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MEMORANDUM

To: Karen Tramantano
Office of the Chief of Staff

From: Mark Isaac, Corporation for National Service

Date: November 18, 1998

Re: Labor Law Issue Affecting AmeriCorps in California and Elsewhere

*Call
Mark*

Karen:

In recent months, several issues concerning the applicability of wage and hour laws to AmeriCorps members have emerged, threatening the ability of AmeriCorps to fulfill its mission. The legislation which created AmeriCorps makes clear that AmeriCorps members are not employees of the nonprofit organizations in which they serve and do not receive wages. Efforts to subject AmeriCorps members to wage and hour laws threaten the ability of the members to perform their mission and undermine the concept of service which is the very underpinning of AmeriCorps.

There have been several recent instances in which the Department of Labor has threatened to cite several organizations in which AmeriCorps members serve with labor law violations. As a result, the Corporation for National Service has requested a letter from Labor Secretary Herman clarifying that federal wage and hour laws do not apply to AmeriCorps members. The Secretary apparently intends to provide such a letter in the near future. This letter will be of great usefulness in making clear the status of AmeriCorps members under federal law.

However, a similar issue has arisen in California with respect to the applicability of state wage and hour laws. The California Labor Commissioner recently ruled that AmeriCorps members are subject to California wage and hour laws. This means that AmeriCorps members must be paid overtime for more than 40 hours of work per week – a ruling that is having extremely negative consequences for City Year in San Jose and for several other California programs in which AmeriCorps members serve, including one key program that involves disaster relief.

Unfortunately, there is a growing consensus that this problem is not simply resulting from an incorrect interpretation of the California statute. Rather, the Corporation's general counsel feels that that California labor law does not exempt AmeriCorps members from state wage and hour laws, and there are not sufficient grounds to maintain that federal law supersedes state law in this area. Therefore, it is likely that

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this problem can only be solved through state legislation. At this stage, California AFL-CIO officials are opposing this legislative fix and effectively blocking it from being considered.

The Corporation plans to pursue this matter vigorously so that programs in which AmeriCorps members serve – in California and elsewhere – will not be adversely affected by the state ruling. In this respect, we intend to work with state and national labor leaders and state legislators in California. This matter goes to the heart of whether the President's investment in AmeriCorps will continue to be vital and effective. Your assistance, and that of others in the White House, could be extremely useful in pursuing an appropriate resolution of this matter. We will contact you shortly with more specific suggestions.

Please find attached the ruling of the California Labor Commissioner for your review.

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DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF LABOR STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT
LEGAL SECTION
45 Fremont Street, Suite 3220
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 975-2060



MILES E. LOCKER, Chief Counsel

November 6, 1998

John Hoang Sarvey
City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley
116 Paseo de San Antonio
San Jose, CA 95112

Re: **Employment Status of AmeriCorps Participants
Under California Law**

Dear Mr. Sarvey:

This letter is in response to your request that the State Labor Commissioner review the opinion, initially expressed in a letter dated April 23, 1996 from former chief counsel H. Thomas Cadell, Jr. to James Phipps of the California Commission on Improving Life Through Service, that AmeriCorps "members" who work for private nonprofit organizations are not exempt from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of California's Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") orders.

Mr. Cadell's letter examined the issue of whether, as a matter of state law, AmeriCorps "members" are volunteers exempt from state wage and hour law, or whether they are employees within the meaning and coverage of the IWC orders. In reaching the conclusion that these "members" are employees, this opinion letter confined its analysis to state wage and hour law; that is, there was no discussion of whether the National and Community Service Act, 42 USC §12501, et seq., the federal law which created the AmeriCorps program, mandated a different treatment of these "members".

Insofar as the April 23, 1996 opinion letter discusses state wage and hour law, the conclusions expressed therein are accurate. The fact that AmeriCorps "members" receive payment (a monthly "stipend") for the work they perform for the nine to twelve month period of service with a private nonprofit organization, coupled with the fact that this organization pays the "members" (from funds received from AmeriCorps) and controls the hours and work performed by the "members" compels a finding, under California law, that these "members" are employees rather

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than volunteers. And since there is no exclusion under the IWC orders for employees of private nonprofit organizations, these "members" are covered by state minimum wage and overtime provisions.

This, however, does not end our analysis. Since the AmeriCorps program is based on federal law, we must determine whether the federal law preempts application of state wage and hour law as to these AmeriCorps "members". The case of Pacific Merchant Shipping v. Aubry (9th Cir. 1991) 918 F. 2d 1409, 1415, teaches:

"To decide whether a federal statute preempts state law, our sole task is to ascertain the intent of Congress. [cite omitted] Federal law preempts state law if (1) Congress expressly so states, (2) Congress enacts comprehensive laws that leave no room for additional state regulation, or (3) state law actually conflicts with federal law. [cites omitted] States however, possess broad authority under their police powers to regulate the employment relationship to protect resident workers. [cite omitted] Thus, in addressing the preemption question before us, 'we start with the assumption that the historic powers of the States were not to be superseded by [federal legislation] unless that was the clear and manifest purpose of Congress.'"

Using that analysis, the Pacific Merchant Shipping court concluded that California could apply its state overtime laws to seamen, despite the fact that the federal Fair Labor Standards Act expressly excludes seamen from its coverage. More recently, in Californians for Safe & Competitive Dump Truck Transportation v. Mendonca (9th Cir. 1998) 152 F.3d 1184, the court held that a federal law which expressly prohibited states from enforcing any law related to the prices, routes, or services of motor carriers did not preempt California's application of the prevailing wage law as to dump truck transportation.

We have carefully reviewed the National and Service Act to ascertain congressional intent as to whether state wage and hour law is preempted by the federal law. There is no question that under this federal law, AmeriCorps members are considered to be volunteers, not employees. 42 USC §12511 defines various terms used in the Act, and states that "[f]or purposes of this subchapter" an AmeriCorps "participant shall not be considered to be an employee of the program in which the

participant is enrolled." This is not a global definition of the term AmeriCorps "participant"; that is, it only defines the term "for purposes of this subchapter" of the Act. It cannot be said that this definition expressly preempts state wage and hour law as it does not mention state law in any way. Had Congress intended to expressly preempt state wage and hour law, it could easily have done so by enacting language making AmeriCorps participants volunteers for state wage and hour purposes, or prohibiting states from applying state wage and hour law to AmeriCorps participants.

Turning to other provisions found in the National and Community Service Act, 42 USC §12594(b) provides for federal assistance to programs using AmeriCorps participants to cover payroll "taxes imposed on an employer" by the Internal Revenue Service arising out of the program's use of such participants. Indeed, AmeriCorps participants are subject to both federal and State of California personal income tax withholding. This provision of the Act evidences a congressional intent, at least for this purpose, to treat these participants as employees, and to treat the nonprofit organizations as their employers. Likewise, 42 USC §12631(a) provides that for purposes of the Family and Medical Leave Act "the participant shall be considered to be an eligible employee of the service sponsor."

In view of the areas in which the Act does treat AmeriCorps participants as employees, it is difficult to argue that the federal law implicitly preempts state wage and hour regulation. The fact that the Act establishes a monthly stipend for program participants does not necessarily lead to a conflict with state law. The monthly stipend will be enough to satisfy the requirements of state wage and hour law if, based on the number of hours worked by the participant, there are no state minimum wages or overtime wages owed. Alternatively, if the participant's hours are such as to create minimum wage or overtime liability, there is nothing in the Act that would prohibit the program from providing the participant with the required additional compensation. Furthermore, we were unable to find anything in the extensive legislative history which indicates a "clear and manifest" congressional intent to exclude these participants from state wage and hour law coverage.

There is another reason for our reluctance, as a state administrative agency, to refuse to enforce state wage and hour provisions as to AmeriCorps participants. Article III, Section 3.5(c) of the California Constitution provides that an administrative agency has no power "to declare a statute

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unenforceable, or to refuse to enforce a statute on the basis that federal law or federal regulations prohibit the enforcement of such statute unless an appellate court has made a determination that enforcement of such statute is prohibited by federal law or federal regulations." Labor Code §1185 provides that the IWC's wage orders "shall be valid and operative". Labor Code §1193.5 provides that the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the agency that is headed by the Labor Commissioner, shall administer and enforce the IWC orders concerning minimum wages and overtime. Labor Code §90.5 specifically charges the Labor Commissioner with the duty to "vigorously enforce minimum labor standards", including sections 1197 (dealing with minimum wages) and 1198 (dealing with overtime). Absent an appellate decision holding that federal law preempts our enforcement of these California statutes as to AmeriCorps participants, it is our duty to enforce the state law; to do otherwise would run afoul of Article III, section 3.5 of the California Constitution.

Please be assured that we understand the difficulties that may be faced by AmeriCorps programs stemming from the application of state wage and hour law. These organizations perform valuable services to the public at large, and program participants derive substantial benefits from their involvement that far transcend the rewards of a paycheck. It would be a terribly unfortunate consequence of our mandate to enforce state wage and hour law if any of these organizations were to limit or discontinue their use of AmeriCorps participants. With that in mind, we would suggest that perhaps the best way to address this problem would be through legislative change. The federal law could be amended to expressly exempt AmeriCorps participants from state wage and hour law. Alternatively (and probably more feasibly), a state law could be enacted to expressly exempt AmeriCorps participants from coverage of the IWC orders. We would certainly be willing to provide assistance in drafting such narrowly tailored legislation, and in supporting its passage. Finally, you have the option of bringing a court action for declaratory relief to challenge our enforcement position. The drawback to that option, of course, is the unlikelihood of a court viewing this issue any differently than we do.

Finally, you have asked whether AmeriCorps programs may have certain participants' positions classified as exempt based on the nature of their responsibilities and supervision. There are three basic exemptions from overtime under the IWC orders - the executive, administrative and professional exemptions. Both the executive and administrative exemptions will not apply unless, as a threshold matter, the employee receives a salary of at least

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John Sarvey
November 6, 1998
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\$1,150 per month. It is my understanding that the monthly "stipends" paid to AmeriCorps participants fall substantially below that. In contrast, the professional exemption does not contain a minimum remuneration requirement. However, the professional exemption only applies to employees who are either licensed by the State of California in one of the following professions: law, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, architecture, engineering, teaching, or accounting; or to those employees who are engaged in an occupation "commonly recognized as a learned or artistic profession."

Thank you for your interest in California wage and hour law. Please feel free to contact this office with any other questions.

Sincerely,



Miles E. Locker
Chief Counsel

cc: John Duncan
Jose Millan
Tom Grogan
Greg Rupp
Jerry Simpson
Nance Steffen
Meredith Drake
Maria Vail

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CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
★ SERVICE

What does AmeriCorp mean?

• raise visibility

DEC - 4 1998

• service by young people

• community

good for communities

good for young people

AmeriCorps

TO: Karen Tramontano
FROM: John Gomperts
Corporation for National Service
DATE December 4, 1998
RE: Increasing Public Awareness of AmeriCorps

Following our recent meeting and in response to your specific request, we have outlined a 6 - 9 month plan for ways in which the President and other White House principals and Administration surrogates can increase the public's understanding of AmeriCorps. Indeed, our aim should be to make AmeriCorps a household word, one in which the great majority of people take pride.

Of course, we are delighted by the interest the White House is showing in helping us promote AmeriCorps and national service, and we want to work with you to craft ideas that meet our objectives and fit into your broader plans to use the time and resources of the White House. As you suggested, we have organized our thinking around the themes and objectives that we expect to be pursuing in the coming weeks and months. So first I describe our own focus and plans for the coming months. Second, I present the themes that the President and others can use in support of our efforts. Then, I lay out a timeline of possible events and activities that would help to amplify the themes and achieve the objectives.

* * *

OUR STRATEGY AND GOALS

Naturally, White House efforts will work best if they are part of our overall strategy. Much of our thinking is reflected in the materials and campaign we put together in preparation for the event celebrating the 100,000th AmeriCorps member. Although the White House celebration had to be postponed, we saw that benchmark as the beginning of a campaign that we always planned to continue. The key elements of that campaign are as follows:

Focus on the members. As I described in our meeting, too much attention has been focused on Washington political battles about AmeriCorps. We want to shift attention to AmeriCorps members and what they are doing. This refocusing extends from planning our own activities to framing our message to the outside world. From our ongoing conversations with the elite media, to pitches to local newspapers and television stations, to conversations with elected officials, presenting AmeriCorps members as new patriots is our most consistently successful

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approach. This focus on the members is reflected in the positive press and editorial coverage we have already received, and it will be our continuing emphasis in our events and travel of our principals.

Growing AmeriCorps. As you know, in separate venues we are pressing hard for a significant increase in the size of AmeriCorps. While we have reached the 100,000 member mark in total AmeriCorps members, we want to get to the point where there are 100,000 AmeriCorps members *every* year by the end of the Administration. The visibility plan we are presenting should help to realize this specific policy objective.

Stepped-up recruiting campaign. We need idealistic, energetic, young Americans to join AmeriCorps. To fill AmeriCorps slots (and hopefully more slots soon) we will launch an aggressive recruiting campaign including a new PSA produced by MTV, a mailing to more than 300,000 college seniors, print ads featuring AmeriCorps members, and a number of AmeriCorps member-organized events and service projects on college campuses.

Continue to build bipartisan support. From the time when the President asked Senator Wofford to head the Corporation, our overriding objective has been to build bipartisan support for national service, especially AmeriCorps. That means courting Governors and Mayors as well as members of Congress. (This also means working hard to present AmeriCorps in a non-political fashion to the greatest extent possible, and recognizing that as we bring more positive attention to AmeriCorps, our detractors will escalate their efforts as well.)

Energize the field. Unfortunately, to date, the national service field has not been a strong voice supporting or defending national service. From our efforts with major non-profit partners, to Governor-appointed state commissions on national and community service, to AmeriCorps Alums, to key allies such as America's Promise and the Points of Light Foundation, strengthening the national service field continues to be one of our key strategic objectives.

KEY THEMES FOR WHITE HOUSE

AmeriCorps has come of age. No longer a small, "boutique" program, AmeriCorps recently passed its 100,000 member milestone -- a mark it took the Peace Corps more than 20 years to achieve. This year more than 40,000 AmeriCorps members will be recruited by programs all over the country, approximately 7,000 more than the Marines are recruiting. (N.B. A proposal to substantially increase the size of AmeriCorps would make the "coming of age" point even more pertinent.)

AmeriCorps solves problems. When it comes to improving childhood literacy, providing quality after-school programs, reducing violence in schools and neighborhoods, preventing drug abuse by teens, responding to natural disasters -- AmeriCorps is getting the job done. We will be able to release timely research and evaluation reports to support these claims of AmeriCorps' success.

AmeriCorps is creating America's future leaders and building communities. When the President declared "the era of big government is over," he also said that "the era of big challenges is not, and so we need an era of big citizenship." Like many others, the President was looking to individual citizens and to our civic institutions to take on-- or share-- some of the responsibilities that had previously been the province of government. AmeriCorps does just that, through partnerships with more than a thousand national, state, and local non-profit, educational, religious and civic organizations. Like their counterparts in the Peace Corps and the military, AmeriCorps members are serving their country. But in the case of AmeriCorps members, the new patriotism they demonstrate is in service on the homefront, in tackling some of the most urgent problems of our hard-pressed communities. AmeriCorps members serve with—and strengthen—the local non-profits that are on the frontlines of some of our most difficult problems.

AmeriCorps is a model of local control and reinventing government. The general perception remains that AmeriCorps is a top-down, Washington-run operation. Nothing could be further from the truth – most AmeriCorps grants are made and most AmeriCorps positions are allotted through governor-appointed, bipartisan state commissions. This structural point is the key to AmeriCorps' popularity and bipartisan support among governors. And an even more fundamental kind of devolution is in the fact that projects using AmeriCorps members are run by the local, state, and national non-profits who recruit, select, and support the members. The sooner people understand that AmeriCorps is a model of devolution to the states and the civic sector and of reinventing government, the sooner we will win the full public acceptance and enthusiasm we need.

TIMELINE OF SUGGESTED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

December 1998

Service on December 21/22. We are told that the President and the First Lady are interested in performing service in connection with the holidays, most likely on December 21 or 22. In a separate memo, we have proposed sites that include AmeriCorps members that would be appropriate venues for this service. In addition, we suggest that this might be an opportunity to announce the following initiatives:

- 
- ◆ AmeriCorps Promise Fellows grants (representing more than 550 new AmeriCorps members). AmeriCorps Promise Fellows is a joint initiative between AmeriCorps and America's Promise. [The grant announcement, a total commitment of nearly \$10 million, is the realization of the idea the President announced in his speech at City Year's convention in Cleveland in June.] It is tremendously appreciated by General Powell and the leaders of the state and local efforts around the country to achieve the goals for children and youth set at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

- ◆ President's Student Service Award. Modeled on the President's Physical Fitness Awards, this new award program will recognize (with a Presidential letter and a pin) students who have served at least 100 hours. This is a key goal of the Presidents' Summit which the President has repeatedly championed: that young people should be challenged and given opportunities themselves to serve, not just to be served.
- ◆ Martin Luther King Day grants. This year we have doubled the amount of mini-grants to support service on the King Holiday to \$500,000 with 100 communities receiving grants. These grants have played a key part in turning the holiday more and more into "a day on-- not a day off," a day of service throughout the country. Last year the President announced the grants in a radio address.

