, p. 4.

¹¹ President Bill Clinton, "National Service — Now," *The New York Times*, Feb. 28, 1993.

¹² GAO, *National Service Programs: AmeriCorps USA — Early Program Resource and Benefit Information*, Testimony by Linda Morra, Director, Education and Employment Issues, Before the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Washington, D.C., Oct. 17, 1995.

¹³ John Messer, "Disparities Between National Service Outcome Measure and Goals: Core Susquehanna AmeriCorps: A Case Study," *1997 Independent Sector Spring Research Forum*, Alexandria, VA, 1997, cited in Weinstein, p. 6.

That figure should come as no surprise since nearly half of the AmeriCorps recruits either quit or are fired from their paid positions before their year long term is up. The GAO discerned a troubling pattern of recruits being fired as a result of chronic truancy and criminal activities, including felonies. Some quit midstream for other jobs, which is ironic because AmeriCorps is supposed to awaken a sense of duty and community responsibility in its volunteers.¹⁴

And the president's vision of helping recruits attend college has also not materialized. Though AmeriCorps was supposed to help young people pay for college in exchange for community service, only 54 percent of those eligible for educational awards have actually used them.¹⁵ In Des Moines, Iowa, "nearly one in five AmeriCorps workers... already has a college degree and more than half in the program are 26 or older."¹⁶ Contrary to the aims of the program, it seems many AmeriCorps members either are not planning to attend college or are not college graduates saddled with student loans. In form and substance, AmeriCorps has become a public jobs program.

Rotten to the AmeriCorps: Persistent Waste and Abuse

Not only is AmeriCorps ineffective, it also wastes a lot of money in the process of failing to achieve its mission. Examples from two recent studies of local AmeriCorps programs demonstrate how mismanagement and waste have run rampant:

- The Casa Verde Builders Program, a Texas-based site where recruits help build energy efficient homes, was awarded a \$2.5 million AmeriCorps grant. Only 23 of the 64 AmeriCorps recruits assigned to Casa Verde completed their tour, yet Casa Verde was able to keep its entire grant. The ultimate estimated cost to taxpayers per participant was more than \$100,000.¹⁷
- The Educational Conservation Corps (ECC), in which participants work to help improve water quality and thereby increase the salmon population, got a \$1.7 million grant. Of the 97 AmeriCorps recruits tasked to the ECC, only 20 used their education awards. The cost to taxpayers was \$86,000 per recruit in administrative costs, plus the \$4,725 per recruit in individual educational awards.¹⁸ The ECC pocketed the difference.

¹⁴ GAO, *National Service Programs: Enrollment and Education Award Data on Selected AmeriCorps Projects. Supplemental AmeriCorps Project Data* (B-276474), Mar. 19, 1997.

¹⁵ GAO, *State Commissions Report*, p. 12.

¹⁶ Mary Hill, "Too Many Insiders Getting AmeriCorps Jobs?" *Des Moines Register*, Feb. 2, 1996, p. 1.

¹⁷ Annys Shln, "The Value of Service," *National Journal*, June 1, 1997, p. 4.

¹⁸ GAO, *State Commissions Report*, p. 22.

Despite several audits of AmeriCorps' books by the GAO and the CNS's own Inspector General, its financial records were pronounced "unauditable."¹⁹ And the CNS itself has been riddled with mismanagement and financial abuses. The accounting firm Arthur Andersen found that the CNS's "internal controls were not adequate for an independent auditor to perform an effective and efficient financial statement audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards for fiscal years 1994 and 1995."²⁰ Auditors came to the same conclusion in 1996.

Reading for Funding and Profit

Despite the litany of failures and abuses, AmeriCorps not only survives, it thrives. The Clinton White House apparently regards the program as part of its legacy and has fought long and hard to protect it from budget hawks. For a chance to live to see another fiscal year, AmeriCorps officials have not only repeatedly promised to improve the management of the program, but have also tried to morph themselves into a literacy program.

At the President's Summit for America's Future, held in Philadelphia in April 1997, President Clinton announced his goal of putting one million volunteer literacy tutors in public schools around the nation. The president, who recognized an opportunity to capitalize upon a popular political issue and give the AmeriCorps program a new *raison d'être* at the same time, asked college presidents to convert federal work-study (FWS) slots into AmeriCorps positions for his new initiative, America Reads.

This sort of bureaucratic mission creep is a hackneyed but reliable tool for bureaucrats and politicians seeking to sustain funding for government programs that have failed or outlived their usefulness. It will help blur the distinction between AmeriCorps and the widely used and highly popular FWS program on college campuses.

In the FWS program, students are allowed to perform on- and off-campus jobs at an hourly rate that is higher than minimum wage. Federal funds are funneled through the university to subsidize employers. The FWS program receives 75 percent of its funding from the federal government and universities kick in the remaining 25 percent. Under the president's new America Reads initiative, all FWS slots devoted to America Reads would be fully funded by the federal government.

Ideally, America Reads was supposed to mobilize a citizen army of reading volunteers to help ensure that all children could read at their grade level by eight

¹⁹ John Walters, "Truly, Madly, AmeriCorps. . . and Bill Clinton's Money Pit," *The Washington Times*, Mar. 22, 1996, p. A21.

²⁰ Corporation for National Service, Office of the Inspector General, Report 97-09, Dec. 9, 1996.

years of age. President Clinton asked for a \$2.5 billion increase in AmeriCorps spending over three years to fund this program. Though Congress cut this request sharply (to \$200 million over three years), the White House is still moving ahead with plans to merge FWS and AmeriCorps into America Reads. In this way, AmeriCorps money would begin to flow into an even wider pool of recipients (colleges and universities), thus broadening the program's constituency and political support, making its eradication more difficult.

In 1997, the CNS sent a memorandum to colleges with tips on how to facilitate the integration of "FWS participants into national service programs supported by the Corporation for National Service." It noted that colleges can use up to 10 percent of FWS money to support AmeriCorps and other national service programs and that, in turn, AmeriCorps money can be spent to "support campus-based community service programs that include FWS students as participants."²¹

However, flooding elementary schools with reading volunteers, most of whom have not yet graduated from college and are untutored in the intricacies of reading pedagogy, may actually be counterproductive. Recent testimony and articles by G. Reid Lyon, Ph.D., director of the National Institute of Child Health and Development, make it clear that tutors unschooled in reading techniques will not stem the tide of children's illiteracy:

The need for informed instruction for the millions of children with insufficient reading skills is an increasingly urgent problem. Unfortunately, several recent studies and surveys of teacher knowledge about reading development and difficulties indicate that many teachers are underprepared to teach reading. . . At present, motivated teachers are often left on their own to obtain specific skills in teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency, and comprehension by seeking out workshops or specialized instruction manuals. Many teachers report that they are tied to "packaged" reading programs, regardless of the quality of the programs or their usefulness for all children, because *they do not understand the reading process well enough to augment the programs or to select different instructional strategies for different children. Thus the requirements that a student may be expected to satisfy for a college degree may bear little relationship to the requirement for a teaching certificate.*²²

²¹ "America Reads: National Service and Federal Work Study Working Together," Memorandum, Corporation for National Service, Feb. 1997.

²² Statement of G. Reid Lyon, Ph.D., acting chief, Child Development and Behavior Branch, National Institute of Child Health and Human Service Development, National Institutes of Health, Before the Committee on Education and the Workforce, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, July 10, 1997 (emphasis added).

Conclusion

AmeriCorps was hailed by President Clinton as a catalyst for strengthening community service and youth volunteerism. Instead, it stands as the antithesis to this idea by inviting nonprofit organizations to hold their hands out to the federal government for help and advancing the notion that volunteers should be paid with taxpayer dollars. It has redefined volunteering as a compensated activity.

AmeriCorps has become a showcase for the waste, abuse and cynical political manipulation inherent in many federally subsidized civic enterprises. Paying a stipend to these high school and college-age volunteers demeans the efforts of thousands of other young adults who volunteer simply because they care. Indeed, AmeriCorps recruits, nearly 40 percent of whom drop out of the program, have failed to catch the volunteer "spirit," despite getting paid for their work. Nor is there the slightest evidence that the program has infected others with the volunteer "bug." AmeriCorps is the no-show job of the new millennium.

In the private voluntary organizations of America, such bloated overhead, inappropriate diversion of funds, and persistently inauditable books would be grounds for the dismissal of executives, the overhaul of the governing board, management shakeups, and possibly an IRS audit. Yet, under the not-so-watchful eye of the Clinton Administration, not only have mismanagement and abuse gone uncured, but these practices have been rewarded with budget increases, underwritten with the involuntary contributions of taxpayers.

Because AmeriCorps has failed to fulfill its mission or manage its books successfully, it continues to exist now only because of the Clinton Administration and its proponents in Congress. AmeriCorps, which was supposed to encourage volunteerism in the private sector, is now being reconstituted into a literacy program. This will do nothing to raise literacy scores, but is sure to furnish the president with a plethora of rousing sound bites and touching photo opportunities.

In the final analysis, AmeriCorps is one of the most expensive and longest running political commercials in history. Taxpayers, and especially the 90 million American volunteers who give of themselves to important causes without government help, deserve better.

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AmeriCorps (compulsory)



AMERICORPS

RECENT EDITORIALS ON AMERICORPS

“CORPS’ CONSISTENCY”

“AmeriCorps is like the GI Bill: It rewards public service with educational opportunity. Some 40,000 volunteers, including more than 400 in Kentucky, are giving a year’s service to non-profit groups such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, the American Red Cross and faith-based groups. They’re tutoring, mentoring and building homes for the poor. AmeriCorps isn’t one of those top-down federal initiatives... it’s a real collaboration with the states.... That explains why it is so popular among governors of both parties.... If it can survive, AmeriCorps may well become another Head Start, which eventually won over its enemies – so much so that it’s hard to recall that it ever had enemies.”

THE COURIER-JOURNAL, Louisville, Kentucky, October 3, 1998

“LET AMERICORPS SERVE”

“Critics of AmeriCorps are once again trying to dismantle it....But AmeriCorps, which enters its fifth year this month, has delivered impressive results....Its success in awakening a new generation to community-oriented values is sufficient to justify its continuation. Many participants say the experience has had a tremendous impact on them, and affected their choice of career....The Senate has voted to continue the \$425 million program; its wisdom should prevail.”

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, Providence, Rhode Island, September 27, 1998

“PUNISHING AMERICORPS”

“AmeriCorps members perform a host of needed tasks to help strengthen communities, providing tutoring and mentoring for thousands of at-risk children, for example, and working with local non-profit groups to restore blighted neighborhoods and clean up the environment....AmeriCorps can show tangible accomplishments in all 50 states and has earned renewal without a messy and demoralizing fight.”

THE NEW YORK TIMES, New York, New York, September 21, 1998

“SAVAGING SERVICE: WHY IS CONGRESS STALLING ON EXTENDING AMERICORPS?”

“As this nation faces social and economic change, the value of maintaining a strong ethic toward voluntarism in our communities is great. Congress should develop its own ethic of providing quick and hearty support every year for AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service.”

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 27, 1998

“AMERICORPS: USE NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM TO REVITALIZE PENINSULA”

“Rather than let houses and buildings in old, established cities decay, a worthy effort is having youth and adults do renovations, then reward them with funds to finance their college or vocational education....Let AmeriCorps spread to spaces in need of revitalization and to people seeking education and training.”