January 1999

Event marking AmeriCorps' 100,000 member milestone. The news for this event would be the President's request for increase in AmeriCorps' funding. We also propose using this as the opportune moment to release an independent report on AmeriCorps' accomplishments. This new research covers the last three years and provides very positive outcome data. The event might include swearing in new AmeriCorps members (representing the 100,000 who have served) to give the event strong regional media opportunities.

MLK Day (January 18th). In 1994, President Clinton signed legislation making the Martin Luther King holiday a day of service. Last year, the President and Mrs. Clinton celebrated this day by participating in two different service events in Washington, DC. This year, hundreds of service projects are taking place across the country. The President, other principals and surrogates should participate in high profile service projects on the Monday holiday. Alternatively, the actual day of Dr. King's birthday-- January 15, three days before the holiday, could be an occasion for the President to do something symbolic to make the call for service on the holiday itself.

State of the Union. While we realize the intense competition over the material to be included in the State of the Union, being in the speech is also one measure of the significance of an issue. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the President refer to the 100,000 member milestone in the speech and that he make his request for a significant funding increase for AmeriCorps as part of a more general call to citizen service. In addition, we suggest that Millard Fuller, President of Habitat for Humanity International, and one of the more than 500 AmeriCorps members who serve with Habitat be invited to sit in the box with the First Lady. Fuller is a big fan of the First Lady and vice versa—and of AmeriCorps—and his presence will help us to make the point about the partnership between AmeriCorps and faith organizations and major non-profits.

NGA Meeting. As noted above, the structure of AmeriCorps depends heavily on Governors. That is why many Governors, Democrats and Republicans alike, are enthusiastic

about AmeriCorps. This enthusiasm includes, notably, Govs. Carper and Leavitt, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the NGA. The President's talk to the NGA meeting is an excellent opportunity for the President to thank Governors for their leadership on this issue, and to ask them to join him in the general call to service to all Americans. (We have State Profiles on all that AmeriCorps and the other streams of national service do in each state. These State Profiles can be released at any time.)

February 1999

Launch the "Call to Service" recruitment drive and campus tour. In February AmeriCorps will launch a major new, member-led recruitment drive. All White House principals and key Administration surrogates can play a role in this campaign. We hope that the President will make a major "Call to Service" speech (probably on a college campus) promoting the broad ethic of service and asking students to serve their country through AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps, or the military. Possible venues include, the University of Michigan (where President Kennedy first raised the idea of the Peace Corps), Notre Dame University (where the President gave his major address on national service during the 1992 campaign), a historically black college, or any other college with a strong ethic and history of service.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows training. The President or a White House principal should address this gathering of some 500 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, the new group of AmeriCorps members that is the result of the partnership between AmeriCorps and America's Promise. Colin Powell is expected to speak to this group on February 26. The White House participation can be timed to precede, coincide with, or follow Gen. Powell's appearance. The event will likely be in the Washington DC area.

March 1999

Event to emphasize AmeriCorps' partnership with the religious community. We would like to plan an event designed to call attention to this partnership; to emphasize the fact that more than 8,000 AmeriCorps members now serve with religious organizations, and to recognize the tremendous work that churches are doing to strengthen communities. Possible venues include: National Prayer Breakfast (may be in February) or a gathering of religious youth organizations.

Alternative Spring Break build with Habitat for Humanity. The President and White House principals and/or surrogates should participate in a build with AmeriCorps, Habitat and hundreds of college students as part of the Collegiate Challenge. This year we expect that more than 8,000 college students will participate in this event at 10 main sites between February 14 and April 10.

April 1999

AmeriCorps All-Stars. As part of our effort to focus more on AmeriCorps members, we propose to create a new recognition program called AmeriCorps All-Stars. We would select 25 exceptional AmeriCorps members from around the country who would come to Washington to be recognized during National Volunteer Week, perhaps on National Youth Service Day. The ceremony would be similar to the Teacher of the Year event, and it would afford the opportunity to focus on the extraordinary people who join AmeriCorps and their accomplishments as AmeriCorps members.

National Volunteer Week/National Youth Service Day/Earth Day. These annual events provide extremely good opportunities to reinforce the messages being promoted as part of the overall public awareness effort. The President, Vice President and other surrogates could serve alongside AmeriCorps members. This is also a perfect opportunity for surrogates to participate in the Call to Service tour. During National Volunteer Week AmeriCorps will be hosting a number of recruitment activities on college campuses. Participation by principals and cabinet members in these events would significantly increase the visibility of this effort.

May - June 1999

College Commencements. The Call to Service should be a consistent and leading theme in the commencement addresses of the President and other Administration officials. Once again, young people should be asked to give at least one year of their life to their country through service in AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps or the military.

AmeriCorps and America Reads event. Do an event, either at a tutoring site or as a press briefing, with Secretary Riley to release an independent study on the success of AmeriCorps' childhood literacy programs.

Annual City Year Conference. City Year, one of the most notable and successful sponsors of AmeriCorps members, holds an annual gathering of all City Year members, called CYZYGY. The President spoke at this conference last June in Cleveland. The First Lady spoke to the 1997 CYZYGY in Providence, Rhode Island. The 1999 conference will be held in Washington DC, probably at Howard University. This might be a very good setting for the Vice President to perform service or speak to the group— or for a return visit by the First Lady. (June 2-5)

National and Community Service Conference. We co-sponsor this annual conference with the Points of Light Foundation. This year the conference (which attracts more than 2000 participants) will be held in Las Vegas from June 6-10. A videotaped message from the President and/or the First Lady would be a way to reach this group of key partners and leaders in volunteering and service.

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September 1999

5th year anniversary celebration. September marks the five year anniversary of the AmeriCorps launch. We expect major national, state, and local events marking this milestone. We recommend the President and all White House principals participate in one or more events to celebrate the accomplishments of the nearly 150,000 people (at that point) who have served their country and community through AmeriCorps. This celebration will be another occasion to bring attention to exemplary AmeriCorps members.

Anytime

Meetings with AmeriCorps members. Any White House principal or other Administration official can meet with AmeriCorps members in the course of their travels. These meetings are thrilling for the members, and are often powerful learning experiences. We encourage these types of encounters, and can arrange meetings, either at service sites or otherwise, in many locations around the country.

Rally the field. Through the course of the year we will have a number of instances in which significant participants in the national service field will be gathered in Washington and other places around the country. These gatherings of members of Governor-appointed state commissions, significant non-profit partners in the youth service and volunteer field, board members of grantee organizations, and philanthropic and private sector partners, are terrific opportunities to motivate the national service field.

* * *

Again, I want to emphasize how pleased we are by your interest in working with us to advance AmeriCorps and promote the cause of national service. At your urging, we have laid out an ambitious plan. I recognize that we are asking a great deal, but we hear the clock ticking and want to make the most of the time remaining. Naturally, the suggestions in this memo are a starting point for further discussions, and we can be flexible in shaping events and activities. In any case, we believe that this undertaking, whatever form it ultimately takes, will not only help us achieve our strategic objectives, but will also reflect extremely well on the President and his Administration.

Cc: Bruce Reed
Ann Lewis
Gene Sperling
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Shirley Sagawa

'98 DEC 7 PM 7:55

December 7, 1998

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

This end-of-the-year letter is as presumptuous as the beginning-of-the-year letter I sent you last January. That missive was pegged on Andrew Marvel's 17th century proposition: "Let us roll all our strength and all our sweetness up into one ball" This is still what the nation needs you to do.

No doubt you get more advice than you can handle. Based on our years of laboring together in the vineyard of National Service, I am taking the liberty of giving you my unvarnished view of what it will take to realize our dream of making service the common expectation and common experience of all Americans. So here goes . . .

The events of the last year have been a terrible diversion from what we could have done, if not engulfed in the unrelenting, uncivil war of these past too many months. "Events have controlled me," Lincoln said of his leadership as the man of peace who led the nation through a sea of blood. In the end, after times when he feared people would vote him out of office, Lincoln prevailed and, in a profound sense, controlled events. In very different difficult circumstances that is your challenge in the remaining 700 days – to control events, to overcome the noise, to summon what Martin Luther King called "the fierce urgency of now."

More now than ever, you must do everything in your power to roll all your strength and all your sweetness up into that one ball – into a vision that integrates the three great themes you have most championed: education, racial unity, and citizen service. With the best of your imagination, creativity, and energy you can turn this into one clear, unforgettable, and commanding vision.

Let me stress I'm not here making a case for the specific policy proposals we are crafting with your staff. I'm also not arguing here for the proposal we submitted to your staff last week to vastly increase public understanding of and support for AmeriCorps by using your extraordinary power of persuasion and other White House assets to put in place a new strategy of emphatic communication about citizen service.

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This personal letter goes beyond policies and speeches or anything you have yet done. My call is for a quantum leap in your personal leadership to give your vision life and force, making it a legacy and challenge to the American people that they can never forget. This will require more of your time, your attention, and perhaps most importantly, your sweat, for the cause of citizen service. In the beginning is the Word – but the word must be made flesh.

In the next one hundred weeks, if you commit a far greater part of your self to this endeavor, you will make an indelible mark on the mind and spirit of America. With that high hope, I offer two specific suggestions as a start:

First, commit yourself – and your schedulers – to arranging at least once a month for you to engage in some personal service in a school or community. These occasions do not have to be high profile, and it is neither necessary nor desirable that your service always be with AmeriCorps. Engage in service projects where with a few hours of work you can accomplish something, demonstrate something, and learn something.

Your service projects could include helping with a book drive at a local school or library, assisting in a homeless shelter, attending to a person with AIDS, building a playground, spending time in a senior center, working in environmental clean-up, rehabilitating housing, reconstructing trails in a National Park, or working with a faith organization (perhaps your own church) in a local project. Almost any project can be linked to larger themes of the Administration – but the real point of the service should be more personal than political.

Second, plan to lead a series of conversations to help shape future strategies of citizen service. Since you first took up the banner of service through the National Governors' Association and the Democratic Leadership Council, the field has grown and changed significantly, thanks in large part to your leadership in advancing AmeriCorps, the Corporation's other service programs, and the Presidents' Summit. Today there is lively debate about how citizen service can help meet national goals; how to get more people involved in high impact service and volunteering; how service can help to bring together people from diverse backgrounds; how to end the false division between part-time volunteering and full-time service; how to define the role of government in supporting "civil society" and mediating institutions; and how to best capture the special potential for religious organizations. You and the First Lady should become actively involved in convening and leading these discussions.

I recommend that early in the New Year you and the First Lady host an off-the-record discussion tackling some of these questions with a small, ideologically diverse group of leading thinkers and activists, including perhaps:

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Susan Berresford (Ford Foundation)
Geoff Canada (Rheedlen Center, a star program based on AmeriCorps members
and featured in John Kasich's new book)
John DiIulio (Public Private Ventures, leading thinker on faith organizations)
E.J. Dionne (Journalist, Brookings Institute Fellow, new book *Community Works*)
Bill Galston (National Commission on Civic Renewal)
John Kasich (New book *Courage is Contagious* about individual volunteers)
Alan Khazei (City Year founder)
Charlie Moskos (Northwestern University)
Bill Moyers (Journalist, philanthropist)
Michelle Nunn (Hands on Atlanta)
Colin Powell (America's Promise)
Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (Lieutenant Governor of Maryland)
Oprah Winfrey (Television talk show host, philanthropist)

The list can be improved, but the idea is for this to be a non-political and non-ideological setting. With a relatively small investment of your time, you and the First Lady would be a major influence in the national conversation already underway.

* * *

We have made remarkable progress as a nation over the past six years. Yet, despite almost unparalleled prosperity, many Americans feel that something is missing – a sense of community, a set of common values, a shared national purpose. By making the kind of personal commitment I propose, you will help all of us understand better the power of service – in our own lives and in the lives of the people we serve. You will point the way to service as a strategy for the nation in the 21st Century – to produce stronger communities, more compassionate and informed citizens, and more solutions to the problems that once seemed insurmountable. This is your legacy. What is needed now is for you to claim it as your own.

Warmly,



Harris Wofford

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file

MEMORANDUM

TO: Karen Tramontano

FROM: John Gomperts
Corporation for National Service *J.G.*

RE: Further Thoughts on Increasing Public Awareness of AmeriCorps

DATE: December 21, 1998

As requested, this memo outlines our further thoughts on a 6 – 9 month plan for increasing public awareness of and support for AmeriCorps. The centerpiece of our plan is a “Call to Service” campaign designed to both increase the visibility of AmeriCorps and help us achieve our recruiting goals. The strategic focus of this campaign is on AmeriCorps members – their stories and accomplishments. The marketing and media components of the campaign will feature current AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps alumni.

We will launch the *Call to Service* campaign in February. This campaign, with a heavy emphasis on a member-led recruitment drive, will carry through the spring and early summer. The activity will lead directly into the celebration of AmeriCorps’ fifth anniversary in September.

The public awareness effort is designed to reinforce three key messages:

- AmeriCorps is about service by young people to communities
- AmeriCorps strengthens communities
- AmeriCorps expands educational opportunity for young people

The best way to deliver these messages is to put the focus on the stories and accomplishments of AmeriCorps members – how their year of service changed their communities and their lives for the better. To do this, we will increase our connections to current AmeriCorps members and reach out specially to AmeriCorps alumni.

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FEBRUARY 1999 – Kick-off the *Call to Service* campaign

Currently, we are planning the following activities for this month:

- Launch of new “I am AmeriCorps” TV public service announcement produced by MTV.
- Send AmeriCorps recruitment letter to college seniors. A former AmeriCorps member will write this letter asking college seniors to give a year of service.
- A new print advertising campaign featuring AmeriCorps members to run in select markets.

As discussed last week, the beginning of this recruiting drive could be coupled with a rescheduled version of the event marking AmeriCorps passing its 100,000-member mark. The event might include the following components:

- Swearing-in new AmeriCorps members alongside alumni from first class (to represent 100,000 who have served). Member involvement will create strong regional media opportunities.
- Screening of the new AmeriCorps PSA – “I am AmeriCorps.”
- Release an independent study on AmeriCorps’ accomplishments.
- Op-Ed / letter-to-the-editor drive by AmeriCorps alumni and key spokespeople including cabinet members, leaders of local and national non-profits, prominent business executives, etc.

MARCH 1999 – Campus-based recruitment campaign; Spring break with AmeriCorps

Campus-based recruiting campaign. Following the kick-off of the recruiting campaign, in March we intend to step up our campus-based recruiting efforts. This is the height of the recruiting season, and we will use our existing network of campus-based recruiters (most of whom are former AmeriCorps members) and AmeriCorps alumni to create campus-oriented projects that highlight AmeriCorps. These events can include service activities, or other events that bring attention to the opportunities that AmeriCorps offers. The participation of Administration spokespersons in these events and/or the associated letter writing campaign and radio tours will significantly increase the effectiveness of these campus-based recruitment activities.

(Collateral media opportunities include: Alumni letter writing campaign to college newspapers; college radio tour with alumni; print advertising in college papers, and general circulation papers in major college towns)

Spring Break with AmeriCorps. During March many AmeriCorps members participate in a number of high-profile Alternative Spring Break projects with Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Clubs, and FEMA. Because these projects involve strong national partners and large numbers of AmeriCorps members, as well as college and high school students and other community volunteers, they offer strong regional press and recruitment opportunities. Involvement by White House principals and surrogates in these events would help increase excitement and visibility of these projects among our key audiences. We will provide you with a list of targeted project sites by mid-January.

APRIL 1999 – Celebrating AmeriCorps All-Stars

National Youth Service Day. This is the highlight of National Volunteers Week (April 18-24). On this Friday and Saturday AmeriCorps members – past and present – join with young people in a range of service projects from college campuses to Native American reservations. Because of the large numbers of AmeriCorps members and community volunteers who serve on this day, these events offer strong regional press opportunities for principals and surrogates.

This year we will use National Youth Service Day to highlight extraordinary current and former AmeriCorps members – ***AmeriCorps All Stars***. To increase the profile of these members, we will consider bringing them to Washington, DC, to be recognized by the President or other principals and to participate in a high profile service event.

MAY/JUNE 1999 – Commencement Season

College Commencements. The Call to Service should be a consistent and leading theme in the commencement addresses that the President and other Administration officials give. These addresses are an opportunity to ask young people to give at least a year of their life to their country through service in AmeriCorps, the military or Peace Corps.

(As part of an alumni-led letter writing campaign to local and college newspapers, we will ask alumni to contact their high schools about returning to speak at summer graduations about the need for young people to serve. We will also suggest that AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps alumni present the President's Student Service Award at their alma maters.)