DAILY PRESS, Newport News, Virginia, August 21, 1998

“SAVE AMERICORPS”

“Critics of AmeriCorps claim that it is another effort by Big Brother to control local communities. That argument is specious. States and localities choose who serves in the corps, and most projects are home-grown....It would be tragic if the program fell victim to political squabbles when there is money to pay for it and the need remains.”

THE HARTFORD COURANT, Hartford, Connecticut, August 14, 1998

“JETTISON AMERICORPS? NO, EXPAND IT”

“Many older Americans grouse about the supposed lack of work ethic and commitment to the broader society by today’s younger generation. Conservatives, especially, detect a deterioration in family values. How could anyone who takes those as givens in good conscience oppose AmeriCorps? Don’t just save this treasure: Expand it.”

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1998

“AMERICORPS: NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM SEEKS RENEWAL”

“...as Congress considers reauthorizing and funding [AmeriCorps] for the next year, the debate should stick to the questions of whether the program fills a need and [does] so cost-effectively....Against this, a program such as AmeriCorps that can marshal impressive statistics in support of lofty goals has a natural advantage.”

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH, *Columbus, Ohio, July 28, 1998*

“SLASHING AMERICORPS BUDGET WOULD HAVE LOCAL CONSEQUENCES”

“It is hard to understand the opposition to this program. If it is to spite President Clinton, who conceived the idea of AmeriCorps, that is petty. If it is because of the cost, \$425.5 million, that is short-sighted, considering all the good that is done. If it is to hold it hostage to facilitate the passage of some other bill, that is irresponsible politics. AmeriCorps is a good program that benefits all who are involved....It should be fully funded in the next fiscal year.”

SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE, *South Bend, Indiana, July 23, 1998*

“NO MORE GAMES”

“If you seek evidence that Washington has changed for the better – and who doesn’t? -- you might consider the Corporation for National Service. It is a success story that shows the effectiveness of setting a goal at the national level – encouraging volunteerism – but implementing it locally....Though AmeriCorps began as a Democratic initiative, its structure is all Republican: decentralized and competitive.”

CONCORD MONITOR, *Concord, New Hampshire, July 22, 1998*

“WHO SHOULD TEACH?”

“...one of the brightest lights in New York City’s...school culture [is] the young teachers who’ve come via the AmeriCorps program Teach for America. These recent college graduates, with bachelor’s degrees from some of the top colleges in the nation, have helped to ease the city’s desperate teacher shortage.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL, *July 15, 1998*

“RETURN ON THE DOLLAR”

“Imagine a program that puts thousands of young Americans in service projects every year. They tutor kids, rehab homes, clean up neighborhoods and recruit other volunteers. Hardly a government deal, it sounds like something Ronald Reagan might have dreamed up. Actually, the germ of the idea was George Bush’s, and Bill Clinton embellished it: AmeriCorps....Like the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps is one of the best investments around. Congress ought to ensure its future by passing a five-year authorization bill, and by giving it the money for 1999 to expand.”

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 19, 1998

“BUILDING BLOCKS”

“There are only 47 full-time AmeriCorps workers in the Dallas ‘Building Blocks’ program, but they get around....Building Blocks workers probably could have found work that pays better. They couldn’t have found work that matters more.”

DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Dallas, Texas, May 25, 1998

“YOUR TAX \$ AT WORK”

“AmeriCorps...works because it provides a constructive, character-building outlet for idealistic citizens to make a real difference in other people’s lives through volunteer service. That’s a great way to stretch tax dollars and build an engaged, committed citizenry.”

BRADENTON HERALD, Bradenton, Florida, May 2, 1998

“SUPPORT NATIONAL SERVICE”

“[AmeriCorps] has blurred partisan battle lines and now enjoys significant conservative support. And why not? It always has featured the conservative virtue of fiscal efficiency: With a little government stimulation and direction, thousands of volunteers are effectively mobilized to perform good and necessary work.”

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 26, 1998

“CONTINUE NATIONAL SERVICE EFFORT”

“The Corporation for National Service is up for reauthorization in Congress....Despite the criticism, it’s a valuable program with a noble mission. It should be continued.”

THE TRIBUNE, Mesa, Arizona, April 20, 1998

“WHY NOT NATIONAL SERVICE?”

“Legislation has been introduced in Congress to extend national service into the 21st Century....Certainly, service to our own people, to our own communities is a top priority. We encourage our Members of Congress to approve the extension of the Corporation for the next five years.”

JOHNSON CITY PRESS, Johnson City, Tennessee, April 19, 1998

“THE FEW, THE PROUD”

“Our national security depends as well on the assurance of opportunity to compete fairly for American ideals and dreams. That must include access to education, health care, freedom from fear of random violence. AmeriCorps helps secure those ideals and bridge the gaps to those dreams for the economically and socially disadvantaged....Congress should recognize the value of those needs and affirm the President’s reauthorization bill.”

THE OREGONIAN, Portland, Oregon, January 14, 1998

NATIONAL SERVICE CALENDAR -- KEY DATES

MLK Day (January 18, 1999)

National Youth Service Day- 11th Anniversary (April 16-17, 1999)

National Volunteer Week and Big Help Week (April 18-24, 1999)

President's Service Awards (April/May)

Anniversary of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future (April 27-29, 1999)

AmeriCorps graduation ceremonies (Spring and Summer)

National and Community Service Conference (June 6-10, in Las Vegas)

City Year Convention- CYZYG (June, in DC)

Anniversary of Bill Signing (September, 1993)

Anniversary of Launch (September, 1994)

AmeriCorps Swearing-In Ceremonies (October)

Make A Difference Day (October 23, 1999)



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Getting Things Done in Florida. AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, gives people of all ages the opportunity to serve their country here at home and receive money for college. Working through local nonprofits and schools, AmeriCorps members tutor children, coordinate after-school programs, build homes, organize neighborhood watch groups, clean rivers, recruit volunteers, and accomplish other things that improve and strengthen Florida communities. This year, AmeriCorps will provide more than 1,500 individuals with the opportunity to solve problems and build stronger communities in 72 projects across Florida.

A Track Record of Accomplishment. In just four years, more than 100,000 people have joined AmeriCorps, a milestone it took the Peace Corps more than two decades to achieve. AmeriCorps members have served more than 32 million people, recruited nearly 2 million volunteers, taught, tutored, or mentored more than 2 million children, operated after-school programs for a half million at-risk youth, provided 200,000 seniors with independent living assistance, and built or rehabilitated 25,000 homes. This year, more than 40,000 people will serve in AmeriCorps.

Expanding Educational Opportunity. AmeriCorps uses the GI Bill model – after completing a year of service, AmeriCorps members receive up to \$4,725 to help finance college or pay back student loans. To date, 1,835 Florida residents have completed their AmeriCorps service and have qualified for education awards of more than \$6,975,000.

Helping Communities Meet Local Needs. AmeriCorps sponsors include national, state, and local nonprofit and faith-based organizations. To ensure that members meet critical local needs, two-thirds of AmeriCorps grants are made by the Florida Commission on Community Service, whose members are appointed by the governor. Other members serve with national nonprofits, AmeriCorps* VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and the AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).

AmeriCorps is operated by the Corporation for National Service, which also manages the programs of the National Senior Service Corps and Learn and Serve America. This year the Corporation will provide more than \$13,000,000 for Florida communities through its support of AmeriCorps.

Florida Commission on Community Service

Abby Walters, Chair
George Young, Vice-Chair
Mary Allen
Alex Amparo
Mark Bailey
Don Bostic
Richard Danford
Joyce Dhonau
Pat Fine
Joseph Gerwens
Karen Jensen
Henry Jibaja
Michael Johnson
Dan King
George Lackman, Jr.
Liza McFadden
Maria Oliva
Wendy Parker
Louise Ray
Maria Sanjuan
Ed Schrank
James Shimberg, Jr.
LeVester Tubbs
Roberta Zipperer

"Helping our neighbors build strong families and communities is essential for a healthy Florida. Service-oriented organizations like AmeriCorps and its volunteers are helping to strengthen the fabric of our society. I applaud AmeriCorps' tremendous efforts and its dedication to serving the needs of our citizens in the Sunshine State."
Governor Lawton Chiles

What's Inside...

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- ☑ Member Profiles

- ☑ Contacts
- ☑ List of Programs



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Accomplishment Highlights

"AmeriCorps...works because it provides a constructive, character-building outlet for idealistic citizens to make a real difference in other people's lives through volunteer service. That's a great way to stretch tax dollars and build an engaged, committed citizenry."

Bradenton Herald editorial, May 2, 1998

"AmeriCorps leads by example. The members demonstrate the epitome of what my family and I call 'civic rent' -- giving back to the community that has served each of us so well. It is my hope that AmeriCorps will continue to inspire all of us to offer our services to those who need it most."

State Senator Toni Jennings, President of the Florida Senate

American Red Cross Rapid Response Corps

Miami

The AmeriCorps members based in Miami responded to six national disaster assignments, trained more than 10,000 children and youth in fire safety and hurricane preparedness, and responded to 100 local fire incidents. Most importantly, the addition of the AmeriCorps program enabled the chapter to reduce its local disaster response time from four hours to under two hours. A speedy response ensures that victims of local disasters will have a place to spend the night and food to eat.

Notre Dame AmeriCorps Farmworker Youth Empowerment

Apopka

Twelve Notre Dame AmeriCorps members directly assisted 1,022 farm worker and immigrant children in five area schools. Members tutored students in small groups and one-on-one settings. Results from tracking 120 students indicated an improvement in 100 percent of those responding in completion of in-class assigned tasks and homework, reading comprehension, and attitude about school. In addition, the members taught 120 students in a Boys and Girls Club summer program and 183 GED and ESL adult learners through the GROWS Family Learning Center.

Habitat for Humanity

Statewide

AmeriCorps*VISTA members assigned to Habitat for Humanity affiliates were instrumental in the construction of 30 houses throughout the state of Florida. More than 110 family members moved into these new homes. To achieve this goal, AmeriCorps*VISTA coordinated projects, garnered monetary and supply resources, coordinated services to the Habitat families, and recruited and trained volunteers.

AmeriCorps ElderServe

Lee and Brevard Counties

AmeriCorps ElderServe members assisted 400 elders at risk of institutionalization and their caregivers. Members provided assistance to caregivers to delay the institutionalization of elders through respite, education, and support services. The members started a new project called Shared Housing which matches frail elderly with students or other qualified people in need of housing. In return for free housing, the new roommates provided care for the elderly so that they can remain at home.



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Accomplishment Highlights

"Our nation's problems are best solved when Americans come together in their local communities. Programs like AmeriCorps are helping to strengthen our communities, in Florida and across the nation, by encouraging our youth to engage in community service to make for a brighter tomorrow."
Congressman Allen Boyd

"Dear Vista Volunteer, We appreciate your help all year. Reading is important to me because if I couldn't read, I couldn't spell and when I get older if I couldn't read the signs on the road, like construction signs, stop signs, life would be hard. I wouldn't be very smart either. I probably wouldn't pass Second grade. Thanks for helping us! Sincerely, Eliza"
Second grade student

AmeriCorps*NCCC with FEMA and the American Red Cross Tallahassee and Daytona

A total of 67 AmeriCorps*NCCC members from four regional campuses helped fight the devastating fires during the summer of 1998. The members served on the fire lines, helped with mop-up operations, provided logistical support at base camps, and assisted the American Red Cross in mass care efforts.