JULY 1999 – AmeriCorps graduations

AmeriCorps graduations. At this time, several states and cities host AmeriCorps closing ceremonies to mark the end of the year of service. These events bring together

hundreds of AmeriCorps members and often feature Governors and Mayors as keynote speakers. Because these events feature AmeriCorps members who have completed their year of service, they provide excellent opportunities to highlight outstanding members whose lives have been transformed by their year of service and to focus attention on how AmeriCorps strengthens communities.

AUGUST 1999 – Back to School

Back to School. Given that more than 20,000 AmeriCorps members are participating in America Reads and other education programs, this is a great month for an education-focused AmeriCorps event with White House principals and/or Secretary Riley. We will release an independent study of AmeriCorps' success in increasing childhood literacy.

We can also highlight former AmeriCorps members who are using their education awards to pursue an education, underscoring the point that AmeriCorps is a good way to help pay for higher education.

SEPTEMBER 1999 – Anniversary Celebration

Five-Year Anniversary. To celebrate AmeriCorps' five-year anniversary we are planning to pull together thousands of AmeriCorps members – past and current – in a big celebration of service event. The focus of this event would be some kind of blitz-build service project. The celebration event will include national partners from the corporate and non-profit worlds, as well as celebrities who have supported service programs in the past. We expect MTV and VH-1 to be our media partners for this event. We will also recommend that states have their own five-year anniversary celebrations.

* * *

Other opportunities. While not part of the Call to Service campaign, these events provide additional opportunities to increase public awareness of AmeriCorps and promote the ethic of service.

- ***MLK Day Holiday.*** Last year the President and Mrs. Clinton both served on this holiday. With the holiday falling just one day before the State of the Union this year, they may not be able to serve this year. This could be an opportunity for the Vice President and Mrs. Gore, or other cabinet members, to participate in service events on that day. This year, our two biggest events will be in Washington, DC, and Atlanta, GA, where AmeriCorps members will be providing service to the homeless; renovating summer camps for disadvantaged kids; rehabilitating senior housing; as well as a number of other

service projects. (We will submit a separate memorandum about the Martin Luther King Holiday.)

- ***State of the Union Address.*** We hope that the President will mention national service – and hopefully foreshadow the coming “Call to Service” campaign. In separate memos we have submitted requested material and have suggested AmeriCorps members who might be invited to sit in Mrs. Clinton’s box.
- ***AmeriCorps Promise Fellow event with Colin Powell.*** On February 26, 1999, Colin Powell is scheduled to address the 500 new AmeriCorps Promise Fellows at an event in the Washington, DC, area. The AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are a brand new leadership cadre of AmeriCorps members who are working to meet the five goals outlined at the Presidents’ Summit for America’s Future. Several of the General’s staff people have indicated that he would be interested in jointly addressing the members with the President at the White House.
- ***City Year Conference.*** This coming year the annual City Year – AmeriCorps conference will be held in Washington, DC, from May 25-28. This gathering of more than 1,000 AmeriCorps members can be a good opportunity for Administration representatives to do service with AmeriCorps members, or to participate in high-energy sessions with more than 1,000 enthusiastic AmeriCorps members.

Cc: Bruce Reed
Ann Lewis
✓Gene Sperling
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Shirley Sagawa

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
★ SERVICE

TO: Karen Tramontano ✓
Ann Lewis
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Anne McGuire
Shirley Sagawa

FROM: John Gomperts
Corporation for National Service

DATE: June 4, 1999

SUBJECT: Upcoming National Service Opportunities

Sara —
Please RENEW the options —
we've been trying to
schedule an
AmeriCorps / National
Service event every
few months w/ the
PODS — do any of these
times present an opportunity
also — any of the NY
events look good for
PODS?
Pls. Advise *Karen*

As you know, this spring we have been echoing the President's Call To Service with recruitment rallies throughout the country. As the academic year closes, we are expanding our activities beyond high school and college campuses. Below are brief descriptions of several significant national service events in the summer months. We would welcome the participation of Administration Principals and are happy to submit a specific scheduling request if there is strong interest in any of these events.

- **AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps (AmeriCorps*NCCC)**
Graduation Exercises: Every summer, AmeriCorps*NCCC commemorates the end of the service year by holding formal graduation exercises at each of its five campuses. Parents, family and friends gather from all across the country to honor the graduating class. They are treated to a ceremony that includes entertainment from individual corps members, an address from one or more dignitaries and the conferring of certificates. Usually, a number of corps members also receive their General Equivalency Diplomas. This summer, the graduation ceremonies will occur in San Diego, CA (July 29), Perry Point, MD (July 30), Charleston, SC (August 5), Denver, CO (August 6), and Washington, DC (August 9).
- **Ohio All Member Gathering 1999:** The Ohio Governor's Community Service Council's All Member Gathering brings together AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps*VISTA members, directors, and program staff for a weekend to: develop skills to use to get things done; prepare for "life after AmeriCorps;" provide opportunities for networking and collaboration; spotlight the growing national service movement; and celebrate the difference AmeriCorps makes in the lives of members and the communities they serve. The All Member Gathering will be July 14-16, 1999 at Ohio University in Athens, OH. An estimated 800 AmeriCorps members and directors are expected to attend the weekend gathering.

Sara —
any opportunities
for the President?

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- **West Virginia Energy Express Summer of Service Kickoff:** Energy Express AmeriCorps is a statewide, nationally competitive AmeriCorps program hosted by the West Virginia University Extension Service. Over 450 AmeriCorps members will serve for eight weeks (300 hours) during the summer at approximately 75 rural schools in West Virginia. More than 3,000 children will be served. Energy Express will kick off its sixth summer of service with a ceremony on Thursday, June 17 at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV. The ceremony will be the culmination of three days of orientation and training for the members. Over 600 people are expected to attend.
- **Do Something Cross Country Bike Tour:** The Do Something Coast to Coast Challenge is a national bike ride from San Francisco to New York City (June 19 through August 15) that is designed to: celebrate and mobilize the Do Something Generation; spur one million Americans to pledge a day of service to improve their communities; unite community leaders, nonprofit groups, corporate CEOs, celebrities and young people for one-day bike rides and community festivals in four cities along the way; and support Do Something's efforts to inspire and empower young people to change the world. In addition to the cross country ride, a special focus will be service projects and Community Fests in San Francisco (June 19), Denver (July 10), Chicago (July 31), and New York City (August 15). AmeriCorps is a key partner in this effort, and AmeriCorps members will play a leading role in the service projects in the four major cities. Corporate sponsors of the bike tour include Nantucket Nectars, Timberland, Home Depot, and Schwinn Bicycles. Among the celebrities who are expected to participate are actors Andrew and Elizabeth Shue, musician Puff Daddy and New York Yankee Derek Jeter.
- **National Service-Learning Leader Schools Award Ceremony:** At Pennsylvania State University in 1996, the President announced a national initiative to identify and recognize schools that have successfully incorporated community service into the curriculum and life of the school. To realize the President's goal, the Corporation for National Service has designed and implemented the National Service-Learning Leader Schools program. A ceremony to recognize the 70 high schools selected, as the first group of Leader Schools will be held on June 25. The Corporation has worked with a diverse group of high level people, led by Ted and Nancy Sizer and involving Shirley Sagawa, to develop the Leader Schools program. In addition to receiving White House commendation for their service-learning efforts, the Leader Schools winners are expected to share their work, experience and knowledge with other schools and the broader education community. The Leader Schools will be *active* winners for two years. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for the Atrium of the Kennedy Center and approximately 250 people will attend. (We have submitted a separate scheduling request for a radio address on the Leader Schools.)

Sagawa

- Sana*
- **President's Service Awards:** The annual presentation of the President's Service Awards, the highest honor in volunteering, is an important tradition in the service community. Started in 1982, these Awards are now a joint effort of the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service. Each year of this Administration, either the President or the First Lady has presented these awards to a small group of outstanding volunteers. The presentation of the 1998 President's Service Awards was postponed, however, due to the last minute conflict with the Wye River peace negotiations and the signing of the Peace Agreement. The consensus at the time was to present the 1998 and 1999 Awards together this year.

I hope we find interest in participating in any or all of these national service events. If you would like further information or a specific scheduling request, please contact me at 606-5000, ext. 121.

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Americorps Meeting 11/13/98, 10:15-11:00

Shirley Sagawa	66266		ok
Ann Lewis	62640		out
Anne McGuire	62572		ok
Chuck Marr	65364		ok
Elana Kagen	65584		ok
Bruce Reed	66515		ok

~~National~~

(file)

AMERICORP

- Shirley setting up mtg next week
to put together plan

AmeriCorps Briefing 11/13/98

Citizens Against Government Waste, a "private, non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating the public about mismanagement" released a report on October 30 entitled *AmeriCorps the Pitiful*. The group contends that 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." CAGW cites a 40% drop-out rate among recruits while the budget has doubled from \$217 million in 1994 to \$438 million in 1999.

Introduction

In 1992, presidential candidate Bill Clinton pledged he would renew the spirit of community service by creating a program to promote volunteerism. The result, AmeriCorps, is the largest national and community service program launched since the CCC in the 1930's. Its parent corporation, the Corporation for National Service was created in 1993 to administer federal service and grant programs including AmeriCorps.

Goals

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. The goals are to be achieved by giving volunteers an educational award to help pay for college or student loans.

Recruits

AmeriCorps is open to young adults at least 17 years old, who have a high school degree. Recruits who work 1,700 hours receive \$4,725 service award. Full-time participants also receive a living allowance stipend from \$7,640 to \$15,280 annually, and in addition, may receive child care and health insurance. AmeriCorps recently passed the 100,000 recruit mark.

Complaints

The Citizen's Against Public Waste report lists three problem areas and concludes that AmeriCorps is a "showcase for waste, abuse and cynical political manipulation." They are as follows:

"Withered Volunteerism"- Despite all the grand rhetoric, AmeriCorps 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. "Volunteerism" becomes a scenario of federally funded agencies and departments hiring unskilled, entry-level workers.

"Persistent Waste and Abuse"- AmeriCorps is ineffective and wastes a lot of money in the process. The report cites the Casa Verde Builders Program and the Educational Conservation Corps (ECC) as examples.

"Reading for Funding and Profit"- AmeriCorps has tried to become a literacy program by encouraging colleges to convert federal work study slots into AmeriCorps positions for its new initiative *America Reads*.

Citizen's Against Government Waste's Conclusion

CAGW concludes that AmeriCorps has become a showcase for the waste, abuse and cynical political manipulation inherent in many federally subsidized civic enterprises . . . 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 . . . In the final analysis, AmeriCorps is one of the most expensive and longest running political commercials in history."

Recent Press

Below is a sampling of press mentions of AmeriCorps in the past two weeks.

November 2, 1998- U.S. News and World Report

In an article titled "*The Nation's New Patriots*", editor at-Large David Gergen wrote that: "almost every one of these AmeriCorps volunteers has been weaving an important thread into the fabric of community life."

November 9, 1998- USA Today

In an article titled "*AmeriCorps Comes Up Short*", USA Today states that "AmeriCorps is still falling short of its architects' vision." and "the T-shirted brigade is most well known nationally as the youthful backdrop for White House photo ops." And finally, "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."

November 9, 1998- USA Today

Current AmeriCorps Director Harris Wofford authored an rebuttal piece titled "*Program's Purpose is Service*". In the article, Wofford states that AmeriCorps volunteers "have taught, tutored and mentored more than 2.2 million children." They have earned \$250 million in education awards and almost 70% of the first graduating class have used their awards as opposed to 50% of current eligible G.I. Bill recipients.

November 11, 1998- USA TODAY

AmeriCorps Alumni Sammy Lazarus from Phoenix, AZ responds to the public service debate with a letter to the editors which praises the program.

November 11, 1998- Investor's Business Daily

In an editorial on the budget, IBD states: "Livingston's threats to cut deadwood like the National Endowment for the Arts and AmeriCorps never materialized."

Through the Looking Glass



A CAGW SPECIAL REPORT

AMERICORPS THE PITIFUL

October 30, 1998



1301 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C.. 20036 (202) 467-5300
Internet Address: www.cagw.org

CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating the American public about waste, mismanagement, and inefficiency in the federal government.

CAGW was founded in 1984 by J. Peter Grace and nationally-syndicated columnist Jack Anderson to build public support for implementation of the Grace Commission recommendations and other waste-cutting proposals. Since its inception, CAGW has been at the forefront of the fight for efficiency, economy, and accountability in government.

CAGW has a national membership of more than 600,000. Since 1986, CAGW and its members have helped save taxpayers more than \$596 billion.

CAGW publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Government WasteWatch*, and produces special reports, monographs, and television documentaries examining government waste and what citizens can do to stop it.

CAGW is classified as a Section 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and is recognized as a publicly-supported organization described in Section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(A)(vi) of the code. Individuals, corporations, companies, associations, and foundations are eligible to support the work of CAGW through tax-deductible gifts.

Thomas A. Schatz, *President*
Leslie K. Paige, *Senior Vice President*
for Policy and Communications

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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 Shin, "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.

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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November 10, 1998 14:48 Eastern Time

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

LENGTH: 371 words

HEADLINE: Citizens Against Government Waste Releases Investigative Report on AmeriCorps Program

CONTACT: Aaron Taylor of Citizens Against Government Waste, 202-467-5300

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Nov. 10

BODY:

The following was released today by Citizens Against Government Waste:

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) released its latest investigative report, a scathing indictment of the AmeriCorps program.

The report, titled "AmeriCorps the Pitiful," reveals a government program that has utterly failed in its mission to promote volunteerism, and wasted millions of taxpayer dollars along the way.

"AmeriCorps was sold to the public as a program to ignite the nation's volunteer spirit and reduce the role of government in social services, President Clinton said that 'a massive bureaucracy' for AmeriCorps 'would be self-defeating,' but it has become just that," said CAGW President Thomas A. Schatz. "So-called volunteers have become junior bureaucrats charged with promoting a political agenda instead of helping people who need help."

According to the report, the volunteer program subsidized by AmeriCorps are fraught with waste and abuse. Additionally, it finds that the very concept of "volunteering" is foreign to AmeriCorps, which pays its personnel. "The idea of paying for volunteers not only defeats the purpose of encouraging selfless contribution to society, but it also makes a mockery of the millions of Americans who truly volunteer their time and effort for the many worthy causes in our society," said Schatz.

Among other recommendations, the CAGW report calls for a complete re-examination -- if not the elimination -- of the AmeriCorps program. In an attempt to ensure the survival of the program, supporters are suggesting that AmeriCorps personnel put into classrooms to teach children to read. This idea would cause the program to drift even further from its original mission, and do nothing to improve reading skills.

"It may be difficult for Beltway insiders to understand the difference between volunteerism and bureaucracy, but the American people know," concluded Schatz.

CAGW is a 600,000-member nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating waste, fraud, mismanagement and abuse in government.

Note: Copies of the 8-page report are available upon request.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 10, 1998

29TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1998 U.S. News & World Report
U.S. News & World Report

November 2, 1998

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. 68

LENGTH: 1261 words

HEADLINE: The nation's new patriots

BYLINE: By David Gergen

HIGHLIGHT:

A generation of idealists shuns politics and turns instead to volunteering;
Editor at large

BODY:

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,

U.S. News & World Report, November 2, 1998

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.

GRAPHIC: Picture, No caption

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: October 29, 1998

10TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1998 Gannett Company, Inc.

USA TODAY

November 9, 1998, Monday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 24A

LENGTH: 317 words

HEADLINE: Program's purpose is service

BYLINE: Harris Wofford

BODY:

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.

9TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1998 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

November 9, 1998, Monday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 24A

LENGTH: 471 words

HEADLINE: AmeriCorps comes up short

BODY:

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 graduates 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.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 10, 1998

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1998 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

November 11, 1998, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 24A

LENGTH: 514 words

HEADLINE: Overtime may be OK, but try taking time off

BODY:

Let's see. People who routinely work long hours, who are asked to "give 110%" every day on the job, are costing employers millions of dollars when they take occasional time off for family or personal needs? ("Workplace absenteeism soars 25%, costs millions," News, Friday). I would charitably call that shallow thinking.

Businesses won't report how much extra they earn when people stay late and work weekends for no extra pay to get a job done. Yet they'll carp about what they lose when someone takes off an extra day or two to care for a sick child, deal with a legal problem or, heaven forbid, recharge his or her batteries.

That obvious point aside, must we cling to the illusion that there is a direct relationship between time spent in one's office and productive work accomplished?

Employees who are fatigued or distracted by personal problems are more likely to make the kinds of errors that chase away customers or cause damage. Those are the real losses.

Doesn't a company come out better if an employee takes off a little time and returns sharp and refreshed?

Employers should look less at how many hours a person spends glued to the telephone and more at how much that person actually produces in a given year.

The niggling about sick and personal time is a sign that we still haven't shaken off the old coal-mine mentality.