Florida State Rural Development Council Statewide

AmeriCorps*VISTA members secured statewide corporate donations valued at more than \$118,00 including food and clothing, which were disseminated to nonprofit organizations in 24 rural counties. Members organized the construction of six homes through the State Housing Initiative Program, targeted for low-income families. Members organized a partnership workshop between owners, contractors and designers/engineers to provide affordable main line system water and sewers to local residents. Members also obtained approval of an 18-unit development providing low-income housing for 36 families.

Literacy*AmeriCorps - Palm Beach County Delray Beach

Last year five AmeriCorps members served a cumulative total of 8,774 hours, with four of the five members serving well over the required 1,700 hours. The members served as adult and family literacy facilitators at many sites, including Faith Farms, the Boynton Beach and West Palm Beach Libraries, the County Jail, the Children's Home Society, the Glades Tri-City Family Education Program, and New Hope Charities.

University of Central Florida Orlando

An AmeriCorps*VISTA member was instrumental in securing a \$30,000 grant from the Able Trust Foundation to the Ebony Beauty Academy of Central Florida, Inc., a vocational rehabilitation and training program for low income, minority individuals. Members provided technical assistance and resource development to a group of 30 nonprofit organizations. For this group, members have developed a computerized list of 400 funding sources.



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Member Profiles

AmeriCorps is going into neighborhoods and improving the lives of many at-risk children and families. It's teaching people to be empowered -- just like the Peace Corps has been doing abroad since the early 1960s. In the long run, AmeriCorps will be helping Americans from all different levels of society to achieve a better way of life."

Robert L. Crowder,
Sheriff of Martin County

"The AmeriCorps Child Victim Rapid Response partnership is believed to be the nation's first school-based program of its kind. The AmeriCorps members play an important role in early identification and intervention programs which are critical to any effort to break this vicious cycle and reduce domestic violence and juvenile crime."

Bob Butterworth,
Attorney General of Florida

Alison Marie Higgins

Student Conservation Association, National Key Deer Refuge, Big Pine Key

Alison is an AmeriCorps member with the Student Conservation Association's AmeriCorps Education Awards Program. She serves as the lead environmental educator for the four National Wildlife Refuges found in the Florida Keys. She has initiated outreach to over 1,000 school children. Summarizing her experience, Alison said, "This AmeriCorps experience has confirmed my desire to pursue a lifelong career in environmental education and volunteer coordination, as well as provided the means to obtain it through education awards provided by the Corporation for National Service."

Juanita Devine

AmeriCorps Hillsborough Reads, Tampa

Juanita has served two years at AmeriCorps Hillsborough Reads, where she teaches reading skills to at-risk children in Tampa. Juanita made a profound impact on most of the kids she helped tutor, but one child in particular stands out. A troubled fifth grader who didn't like to talk much was put in her group. Noticing the young boy enjoyed writing, Juanita, asked him to keep a journal. He soon learned to communicate his thoughts and feelings better. Others children learned to understand him as well. Soon the boy began to open up and read along with the rest of the group. "He went from failing spelling tests to making all A's. When you see these kids improve, it makes you want to do more," Juanita said.

Gordon Leopold

Habitat for Humanity, Fort Walton Beach

AmeriCorps*VISTA member Gordon Leopold developed a construction manual and increased house production by 50 percent. Although Gordon finished his AmeriCorps*VISTA service, he continues to volunteer with the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate as well as the Red Cross and other organizations.

Andrea Hafley

Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition, Inc., Delray Beach

As a parent trainer for the Book Buddies Program at the Children's Home Society, Andrea created new reading readiness materials and spent many extra hours searching for resources and referrals to assist her parent clients with their problems and needs. Andrea was responsible for developing a parent-child group as well as for establishing resource materials for future planning of the group, in order to ensure that the program continued after her term of service ends.



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Member Profiles

"This is a model partnership. The mission and vision of the Childrens Home Society and the Corporation for National Service VISTAs are very compatible, and it is exciting that these agencies join forces. This partnership demonstrates collaboration at its best."

**Governor Lawton
Chiles**

"We are proud to partner with the Florida Commission on Community Service. Community service is about making a difference one life at a time -- because lifting one person up lifts us all."

**Steve Monahan,
Regional Vice
President, Allstate
Insurance Company**

Connie Epperson

Literacy Volunteers of Leon Count, Bristol

Seeing that the Bristol library was filled each afternoon with students who had no place to go because their parents were working, AmeriCorps*VISTA member Connie Epperson organized a LATCH - KEY program which provides tutoring and mentoring services to 72 students. Members of a Future Homemakers of America class from the local high school serve as tutors and mentors for the children. Prior to registering their children, parents must agree to attend one parenting workshop each quarter. Topics include parenting, nutrition, and domestic violence.

Elizabeth Leventhal

*Shalom Zone Youth Group Ecumenical Program for Urban and Rural Service
Coconut Grove*

Elizabeth started a reading program that involved at-risk youth reading books for one hour a night, three nights weekly. The youth took turns reading aloud, reviewed vocabulary words and answered questions after each chapter. The students expressed an interest in learning about the Holocaust. Elizabeth organized a visit for the entire Shalom Zone Youth Group to the Holocaust Memorial in Miami. The youth were amazed and awestruck as they looked at the wall with engraved names of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust. The outing was a powerful learning experience for the youth and left a long lasting impression.

Jill Olen

Habitat for Humanity, Fort Pierce

AmeriCorps*VISTA member Jill Olen served with the Martin and St. Lucie county affiliates. While involved with Project Coordination, Jill played a key role in bringing St. Lucie county into affiliate status. She was able to recruit, train and develop a 20 member board of directors and establish an affiliate office. During her time there, the affiliate completed 8 houses and relocated more than 20 people into decent shelters.



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Contacts

AmeriCorps was designed to help meet critical local needs of communities. Its sponsors include national, state, and local nonprofit and faith-based organizations. Programs represented in Florida include:

AmeriCorps*State: Two-thirds of AmeriCorps grants are made by state commissions on service appointed by the governor. For more information on AmeriCorps*State programs in Florida, contact Fred Sanguiliano at (904) 921-5172.

AmeriCorps*National: Other assignments in Florida are made by national non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, some of which may operate in Florida. For more information on AmeriCorps*National programs in Florida, contact Marlene Zakai at (202) 606-5000.

AmeriCorps*VISTA: For more than 30 years, AmeriCorps*VISTA members have been serving disadvantaged communities. The program increases the capability of people to improve their lives. Members of AmeriCorps*VISTA work and live in the communities they serve, creating and strengthening programs that continue after they complete their service. For more information about AmeriCorps*VISTA in Florida, contact Michael Murphy at (407) 648-6117.

AmeriCorps*NCCC: A full-time residential service program, AmeriCorps*NCCC combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service. Members of AmeriCorps*NCCC work in teams on service projects that help children and youth, protect the environment, promote public safety, and respond to natural disasters. Florida is served by the AmeriCorps*NCCC campus based at Charleston, South Carolina. In the past year, AmeriCorps*NCCC teams have served on projects in Belle Glade, Daytona, Deerfield Beach, Kissimmee, New Smyrna Beach, North Tampa, Ocala, Palatka, Panama City, City of Parker, Port Orange, Tallahassee, West Palm Beach, and many other cities. For more information about AmeriCorps*NCCC efforts in Florida, contact Jeff Biel at (803) 743-8600.

AmeriCorps*Education Awards: In these programs, members serve and receive education awards, while nonprofit sponsors provide most of the support for the members' year of service. For more information about AmeriCorps*Education Awards, contact Kerry Galea at (202) 606-5000.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows: AmeriCorps Promise Fellows will serve with community organizations working to meet the goals set at the 1997 Presidents' Summit for America's Future to help at-risk youth get the resources they need to succeed. For more information on AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, contact Henry Hicks at (202) 606-5000.



AmeriCorps in Florida

Primary City	Program Name Program Sponsor (if different) ¹	Number of Members	Program Type
Apopka	Farmworker Youth Empowerment Project Office for Farmworker Ministry	15	AmeriCorps* National
Blountstown	Calhoun County Public Library	10	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Brooksville	Mid-Florida Community Services	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Brooksville	School Board of Hernando County	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Clearwater	AIDS Coalition of Pinellas	3	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Delray Beach	Literacy* AmeriCorps Palm Beach County Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition	25	AmeriCorps* National
Florida City	AmeriCorps Farm Share Farm Share	16	AmeriCorps* State
Florida City	AmeriCorps Youth Pride Centro Campesino	22	AmeriCorps* State
Fort Lauderdale	AmeriCorps 100 South Florida	20	AmeriCorps* National
Fort Lauderdale	AmeriCorps Fort Lauderdale Reads Communities in Schools in Broward County	48	AmeriCorps* State
Fort Pierce	Children's Home Society of Florida	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Ft. Lauderdale	Legal Aid Service of Broward County	2	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Ft. Lauderdale	Naeh-Broward Community Development	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Highland City	United Way of Central Florida	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Homestead	Farm Share	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Jacksonville	AmeriCorps Jacksonville Urban Schools Initiative Florida Community College at Jacksonville	21	AmeriCorps* State
Jacksonville	AmeriCorps NE FLA: Working To Make A Difference Department of Children & Families --District 4	20	AmeriCorps* State
Jacksonville	Florida Office of the Attorney General Office of the Attorney General	24	AmeriCorps* State
Jacksonville	Children's Home Society of Florida	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Jacksonville	Habitat for Humanity International	17	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Lake Mary	Seminole Community Volunteer Programs	11	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Land O'lakes	School Board of Pasco County	16	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Lane Kissimmee	Osceola County Council on Aging	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Miami	Summerbridge Miami	13	AmeriCorps* National
Miami	Miami Habitat* AmeriCorps Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami	10	AmeriCorps* National

¹ If there are two program names listed within a single entry, the second is the sponsoring organization.
If there are two identical programs with separate entries, they are different grants to the same organization.

² This is an AmeriCorps* Education Awards Program.