Ted J. Rulseh

Mishicot, Wis.

AmeriCorps benefits

As an active AmeriCorps alum, I realized I must reply to the message sent by the opinions expressed in the public service Debate published Monday in USA TODAY ("AmeriCorps comes up short," Our View; "Program's purpose is service," Another View, by Harris Wofford, CEO of the Corporation for National Service).

USA TODAY says only slightly more than half of the program's graduates use their education benefits.

I am using mine to increase my education in social work, so I can give back to the communities where I live. As an alumnus, I have used in full the education benefits available to those who serve in AmeriCorps to pay for graduate school.

I cannot respond for all AmeriCorps members, but for me the education award has been an extra benefit to my experience with national service that allows me to continue learning.

Many AmeriCorps members use their benefits to attend college and graduate schools or to pay for college loans. I believe it is important for everyone to understand that National Service programs such as AmeriCorps are available to promote both national service and education in the United States.

This concept to promote service and education will benefit our country twofold: Those who need aid will be able to receive it, and as they increase their education, the population will be better prepared to participate in the national workforce and contribute to our economy.

It is important for citizens to understand that AmeriCorps is being implemented and used successfully, both by its members and by the communities where they live.

Sammy Lazarus

Phoenix, Ariz.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 11, 1998

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1998 Investor's Business Daily, Inc.
Investor's Business Daily

November 11, 1998

SECTION: The Editorial; Pg. A22

LENGTH: 770 words

HEADLINE: EDITORIALS Growing In Office

BODY:

Republicans' poor performance in last week's elections has claimed House Speaker Newt Gingrich as its first casualty, and others may follow. But Gingrich's political demise was easy to predict. The culture of Washington had subsumed him.

'We've got to change coaches or we'll lose our franchise,' said Matt Salmon of Arizona, a firebrand from the freshman class of '94.

So Gingrich put his party over himself and stepped down. His successor most likely will be Louisiana Rep. Bob Livingston. All other challengers have pulled out so the party can present a unified front when it votes on leadership next week.

Republican leaders have no one to blame but themselves for the losses. The GOP abandoned its core issues -tax cuts, less government, individual liberty and responsibility - legislatively. And no matter how much they tried to claim the mantle of Ronald Reagan on the campaign trail, their words rang hollow, given their surrender on Capitol Hill.

GOP leaders also thought the presidential scandals would have coattails. But they didn't do much to ensure those coattails. A speech a day, promised Gingrich. But after two weeks, the attacks stopped. And rather than airing ads throughout the campaign, the GOP waited until the 11th hour to raise the issue.

It was a failed strategy. A reflective Gingrich has even obliquely acknowledged as much.

We're not surprised by the GOP's abandonment of its ideals, though. That's what happens the longer conservatives stay in federal office. They forget to dance with the positions that brung 'em to power.

The big-government views of The Washington Post, The New York Times and the TV networks roll over conservatives relentlessly, like waves on a shore. Only the staunchest can stand up to this pounding.

The Beltway life has a way of insulating lawmakers from the real world. They embrace the myriad perks of fame. Special interests make their lives cushy. After years of Capitol Hill pampering, they have a hard time connecting with the people back home.

Then of course there is the ability of Democrats - especially Bill Clinton - to frame issues that tug on the public's heartstrings. It's easy, after all, to invoke the specter of kids and senior citizens suffering.

Add it all up, and too many politicians move leftward in their efforts to please the Beltway chorus. And those efforts are praised by the chorus.

When they vote to expand government, or fail to cut taxes, conservatives have acted in a "real spirit of bipartisanship," the chorus chants. Or even better, "They've grown in office."

Elected in '77, Livingston has spent the bulk of his Capitol Hill career in the "go-along, get-along" minority. Now he touts his ability to manage.

That's fine. But whose ideas is he going to manage? The big-government crowd? Those of the old bulls who have grown in office? Or the ideas of the young bucks who rolled into Washington on Gingrich's revolution?

As chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Livingston started strong. He cut the Democrats' budget from the year before. Then he slashed \$ 5.5 billion in nondefense discretionary spending for fiscal '96, setting off the '95 shutdown.

After that, spending began to look Democratic again, with just a sprinkling of GOP restraint. Livingston's threats to cut deadwood like the National Endowment for the Arts and Americorps never materialized.

Was he growing as chairman?

For the record, Livingston has pledged to carry on Gingrich's revolution. It just needs a chaperone, he says.

But his words over the weekend give us pause. His idea of chaperoning seems to be compromising with Democrats to pass more big-government measures. On his rounds through the talk shows, he talked up more regulation of HMOs and "saving Social Security first." He may have already reached full maturity in office - and that's troubling.

Lawmakers like Rep. Steve Largent of Oklahoma, who is challenging Rep. Dick Armey for the House majority leader's post, haven't been inside the Beltway long enough to grow drunk on the capital's seductive nature.

Indeed, most of Newt's class of '94 still retain the same zeal that got them elected, including Rep. Jennifer Dunn of Washington, who will challenge Armey as well.

Their ardor is as welcome to us as Gingrich's was in his rise to the speakership. But the insidious influence of Washington ultimately dulled his vision and eroded his adherence to principle. The next team of leaders should take heed.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 10, 1998

National Service News

Issue No. 66, November 02, 1998

For citizens in service through Learn & Serve America, AmeriCorps, and the National Senior Service Corps. Published every other Monday on the Corporation for National Service Website.

Budget Wrapup: A Strong Vote for National Service

Congress completed action on the Fiscal Year 1999 budget, and the final numbers are a real victory for national service. The total Corporation for National Service budget is \$714.5 million - up \$29.4 million from FY'98. Here's a program summary, including changes from the FY'98 funding level.

* AmeriCorps*State/National Programs: \$237 million (up \$10 million)

* AmeriCorps*VISTA: \$73 million (up \$7.8 million)

* AmeriCorps*NCCC: \$18 million (same as '98)

* Learn and Serve America: \$43 million (same as '98)

* Foster Grandparent Program: \$93.3 million (up \$5.7 million)

* Senior Companion Program: \$36.7 million (up \$1.3 million)

* Retired and Senior Volunteer Program: \$43 million (up \$2.7 million)

Corporation CEO Harris Wofford hailed the budget as reflecting "the growing non-partisan consensus that the work of AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps are an integral part of our nation's civic sector."

Reflections On Reaching 100,000 Americorps Members

As AmeriCorps marks the 100,000th member milestone, thoughtful observers are reflecting on the meaning and value of national service. In a Wall Street Journal column, historian Stephen Ambrose looked back to a time when "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." He spoke of the shared experiences created by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression, and later by the armed forces through the draft. "Today, AmeriCorps is extending that tradition of citizen service, giving young people opportunity to serve their country here at home." Writing in U.S. News and World Report, Editor At Large David Gergen said that "almost every one of these (100,000) AmeriCorps members has been weaving an important thread into the fabric of community life....the day is not far off when a year of more of service to the country will again be enshrined as an essential part of becoming an American citizen."

Getting Started By Making A Difference:

After swearing in ceremonies on October 23, AmeriCorps members joined other national service participants and community volunteers on Make a Difference Day service projects. AmeriCorps*NCCC members led 200 volunteers cleaning up Washington, D.C.'s C&O Canal. while RSVP volunteers provided 3,000 seniors with "File of Life" magnetic medical information stickers. Be sure and register your efforts

medical information stickers. Be sure and register your efforts with Make a Difference Day - there are awards and great publicity at stake. (E-mail Heather Erickson for forms.)

Service Hero: Learn and Serve Student Brenda Corace

For the last two years, Palm Harbor, Fla., Learn and Serve student Brenda Corace has been a leader in service-learning projects in partnership with the Pinellas County Schools and the Hospice of the Florida Suncoast in Largo. She spearheaded the design and development of a teen marketing program including a video, brochures, and a speakers bureau to encourage youth to become involved in community service. She sparked the "Life, Camera, Action" project that allows teens to videotape life reviews with hospice patients, which become a gift of remembrance for families. Brenda organized the first Hospice Teen Council at Palm Harbor University High School and received the National Hospice Teen Service Award.

What Works: AmeriCorps*VISTA at La Casa De Buena Salud

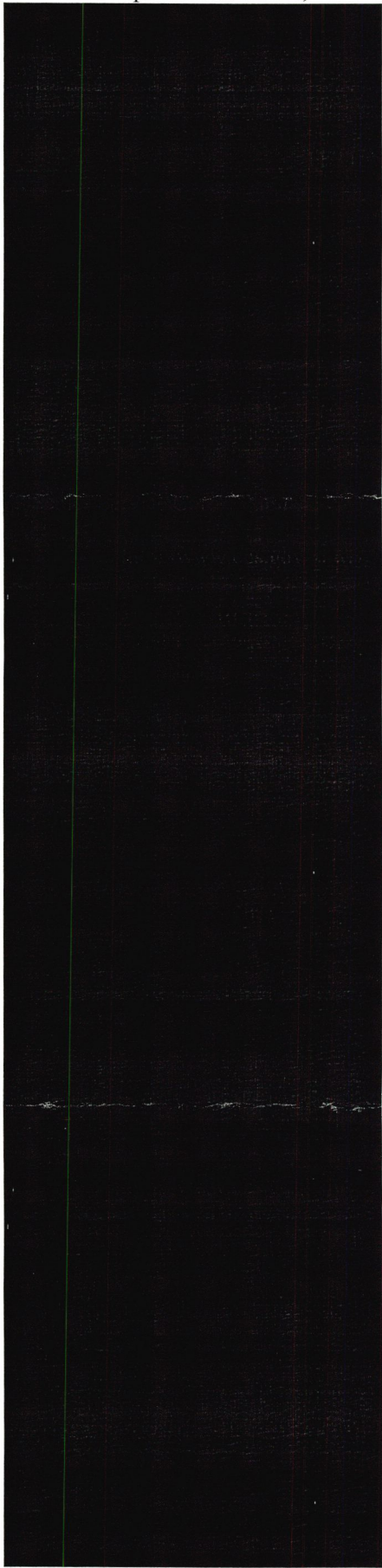
The Program: Two AmeriCorps*VISTA members made dental care accessible and affordable for low-income adults and Medicaid-eligible children in Roswell, New Mexico. Debbie Luevano and Aleace Flores mobilized businesses, local government and community volunteers to assure that low-income people would no longer be required to travel 200 miles to obtain affordable dental care.

The Results: A mobile dental clinic now travels to Roswell schools, providing screening and prevention programs along with regular checkups, thanks to the efforts of the AmeriCorps*VISTA members. After La Casa de Buena Salud, a community health group, purchased a very inexpensive van, the members recruited community volunteers to renovate and convert it into a dental clinic. Working with the local Health Department, a dental hygienist and dentist were enlisted to staff the vehicle. Forty community volunteers were enlisted to ensure the mobile clinic effort continues, while one local business donates a free tank of gas monthly, and another gave \$1,000 to fix the van. After a citizens' petition, the County Commissioners have committed to building a permanent dental clinic.

Why It Works: When asked why the project has been so successful, AmeriCorps*VISTA Supervisor Jane Batson cited "the work of the VISTAs in finding key community people. (La Casa de Buena Salud) would not have been able to help mobilize these resources without the VISTAs."

Lessons: By involving the entire community - residents, businesses, local government and non-profit groups - AmeriCorps*VISTA members help La Casa de Buena Salud bring affordable health care to low-income people of Roswell and surrounding rural areas. In addition to the efforts of Debbie and Aleace, AmeriCorps*VISTA member Julia Ortega is serving on other health initiatives, including one directed at diabetes. Contact: AmeriCorps*VISTA Supervisor Jane Batson (505) 624-6164

AmeriCorps Recruitment,



National Service News is posted on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nationalservice.org> and is distributed by Internet listservs and fax. State offices, commissions, program and site directors are asked to distribute copies to citizens who serve. Please send comments and story suggestions to drodgers@cns.gov

Corporation for National Service, Office of Public Affairs, 1201 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20525 (202) 606-5000, TDD (202) 565-2799

Back to the Corporation for National Service News Page

Service News

at the Corporation for National Service

October 21, 1998

Congress Boosts AmeriCorps by \$18 Million

Bipartisan Support Grows as AmeriCorps Reaches 100,000

WASHINGTON D.C. - Today Congress completed action on appropriations bills for the year, giving AmeriCorps an \$18 million increase, the third year in a row that Congress has increased funds for AmeriCorps and other national service programs.

The action marked a turnaround from this summer, when the House failed to provide any AmeriCorps funding. The Senate provided last year's level of \$428.5 million, rejecting an attempt to cut funds by a 21 vote margin. Now, the final VA-HUD bill provides \$428.5 million for AmeriCorps and service-learning programs. In addition, the separate omnibus measure passed by Senate today contains a \$10 million increase for AmeriCorps grants and a \$7.8 million increase for VISTA, the thirty-four year service program that is now part of AmeriCorps.

"I'm delighted that once again Congress has recognized national service as a cost-effective way to involve citizens in community problem-solving, said Corporation for National Service Chief Harris Wofford. "As AmeriCorps celebrates reaching 100,000 members, we can celebrate another milestone - reclaiming the nonpartisan tradition of national service."

On Friday at the White House and at events across the country, AmeriCorps will celebrate reaching the 100,000 milestone. President Clinton will administer the AmeriCorps pledge to 100 AmeriCorps members, representing the 100,000 who have served since the program began in 1994. In four years, members of AmeriCorps have assisted more than 33 million people, tutored more than 2 million children, built or rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes, and recruited more than 2 million volunteers.

Congress also provided \$172.9 million for the three programs of the National Senior Service Corps, which engages more than a half million older Americans in service to their communities. This is an increase of \$10.7 million over last year.

"These successes reflect the growing nonpartisan consensus that the work of AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America and the Senior Corps are an integral part of our nation's civic sector and are producing valuable contributions in meeting the needs of communities in every part of our nation," Wofford said.

If you have questions regarding this page, please contact the [webmaster](#).

1/21/99

JAN 26 1999

file
Americorp

Karen -

Thanks for all the help from you
& your colleagues over the past few
days. We've had quite a run!

For your information,
I wanted you to see the memo
that Harris sent to our field
yesterday.

Look forward to talking to
you soon.

OFFICE OF THE CEO

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
 SERVICE

January 20, 1999

TO: State Commissions and AmeriCorps Grant Recipients
FROM: Harris Wofford 
RE: Restrictions on AmeriCorps members' political activities

In recent days AmeriCorps has received extensive press coverage, including the President's proposal to increase the budget for AmeriCorps. We hope to see more coverage of AmeriCorps, and broader understanding and appreciation of the work that AmeriCorps members do. However, this is an important time to remind you of the established rules that govern the activity of AmeriCorps members, and to ask you to remind AmeriCorps members serving in your state or with your program of these rules.

The following activities may not be performed by members or staff in the course of their duties while charging time to AmeriCorps or at the request of program staff:

- Any effort to influence legislation, as prohibited under 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501);
- Organizing or participating in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
- Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
- Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials; and
- Organizing voter registration drives.

Furthermore, members or staff may not perform any of these prohibited activities in a manner that would associate the national service program or the Corporation for National Service with the prohibited activities. For example, although AmeriCorps members like any other private citizens may participate in lobbying, political, or advocacy activities on their own time, at their own expense, and at their own initiative, members may not wear AmeriCorps service gear in such instances.

These rules are spelled out in detail in the 1999 Guide to Programs and Grants, the Program Director's Handbook, and the AmeriCorps Member Handbook. If you have specific questions, please call the Corporation's General Counsel at (202) 606-5000, ext. 465.



Americorps Polling February 2, 1999
--

Key Points:

1) Awareness of the Americorps program is extremely low (33% aware) and there is great potential for image building. After an explanation of the program, 76% are supportive of it. A high opinion of the Peace Corps supports the potential for developing a strong Americorps image.

2) The image of Americorps can be built around the following points:

- Developing good citizens by teaching the importance of giving back to our country and getting youths involved in the community.
- Making a difference in people's lives.
- Including not excluding. Americans don't want this to be a highly selective program, and would prefer that Americans of any age and background can participate.

3) This image should be developed by focusing on projects that include: working in schools to enrich after-school programs for needy children, disaster relief, and working to rebuild the physical structure of troubled neighborhoods.

4) Opportunities for expansion and new ideas that enjoy broad popularity include increasing involvement in after school programs and summer school programs, and getting retirees involved through the creation of a Seniors Corp of Senior volunteers.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

file: Americorps

Awareness of Public Service Programs

Americorps is perhaps the most important new administration program that has extremely low recognition.

Dec. 10, 1998:

Americorps

32/7% have a favorable/unfavorable opinion of Americorps, **62%** don't know

32% favorable (**12%** very + **20%** somewhat)

7% unfavorable (**5%** very + **2%** somewhat)

Peace Corps

73/5% have a favorable/unfavorable opinion of the Peace Corps, **12%** don't know

73% favorable (**38%** very + **35%** somewhat)

5% unfavorable (**2%** very + **3%** somewhat)

Teach for America

26/5% have a favorable/unfavorable opinion of Teach for America, **69%** don't know.