AmeriCorps in Florida

Primary City	Program Name Program Sponsor (if different) ¹	Number of Members	Program Type
Apopka	Farmworker Youth Empowerment Project Office for Farmworker Ministry	15	AmeriCorps* National
Blountstown	Calhoun County Public Library	10	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Brooksville	Mid-Florida Community Services	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Brooksville	School Board of Hernando County	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Clearwater	AIDS Coalition of Pinellas	3	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Delray Beach	Literacy* AmeriCorps Palm Beach County Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition	25	AmeriCorps* National
Florida City	AmeriCorps Farm Share Farm Share	16	AmeriCorps* State
Florida City	AmeriCorps Youth Pride Centro Campesino	22	AmeriCorps* State
Fort Lauderdale	AmeriCorps 100 South Florida	20	AmeriCorps* National
Fort Lauderdale	AmeriCorps Fort Lauderdale Reads Communities in Schools in Broward County	48	AmeriCorps* State
Fort Pierce	Children's Home Society of Florida	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Ft. Lauderdale	Legal Aid Service of Broward County	2	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Ft. Lauderdale	Naeh-Broward Community Development	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Highland City	United Way of Central Florida	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Homestead	Farm Share	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Jacksonville	Children's Home Society of Florida	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Jacksonville	Habitat for Humanity International	17	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Jacksonville	AmeriCorps Jacksonville Urban Schools Initiative Florida Community College at Jacksonville	21	AmeriCorps* State
Jacksonville	AmeriCorps NE FLA: Working To Make A Difference Department of Children & Families --District 4	20	AmeriCorps* State
Jacksonville	Florida Office of the Attorney General Office of the Attorney General	24	AmeriCorps* State
Lake Mary	Seminole Community Volunteer Programs	11	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Land O'lakes	School Board of Pasco County	16	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Lane Kissimmee	Osceola County Council on Aging	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Miami	Summerbridge Miami	13	AmeriCorps* National
Miami	Best Buddies International	6	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Miami	Dade County Public Schools	7	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Miami	MDCC Center for Community Involvement	7	AmeriCorps* VISTA

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AmeriCorps in Florida

Primary City	Program Name Program Sponsor (if different) ¹	Number of Members	Program Type
Miami	Naeh-Camillus House	1	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Miami	Miami Habitat* AmeriCorps Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami	10	AmeriCorps* National
Miami	National Rapid Response Corps American National Red Cross - Miami	10	AmeriCorps* National
Miami	Ready! Set! Grow! Miami-Dade Community College	30	AmeriCorps* State
Miami	Shalom Interfaith Outreach Network ² EPRUS/AmeriCorps Outreach Network	26	AmeriCorps* National
Miami	Urban Education Service Corps- Miami Dade Florida International University	20	AmeriCorps* National
Miami Shores	AmerCorps Barry University Academy for Better Communities -Barry University School	18	AmeriCorps* State
Milton	Santa Rosa County School Board	3	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Niceville	Americorps OWCC Okaloosa-Walton Community College	30	AmeriCorps* State
North St. Petersburg	St. Petersburg Police Department	8	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Ocala	AmeriCorps Homelessness Resource Project Volunteer Service Bureau of Marion County	12	AmeriCorps* State
Orlando	University of Central Florida	1	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Orlando	AmeriCorps UCF University of Central Florida	20	AmeriCorps* State
Orlando	Athletes in Service to America University of Central Florida	18	AmeriCorps* National
Palm Beach	Palm Beach LISC AmeriCorps	10	AmeriCorps* National
Panama City	Early Childhood Services	4	AmeriCorps* National
Quincy	AmeriCorps Gadsden Reads The School Board of Gadsen County	33	AmeriCorps* State
Sanford	Central Florida Legal Services	3	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Sarasota	Volunteer Center of Sarasota	6	AmeriCorps*VISTA
St. Petersburg	St. Petersburg Junior College	40	AmeriCorps* State
St. Petersburg	AmeriCorps Hi-Five Eckerd Family Youth Alternatives	24	AmeriCorps* State
St. Petersburg	Career Options of Pinellas, Inc YouthBuild St. Petersburg	25	AmeriCorps* National

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AmeriCorps in Florida

Primary City	Program Name Program Sponsor (if different) ¹	Number of Members	Program Type
St. Petersburg	People Achieving Self Sufficiency Department of Children and Families-D 5 PASS	20	AmeriCorps*State
Statewide	Ecumenical Program for Urban Service (EPRUS)	90	AmeriCorps* National
Statewide	AmeriCorps Promise Fellowships Demonstration Program	11	AmeriCorps Promise Fellows
Statewide	Florida Reads Statewide Initiative	210	AmeriCorps*State
Tallahassee	United Way of the Big Bend	40	AmeriCorps*State
Tallahassee	American Red Cross/Capital Area Chapter	2	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Tallahassee	Elder Care Services	17	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Tallahassee	Florida Department of Children & Families	7	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Tallahassee	Florida Department of Corrections	13	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Tallahassee	Florida Department of Elder Affairs	2	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Tallahassee	Florida Department of Juvenile Justice	10	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Tallahassee	Florida Rural Development Council	22	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Tallahassee	Literacy Volunteer of Leon County	9	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Tallahassee	AmeriCorps Elderserve Florida Department of Elder Affairs - Comp	48	AmeriCorps*State
Tallahassee	AmeriCorps Elderserve Florida Department of Elder Affairs	36	AmeriCorps*State
Tallahassee	AmeriCorps Florida State Parks DEP, Division of Parks and Recreation	70	AmeriCorps*State
Tampa	Mayor's B. Program - National Recycling Coalition	1	AmeriCorps*VISTA
Tampa	AmeriCorps ArtsUSF College of Fine Arts, University of South Florida	24	AmeriCorps*State
Tampa	AmeriCorps Hillsborough Reads Hillsborough Education Foundation	168	AmeriCorps*State
Tampa	National Farmworker Environmental Education Prog. Florida Dept. of Ed. Adult Migrant Program and Services	6	AmeriCorps* National
Taveres	Partners For Success Lake County Board of Commissioners	15	AmeriCorps*State
Vero Beach	Youth Volunteer Corps Volunteer Action Center	11	AmeriCorps* National
West Palm Beach	AmeriCorps Weed & Seed Palm Beach Board of County Commissioners	20	AmeriCorps*State

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A m e r i C o r p s

FACT SHEET

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, engages more than 40,000 Americans in intensive, results-driven service each year, through more than 500 programs. Most AmeriCorps members are selected by and serve with local and national organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Boys and Girls Clubs. Others serve in AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and AmeriCorps*NCCC (the National Civilian Community Corps). After their term of service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards to help finance college or pay back student loans.

What AmeriCorps Members Do

AmeriCorps members train volunteers; tutor and mentor at-risk youth; build affordable housing; clean up rivers and streams; help seniors live independently; provide emergency and long-term assistance to victims of natural disasters; and meet other community needs.

AmeriCorps*VISTA members have served economically challenged communities for more than thirty years. The program is dedicated to increasing the capability of people to improve the conditions of their own lives. Members of AmeriCorps*VISTA serve full-time and live in the communities they serve, creating programs that can continue after they complete their service.

AmeriCorps*NCCC is a ten-month, full-time residential service program for men and women age eighteen to twenty-four. Members help meet the nation's critical

needs in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs. AmeriCorps*NCCC combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership and team building.

National Service

The Corporation for National Service—which oversees AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps—works with governor-appointed state commissions, nonprofits, faith-based groups, schools, and other organizations to provide opportunities for Americans of all ages to serve their communities.

For more information, call 1-800-942-2677 or visit www.americorps.org.



AMERICORPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

More than 100,000 Americans have served, or are currently serving, as AmeriCorps members—tackling critical problems like illiteracy, crime, and poverty. Following are just a few of their accomplishments over the past four years. In all, AmeriCorps members have served nearly 33 million people in more than 4,000 communities.



AmeriCorps members have improved the lives of people through health care, housing, and other service.



AmeriCorps members have helped children succeed in school and out of school.

2,640,096 Children taught, tutored, or mentored



AmeriCorps members have worked with police and community organizations to make neighborhoods safer.

40,500 Safety patrols established, operated, or expanded

564,000 At-risk youth served through afterschool programs

25,179 Homes built or rehabilitated

2,429,700 Homeless individuals given food, clothing, or other necessities

208,500 Senior citizens given independent living assistance

337,500 Persons provided with job or career counseling



AmeriCorps members have met important environmental needs.

52,519,752 Trees planted

69,740 Tons of trash removed from neighborhoods



AmeriCorps members have strengthened nonprofits by increasing volunteer support.

1,691,220 Volunteers recruited, trained, or supervised



AmeriCorps members have served in clinics, VA hospitals, and other health-related facilities.

419,000 People immunized



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.

—AmeriCorps Pledge

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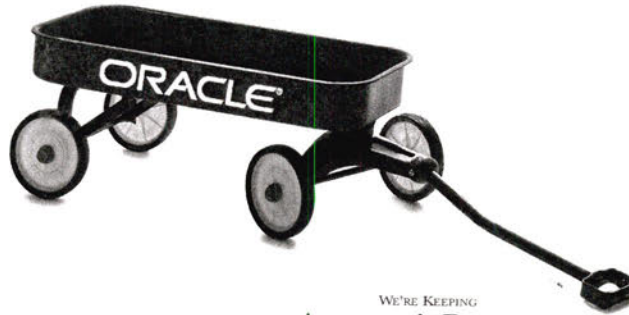
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SARAH ELLEN ROSS

Director

Oracle's Promise

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For Immediate Release

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**ORACLE FORMS "ORACLE'S PROMISE"—A FOUNDATION TO BRING
NETWORK COMPUTERS TO EVERY CHILD'S DESK IN AMERICA****World's Second Largest Software Company Commits \$100 Million;
General Colin Powell Thanks Larry Ellison for Gift to America's Children**

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL, NEW YORK CITY, June 24, 1997—At its Network Computing Day here at Radio City Music Hall, Oracle Corp. chairman and CEO Lawrence J. Ellison today announced the formation of Oracle's Promise, a non-profit foundation chartered with placing a network computer on every child's desk. Oracle Corporation has committed 100 million dollars towards this effort. The company also announced a companion program called "Oracle's Challenge: Help Us Help," designed to recruit individuals, corporations and governments to get involved by adopting students, classrooms or entire schools in their community.

Network computers are designed as low cost information access appliances. Like the telephone or television, network computers are simple Information Age devices that connect to a powerful network, which acts as a digital library storing and delivering audio, video or text information on demand.

General Colin Powell, chairman of "America's Promise," a non-profit organization chartered to improve the lives of disadvantaged youths, was on hand here to thank Oracle's Chairman for his generous commitment to help prepare America's youth for the challenges of adulthood.

—more—

"I want to thank Larry Ellison and the Oracle Corporation for making such a substantive and innovative contribution to 'America's Promise,'" said General Colin L. Powell. "With the creation of the new 'Oracle's Promise' foundation Larry Ellison has boldly accepted the challenge that was issued at the Philadelphia Summit for Corporate America to become more involved in providing the resources needed for young Americans in need. Oracle has provided an example that I hope will be followed by many other companies. Under Larry's leadership, Oracle is broadening access to information resources and caring mentors to support our children and guarantee America's future."

"Oracle's Promise" expands the "Oracle Classroom of the Future" initiative, an established program created by Mr. Ellison to donate software and hardware to low-income school districts around the country to help them better prepare their students for the challenges of the 21st century. Oracle and Mr. Ellison have long been dedicated to improving education for America's youth. Ellison developed the concept of the low-cost network computer to bring the Internet, and its wealth of knowledge, to the desk of every child in grades K-12.

"PCs are in only 30 percent of American households. You can't have an Information Age with 70 percent of America's families and their children disenfranchised. The private sector must do more to ensure that all young people have the resources they need to fulfill their potential," said Mr. Ellison. "The Information Age can rescue our schools. But we need a computer that is affordable and easy to use, so that every child can have a computer. Today's costly PC is creating a society of have's and have-nots."

More information about Oracle's Promise can be obtained at (URL)
<http://www.oracle.com/promise>.

Oracle already has plans to support at least nine schools within the "Oracle Classroom of the Future" program including the James Flood Elementary School in East Palo Alto,

CA, the Walnut Park Elementary School in East Los Angeles and the New York Institute of Technology Vision21 Project, comprising seven school districts.

Oracle's efforts do not end today with this monetary donation. Oracle also intends to establish the Oracle Mentoring Program. Working with the National Mentoring Coalition, Oracle will aim to mobilize its employees to develop mentoring relationships with economically disadvantaged youths grades four through twelve. Oracle also donated more than \$300,000 in services to develop a Web site for the California Mentor Initiative (<http://calmentor.ca.gov>) to make it easy for the public to learn about and volunteer for nearly 300 private mentor ship programs worldwide.