26% favorable (**12%** very + **14%** somewhat)

5% unfavorable (**3%** very + **2%** somewhat)

Perception of Americorps

Dec. 24, 1998

Awareness of program

33% / 65% have / have not heard about a program called Americorps.

Asked their support on an unaided basis, the answer was don't know:

18% / 13% support / oppose the Americorps program

69% had no opinion.

What leaders do you associate with starting the Americorps program? OPEN – END RESPONSES (Dec. 24)	All	Dems	Reps	Inds
President Clinton	25	23	25	29
Hillary Clinton	3	0	8	4
Colin Powell	1	0	3	2
Don't know	68	71	64	65

When Americorps is explained, most overwhelmingly support it:

Given the following statement, **76% / 17%** support / oppose Americorps (Dec. 24): *Americorps was created in 1993 for young people who want to do public service for poor urban and rural communities. Americorps participants spend 2 years in community service projects in urban and rural areas and receive a stipend to cover living expenses for their work and to go towards college costs.*

76% support (51% strongly + 25% somewhat support)

17% oppose (5% strongly + 12% somewhat oppose)

<i>D</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>I</i>
93//4	52/43	75/15

42% consider this type of program public service, **30%** consider it community service, and **20%** consider it volunteerism (Dec. 24).

<i>D</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>I</i>
38/35/18	46/13/33	43/37/10

Messaging

The polling shows that Americans are very interested in having Americorps make a significant contribution to after-school programs in poor areas – helping to give these kids a better chance.

<i>Which of the following do you think is the most important aspect of the Americorps program? (Dec. 24)</i>	<i>1st + 2nd Most</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>I</i>
Teaching young people to contribute back to their nation and serve in their communities	56	28	46	47
Helping poor urban and rural communities	51	32	23	17
Getting Americans of all different backgrounds to work together	48	23	11	18
Paying for volunteers to go to college	25	6	7	12

The issue is not really response to criticism – it is about making the program visible enough to be seen as making a difference in the lives of our young people.

<i>Given each of the following statements, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the Americorps program? (Dec. 24)</i>	Strongly Support	Support / Oppose	D	R	I
CRITICISM: Critics of the Americorps programs say it is too expensive- costing the government \$15,000 per volunteer for a total of 400 million dollars a year.	38	65/29	77/18	46/49	65/27
The lives of hundreds of thousands of children in poor neighborhoods have been improved through tutoring and other community service work provided by Americorps volunteers.	53	79/15	86/6	54/42	89/4
Leaders such as Colin Powell and organizations such as Habitat for Humanity have endorsed the Americorps program as successful and well worth the funding	53	78/18	87/6	52/44	84/12
The money earned by Americorps volunteers helps them pay for a college education while allowing them to serve in communities.	52	79/16	83/8	57/39	88/7
For every Americorps volunteer who is paid, many more unpaid volunteers are recruited to sign up and participate in community service projects.	45	75/20	81/14	56/79	84/14

Project Focus

<i>Which of the following new service projects is most important for Americorps to undertake (Dec. 24)?</i>	All	D	R	I
Working in schools with needy kids and after school programs	40	41	48	38
Disaster relief	20	22	20	19
Emphasizing literacy programs	15	15	5	20
Building homes for poor families	8	9	10	6
Recruiting bright college students to teach in high risk schools	8	8	5	7
Cleaning up our parks and beaches	3	2	0	7

<i>What type of student should be selected to be paid Americorps volunteers (Dec. 24)?</i>	All	D	R	I
Americans who want to do service of all ages.	49	55	41	50
A mixture of high school and college graduate from many different backgrounds.	20	13	18	25
Poor children who have dropped out of high school.	16	26	16	8
Only a select group of high achieving college graduates.	7	6	6	9

Americorps Messages

<i>Does each statement on the Americorps program make you much more favorable, somewhat more favorable, somewhat less favorable or much less favorable towards Americorps? (Dec. 24)</i>	Much More favorable	More / Less favorable	D	R	I
Americorps develops good citizens by getting them involved in service for their community and the country.	64	86/9	94/5	72/21	89/7
Americorps gives high school drop outs a second chance by allowing them to serve their community.	64	83/12	91/8	64/23	86/12
Americorps helps support existing non-profit organizations such as the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity by providing funding and staffing for these volunteer services.	56	86/11	91/9	70/25	92/5
Americorps rewards the responsibility of young people who serve by helping them pay for college.	56	85/11	96/3	66/31	87/4
The Americorps program brings together Americans of diverse backgrounds to service side by side for a common cause.	56	85/10	89/10	49/26	91/1
The Americorps programs is a domestic Peace Corps that enables Americans to volunteer in communities within the United States.	52	86/10	99/1	63/29	91/6
Americorps brings much needed services to inner cities and poor rural communities.	51	82/12	91/8	67/27	83/6
The Americorps program is a way for Americans who do not want to go into the military to serve their country.	40	62/33	72/27	38/55	67/23

Possibilities for Expansion

<i>Does each new idea that Americorps might undertake make you much more favorable, somewhat more favorable, somewhat less favorable or much less favorable towards Americorps? (Dec. 24)</i>	<i>Much More favorable</i>	<i>More / Less favorable</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>I</i>
Working in schools to enrich after-school programs for children.	64	85/13	90/6	66/28	95/5
Working shoulder to shoulder to rebuild the physical infrastructure of troubled neighborhood.	63	90/9	94/6	71/24	98/2
Bringing retired Americans into the program to use their skills to help communities.	58	85/12	88/8	73/28	94/6
Creating summer service projects so 8 th graders could do summer volunteer work.	56	83/16	94/6	60/33	89/10
Selecting the most talented Americans with initial funding to start service programs in their own communities.	40	76/21	75/23	55/34	91/9

Nov. 30, 1998

82% are support expanding the Americorps program to create a Senior corps of 10,000 Senior volunteers to serve as tutors and mentors and in after school programs.

<i>D</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>I</i>
96	64	83

74% support expanding the Americorps program from 50,000 to 70,000 members per year to serve in after school and summer school programs.

<i>D</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>I</i>
88	49	81

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: _____ ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: _____

Subject: FY '97 Corporation for National Service Annual Reports to Congress

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
PODESTA	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
RICCHETTI	☐	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	SOSNIK	☐	☐
BEGALA	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	STEIN	☐	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	STERN	☐	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
JOHNSON	☐	☐	WALDMAN	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
LEWIS	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
LOCKHART	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
MARSHALL	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS: Please return this report to the Staff Secretary's Office after review. If you would like a copy of this report to keep, please contact this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: _____

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 08, 1999

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE HARRIS WOFFORD

SUBJECT: SUBMITS A COPY OF FY '97 CORPORATION FOR
NATIONAL SERVICE ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS

99 FEB 18 PM 1:05

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
TIM SAUNDERS		ORG	99/02/08		C 99/2/12
<i>Phil Caplan</i>	REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>A</i>	<i>99/2/12</i>		
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: ENCLOSURE

Not for the President's xmittal to the Congress

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION	*OUTGOING	*
*	*	*CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	* OF SIGNER	*
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	* CODE = A	*
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		* OUTGOING	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *			*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY			*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75,OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.



CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
 SERVICE

January 29, 1999

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

It has been over five years since you signed the National and Community Service Act on September 21, 1993. In those five years, more than 100,000 men and women have served in AmeriCorps and thousands of students and senior citizens have served their communities through programs supported by the Corporation for National Service. Their accomplishments are highlighted in the enclosed Annual Report for 1997 for the Corporation for National Service.

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of this report that has been transmitted to Congress to meet the Corporation's reporting requirements under the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, and the Government Corporation Control Act, 31 U.S.C. 9101. It includes required reports on the National Service Trust, 42 U.S.C. 12601(d), and the Corporation's Gift Fund, 42 U.S.C. 12651d(b)(9)(A)-(B).

Through the support of the Corporation for National Service, over one million Americans of all ages and backgrounds helped solve problems and build stronger communities in thousands of service programs across the nation in 1997. Whether serving full- or part-time in AmeriCorps, National Senior Service Corps, school or community-based programs supported by Learn and Serve America, national service participants brought about lasting improvement in our communities and proved that service is an effective strategy for meeting vital needs in education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs.

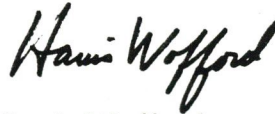
In addition, during 1997, the Corporation made significant progress to improve its financial management. The Inspector General concluded that the Corporation's balance sheet could be audited and, subsequently, the Corporation received a qualified opinion on its statement of financial position. This is an important milestone in the Corporation's continued efforts to achieve an unqualified opinion on its full set of financial statements.



The Honorable William J. Clinton
January 29, 1999
Page Two

The accomplishments highlighted in this report represent only a small fraction of the lives and communities improved by national service. Your support and leadership in national service helped make this possible. The Corporation is proud of its record of accomplishment, and I look forward to working with you to make citizen service a common expectation and common experience of all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harris Wofford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent "H" and "W".

Harris Wofford

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO:

ANN LEWIS
Shirley Sagawa
Thurgood Marshall Jr.
Bruce Reed
Karen Tramontano
TANYA MARTIN

FROM:

Anne McGuire

FYI - For your personal
I attended. -- this
was great.

**Prepared Remarks of Harris Wofford
Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National Service
National Press Club Luncheon
Tuesday, April 27, 1999**

In his Sunday in the Loop column, Al Kamen wondered what the billing meant when your invitation promised a "joint speech on the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps: Serving Our Country and the World."

"Will they read it together?" Al asked. Or "alternate lines?" Or "Mark might play the piano" – which Al says he does quite well – "while Wofford talks."

Well, if I were to choose a song for Mark to use as our joint theme, I'd start with Bob Dylan's old refrain for the Sixties, "something's happening here, but you don't know what it is, do you, Mr. Jones?"

Because there is so much happening in the Peace Corps as it moves to new frontiers in the former Soviet Empire, China, Eastern Europe, and South Africa – some places we couldn't get passports to in the Sixties. And because there is so much happening with the domestic Peace Corps – AmeriCorps – and the new patriotism of the home front.

Nearly four decades ago, as he sent the first Peace Corps Volunteers off to Asia, Africa, and Latin America, President Kennedy turned to Sargent Shriver – and those of us helping Sarge – and said, "Someday we must bring this idea home to America."

Later President Johnson as part of the War on Poverty Sargent Shriver also led, urged Americans to apply the principle of the Peace Corps on a large scale in America. At the University of Kentucky in 1965, he proposed that the nation "search for new ways" through which "every young American will have the opportunity – and feel the obligation – to give at least a few years of his life or her life to service in the nation or the world."

One of those new ways was VISTA, the first domestic Peace Corps Sarge started. Robert Kennedy put it to Congress in testifying for the forerunner bill for VISTA: "Every sixth citizen in the United States needs

our help; there are five of us who should help him." He urged that Americans be asked "to invest a year of their lives, at no salary and under Spartan conditions, to help millions of their fellow citizens who, through no fault of their own, are denied the essentials of a decent life."

Those were years of high hopes, great goals, and terrible disappointments. John and Robert Kennedy and President Johnson and Sargent Shriver envisioned large armies of Americans in citizen service to overcome poverty at home and abroad. But instead of moving up from 15,000 volunteers when Sarge left the Peace Corps toward the goal of 100,000 volunteers a year, the Peace Corps fell back to 5,000 and stayed there. VISTA never got much beyond 5,000 volunteers per year.

Today, after a quarter of a century of lost opportunities, the history of citizen service is being written again-- bigger, stronger, bolder. With President Clinton's leadership, and with growing bipartisan support in Congress, we're moving ahead on both fronts:

The Peace Corps, under Mark's good direction, is reaching so many new countries and is well on the way to doubling the number of Peace Corps Volunteers. And national service at home is on the move as well. In just four years, more than 100,000 Americans have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done for America." And Sarge, you must be pleased to know that as a revived and vital part of AmeriCorps, VISTA has virtually doubled in the last two years in appropriations and volunteers.

This spring, President Clinton called on Congress to expand the number of AmeriCorps positions to nearly 70,000 in 2001, and to 100,000 a year in 2003. This is a bold request -- what scientists would call a quantum leap -- but what we have learned in the first five years of AmeriCorps tells us that this expansion is just right for our time, for our young people, and for our country.

First, we have learned that if you ask them, they will serve.

When a journalist asked one of the first volunteers why he joined the Peace Corps he said, "Nobody ever asked me to do something patriotic, unselfish and for the common good before; Kennedy asked."

Three decades later, I asked one of the members of a Philadelphia youth corps who had dropped out of high school and had been a member of a street gang why he had joined AmeriCorps. He first said he thought it might be a better gang with different types and that he might not get killed in the end. A short while later he said: "It was because -- all my life I have had people come into the housing project where I lived to help me. I got tired of people doing good against me. This was the first time anyone asked me to do something good."

AmeriCorps is asking young people to take responsibility and to take a leadership role in their communities. Our experience tells us that those who call this the "do-nothing" "slacker" generation are flat wrong. The fact that during this time of unprecedented prosperity and economic opportunity, 100,000 young people have signed on to spend a year living and working in the toughest communities, receiving near poverty-level living allowance and a post-service education award is evidence that the idealism and energy of youth is strong today -- as it proved to be when the so-called silent, self-centered generation responded so enthusiastically to the Peace Corps.

But -- I must add -- the focus of the idealism and the energy of young people has changed. Survey after survey tells us that young people are turned off by Washington. (I wonder why?) They aren't voting in high enough numbers, and they don't count many, if any, politicians among their heroes. At the same time we find more young people are volunteering, taking responsibility in their communities. Surveys, like those by Peter Hart for Public Allies, tell us that young people are more interested in solving problems in their own backyards than in what's happening in Washington.

The growing interest in AmeriCorps is a sign of this new patriotism -- a patriotism that is focused on the home front. As Colin Powell says in his current Promise Letter to campaigners for America's Promise across the country: "For some of our young people, preserving our democratic way of life means shouldering a rifle or climbing into a cockpit, or weighing anchor and setting out to sea. For others it means helping a child to read, or helping that child to secure needed vaccinations or health care. Or it means building a park, or helping to bring peace to troubled neighborhoods, or helping communities recover from natural disasters, or reclaiming the environment."

Our country needs more of both kinds of patriotism. AmeriCorps encourages and inspires the patriotism of the home front. So do the other

key parts of the Corporation for National Service – our nationwide student service-learning program and the senior service programs – Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents (another of Sarge's lasting social inventions), and the 450,000 strong volunteers in RSVP.

Second, we have learned that service helps solve critical problems.

The era of big government may be over, but big challenges remain. More than ever, we need citizens who are willing to step up to the plate. Through the service of AmeriCorps members themselves and the volunteers whom they recruit and mobilize, AmeriCorps is helping solve problems in hundreds of communities.

Whether it is increasing reading scores in Washington state, or helping Habitat for Humanity eliminate poverty housing in Sumter County, Georgia; or working with local police and community residents to bring down crime rates in Buffalo; or restoring hundreds of acres of barrier beach in Florida, AmeriCorps members are getting things done that vitally need doing.

One of the most vital things it does is to ask young people to serve – not only full-time in AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps, but as volunteers while in school or on summer vacation. More than a million students are engaged in service-learning in their communities in programs assisted by our Corporation. And the President has just announced the President's Student Service Awards to encourage such student initiative – an award for 100 hours or more of community service, to parallel the President's Physical Fitness Awards. Believing that civic fitness is as important as physical fitness, AmeriCorps members will be working to spread this award to every school in the country.

Third, we have learned that devolution works.

Few people realize the extent to which AmeriCorps is a decentralized, locally-driven program. That is why one of AmeriCorps' great supporters, Connecticut Congressman Chris Shays – a former Peace Corps Volunteer – calls AmeriCorps a Republican idea. Unlike the Peace Corps which quite rightly for an international operation recruits, selects, trains and deploys its volunteers, the vast majority of AmeriCorps members are recruited, selected, and deployed by the more than 600 local non-profit, educational, civic and

religious groups in which they serve. This decentralized system is what makes AmeriCorps so popular with the civic sector.

The AmeriCorps experiment, in which our federal government agency serves as a junior partner to the civic sector, has proven to be an important catalyst for that civic sector. By giving local non-profits, religious and civic organizations the people power to do more of what they do best, AmeriCorps has strengthened these organizations, expanded their scope, and improved the effectiveness of their programs.

Another little known fact about AmeriCorps is the role that Governors have in administering the program. Two-thirds of AmeriCorps positions go directly to governor appointed-state commissions (3/5 of whom are Republicans). These commissions are responsible for deciding which programs get AmeriCorps positions, and what the priorities are for those programs.

This structure has helped AmeriCorps win the support of Republican governors and members of Congress, as well as civic leaders like Elizabeth Dole who sought and got AmeriCorps members for the American Red Cross; Colin Powell, who now has close to 500 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows in the front lines of the campaign for America's Promise; Millard Fuller -- the head of Habitat for Humanity and onetime skeptic of the program who now has 600 AmeriCorps members serving in Habitat; and leaders of religious and faith-based organizations that have 6,000 AmeriCorps members.

Each of these lessons is borne out by an independent study we are releasing today by Aguirre International. After studying survey data from AmeriCorps programs and examining 60 programs from 1994 to 1996, Aguirre International concluded that:

- AmeriCorps effectively prepares young Americans for the future;
- AmeriCorps strengthens communities and nonprofits;
- And the benefits of AmeriCorps far outweigh the costs.

Taken together, these lessons from the past five years and the findings of this new report make a powerful case for the bold growth that President Clinton's budget proposes.

In the end, the heart of the Peace Corps' and AmeriCorps' significance and their appeal are the young people who accept the challenge and the responsibility. The real story of both the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps lies not here in Washington, but in the talent and energy and idealism of the volunteers and members.

Over the past two months, I have been in more than a dozen states, at colleges and high schools to recruit new AmeriCorps members. At each stop, I have been joined by past and current AmeriCorps members who told their own stories. Their stories are not only the story of AmeriCorps but the story of the next generation of America's leaders.

So Mark and I, and the Peace Corps Volunteers and AmeriCorps Members and student and senior volunteers we represent, are part of the antidote this country needs for the toxic culture of violence and alienation that fed the horror at Littleton. The tragedy at Columbine High School gives ever more reason why we must invest in our young people, why we must ignite their imaginations, why we must engage their minds and bodies in working along side people of different racial, economic, and religious backgrounds to solve problems and achieve common goals. We must see young people as resources – and help them see themselves as resources – not as problems and victims. We must ask them to take responsibility, work hard, and become leaders. Our experience in the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps tells us that service can bring out the best in our people and the best of America.

Vaclav Havel put it simply in his meditations on our complicated time: "the dormant goodwill in people needs to be stirred. People need to hear that it makes sense to behave decently or to help others, to place common interests above their own, to respect the elementary rules of human co-existence. Goodwill longs to be recognized and cultivated."

AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps are in the business of recognizing and cultivating that goodwill. Mark and I are here because we need your help in doing that.

**Prepared Remarks of Mark D. Gearan
Director of the Peace Corps
National Press Club Luncheon
April 27, 1999**

Thank you Larry for that kind introduction. Welcome everyone, and thank you for joining us here. I want to take this chance to acknowledge those of you who have joined me at the head table today.

- Rep. Sam Farr of California, who was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Columbia,
- Christine Lonergan, a Peace Corps Volunteer from Naperville, Illinois, who is serving as an instructor at a teacher's college in Leshan, China,
- Art Naperstek, an AmeriCorps Board Member and Professor at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio,
- Melody Scales, an AmeriCorps Member from Stoneville, NC, who is working with the National Civilian Conservation Corps here in Washington.

I also would like to thank my good friend Harris Wofford, who was among the first to truly push the idea of a national service model for overseas service. While I have him up here, I would like to tell just one "war story" about Harris and the origins of the Peace Corps.

When President Kennedy signed the Executive Order founding the Peace Corps, he gave the task of creating the organization to his brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver. Sarge, in turn, enlisted Harris to be his right-hand man. After weeks of late nights and feverish work, they settled on a plan. Only one problem remained—the Peace Corps had lots of potential Volunteers but no countries to serve in. So Sarge and Harris did the only thing they could—they set off on a world tour to try to convince the presidents and prime ministers of other countries that this idea of sending Americans abroad—armed only with their skills and good will—would be beneficial to their countries. To me that is just a tremendous image of these men—and the courage and conviction that they represent: The two of them, meeting with Prime Minister Nehru in India and President Julius Nyerere in what was then Tanganyika, and selling them on the power of this idea. As one writer has noted: Sarge and Harris "charmed" the heads of state everywhere they went. They described "this thing—the Peace Corps—in such glowing terms that every head of state signed up." By the end of that year, the Peace Corps had more than 750 Volunteers serving in 15 countries.

Introduction

Some of you may have read about this "joint speech" in Al Kamen's column in Sunday's Washington Post. In his column, Mr. Kamen, who, incidentally, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic, wondered: "Will they read it together? Alternate lines? Maybe Gearan will play the piano—which he does quite well—while Wofford speaks?"

So, for those of you that came here expecting to see Harris and I do the speech in a round, or hoping for musical accompaniment, you may be disappointed. But at least you have had a nice lunch.

Harris and I are actually here today to talk about the importance of service and the necessity of offering the opportunity for service to a wider range of Americans.

In many ways, service is a uniquely American Institution. In the 1830s, according to French observer Alexis de Tocqueville, it was Americans penchant for volunteering that kept our self-interests in line. By perpetually forming and joining associations, Americans' interests and energies were directed toward the public good, instead of private gain.

In recent years, much has been made about the health of volunteerism and service in our country. While social observers in the 1980s claimed that Americans were becoming increasingly self-absorbed, recent work indicates that the American tradition of service is growing even stronger, especially in the younger generations.

In this year's national survey of college freshmen, UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute reported that a record three-quarters of incoming freshmen across the country volunteered during the previous year, with more than 40 percent reporting weekly volunteer activities. These statistics fly in the face of the standard media and stereotyped portrayal of today's young people: that they are slackers, that they watch too much TV and spend too much time playing video games, that they don't care or even know about the communities they live in.

After concluding a survey of students on 28 campuses, Arthur Levine, the president of Teacher's College at Columbia University, simply had this to say: "Popular stereotypes of today's college students are wrong." Levine's survey showed that nearly two out of three undergraduates were consistently involved in volunteer activities, and called the current generation of college students "perhaps the most socially active generation since the late 1930s."

Our experience in the Peace Corps confirms this trend. We are averaging nearly 150,000 inquiries per year, and in the first three months of 1999 we have had the highest number of inquiries in years.

From these results, and from what we have seen at the Peace Corps, it is clear that Americans continue to believe in the role of service and its importance to the health of our nation. Do we, as citizens, believe that the government has a role in promoting and encouraging this tradition of service? What do the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps bring to the table that is different and vital to maintaining the strength of our national character?

I believe that the answer is simple and clear—these programs show national, institutionalized support for the activities of Americans who represent some of our finest values—service, idealism, compassion, and altruism. By supporting activities that promote those parts of our national character that we hold in highest regard, we are engaged in a mission that represents government at its finest—a mission that empowers, that promotes opportunity, that rewards hard work, and that encourages Americans to dream of a better world.

Service in the Peace Corps is not easy—we ask a lot of our Volunteers. In joining the Peace Corps, they agree to serve for two years, without a salary, working on difficult and sometimes frustrating projects, often miles from the nearest American, and under conditions much different from home. But the work they do is rewarding because Volunteers can often see the difference they are making: a healthy child, an inspired student, or a successful farm that will feed a family.

But it is not enough to be a "feel-good" program that reflects our national character. Through extensive training and careful program design, Peace Corps Volunteers are prepared to bridge the gap between the idealism of their service and the pragmatism of their

on-the-ground projects. Peace Corps Volunteers are literally changing the future, and saving lives.

In the late 1980s, Guinea worm, a parasite that can lead to severe health complications in people, infected five million people in central Africa. Today, thanks in large part to the work of Peace Corps Volunteers, the number of people who suffer from Guinea worm disease has dropped to fewer than 100,000.

But much of Peace Corps' work remains beyond classification. How many lives does the Peace Corps Volunteer who promotes AIDS education and prevention in Thailand and Cameroon save—or the Volunteer in Guatemala or Morocco who teaches a mother how to protect her children from diseases?

As Christine Lonergan goes about her daily teaching in China, she is making a real difference in opening the doors of the world to the people in her town. For many of them, Christine is the first American they have ever met. For them to see an American, and even more importantly, an American woman, who would give up two years of her life and come to work in a far-away land, all for the purpose of education, is inspiring. This is perhaps her most significant contribution.

The 6,700 men and women who serve as Peace Corps Volunteers are making, and often remaking, the image of Americans worldwide. In countries that Americans could not even enter 38 years ago—China, Russia, Turkmenistan, and the Baltics, for instance—Peace Corps Volunteers are changing perceptions about our country and our people. Through their work and their friendships, Peace Corps Volunteers such as Christine earn a deep reservoir of good will that lasts long after the Volunteers leave.

In a recent visit to Tanzania, I met with the Minister of Education to discuss our program. After some talk of policy, the Minister told me a personal story: the first American he had ever met, and the best teacher he had ever had, was his Peace Corps teacher, even remembering the teacher's name. That young student, now the Minister, is setting education policy for the entire country. So as Christine looks out at her classroom next week, she may not know who the future leaders of China will be, but our experience across the world with the Peace Corps has shown that this kind of inspiration does make a difference.

Sitting next to Christine is a member of another generation of the tradition of service—Congressman Sam Farr of California. Congressman Farr served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Colombia, one of the first Peace Corps countries. Congressman Farr's life of public service highlights what I call "the Domestic Dividend" of the Peace Corps, in which Volunteers continue to serve even after they return home—through tutoring in schools, volunteering in homeless shelters, or serving their neighbors as an elected official. Former Peace Corps Volunteers volunteer at a higher rate than most Americans, and they can be found in all types of occupations, although we are perhaps fortunate that several of them have chosen to serve through politics, as six members of Congress are former Volunteers—three Democrats and three Republicans.

Because of the work of Christine Lonergan, Sam Farr and 150,000 other returned Volunteers, President Clinton and Congress have reaffirmed their support for the Peace Corps. The President's budget included a four-year plan to expand the Peace Corps to 10,000 Volunteers by the year 2003. Thanks to the leadership of Representative Farr and the four other members of the House that served as Peace Corps Volunteers, the House of Representatives endorsed the plan by a vote of 326 to 90. The bill is now being considered

in the Senate, where it passed unanimously through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

This funding will enable us to continue our work in new countries—such as South Africa, Jordan, Bangladesh, and Mozambique—as well as to expand new projects such as the Crisis Corps, which sends former Peace Corps Volunteers to respond to humanitarian crises and natural disasters in the regions they had served in. But at its basic level, this funding—through the commitment to have 10,000 Volunteers in the field each year—is an investment in the ethic of service in our country and the future of the Peace Corps.

In our efforts to prepare the Peace Corps for the 21st Century, we recently completed a Volunteer survey that asked them questions on virtually every aspect of their life. Some of the results were what you might expect:

- 95 percent of Volunteers said they found their Peace Corps service rewarding;
- 88 percent say they would join the Peace Corps again;
- and 88 percent say they would recommend the Peace Corps to others.

But some of the results help to illustrate the changing nature of today's Peace Corps. While the focus of our development work is and always will be people-to-people relationships and exchanges, the work of our Volunteers is changing:

- 72 percent of our Volunteers have easy access to a computer;
- 60 percent have easy access to a fax machine;
- 53 percent have easy access to email;
- and 38 percent have easy access to the Internet.

As the nature of the developing world changes, our projects are changing as well. As a Volunteer in today's Peace Corps, you are just as likely to teach business skills in Uzbekistan as you are to teach health education in rural Ghana. As a Volunteer in today's Peace Corps, you are just as likely to promote agroforestry in Honduras through a video series or a radio show as you are to be work on a hillside. As a Volunteer in today's Peace Corps, you are just as likely to write home on the Internet as you are to write home on stationery. As a Volunteer in today's Peace Corps, you just as likely to have easy access to a computer as you are to have running water in your home.

The world is changing, and the Peace Corps is changing with it.

But even as the information revolution brings the world closer together, the people-to-people nature of the Peace Corps only becomes more important. We *are* a more interconnected world than we've ever been. Information travels across continents in milliseconds. Technology has made this possible. But many of the world's problems cannot be solved by more data—we need to promote more understanding. The connection we still need the most of is the personal kind. We need to reach each other not only with the touch of a keyboard, but with a handshake and the embrace that comes with a new friendship.

Promoting an ethic of service and the importance of community is, at heart, a matter of recognizing our commonality, our shared humanity. For many Peace Corps Volunteers, what is most important and impressive about their experiences is discovering not what divides them from the people with whom they live and work, but what unites them. If the history of our times tells us anything it is this: if we hope to promote friendship across borders, we must continue to meet, to talk, to listen, and to understand one another.

This is what Peace Corps Volunteers are doing every day in 78 countries across the globe. Representing us all. Working for Peace. Sharing important skills. And building global friendships.

That is the power of this magnificent idea. That is the true ethic of service. And that is why we should commit to making this opportunity available for even more Americans.

Thank you.

###

BRIEF OF CAROLYN CASEY FAX OF 1/19 ON CITY YEAR MEETING

BACKGROUND

- City Year is a national service org. for 17-24 year olds
- focuses on service, leadership, and engagement
- founded in Boston in 1988 by two Harvard law students (Alan Khazei and Michael Brown)
- in Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbia, Columbus, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Jose, Seattle, Rhode Island, Detroit
- propose to do 1.5 million hours of service in 1999
- Sponsored by 100 national companies (includ. Timberland and Compaq Computers)

Outline of 1/20 Meeting w/ Shirley Sagawa

- purpose: to learn of skills and tactics to become involved in your (Administrations) efforts
- Meeting was a round table dialogue w/ Executive Directors and senior staff of CY observing
- Would like your thoughts on:**
 - a)WH strategy for Americorps
 - b)Advice on how to build bi-partisan support in Congress
 - c)How CY can support and promote the WH agenda on service

Executive Directors

- Jim Balfanz, CY Philadelphia
- Reco Bembry, Seattle
- Pricillia Butler, CY Columbus
- Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier, CY San Antonio
- Craig Huffman, CY Chicago
- Robert Lewis, Jr., CY Boston
- Randy McShepard, CY Cleveland
- Jyothi Nagraj, CY Rhode Island
- Marguerite O'Brien, CY Columbia
- John Hoang Sarvey, CY San Jose

National Leadership Staff

- Kevin Broughton, Chief Financial Officer
- Carolyn Casey, Director of External Affairs
- Cindy Laba, Director of Recruitment and Selection
- Allyce Najimy, National Operations Director, Office of National Corps
- Jeff Paquette, Director of the Department of Administration, Tech., and Analysis
- Greg Ricks, Vice President and Dean of CY
- Charlie Rose, Vice President, Office of National Affairs
- Kim Syman, Co-Director of Development
- Kadi Tierney, Co-Director of Development
- Stephen Spaloss, National Operations Director, Office of the National Corps
- Stephanie Wu, Vice President of CY and President of the City Year Academy

Carolyn
make sure we
get the
scheduling
request
in

CYZYGY '99: Annual Convention of Idealism

-1999 Convention at Howard University in WDC

-purpose of convention to build support for service & Americorps

-Outline of Conference

a)Opening & Closing

-Keynote addresses by national speakers, music, multi-media and member presentations

b)Day of Service

-2000 people (activists, corporate leaders, Americorp members, kids, CY members)

-engage volunteers in concentrated service efforts at four sites in DC

c)Congressional Reception

-Senators Kennedy and Chafee co-host gathering of Congressional supporters for CY First Circle, sponsors, national leaders, and DC leadership

d)National Policy Forum

-forum uniting political, academic, business, and community leaders

-purpose: create a blue print for national service in a thought provoking discussion & action summit

e)One America Forum

-purpose: engage participants in a discussion of key priorities of younger generation

-discussion lead by leaders under 35

f)Leadership Development

-4 curriculums reflecting values of service ethic:

1. Inclusivity

2. Social Justice

3. Youth Leadership

4. Education & Leading Children

-curriculums will be followed through workshops, community exploration, day of service



City Year
is supported
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National Service
Network



CITY YEAR
NATIONAL SPONSORS

DIGITAL EQUIPMENT
CORPORATION

THE TIMBERLAND
COMPANY

CITY YEAR FAX

285 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA 02116
PHONE: 617.927.2500 FAX: 617.927.2530
INTERNET: www.city-year.org

DATE: 19 January 1999
TO: Karen Tramontano ATTN: Caroline W
ORGANIZATION: White House
FAX #: 202.456.2883
PHONE #: _____
FROM: Carolyn Casey

NOTES:

Caroline -

This is to brief Karen Tramontano
if she is able to join us tomorrow.

Thank you for your help this

Good luck tonight!

Carolyn Casey

6 PAGES FOLLOW THIS COVER PAGE

PLEASE NOTE: The information in this facsimile message is privileged and confidential. It is intended for the use of the individual named above and others who have been specifically authorized to receive it. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, or if any problems occur with transmission, please notify us immediately at 617.927.2500. Thank you.

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PRESERVATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Karen Tramontano
Assistant to the President & Counselor to the Chief of Staff

FROM: Carolyn Casey
Director of External Affairs, City Year, Inc.