The goal of America's Promise is to mobilize millions of citizens and thousands of organizations, like Oracle, to ensure that all youths have access to these fundamental resources that can help them lead healthy, fulfilling and productive lives:

- an ongoing relationship with a caring adult: a mentor, a tutor, a coach
- safe places and structured activities during non-school hours to learn and grow
- a healthy start
- a marketable skill through effective education
- an opportunity to give back through community service.

Oracle Corporation is the world's leading supplier of software for information management, and the world's second largest software company. With annual revenues of more than \$5.6 billion, the company offers its database, tools and application products along with related consulting, education and support services, in more than 140 countries around the world.

For more information about Oracle, please contact Oracle's headquarters at 415/506-7000. Oracle's World Wide Web address is (URL) <http://www.oracle.com/>.

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**ORACLE TO DELIVER ON PROMISE IN ATLANTA WITH FCC CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM E. KENNARD, MAYOR BILL CAMPBELL**

**Oracle's Promise to Provide Network Computers for Economically
Challenged Schools in Atlanta**

ATLANTA, Feb. 23, 1998—Oracle Corp. today announced that the company's charitable giving charter, Oracle's Promise, intends to provide network computers to economically challenged, disenfranchised public schools in Atlanta.

William E. Kennard, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and Mayor Bill Campbell will join Oracle Corp. Senior Vice President Jay Nussbaum and Dr. Benjamin Canada, Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools, to announce the Oracle's Promise initiative at King Middle School in Atlanta. The announcement marks the first expansion of Oracle's Promise outside California, where the initiative is already equipping economically challenged schools with low-cost, easy-to-use network computers.

"It is very exciting to be a part of a corporate initiative dedicated to delivering comprehensive, low-cost technology solutions to deserving schools," said FCC Chairman William E. Kennard. "Oracle's Promise is an initiative that maximizes the reach of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, an important new framework delivering the promise that all Americans can have access to technology that dramatically improves their lives. The FCC encourages other corporations to join Oracle in ensuring that the Information Age is accessible to everyone—that no one is left on the sidelines of this revolution. Today is one of many more great days to come for the school children of Atlanta."

Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the FCC was charged with ensuring affordable access to basic telephony services for consumers as well as schools and libraries. As part of the act, schools and libraries are now able to obtain telecommunications services from carriers at discounted rates.

Oracle's Promise complements technology initiatives already under way in Atlanta Public Schools, with the school system providing technology to more than 60,000 urban students. "Partnerships like Oracle's Promise and assistance from organizations like the FCC help make this technology possible," said Dr. Benjamin Canada, Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools. "We look forward to the opportunities that will be afforded our students through this partnership."

Oracle's Promise estimates a 12-month time frame to complete the network computer installation in 10 Atlanta Public Schools. Initially, each school is scheduled to receive between 25-50 network computers, which will enable students, teachers, and administrators to access information on the World Wide Web, research educational curriculum, and exchange email with their peers around the world. The first Oracle's Promise installation in Atlanta will begin in May 1998.

"At Oracle, we believe the Information Age must be accessible to everyone," said Jay Nussbaum, Senior Vice President of Oracle Government, Education & Health. "That is why Oracle's Promise is dedicated to delivering affordable and easy-to-use network computers to schools that historically have not been able to afford educational technology."

Supporting education is a non-partisan issue. "I am pleased to recognize Oracle's commitment to bring network computers to economically challenged schools in Atlanta," said Mayor Bill Campbell. "Oracle Corporation must be commended for its effort to provide network computing access to Atlanta's children. We recognize that access is opportunity. And, opportunity is our tool against ignorance in a rapidly changing world; it enables all of us to reach out and make a difference."

Oracle's Promise was first announced in June 1997, when the company committed to make a \$100 million donation to be used for providing network computer access to American children. The donation was made in support of "America's Promise-The

Alliance for Youth," a multiyear, national campaign that will propel the mission and goals of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

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For more information about Oracle, please call 650/506-7000. Oracle's World Wide Web address is (URL) <http://www.oracle.com/>. More information about Oracle's Promise can be obtained at (URL) <http://www.oracle.com/promise>.

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The New York Times

Push for Volunteerism Brings No Outpouring

By JUDITH MILLER

NEW YORK -- Lorraine Bodden did not show up for work on Monday at KPMG Peat Marwick, the giant accounting firm. Instead, she danced with patients at Mary Manning Walsh Nursing Home's "autumn ball" in Manhattan, one of 20,000 KPMG employees in 130 offices across the country who got the day off, with pay, to volunteer at schools, hospitals, nursing homes, parks, and youth centers.

KPMG is one of 300 companies and dozens of nonprofit organizations that have begun to fulfill their pledges, made six months ago at the Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia, spearheaded by Gen. Colin Powell, President Clinton, and three former presidents, to spend \$1 billion and volunteer countless hours to help 2 million children by 2000.

Yet KPMG's "World of Spirit Day" was planned more than a year before the April meeting, executives said, and the only change in plans arising from that gathering was a stronger emphasis on programs for youth.

KPMG is not alone. Many companies responding to Clinton's call for a "nation of volunteers" promised to undertake activities they were already doing or at least planning, interviews show.

But while some volunteer and social-service groups around the country report a surge of interest, there is little evidence as yet of masses of individuals coming forward nationwide. "I haven't noticed an outpouring of people who want to volunteer," said David Saltzman, executive director of the Robin Hood Foundation, an innovative New York philanthropy that supports smaller programs for youth and the urban poor.

And some wonder whether volunteerism is the best use of America's philanthropic resources to solve major social problems.

Jon Van Til, professor of urban studies who directs Rutgers University's Citizenship and Service Education Program in Camden, N.J., questioned whether the \$20 million that KPMG sacrificed on Monday's day off

would have done more good in the form of a check. "Wouldn't it have been better if Peat Marwick went to these organizations and said: 'You've got a choice -- a \$1,000-a-day accountant doing a \$5-an-hour job picking up trash, or a gift of \$1000.'" "Many organizations, he said, would "quickly take the money."

Assessing the impact of volunteerism after the Philadelphia meeting is complicated by the dearth of verifiable data about what some 93 million volunteers and companies are really doing or spending, as opposed to what they claim.

"Methods of tracking what's happening in the nonprofit sector are very haphazard," said Alan Abramson, director of the Aspen Institute's Nonprofit Sector Research Fund, in Washington. "I can tell you the employment rate. But there is no volunteer rate or Dow Jones index for the health of the nonprofit sector."

Part of the problem is that the meeting's organizers, who are supposed to insure that companies meet their pledges, have been in some confusion. America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth, created to encourage and monitor the response to the call for volunteerism on behalf of children, has had two directors and has been hampered by problems ranging from telephones that did not work properly for four months to delays in mailing out questionnaires designed to track companies' volunteer efforts. Moreover, the group, operating on a \$750,000 budget, has no way of verifying information companies provide.

Still, with national attention focused on volunteerism, at least a dozen major American companies, including Oracle, Microsoft, NationsBank, and Timberland, have made huge new commitments of time, products and money to meet the meeting's goals, sometimes without even informing its organizers. The Philadelphia gathering has also sparked about 150 "mini-summits" at the state and local level, which experts say are likely to be important in boosting volunteerism and meeting goals in the longer term.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1997

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Software Moguls Suddenly Compete To Be Nice Guys

Oracle Pledges \$100 Million To Schools After Gates Gift; Don't Ask Who Was First

By DON CLARK

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The software industry's battling billionaires are at it again.

Bill Gates and Lawrence Ellison, who for years have slugged it out over computer desktop dominance, are now tossing around some serious cash in an effort to bring the benefits of technology to America's schools and libraries.

One day after Mr. Gates announced a \$200 million personal donation, plus \$200 million of Microsoft Corp. products, to bring computers and Internet access to public libraries, Mr. Ellison, chairman of Oracle Corp., said his software company pledged \$100 million to help schools place inexpensive computing devices called network computers on every child's desk.

The unusually large donations appear to be coincidental examples of a new wave of corporate giving. Though both are setting up new nonprofit foundations, Mr. Gates and Mr. Ellison are stressing projects that bring quick, measurable results, and can also bring business benefits to the contributors.

High-tech companies are increasingly alarmed about a dearth of skilled employees, and helping to bring technology to schools and libraries is a concrete way to help the underprivileged. Of course, the two efforts also serve to familiarize people

who could become customers with Microsoft software and Oracle's network computers, an added benefit to both companies.

"Here you have two of America's richest men fighting for the attention of schools and libraries," said Andrew Blau, a director of the Benton Foundation, a nonprofit group that studies technology in education. "I'm excited by the fact that the battleground has shifted from just corporate desktops."

Mr. Ellison, who has long sought the visibility of Microsoft's chairman, is crusading for the appliance-like computing devices he calls NCs as an alternative to personal computers and Microsoft's software. Oracle, based in Redwood Shores, Calif., has been negotiating for several months about the donation with America's Promise, a nonprofit organization to help disadvantaged youths that began publicly soliciting corporate donations at a Philadelphia summit on community involvement hosted by President Clinton. The group is headed by former General Colin Powell, who appeared at an Oracle product launch at Radio City Music Hall in New York, where the donation was announced.

Mr. Gates, meanwhile, has been quietly planning the library donation effort for about 18 months, said Patty Stonesifer, the former Microsoft executive who will head the new Gates Library Foundation. She said it planned to go public yesterday because of an impending conference of library officials, and was unaware of Oracle's plans to announce the donation the same day.

The Gates foundation opted to send out a news release about its efforts on Monday because they were leaking to newspapers. "This is an unbelievable coincidence," Ms. Stonesifer said.

Oracle executives preferred to think that Mr. Gates was responding to an alert about the donation that they distributed Monday afternoon. Mr. Ellison joked that

it took Microsoft a year to respond to the Internet, six months to respond to the NC and only six hours to respond to the company's donation. "It was a pretty tacky move," said Raymond Lane, Oracle's president, regarding the Gates announcement.

Mr. Gates wasn't available for comment Tuesday. With Microsoft stock holdings worth more than \$35 billion, he is putting his own money on the line in what is his largest personal contribution to date. He has long vowed to give away most of his fortune before his death, but some people in philanthropic circles have hoped he will begin to pick up the pace. The foundation is expected to expend \$200 million over five years, with much of the money going to help train library personnel in the use of PCs and the Internet.

Microsoft is giving no cash. The \$200 million figure for the Redmond, Wash., company's software donation represents the value of those products if purchased at retail; its cost to Microsoft is substantially lower, as is the amount the corporation can take as a charitable deduction.

Oracle, on the other hand, made a corporate pledge to spend \$100 million in bringing NC hardware and software to schools around the country, though it didn't specify over how many years. Mr. Lane said the company's board approved the contribution with little debate, in view of the obvious benefits in promoting NCs as well as helping the community. Mr. Ellison, whose Oracle stock holdings are valued at \$7.5 billion, didn't make a personal pledge yesterday, but Mr. Lane predicted he is likely eventually to match the company contribution.

None of the executives involved dispute the self-interest in the donations. "More people enjoying PCs is a benefit to everybody in the technology business, but it happens to be an area that also benefits society," Ms. Stonesifer said. She noted that Mr. Gates' donation reflects the interests of his wife, Melinda French Gates, who worked on educational products at Microsoft that include its Encarta CD-ROM encyclopedia.