RE: Meeting with City Year Executive Directors

DATE: 19 January 1999

=====

Thank you for stopping by Shirley Sagawa's meeting with City Year on Wednesday, January 20, 1999 at 4:00 pm in the Roosevelt Room. City Year is honored to have the opportunity to share our service with you. I am sure that this is an extraordinarily busy week. Please know that we greatly appreciate your time.

BACKGROUND

As you may know, City Year is a national service organization that was founded in Boston in 1988 by two Harvard Law School classmates, Alan Khazei and Michael Brown. Funded entirely through seed investment by the private sector, City Year launched a corps of fifty diverse 17-24 years old for a year of service, leadership development and civic engagement. Their mission? To strengthen their community and themselves through service and to unite the rich mosaic that is our nation in a common purpose.

In December 1991, then candidate Clinton visited City Year Boston and was deeply moved by the diversity and impact of our corps. Once elected, President Clinton cited City Year as one of the models of his national service program, AmeriCorps. City Year feels extremely privileged by President Clinton's support and by his unwavering belief in the power of young people. Because of the President's leadership of AmeriCorps, City Year now engages over 900 corps members at ten sites nationwide. This year, the City Year National corps will contribute over 1.5 million hours of service in Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbia, Columbus, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Jose, Seattle and five communities in Rhode Island. City Year Detroit, our eleventh site, will open in September, 1999.

The City Year community is comprised of hundreds of champions and strategic partners. The resources and investment of over 100 companies nationwide, including National Founding Sponsors The Timberland Company and Compaq Computer Corporation, enables and strengthens our service. Our National Board of Trustees, including Welfare to Work CEO Eli Segal, Mayor Susan Hammer of San Jose, Harvard Business School Professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter, and ABC News Correspondent Farai Chideya, contribute invaluable to our efforts. Finally, our Mayors -- including Richard Daley, Edward Rendell, Tom Merino and Dennis Archer -- provide critical leadership and visionary civic agendas that leverage our service for greater impact.

CYZYGY '99: Building National Service for the 21st Century

Last year, City Year was honored to host President Clinton at CYZGY: City Year's Annual Convention of Idealism in Cleveland. In 1997, we were equally privileged to feature Mrs. Clinton at CYZGY in Rhode Island. Inspired by their passion, vision and tremendous loyalty, City Year decided to host CYZGY '99 in Washington, DC as a means to build support for national service and AmeriCorps. The City Year National Corps will also be celebrating our Tenth Anniversary Year.

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

Page Two

CYZYGY '99 will take place at Howard University on May 25 - 28, 1999 and will unite over 1200 corporate sponsors, civic leaders, service partners, AmeriCorps participants, City Year alumni and the City Year National Corps. For four days we will celebrate national service, the power of young people and civic action. Some of the convention highlights include:

- Congressional reception co-hosted by Senators Edward Kennedy and John Chafee;
- district-wide, high-impact service day for 2000 participants and community volunteers;
- One America Forum on service as a strategy to unite our nation;
- policy forum on building national service for the 21st century; and
- a variety of workshops and panels to build skills and capacities in the service movement.

Through CYZYG '99, we hope to engage, educate and inspire our nation's leaders. City Year's National Management Team is meeting in Washington this week to lay the critical groundwork for a successful event. (For your information and future reference, I am leading the CYZYG '99 effort for City Year.)

MEETING WITH SHIRLEY SAGAWA

City Year seeks to be a powerful partner and strategic resource for the national service movement. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet with you to learn of skills and tactics needed to further engage our national organization in your efforts.

The meeting will feature a roundtable dialogue with our ten Executive Directors. The remaining City Year senior staff have been invited to attend and observe. For your review, I have included brief biographical information on the attendees.

CYZYGY is but one strategy for strengthening service on the local, state and federal level. We would greatly benefit from hearing your thoughts on the following topics:

- the White House strategy for AmeriCorps and national service policy;
- advice on how to build bipartisan support by engaging Senators and Congressional members; (NOTE: Many of them will be visiting with members of Congress or their staff on Thursday afternoon.) and,
- your thoughts on how City Year can support and promote the White House's agenda on service.

Thank you once again, for your willingness to help build City Year's capacity as a strategic partner in the national service movement. We are excited to meet you and to learn from your wisdom and vision.

Please feel free to call me at 617.927.2399 with any questions.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

City Year's Executive Directors

Jim Balfanz (CY'93), Executive Director, City Year Philadelphia

A graduate of Northeastern University, Jim is an alumni from the 1992-93 City Year Boston corps. Following graduation, Jim joined City Year's External Affairs Team and eventually earned the responsibility of Deputy Director of the Office of National Affairs. One of his many responsibilities was the development of City Year programs in Philadelphia and Seattle. Jim was selected to lead City Year Philadelphia as founding co-Executive Director in 1997, a position he holds today as sole Executive Director.

Reco Bembry, Executive Director, City Year Seattle

Reco is the founding Executive Director of City Year Seattle which is in its inaugural year. He is a nationally recognized youth worker with more than 15 years experience. Prior to joining City Year Reco was the Senior Program Coordinator with the City of Seattle Parks and Recreation Department where he managed programs serving over 15,000 young adults. He is an accomplished musician, a graduate of the Cornish Institute of Performing Arts and recently completed a fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Priscilla Butler, Executive Director, City Year Columbus

Priscilla founded City Year Columbus in 1994 as a loaned executive from US Healthcare, where she served as Vice President of Community Relations. With over 15 years experience in the private sector, Priscilla joined City Year full-time as Executive Director in Columbus in September 1997. Her strategic thinking, for-profit management skills and deep ties in the community of Columbus have made her an invaluable leader for City Year.

Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier, Executive Director, City Year San Antonio

Before beginning her tenure in September 1995 as City Year's founding Executive Director in San Antonio, Maria was appointed in 1991 to the Board of the Commission on National and Community Service by President George Bush, during which time it became her ambition to see a City Year program developed in San Antonio. A lifelong teacher and administrator in the San Antonio school system, Maria was selected in 1992 by the Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander, to serve as the Director of the Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs in the U.S. Department of Education. In addition to her tremendous professional abilities, Maria is also a talented singer.

Craig Huffman, Executive Director, City Year Chicago

Craig joined City Year Chicago last spring, just in time to lead the celebration of our fifth anniversary corps in the Windy City. He served most recently as Assistant to the President of the Chicago Urban League and Director of the Urban League's Youth Development Fund. In his inaugural City Year he has secured significant support from Mayor Richard Daley as he has laid a foundation for future growth in one of the country's largest cities.

Robert Lewis, Jr., Executive Director, City Year Boston

Vice President of City Year, Inc. and Executive Director of City Year Boston, Robert leads the largest City Year corps. After over sixteen years of community, youth, and service development experience and as co-founder of Boston's nationally-recognized Street Worker program, Robert joined City Year in 1992. Robert is a well-respected community activist and motivational speaker. He is also a Little League baseball coach and a former aerobics instructor.

Randy McShepard, Executive Director, City Year Cleveland

As Deputy Director of the Cleveland Bicentennial Commission and a member of the founding advisory board of City Year Cleveland, Randy played an instrumental role in bringing City Year to Cleveland. Before joining City Year, Randy was the Executive Director of the Community Vocation Guidance Service in Cleveland, and was also a musician on world tour.

Jyothi Nagraj, Executive Director, City Year Rhode Island

This past September, at the age of 23, Jyothi became the youngest Executive Director at City Year ever to be appointed. A graduate of Brown University, Jyothi is an extraordinary young person who is lighting up the Rhode Island community with her corps of idealists. She joined City Year Rhode Island two years ago and has served as Development Director and Civic Engagement Director. Recently, she recruited Brown University President Gordon Gee to serve on her Advisory Board.

Marguerite O'Brien, Interim Executive Director, City Year Columbia

Marguerite joined City Year Columbia in 1994 and has held a variety of positions including Director of Leadership Development, Director of Recruitment and Deputy Director. Deeply committed to young people and the ethic of service, Marguerite is providing critical leadership as City Year conducts an Executive Director search.

John Hoang Sarvey, Executive Director, City Year San Jose

John is a four-year veteran of City Year, joining us from the Campus Outreach Opportunity League where he ran a national conference for over 2,000 students, faculty and community leaders. He has held a variety of positions at City Year including National Alumni Director, Deputy Director of the National Corps, and Logistics Coordinator for CYZGY. As an undergrad at UCLA, John demonstrated an early capacity for leadership as Student Body President and Community Service Commissioner.

City Year National Leadership Staff

In addition to co-founder Michael Brown and Alan Khazei, the following people comprise the national leadership team at our national headquarters in Boston.

Kevin Broughton, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Kevin came to City Year in 1995 with more than 25 years experience in finance, insurance, and banking, including leading a department at the Bank of Boston. With a wealth of expertise, Kevin has advanced City Year's financial capabilities and has led the development of a state-of-the-art finance department for a growing national organization.

Carolyn Casey, Director of External Affairs

Carolyn joined City Year in 1995, playing a central role in building City Year's capacity to engage a broad cross section of champions for national service. Following ten years of state and federal politics, she infused City Year with the energy, enthusiasm and strategic thinking that has allowed us to turn an idea into reality. One of Carolyn's annual priorities is CYZGY: City Year's Annual Convention of Idealism which will take place in Washington, DC this May. Carolyn's past positions include Director of Communications and Director of National Affairs. She recently received her masters degree from the Kennedy School of Government.

Cindy Laba, Director of Recruitment and Selection

Cindy, a five year City Year veteran, joined us from the South Boston Boys and Girls Club where she directed a substance abuse prevention program. She has held a number of positions including Program Director of City Year Boston and Chief of Staff to the President. In addition Cindy's strong operational skills always put her in a leadership position of CYZYGY, City Year's Annual Convention of Idealism. Cindy is responsible for managing the recruitment of over 1,000 young idealists across the country.

Allyce Najimy, National Operations Director, Office of the National Corps

Eight years ago City Year hired Allyce as a part-time GED instructor. At the time Allyce also managed a popular restaurant in Faneuil Hall and worked as a teacher at the South Boston Neighborhood House. Two years later she joined City Year full-time and soon became part of our new site development team as a founding staff member of City Year San Antonio. Allyce has also served as Program Director in City Year San Jose and the National Program Director in the national headquarters.

Jeff Paquette, Director of the Department of Administration, Technology, and Analysis (DATA)

Jeff joined City Year in 1993 with experience as a VISTA volunteer and as the former Executive Director of The Dome, an acclaimed youth program in New York City. A Berkeley MBA, Jeff has held a variety of positions at City Year including Program Director, Deputy Director of City Year Boston, and Executive Director of City Year Columbus. Jeff also developed the Care Force initiative which markets service and leadership training initiatives to corporations. Presently, Jeff leads a new department focused on building a strong infrastructure for the organization, with a special emphasis on technology.

Greg Ricks, Vice President and Dean of City Year

Greg is a nationally recognized trainer and facilitator of multi-cultural education and inclusivity. The youngest person to hold the office of Dean at Northeastern University, Greg has also served as Dean at Dartmouth College and Stanford University. At City Year, Greg recruits and develops staff talent, and plays an instrumental role in the programmatic development of the corps year.

Charlie Rose, Vice President, Office of National Affairs

For the last 20 years, Charlie has helped found a variety of local and national youth and education programs. Charlie served as a founding board member of City Year and presently serves in the same capacity for the nationally renowned City on a Hill charter school. Before joining City Year, he spent nine years as Director of Youth Services for Mayor Raymond Flynn's administration. Charlie is also an entrepreneur who owns Bella Luna, a successful restaurant in the Boston neighborhood of Jamaica Plain.

Kim Syman, Co-Director of Development

After volunteering for several months with City Year, the organization finally had the good sense to hire Kim as a special projects assistant to the Co-Founders. In her present role, Kim is building City Year's capacity to engage foundation support for key growth initiatives. Prior to City Year, Kim worked at MacNeil Lehrs in New York. As a resident of the Big Apple, she successfully led a community effort to transform Madison Square Park from a local blemish to the vibrant, recreational open space it is today.

Kadi Tierney (CY'91), Co-Director of Development

Inspired by an ABC news story in 1990, Kadi called City Year Boston to request an application. She was accepted and graduated from the corps in 1991. After her effective leadership in a variety of roles, including New Site Development, Kadi was selected to lead City Year Cleveland as founding Executive Director. She has returned to the National office to help build capacities and innovation in our corporate giving program. Kadi served as a member of the White House transition staff as an aide to Eli Segal and has also toured with Up with People.

Stephen Spaloss, (CY'91), National Operations Director, Office of the National Corps

In December 1991, Stephen was one of four corps members to meet with then Governor Bill Clinton during his inaugural visit to City Year in Boston. During the meeting, the Governor and Stephen connected and at the conclusion, Stephen took off his City Year sweatshirt as a gesture of friendship and belief. Clinton was soon photographed jogging in the sweatshirt which helped promote national service as a cornerstone of the Clinton platform. At CYZGY '98 in Cleveland, Stephen was able to reunite with his "old friend" and present him with a number of new gifts. A recipient of the Digital Equipment Corporation City Year Alumni Leadership Award, Stephen has helped found City Year programs in Rhode Island and San Jose, and served as the founding Co-Executive Director of City Year Philadelphia.

Stephanie Wu, Vice President of City Year and President of the City Year Academy

Stephanie left the private sector in 1988 and became a team leader for the very first City Year corps. Over the past ten years, Stephanie has been instrumental in managing major organization change efforts. As a nationally recognized trainer and facilitator, Stephanie is the founder of the City Year training Academy. Hailing from the Green Mountain State, Stephanie is also an expert skier.



CYZYGY '99

Building National Service for the 21st Century

Howard University

May 25 - 28, 1999

Celebrating a Decade of Service

Over the last decade, City Year corps members have contributed more than five million hours of service to ten cities nationwide. These diverse, committed idealists, ages 17-24 years old, dedicate a year of full-time service, leadership development and civic engagement to strengthen their community and our nation. Every day, City Year corps members act as catalysts for civic change - tutoring, mentoring and inspiring children, building playgrounds, transforming vacant lots into urban gardens and leading thousands of citizens into service.

In Washington, DC on May 25-28, 1999, City Year will unite our Tenth Anniversary Corps with AmeriCorps members, service partners, alumni, and civic and private sector leaders from across the country to celebrate a generation committed to service. Through workshops, policy forums, keynote addresses, high-impact service and compelling dialogue, City Year's 5th Annual CYZYGY will promote young people as community leaders and demonstrate the power and potential of civic engagement through national service. Honored guests of CYZYGY in the previous years have included key national figures such as President William Clinton, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Ohio Senator-elect George Voinovich, Rhode Island Senator John Chafee and Reverend Bernice King, daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

CYZYGY '99 will unite City Year's network of private sector "big citizens" with new corporations, foundations and individual supporters for a rare opportunity to witness the nation's future through the sites, sounds and voices of the City Year National Corps.

Program Highlights

Opening & Closing Ceremonies

The Opening Ceremony is an exciting, high-energy kick-off for the convention and sets the stage for the following three days of service and learning. The Closing Ceremony concludes the convention with an inspirational launch to a lifetime of citizen service. Both events will feature keynote addresses by national speakers, music, and corps member and multi-media presentations.

Day of Service

The CYZYGY Service Day promises to be one of the convention's most visible and memorable events. This high-profile, high-energy celebration will unite 2,000 civic activists, corporate leaders, school children, AmeriCorps members and City Year corps members for transformational service. These projects will engage between 300-500 participants each at four sites throughout Washington, DC, including the neighborhood surrounding the Howard University campus.

Congressional Reception

The national service movement is led and energized by a coalition of committed bi-partisan leadership in Congress. Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) and John Chafee (R-RI) will co-host a special gathering of key Congressional supporters for members of City Year's First Circle, event sponsors, national service leaders and Washington civic leadership. This event will give guests an opportunity to share their enthusiasm and support for national service while building alliances for future progress and impact.

National Policy Forum

City Year will convene a forum that will unite City Year's network of political, academic, business and community leaders to create a blueprint for national service for the new millennium. For the second year, this forum will join the City Year community with our nation's key opinion-makers, national service leaders, social entrepreneurs and Congressional staff in a thought-provoking discussion and action summit. Noted participants in the 1997 forum included Gregg Petersmeyer, Managing Director, America's Promise; Robert Goodwin, President & CEO, Points of Light Foundation; Jonathan Alter, Senior Political Editor, Newsweek; Nick Bollman, Co-Chair, Entrepreneur's Forum on Community and National Service; Michael Sanchez, President, Do Something; and Will Marshall, President, Pressive Policy Institute.

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Program Highlights (cont'd)

2 America Forum

The second annual One America Forum is inspired by the President's Initiative on Race and will engage convention participants in a dynamic dialogue on the key priorities of our nation's younger generation. Topics such as race and inclusivity are discussed by leaders under the age of 35 who best embody the skills and values of social entrepreneurship. Together, participants will seek to create an agenda for the 21st century. Last year's forum featured *Omar Wasow*, MSNBC Commentator; *Christy Haubegger*, President & Publisher, Latina Magazine; and *Farai Chideya*, ABC Correspondent & noted author on issues of race and diversity.