"People often turn their energies and their contributions to things they are comfortable with and know about," Ms. Stonesifer added.



Bill Gates



Lawrence Ellison

Getting students online

Company helps low-income learn

By Keith Coffman
Special to The Denver Post

ARVADA — Eleven-year-old Henry Castle was at Foster Elementary School on Saturday, the first day of his summer vacation. But Henry was jazzed, not disappointed, to be back in the classroom. He and a number of other Foster students were helping set up a new network of computers at the school.

"We raised our hands (to be here)," Henry said.

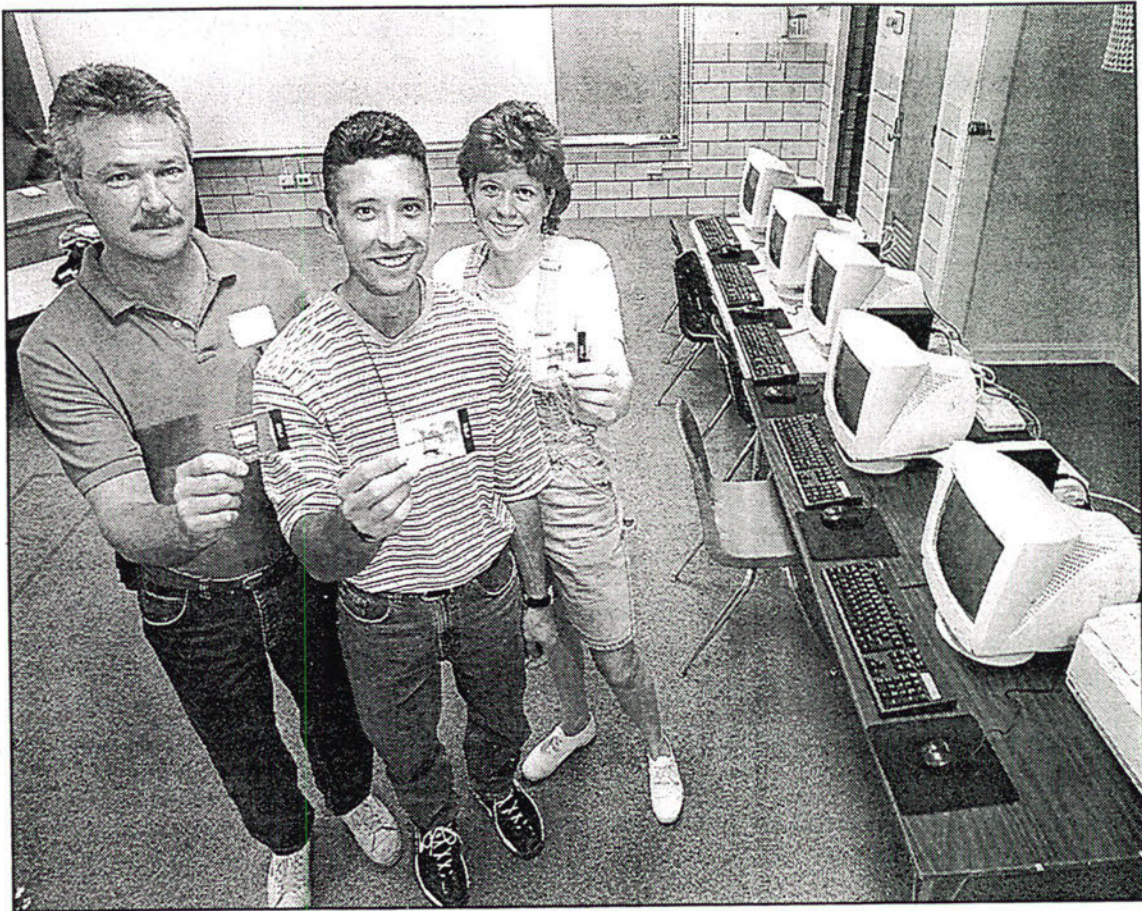
The new computers, 65 in all, were donated to the school by Oracle Corp., a California-based software company. Last year, Oracle Chairman Lawrence Ellison pledged \$100 million to install 3,000 network computers in low-income schools nationwide.

Foster is the first school in Colorado to receive a donation under the "Oracle's Promise" program. Schools in Jefferson County, Denver and Littleton have applications for computers pending with the company, according to Sarah Ross, director of Oracle's Promise foundation.

Network computers cost less than a personal computer but allow access to the Internet, e-mail and word-processing functions. A network server stores the data and downloads requested information to individual terminals. The setup serves as a relatively inexpensive library — but an invaluable educational tool.

"This is an opportunity for all children to have access to the world," said Foster Principal Joy Hood.

Oracle, which had \$6 billion in sales last year, embarked on the



Special to The Denver Post / Lew Sherman

Oracle Corp.'s Jeff Shearer, left; Ivan Duran, a principle intern at Foster Elementary School in Arvada; and Cheryl Hornbaker, also with Oracle, hold smart cards that access 85 new computers donat-

ed to the school and installed by Oracle. The smart cards, each of which contain a personal profile of the card holder, will be given to each student and faculty member.

This is an opportunity for all children to have access to the world.

Foster Elementary Principal Joy Hood

computer program in response to a request from Colin Powell, former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff under President George Bush.

Powell heads America's Promise, a nonprofit organization that urges corporate America to help disadvantaged youths.

Ross said there are only two criteria for schools to be considered for the program: They must be

public schools and situated in low-income neighborhoods.

Foster has on its school site a community resource center that offers counseling, adult literacy, computer classes and other services. Jefferson County Human Services has a branch office at the center, as does the Arvada Police outreach program.

"This makes Foster ideal, be

cause they do so much to bring the community into the school," Ross said.

Oracle also donates the server, printers, software and related equipment needed for the network system, as well as ongoing technical support.

ORACLE'S PROMISE

NOW EVERY CHILD CAN USE A COMPUTER

500 Oracle Parkway
Redwood Shores, CA 94065
Tel: 650.506.7000
Fax: 650.802.9695

For Immediate Release

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ORACLE CEO LAWRENCE J. ELLISON MEETS PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON; ORACLE TO DELIVER ON PROMISE

"Oracle's Promise" to Provide Network Computers for Economically-Challenged Schools in California

SAN CARLOS, Calif., Sept. 20, 1997—Oracle Corp. today announced that the company's new charitable giving charter, "Oracle's Promise," intends to provide network computers to the 100 most economically-challenged schools in California.

As a prelude to the announcement, Oracle Corporation Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Lawrence J. Ellison was invited by President Bill Clinton to participate in a roundtable discussion on education today in San Carlos, California with the President and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. At this meeting, Ellison delivered on a commitment Oracle had made to the President two years earlier to the day: to equip economically-challenged schools with low-cost, easy-to-use network computers.

"I'm very pleased Oracle is working so quickly and diligently to deliver on Oracle's commitment to America's Promise," said General Colin L. Powell, chairman of America's Promise. "This past June when we stood together at Radio City Music Hall in New York to announce the creation of Oracle's Promise, I couldn't have imagined work would be underway just three months later in California. Oracle has provided an example that I hope will be followed by many other companies."

The first Oracle's Promise network computers were running at the George Washington Carver Middle School and Walnut Park Elementary School in Los Angeles,

—more—



and the James Flood Science and Technology Magnet School in Menlo Park on September 22, coinciding with the opening day of Oracle OpenWorld™, the largest-ever network computing trade show held in the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Jose Rodriguez, principal of the first Oracle's Promise school site at George Washington Carver Middle School in South Central Los Angeles, lauded Oracle's involvement in low income public schools. "Three months ago, having access to the Internet was only a dream that, if accomplished, would provide access to only a limited number of students and staff. Now, thanks to Oracle, we have the capability of bringing the world to Carver kids in five classrooms, with plans for additional classrooms," said Mr. Rodriguez. "It's great to see our vision realized!"

Oracle's Promise estimates an 18-month time frame to complete the network computer installation in all 100 schools, and also plans to extend the effort into the ten largest urban areas in the United States as part of the Oracle's Promise charter.

"I believe the Information Age can rescue public schools," Ellison said. "But public schools need affordable and easy-to-use computers. Costly PCs further a society of have's and have not's. Oracle's Promise is committed to closing the 'digital divide' by bringing network computers to every classroom in America."

Supporting education is a non-partisan issue. "I am honored to recognize Oracle's commitment to bring network computers to the 100 most economically disadvantaged schools in California," said California Governor Pete Wilson. "Larry Ellison and Oracle have provided tremendous support to State efforts benefiting low income, at-risk youth. In particular, Oracle's support of the California Mentoring Initiative is bolstering mentor recruitment efforts by providing database software, Internet applications and network computers to more than 300 mentor service provision organizations statewide."

Oracle's Promise was first announced in June when the company committed to make a \$100 million donation to be used for providing network computer access to every child in America. The donation was made in support of "America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth," a multi-year, national campaign that will propel the mission and goals of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future forward. The organization is dedicated to ensuring that America's youth have access to the five fundamental resources necessary for success including:

- An ongoing relationship with a caring adult: mentor, tutor, coach;
- Safe places and structured activities during non-school hours to learn and grow;
- A healthy start and healthy future;
- A marketable skill through effective education; and,
- An opportunity to give back through community service.

Oracle Corporation is the world's leading supplier of software for information management, and the world's second largest software company. With annual revenues of \$6 billion, the company offers its database, tools and application products, along with related consulting, education and support services, in more than 140 countries around the world.

For more information about Oracle, please call 415/506-7000. Oracle's World Wide Web address is (URL) <http://www.oracle.com/>. More information about Oracle's Promise can be obtained at (URL) <http://www.oracle.com/promise>.

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For Immediate Release

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Sarah Ross
Oracle's Promise
650/506-8371
sross@us.oracle.com

ORACLE DELIVERS ON PROMISE IN WASHINGTON D.C.**Oracle's Promise Donates 100 Network Computers to MacFarland Middle School in Washington D.C.**

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 23, 1998—Oracle Corp. announced it will install 100 network computers today at MacFarland Middle School in Washington, D.C., as part of its Oracle's Promise program to provide American children with access to the Internet through network computing.

"America thanks (Oracle Chairman and CEO) Larry Ellison and Oracle for the promise to spend \$100 million to help schools across America connect to the future," said United States President Bill Clinton. "Oracle's Promise is helping fulfill one of my great hopes for this nation: to eliminate America's digital divide by connecting every school and library to the Internet by the year 2000."

"I commend Larry Ellison for his leadership," said General Colin L. Powell, Chairman of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth. "He is truly on the front line in the fight against digital apartheid in America. Poor children in poor schools do not have adequate access to the information technology they need to manifest prosperity in the next century. When we deny children access to the Internet, we deny them access to opportunity."

As part of the donation today, volunteers from local Oracle Corp. offices joined volunteers from Communities In Schools and America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth to install the computers into MacFarland Middle School, the first Washington D.C school to receive Oracle's Promise donations.

Currently, Oracle's Promise provides computers to schools in Los Angeles, Compton, East Palo Alto, San Carlos, Oakland, Stockton, and San Diego, California; Chicago, Illinois;

Atlanta, Georgia; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and plans to have a presence in 25 states by the year 2000.