Leadership Development

Hosting CYZGY in our nation's capital affords City Year the opportunity to access historic locations, important institutions and key national leaders to provide innovative programming which is deeply rooted in America's history and history-makers. Convention attendees will select from four curriculums that reflect fundamental values of City Year's service ethic: *Inclusivity, Social Justice, Youth Leadership, and Educating & Leading Children*. Programming will feature challenging, experiential, interactive and thought-provoking enrichment through workshops, community exploration and a day of service.

Noted Participants

In addition to over 1,000 idealistic, skilled and committed City Year corps members and AmeriCorps participants, scheduled guests include *Eli Segal*, Welfare-to-Work Partnership CEO and Founding CEO of The Corporation for National Service; *Harris Wofford*, CEO of the Corporation for National Service; *Jeff Swartz*, CEO of The Timberland Company; *Farai Chideya*, ABC News Correspondent & Author; *Rosabeth Moss Kanter*, Harvard Business School Professor & Author; *Mitt Romney*, Managing Director of Bain Capital; *Billy Shore*, Founder, Share Our Strength & Author; *George Gendron*, Editor in-Chief of Inc. Magazine; San Jose Mayor *Susan Hammer*; Seattle/King County Commissioner *Ronald Sims*; leading members of Congress; civic and non-profit leaders; and corporate executives from companies such as The Timberland Company, Compaq Computer Corporation, Cisco Systems, MFS Investment Management, BankBoston, Reebok and NationsBank.

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CYZYGY '98

CITY YEAR'S ANNUAL CONVENTION OF IDEALISM



**JOIN PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
IN CELEBRATION
OF AMERICORPS AND NATIONAL SERVICE**

**HOSTED BY JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

**A LIFETIME OF CITIZEN SERVICE
JUNE 2 - 5, 1998**

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Timberland



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CITY YEAR FAX

285 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA 02116
PHONE: 617.927.2500 FAX: 617.927.2530
INTERNET: www.city-year.org

DATE: 2.22.99

TO: Carolyn Wu

ORGANIZATION: White House

FAX #: 202 456 2883

PHONE #:

FROM: Carolyn Casen

NOTES:

Carolyn -

This is FYI + for your files. City
year's civic leadership + potential attendees
in May.

Hope you're well!

3

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Political Leaders in City Year Cities**City Year Boston**

Robert Lewis, Jr. 285 Columbus Avenue Boston, MA 02116

Mayor: Thomas M. Menino

Governor: Argeo Paul Cellucci, R

Senate:

- Edward Kennedy, D
- John Kerry, D

House:

- District 7: Edward Markey, D
- District 8: Michael Capuano, D
- District 9: Joe Moakley, D

City Year Chicago

Craig Huffman 545 North Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60611

Mayor: Richard Daley

Governor: George Ryan, R

Senate:

- Peter Fitzgerald, R
- Richard Durbin, D

House:

- District 1: Bobby Rush, D
- District 3: William Lipinski, D
- District 4: Luis Gutierrez, D
- District 5: Rod Blagojevich, D
- District 7: Danny Davis, D
- District 9: Janice (Jan) Schakowsky, D

City Year Cleveland

Randell McShepard 1278 West 9th Street Cleveland, OH 44113

Mayor: Michael White

Governor: Robert Taft, R

Senate:

- Mike DeWine, R
- George Voinovich, R

House:

- District 10: Dennis Kucinich, D
- District 11: Stephanie Tubbs Jones, D

City Year Columbia

Marguerite O'Brien (Acting ED) 1420 Gregg Street Columbia, SC 29201

Mayor: Robert Coble

Governor: James Hodges, D

Senate:

- Ernest Hollings, D
- Strom Thurmond, R

House:

- District 2: Floyd Spence, R
- District 6: James Clyburn, D

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City Year Columbus

Priscilla Butler 16 East Broad Street Columbia, SC 29201

Mayor: Gregory Lashutka

Governor: Robert Taft, R

Senate:

- Mike DeWine, R
- George Voinovich, R

House:

- District 12: John Kasich, R
- District 15: Deborah Pryce, R

City Year Detroit

Steve Stevenson (Program Director) 1 Ford Place, 1A Detroit, MI 48202

Mayor: Dennis Archer

Governor: John Engler, R

Senate:

- Carl Levin, D
- Spencer Abraham, R

House:

- District 9: Dale Kildee, D (includes part of Oakland County)
- District 10: David Bonior, D (includes part of Macomb County)
- District 11: Joseph Knollenberg, R (includes part of Oakland and Wayne Counties)
- District 12: Sandy Levin, D (includes part of Oakland and Macomb Counties)
- District 13: Lynn Rivers, D (includes part of Wayne County)
- District 14: John Conyers, Jr., D (Detroit/ Wayne County)
- District 15: Carolyn Kilpatrick, D (Detroit/ Wayne County)
- District 16: John Dingell, D (includes part of Wayne County)

City Year PhiladelphiaJim Balfanz 2221 Chestnut Street, 2nd Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103

Mayor: Edward Rendell

Governor: Tom Ridge, R

Senate:

- Arlen Specter, R
- Rick Santorum, R

House:

- District 1: Robert Brady, D
- District 2: Chaka Fattah, D
- District 3: Robert Borski, D

City Year Rhode Island

Jyothi Nagraj 56 Pine Street Providence, RI 02903

Mayor: Vincent Cianci (Providence)

Governor: Lincoln Almond, R

Senate:

- John Chafee, R
- Jack Reed, D

House:

- District 1: Patrick Kennedy, D
- District 2: Bob Weygand, D

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City Year San Antonio

Maria Ferrier 315 East Commerce Street, Suite 301 San Antonio, TX 78205

Mayor: Howard Peak

Governor: George W. Bush, R

Senate:

- Phil Gramm, R
- Kay Bailey Hutchison, R

House:

- District 20: Charlie Gonzalez, D
- District 21: Lamar Smith, R
- District 23: Henry Bonilla, R
- District 28: Ciro Rodriguez, D

City Year San Jose/ Silicon Valley

John Sarvey 118 Pasco De San Antonio San Jose, CA 95113

Mayor: Susan Hammer

Governor: Gray Davis, D

Senate:

- Barbara Boxer, D
- Dianne Feinstein, D

House:

- District 14: Anna Eshoo, D (Silicon Valley)
- District 15: Tom Campbell, R (Silicon Valley)
- District 16: Zoe Lofgren, D

City Year Seattle/ King County

Reco Bembry 201 Broad Street Seattle, WA 98121

Mayor: Paul Schell

Governor: Gary Locke, D

Senate:

- Slade Gorton, R
- Patty Murray, D

House:

- District 1: Jay Inslee, D
- District 7: Jim McDermott, D
- District 8: Jennifer Dunn, R (King County)
- District 9: Adam Smith, D (King County)

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Build City Year

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

TODAY'S DATE 2/12/99

____ACCEPT

____REGRET

____PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and
Director of Scheduling

FROM: Mickey Ibarra
Assistant to the President and
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

Karen Tramontano
Assistant to the President and
Counselor to the Chief of Staff

Lynn Cutler
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Intergovernmental Affairs

REQUEST: Request for the President to participate in City Year's 5th annual cyzygy from May 25-28, 1999 either at Howard University or at the White House. Their preference is hosting an event the morning of May 27, 1999.

Attached is a list of their activities. They are happy to involve the President into another existing event if May 27 does not work.

PURPOSE: By the President's participation, it reinforces his support and belief in encouraging America's young people to participate in public service.

The purpose of City Year is to promote young people as community leaders and demonstrate the power and potential of civic engagement through national service.

BACKGROUND: City Year is a national service organization which was founded in Boston in 1988 by two Harvard Law School classmates. Its mission is to encourage 17-24 year olds to enter a year of service and leadership development in order to strengthen their community.

In December 1991, Presidential-candidate Bill Clinton visited City

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SCHEDULING PROPOSAL
PAGE TWO

Year Boston. Once elected, President Clinton cited City Year as one of the models of his national service program, AmeriCorps.

This year, the City Year National corps will contribute more than 1.5 million hours of service in Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbia, Columbus, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Jose, Seattle and five communities in Rhode Island. City Year Detroit, their eleventh site, will open in September 1999.

**PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION:**

President Clinton attended the City Year Annual Convention of Idealism in Cleveland 1998.

NOTE: Mrs. Clinton participated in City Year's Annual Convention in Rhode Island in 1997.

DATE AND TIME:

May 27, 1998

BRIEFING TIME:

5-10 minutes

DURATION:

Dependent on selection of event

LOCATION:

Howard University or the White House

PARTICIPANTS:

1,000 City Year youths

OUTLINE OF EVENT:

Dependent on selection of event

REMARKS REQUIRED:

Brief remarks to be provided by speechwriting.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Open press

RECOMMENDED BY:

Mickey Ibarra
Karen Tramontano
Lynn Cutler

President said

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CITY YEAR FAX

285 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA 02116
PHONE: 617.927.2500 FAX: 617.927.2530
INTERNET: www.city-year.org

DATE: _____

TO: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

FAX #: _____

PHONE #: _____

FROM: _____

Carolyn Wu

202/456 2030

Carolyn Casey

NOTES:

Hi!

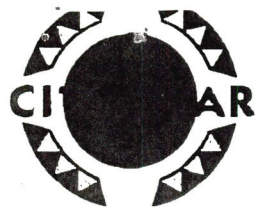
Thanks so much. I know
today must be crazy!

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

285 Columbus Avenue
Boston, MA 02116
Tel: 617.927.2500
Fax: 617.927.2510
www.city-year.org

11 February 1999

Karen Tramontano
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the President
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Karen:

Thank you for meeting with me last Friday. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to discuss **CYZYGY '99: Building National Service for the 21st Century**. City Year is eager to work with you to demonstrate the power and impact of AmeriCorps and citizen service. As you know, President and Mrs. Clinton have been a great source of inspiration and strength as City Year seeks to ensure that, one day, the most commonly asked question of an 18 year old will be, "*Where are you going to do your service year?*"

For your review, I have enclosed a prospectus of our convention highlights. The eight events I describe present strategic opportunities to promote service impact, youth leadership, idealism and AmeriCorps' broad coalition of support. I also took the liberty to include a proposal for your consideration. Please be assured that City Year stands ready to partner on these or any other event that you deem appropriate.

Karen, thanks once again for your time and leadership on behalf of national service. I greatly enjoyed our discussion -- especially reminiscing about Rte. 44. Perhaps the next time you are up north, we can hit Al Forno!

Regards,

Carolyn Casey
Director of External Affairs
City Year, Inc.

Attachments

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PUTTING IDEALISM TO WORK

CYZYGY '99:

Building National Service for the 21st Century

Opportunities to Serve and Inspire

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Leadership Reception Co-Hosted by Senators Ted Kennedy and John Chafee
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: Russell Senate Caucus Room
Purpose: To demonstrate strong-bipartisan support for AmeriCorps by Congressional and other civic leaders
Format: Meet and greet, brief programming and City Year corps presentation.
Attendees: 250 supporters of AmeriCorps including members of Congress from "City Year states", City Year National Board of Trustees, Senator Harris Wofford and AmeriCorps Leadership, leadership from AmeriCorps Programs and national non-profits, corporate sponsors, community partners, civic leaders, AmeriCorps alumni and AmeriCorps participants.

One America Forum
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Location: Howard University
Purpose: To discuss service as one of our nation's most powerful vehicles for achieving Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community, and President's Clinton's hope for One America.
Format: Inspirational presentation of some of our nation's living heroes whose lifeworks are an example of courageous civic leadership. Roundtable presentation followed by town meeting with audience members. Invited speakers include: Congressman John Lewis, Author and ABC News Correspondent Farai Chideya, Native American Activist Winona LaDuke and Tiananmen Square Leader Li Lu.
Attendees: 2000 audience members including the City Year National Corps, AmeriCorps participants, corporate sponsors, civic leaders, DC residents, and guests from across the country.

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Page Two

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Unity Rally/Service Kick-Off

8:00 am - 9:00 am

- Location:** Washington Mall or
Lafayette Plaza or
Capital Steps or
White House
- Purpose:** To energize and inspire CYZGY service day participants. City Year's daily Unity Rally has three goals: 1. To build unity and pride in the corps, 2. To inspire the community-at-large to serve, and 3. To get "our minds, bodies and hearts" ready for a great day of service.
- Format:** Rousing remarks preceded by signature "PT" (calisthenics) by the 900 members of the City Year National Corps.
- Attendees:** 2000 Service Day participants including: 900 City Year National corps members, 500 DC based AmeriCorps members, 300 City Year guests (corporate sponsors, civic leaders, service partners, alumni), and 300 community volunteers from schools, non-profits, neighborhood organizations and civic groups.

Service Day

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

- Location:** Service sites throughout Washington, DC.
- Purpose:** To demonstrate the power and impact of AmeriCorps as a strategy to strengthen communities and build leaders.
- Format:** Transformational service at community-based organizations in neighborhoods throughout the District. Projects may include: housing renovation, playground builds, and park and trail renovation. Each project will engage approximately 300 volunteers per site and will be sponsored by a corporate partner.
- Attendees:** Volunteers from City Year, AmeriCorps, N*CCC, corporate sponsors, and the DC community.
- ***Note:** This could be a day when the President leads all White House and OEOB staff into service -- a mandatory "Day On!" for service!

Service Celebration

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

- Location:** White House or
Howard University or
Millennial Stage at Kennedy Center of Performing Arts
- Purpose:** To celebrate the successful high-impact service of AmeriCorps.
- Format:** Celebratory - music, ethnic food, children's performances, testimonials from the Day of Service and one rousing keynote address.
- Attendees:** 2000 service day volunteers from DC and across the nation.

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Page Three**Policy Forum**

9:00 am - 11:00 am or 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- Location:** White House
- Purpose:** To develop strategies to build and strengthen AmeriCorps and the ethic of citizen service as a fundamental strategy for the 21st Century, while demonstrating the broad coalition of support.
- Format:** Roundtable policy discussion with presentations, critical thinking and dialogue.
- Attendees:** Participants include leaders from the corporate, academic, foundation, policy, service and civic sectors. Audience members include City Year and AmeriCorps champions from all sectors. Last year's Policy Forum featured leaders such as Will Marshall of the DLC, *Newsweek's* Jonathan Alter, Welfare to Work CEO and Founding CEO of The Corporation of National Service Eli Segal, Harvard Business School Professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter, and Do Something's Michael Sanchez.

Tuesday, May 25 or Friday, May 28, 1999

Keynote Address

CYZYGY Opening Ceremony -- City Year Celebrates Ten!
Evening of Tuesday, May 25, 1999

CYZYGY Closing Ceremony
Morning of Friday, May 28, 1999

- Location:** Howard University
- Purpose:** **Opening Ceremony** will officially commence the Annual Convention of Idealism and celebrate City Year's Tenth Anniversary. This event will reflect upon City Year's growth from 50 pairs of boots to 1000 during a decade of service and idealism. The pivotal role of President Clinton and AmeriCorps will also be celebrated.
Closing Ceremony will close four days of *Building National Service for the 21st Century*, while launching the corps into a *Lifetime of Citizen Service*.
- Format:** Each event will be a 90 minute program with one keynote, corps presentations, music, video and high energy.
- Attendees:** The **Tuesday event** will be attended primarily by the City Year National Corps and supporters -- approximately 1100 people. The **Friday event** will include other AmeriCorps guests and convention participants from all sectors -- an additional 300 guests.

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A Modest Proposal: A Celebration of Big Citizens

In the 1998 State of The Union, President Clinton declared "...the era of Big Government is over...and the Era of Big Citizenship has begun.." After a long year of divisiveness and fracture, President Clinton's commitment and passion for civic activism can be the hallmark of a new era of reconciliation and renewal -- the dawning of One America. As we approach the next millennium, the spirit, drive and idealism of Big Citizens from every sector of our national community can serve as a source of strength and inspiration. Through their example and contributions, they set a standard of service and leadership to which our nation's citizens should aspire.

Event:	Big Citizens Award Ceremony
Location:	White House
Format:	Recognition and celebration of the first five Big Citizens and announcement of six month campaign to recognize 2001 Big Citizens by January 1, 2000. The White House, Points of Lights, AmeriCorps, and America's Promise could co-sponsor the recognition campaign.
Attendees:	This could be part of a CYZYG event -- Service Celebration, Policy Forum or Closing Ceremony.
The Award:	A weathered miniature Timberland boot in Lucite -- foundation of the service uniform which symbolizes the power, impact and effort of citizen service.
The First Five:	<i>George and Barbara Bush</i> , demonstrating the non-partisanship of service and a symbolic doubling of his 1000 Points of Lights <i>Sammy Sosa</i> , for his values, humanity and efforts in the Dominican Republic <i>Congressman John Lewis</i> , for his heroism and leadership on civil rights and social justice <i>Superstar AmeriCorps member</i> , an outstanding young leader who has helped build One America through service

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