"The students and teachers of MacFarland Middle School are thrilled to be receiving network computers from Oracle," said MacFarland Middle School Principal Ulysses Johnson. "Oracle's Promise is an initiative that will not only reach our students, it will reach their parents as well. Part of Oracle's commitment to MacFarland is the creation of a community computing center that will provide Internet access to families who cannot afford a computer at home. I join General Powell in thanking Larry Ellison for ensuring that the Information Age is accessible to everyone—that no one is left on the sidelines of this revolution."

Oracle's Promise supports "America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth," a national campaign furthering the mission and goals of the President's Summit for America's Future. The Organization is dedicated to ensuring America's youth have access to five fundamental resources necessary for success, including an ongoing relationship with a caring adult-parent, mentor, tutor, coach; safe places and structured activities during non-school hours to learn and grow; a healthy start and a healthy future; a marketable skill through effective education; and an opportunity to give back through community service.

Oracle Corporation is the world's leading supplier of software for information management, and the world's second largest software company. With annual revenues of \$7.1 billion, the company offers its database, application server, tools and application products, along with related consulting, education and support services, in more than 140 countries around the world.

For more information about Oracle, please call 650/506-7000. Oracle's World Wide Web address is (URL) <http://www.oracle.com/>. More information about Oracle's Promise can be obtained at (URL) <http://www.oracle.com/promise>.

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Network Computer, Inc. Company Profile

MISSION	To become the leading provider of Information Appliance Software
COMPANY	Formed in 1996, Network Computer, Inc. (NCI) creates the Information Appliance Software that brings the Internet to everyone. NCI is an affiliate of Oracle Corporation and Netscape Communications and is the world's only software company that offers a complete family of Information Appliance Software that is targeted at hardware manufacturers and network operators that want to deliver new Internet-enabled applications and services. In August of 1997, NCI merged with Netscape's affiliate, Navio Communications, Inc. NCI is privately held with corporate headquarters in Redwood Shores, Calif. and offices in Europe and Asia.
MANAGEMENT	David Roux, CEO Nancy Hilker, Chief Financial Officer Steve Weinstein, VP Engineering Phil Vachon, VP Sales, Americas Dave Limp, VP Marketing
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	NCI's consumer software is targeted at consumer electronics companies, set-top box manufacturers and access providers which enables Enhanced TV™ applications that integrate the Internet and television experience. TV Navigator. TV Navigator is the ideal software platform for delivering Internet-based interactive applications to TV-centric consumer devices, such as televisions, set-top boxes and game consoles. TV Navigator is designed for consumer electronic companies and Internet Service Providers eager to provide the next generation of interactive services that merges television programming with Internet content. DTV Navigator. Designed especially for cable set-top box manufacturers as well as cable, satellite, and terrestrial TV network operators, DTV Navigator is a software platform for delivering Internet-based interactive applications to thin-client consumer devices.

Custom Connect Server Suite: The increasing demand for Internet access and services for consumers translates into a major financial opportunity for access providers. Custom Connect Server Suite allows any Internet, Cable or satellite service provider to create, manage and deploy their own Internet-based Enhanced TV service.

CORPORATE PRODUCTS

NCI's corporate products are aimed at corporations that want to leverage their existing technology and network investments to lower their total cost of ownership and simplify their computing experience. NCI's software is perfect for deploying corporate applications on network computers or when migrating from aging mainframe terminals.

NC Administration Server™ provides large corporations with the ability to deploy network computers. NC Administration Server offers the core services needed to operate network computers, including software administration and distribution, authentication and security, and business and systems management. NC Administration Server runs on Unix and Windows NT operating systems, and integrates easily into corporate environments.

NC Server Suite™ is a turnkey, packaged server solution which addresses the needs of small businesses, schools and departments inside corporations. It is currently available in NC Network in the Box™ – an offering which contains all the hardware, software and networking needed to deploy a network computing solution. NC Server Suite requires a minimal amount of on-site customization to be fully operational.

ALLIANCES

The foundation of NCI's strategy is establishing strong, strategic alliances that drives NCI's technology into the consumer and corporate markets.

CONSUMER ALLIANCES AND CUSTOMERS

Acer, the world's sixth largest personal computer manufacturer will be using NCI's TV Navigator for its CyberTV set-top appliance. The product will be deployed in Singapore in March, 1998.

Boca Research is manufacturing Information Appliances for corporate and consumer markets by the fourth quarter of 1998.

Cable & Wireless, plc., one of the world's largest communications companies is using NCI's DTV Navigator platform for their worldwide cable deployments. The first deployment will begin in late 1998 by Cable and Wireless Communications in the UK.

General Instrument is working with NCI to provide Internet-based applications and services to their Dvi-2000 interactive digital set-top terminals.

NEC Corporation's "Interaku" is an Internet-enabled television set that allows users to simultaneously view Web content and television content. The product utilizes NCI's TV Navigator software and retails in Japan for 298,000 yen.

Scientific Atlanta and NCI are working together to deliver the cable industry's first open, digital set-top box with Enhanced TV capabilities. NCI's DTV Navigator platform will be utilized in Scientific Atlanta's Explorer 2000 digital set-top box to enable interactive applications and services over existing cable networks.

Wind River Systems is using NCI's light browser technology for a user friendly interface inside real-time embedded Internet appliances which range from set top boxes to LCD displays.

CORPORATE ALLIANCES

Accton manufactures the LAN Station Pro network computer which retails for US\$680.

DLT Solutions is an authorized reseller of NCI's NC Network in the Box™ which retails for \$US4,295.

Fuji Electric is manufacturing network computers for their industrial customers in Spring, 1998.

Funai manufactures the Janessa network computer which retails for US\$500.

Uniden manufactures the NC-1000 network computer which retails for \$US700.

UMAX manufactures the Desktop network computer which retails for US\$700.

INVESTORS

NCI is backed by leading software and consumer technology companies including Oracle Corp., Netscape Communications, Acer, NEC, Nintendo, Sega and Sony.

INFORMATION

For more information about Network Computer, Inc., please call 650.631.4600 or visit <http://www.nc.com>.

At-A-Glance

Oracle Corp. (Nasdaq: ORCL) is the world's leading supplier of software for information management, and the world's second largest software company. With annual revenues of \$7.1 billion, the company offers its database server, application server, tools, and application products, along with related consulting, education, and support services, in more than 140 countries around the world. Headquartered in Redwood Shores, California, Oracle is one of the first software companies to implement network computing capable databases and products, and the first major software company to make full-featured products available electronically on the Internet.

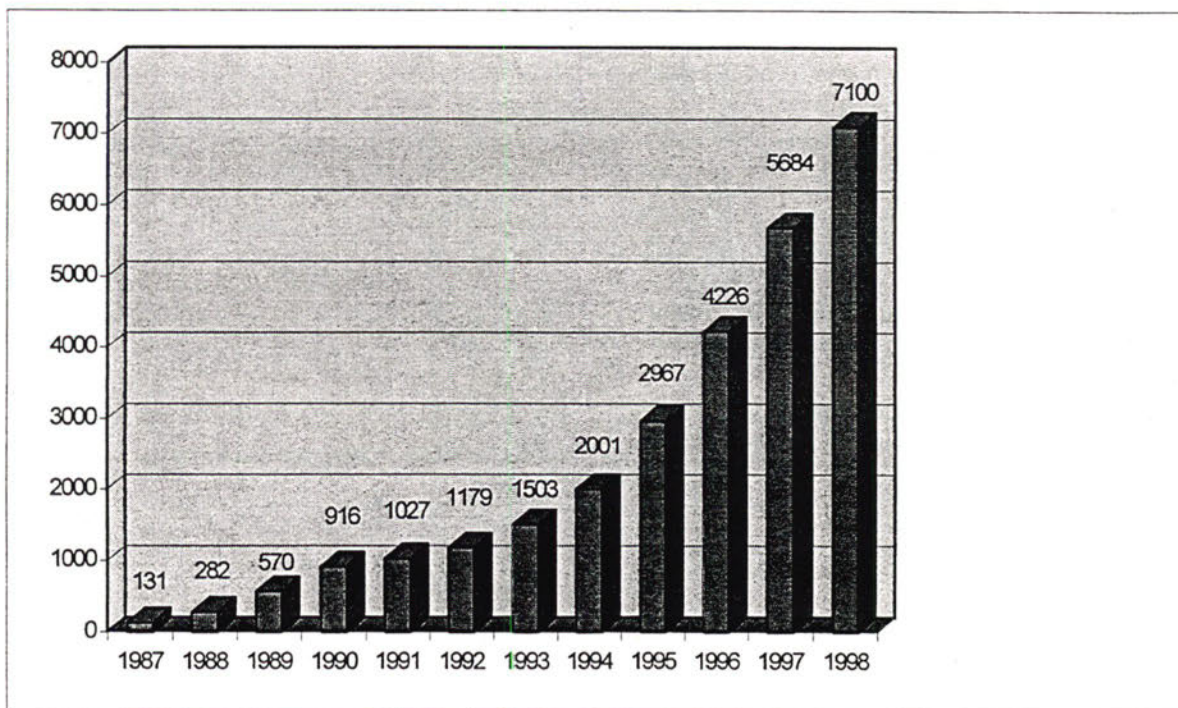
Oracle's World Wide Web address is (URL) <http://www.oracle.com/>

Founded: 1977

Employees: 34,000 Worldwide (14,585 U.S.)

Revenue: FY98 revenues (ended May 31, 1998): \$7.1 billion
FY97 revenues (ended May 31, 1997): \$5.7 billion
FY96 revenues (ended May 31, 1996): \$4.2 billion
FY95 revenues (ended May 31, 1995): \$3 billion

Revenue Trend (in millions of dollars)



Oracle software runs on network computers, personal digital assistants, set-top devices, PCs, workstations, minicomputers, mainframes and massively parallel computers.

The information age has ushered in a new competitive era where business opportunities are discovered and exploited more quickly than ever before. To thrive in this new environment, businesses are challenged to deploy information solutions that are both powerful and flexible - two characteristics which have traditionally been competing objectives.

In response to these new information technology requirements, a new era of enterprise computing is emerging - the era of network computing. Leveraging the simplicity and cost effectiveness of the Internet, network computing provides organizations the ability to shift operational and management emphasis from expensive, client-centric models and focus instead on high-impact, flexible applications in a server-centric environment.

A server-centric architecture places new demands on the database server. As "thin" software clients move applications off of the desktop, the database server has to support increasingly complex applications. And since the simplicity of thin software clients allows more users to access the system, the database server also must support significantly higher usage.

To meet these needs, the Oracle database server has been fundamentally re-designed. Oracle8, the Database for Network Computing, brings the unprecedented ability to support the high demands which network computing places on the data server. Oracle8's key strengths include the ability to support all of a customer's users, the ability to support all of a customer's database, faster application development, deployment and execution, and a dramatic increase in cost effectiveness.

Oracle develops and markets the family of Oracle® database servers for data management; Developer/2000, Designer/2000 and Discoverer tools for developing enterprise-wide, client/server and network applications; and Oracle Applications, packaged client/server solutions for business operations.

Network Computing Architecture™

On October 1, 1996, Oracle introduced Network Computing Architecture, its universal platform for object-based network applications. Network Computing Architecture provides a common platform that integrates client software with Web application servers and database servers supported by communications technologies that allow software components to work together even if they are built using different standards. Based on open and de facto standards, CORBA and HTTP, Oracle supports the Netscape ONE client, the Network Computer(™) natively, and Microsoft's Active-X Desktop. Network Computing Architecture allows applications to be developed on multiple platforms and deployed transparently across both the Web and corporate networks. The Network Computing Architecture (NCA) application platform supports a high volume of information delivery, interactive communications and electronic commerce.

Oracle® Database Server

Oracle's family of database, networking and gateway products enable corporations to access any data, on any server, over any network, from any client device. The company's flagship product is the **Oracle8™ database server**, available in Oracle8 and Oracle8 Enterprise Edition versions.

Oracle8™ Database Server

Oracle8, the Database for Network Computing, manages large amounts of information securely, reliably, and economically over computer networks. Oracle8 is a versatile information platform that enables high-speed transactions, better business decisions, and sophisticated object-relational applications. Built on a foundation of proven technology, Oracle8 is designed to lower an organization's computing costs, manage all types of data, and deliver faster information access to all kinds of users.

The key components to Oracle® Universal Data Server are Oracle8 Relational Database Server, Oracle8 Objects Option, Oracle8 Advanced Networking Option, Oracle8 Video Cartridge, Oracle8 ConText Cartridge, Oracle8 Spatial Cartridge, Oracle8 Messaging Cartridge, Oracle8 Image Cartridge, Oracle8 VIR Cartridge, Oracle8 Time Series Cartridge, Oracle8 Documents Cartridge, Oracle8 Workflow Cartridge, Oracle Express Server, Oracle8 Parallel Server, Oracle8 Partitioning Option and Oracle Enterprise Manager Performance Pack.

Access To Any Data: The Oracle database server can handle many types of data, including objects, video, audio, text, spatial and data staged for multi-dimensional analysis and. can deliver this data over any network.

Applications for Network Computing : The Oracle database server enables a new breed of innovative and creative applications, that synthesize relational data with other data types, including objects, text, video, audio, graphics, and more. The Oracle database server supports Web, messaging and client/server access to provide maximum flexibility in building solutions to business needs

Data Management for Network Computing: Oracle provides the platform for all data types, removing the need for specialty servers (bitmap indexing servers, star schema servers, specialty Web servers, and more). Oracle8's data partitioning allows administrators to "divide and conquer" large database tables and indexes, making them easier to manage and recover in the case of system failure. Oracle's integrated systems management lets customers manage all information from one simple, unified console, reducing training and administration costs. Customers can use any network, any client, and any server to build and access universal applications on the Oracle platform.

Object-Relational Data Management

The Oracle8 object-relational database provides the most complete solution to address the object functionality needs of the mainstream business market. It combines the management of complexity in developing applications for complicated business process, the management and manipulation of any data in a single data store, and the industry's most robust, scalable, and high-performance deployment platform. In doing so, Oracle8 defines the next generation of database technology.

Oracle® Database Server cont.

Open Standards: The Oracle database server provides support for standards such as SQL, HTTP/HTML, ODBC, JAVA, Oracle Objects for OLE and OLAPI. It provides access to data using Oracle SQL*Net, Oracle MediaNet or even via messaging systems like e-mail. Applications can also be programmed in 3GL languages such as C, C++ or COBOL.

Oracle Lite™

Oracle Lite remains the industry's smallest object-relational database with a "footprint" requiring less than one megabyte of system memory and less than five megabytes of hard-disk space. Oracle Lite is designed specifically to support new network computing applications that take advantage of powerful servers and networks to simplify users' computing experience and enhance productivity. Oracle Lite extends the versatility and power of Oracle's flagship information management software to mobile and desktops clients. Its two-way replication capabilities give mobile workers access to the most current corporate information to perform their jobs, no matter where they are located.

Data Warehousing And OLAP Solutions

Oracle's **Warehouse Technology Initiative (WTI)**, one of the fastest growing and most comprehensive alliance programs in the data warehousing industry, provides customers with a complete data warehousing solution based on the industry-leading Oracle database and more than 60 complimentary third-party software products and services. WTI is designed to increase the quantity and quality of Oracle-based data warehousing solutions, providing customers with greater choice, specialized tools, Oracle-optimized products and streamlined support as they build data warehouses.

Oracle's online analytical processing (OLAP) products enable users to leverage the information stored in databases for sophisticated decision support analysis. Oracle's family of decision support tools includes the Web-enabled **Oracle Express Server**, an advanced calculation engine and data cache which integrates data from disparate systems—relational, legacy, or external.

Oracle's OLAP tools such as **Oracle Express Objects**, **Oracle Express Analyzer** and **Oracle Discoverer/2000** enable companies to rapidly build and deploy OLAP applications. Oracle also offers pre-built OLAP applications—**Oracle Financial Analyzer**, **Oracle Financial Controller** and **Oracle Sales Analyzer**—to further reduce implementation time and costs.

Oracle Application Server

Oracle Application Server is the platform for moving database applications off desktop PCs onto professionally-managed, shared application servers.

The Award-winning Oracle Application Server (Infoworld's Product of the Year in 1997) leverages the proven power of Oracle database technology and the flexibility of the Web and Oracle's Network Computing Architecture, to enable a cross-platform environment for development and deployment. Oracle Application Server allows users to maintain persistent Internet sessions between Web browsers, Web application servers, and database servers for conducting real-time transactions over the Web.

Oracle® Tools

Oracle Designer/2000

Designer/2000™ is Oracle's modeling tool for web-based and client/server development, incorporating support for system analysis, software design, automatic code generation and business process re-engineering. The WebServer Generator in Designer/2000 enables the rapid creation and deployment of Internet and intranet applications from definitions already held in the Designer/2000 repository.

Oracle Developer/2000™

Developer/2000 sets new ease-of-use and productivity standards for client/server and Web development tools through the use of RAD techniques, object orientation, a unified client and server architecture, and effortless deployment on the Web. Developer/2000 is the first client/server development tool to deliver workgroup-through-enterprise scalability, achieved through breakthrough technology such as drag-and-drop application partitioning and extensive database integration.

Oracle® JDeveloper Suite

JDeveloper Suite answers developers' growing need to use a single, integrated set of products to build and deploy sophisticated enterprise database applications using Java. JDeveloper Suite includes AppBuilder for Java, Oracle(r) Application Server 4.0, Oracle8(tm) Database Server and Symantec's Visual Page HTML editor. Additionally, developers will receive a one-year membership to the Oracle Technology Network, a program to support Oracle developers.

Oracle Applications

Oracle Applications is Oracle Applications is the leading provider of packaged client/server solutions for the enterprise and a division of Oracle Corporation, the world's second-largest software company and the largest supplier of software for information management.

Oracle Applications' strategy is to offer all the enterprise solution components--proven applications, advanced technologies, business expertise and partnerships--required to enable customers to execute strategies quickly, manage the risk of change and lead their respective industries. Vertical industries targeted by Oracle Applications include consumer packaged goods, energy, financial services, higher education, and public sector.

In an extremely competitive marketplace, Oracle Applications "best in class" differentiation is achieved through several strong technology advantages:

- Oracle's core technology stack, comprising enterprise-caliber database server software, development tools and packaged applications;
- the only applications provider to offer both front and back office application suites
- customized vertical applications solutions; and,
- the delivery of total solutions which leverage Oracle's Web-enablement, Year 2000 compatibility, online analytical processing (OLAP), and modular, "rapid solutions assembly" technologies.

Oracle Applications cont'd

Oracle Applications' success is enabled by the nearly 15,000 Oracle Services professionals who implement Oracle solutions worldwide. Additionally, Oracle partners with a wide variety of third-party software solution providers which supply best-of-breed complementary applications.

By providing customers with assurance, accountability and flexible end-to-end solutions, Oracle Applications is establishing new standards for excellence in enterprise applications and extending its leadership in the applications arena.

Customized, Modular Product Families for Rapid Solution Deployment

Oracle Applications comprise 45-plus software modules which divide into the following categories:

- Oracle Financials
- Oracle Human Resources
- Oracle Projects
- Oracle Manufacturing
- Oracle Supply Chain
- Oracle Front Office

Oracle's Vertical Applications Initiative

Unique to the applications industry, Oracle is delivering applications customized to meet selected markets' specific strategies and business practices. Through Oracle Applications, customers can realize improved business processes that address their sectors' unique competitive requirements.

Additionally, customers benefit from these applications' optimized and more powerful performance, and greatly reduced implementation times. Oracle Applications are often deployed in one-third to one-half of the time required by more rigid systems, and at half the cost, allowing customers to focus on their core business instead of IT.

Oracle Consulting, Support and Educational Services

In addition to its products, Oracle offers comprehensive consulting, education, and support services.

Oracle Consulting Services

Oracle Consulting Services is the professional consulting division of Oracle Corp. with more than 15,000 consultants in over 50 countries. Oracle consultants combine an innovative suite of services with focused delivery capabilities and a proven methodology to help customers realize rapid returns on their Oracle technology investments. Services include implementation of Oracle Applications, custom application development, advanced technologies such as data warehousing, electronic commerce, and web-based applications, business consulting, and program management.

Oracle Consulting, Support and Educational Services cont'd

Oracle Worldwide Customer Support

The mission of Oracle's Worldwide Customer Support is to help ensure the business success of its customers by providing comprehensive support for Oracle's sophisticated software solutions. Three global support centers, operating 24-hours a day, 365-days a year, provide the infrastructure for Oracle's Worldwide Customer Support. The centers are located in Belmont, California; Bracknell, UK; and Melbourne, Australia. Oracle's technical support programs include a vast array of services that deliver telephone, Web-based, and on-site support.

Oracle Education

Oracle Education, a division of Oracle Corporation, is the second largest IT training provider worldwide. Oracle Education has experienced a growth rate of at least 29% for five consecutive years.

Oracle Education is dedicated to providing superior technology training through traditional and emerging technology mediums to customers and partners. Oracle Education is the source for the most comprehensive offering of quality training available for Oracle products and related technologies. Oracle Education is committed to making IT training readily available, affordable and effective by providing a wide range of training products, services and technologies.

Oracle Education offers more than 170 instructor-led courses offered in 240 education centers which are located in 63 countries worldwide. Oracle Education trained 300,000 students worldwide in FY1996.

Oracle Alliance Program

Oracle Worldwide Alliance is a global business network that unites leading information technology companies to deliver integrated customer solutions for network computing. Partners have access to Oracle's premiere products and services and are able to utilize vast technical, marketing and sales support resources. With more than 8,500 members, Oracle Worldwide Alliance is designed to foster relationships and maximize technologies for mutual customer and partner benefit. Additional information is available at <http://alliance.oracle.com>.

Network Computer, Inc. (NCI)

NCI is dedicated to becoming the leading provider of network computer software and technology products. Founded in summer, 1996, NCI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Oracle Corporation, the leading supplier of management information software. NCI is the world's only software company to provide NC(TM) software—a complete family of network computer software and technology products for the corporate, consumer and educational marketplaces—all based on open, Internet standards.

Network Computer, Inc. (NCI) cont'd

NCI family of software and technology for the network computer includes NC Desktop—the multimedia and Java-enabled system software for the network computer; NC Server(TM)—which provides all the services necessary for efficiently managing and operating a network of NC(TM) devices, including software administration and distribution, authentication and security, business and systems management; and the NC Card(TM)—a smart card which provides personalized access to network computers.

NCI has partnered with the world's leading hardware and consumer electronic manufacturers to produce network computers and technology for the corporate, consumer and educational markets including, Philips, NEC, RCA, Zenith, Uniden, Funai and others.

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