

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records

**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** National Service

**Series/Staff Member:** Rick Allen

**Subseries:**

---

**OA/ID Number:** 2150

**FolderID:**

---

**Folder Title:**

Briefing Book - Other

**Stack:**

**S**

**Row:**

**66**

**Section:**

**2**

**Shelf:**

**2**

**Position:**

**3**

file VISTA

February 23, 1993  
CONTENTS

- \* Site visit memo
- \* VISTA Summer Associates
- \* VISTA Clips
- \* VISTA Facts, including  
cost-per-volunteer sheet  
and recruitment and  
placement diagram

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

**VISTA SUMMER ASSOCIATES  
FACT SHEET**

**Program:** As part of the economic stimulus package, under the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program located in ACTION, 600 individuals aged 18 and above will spend a summer of service addressing the needs of low-income communities. These VISTA Summer Associates will work with full-time VISTA volunteers on a number of existing projects.

**Service Activities:** VISTA summer associates will focus on the broad needs of children, including: building houses through Habitat for Humanity; serving as tutors in literacy programs with Literacy Volunteers of America and Laubach Literacy International affiliations; assisting in inner-city weatherization and other conservation projects; providing direct services within shelters or transitional housing for the homeless, in conjunction with affiliates of the National Coalition for the Homeless; serving in food bank arrangements affiliated with the Second Harvest national food bank network; and serving with regional Rural Community Assistance Projects in surveys and outreach related to water and waste water systems.

**Cost:** The Summer Associate Program will cost \$1.2 million, or \$2,000 per volunteer. In addition to payments to volunteers, projects will receive support funds for supervision, transportation, and related costs. ACTION will administer the activity at no additional cost.

**Benefits to Service Participants:** VISTA Summer Associate engaged in service on a full-time basis will receive: a payment averaging \$620 per month to cover living expenses; on-site training and skill development in a variety of technical and other areas; a meaningful service opportunity, an experience that will translate to a life of service; coverage under FECA and tort claims; and ongoing support and supervision from a variety of local organizations addressing critical social and economic needs. No post-service stipend will be provided under this program.

**Other Information:** (1) VISTA Summer Associates will be recruited locally from the low-income communities being served as well as from ACTION's national recruitment system. (2) The programs will last an average of 10 weeks over the summer, with some variation reflecting local community needs. (3) The appropriation under the economic stimulus package for national service is being made to the Commission on National and Community Service which will transfer monies to ACTION to accomplish this program.

**VISTA VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH THE  
LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA - NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA**

P.O. Box 73275  
Washington, DC 20056

Street Address: 1325 W Street, N.W.

**Executive Director: Sarah Hall Goodwin**

**VISTA Volunteers currently assigned to the project:**

**Susan Schatten**, from Scarsdale, New York and a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri

**Joseph Sarbak**, from Washington, DC and a graduate of the American University. Mr. Sarbak is also a member of the US Navy Reserves.

**Molly Stephenson**, from Washington, DC and a graduate of Michigan State University.

The Literacy Volunteers of America - National Capital Area is a grass-roots organization that organizes community activities to promote literacy in the District of Columbia. The Chapter was formed in 1989 by the current Executive Director, Sarah Hall Goodwin. The VISTA project matches students from local schools and businesses with tutors recruited from throughout the Washington, DC area. The organization is run by a Board of Directors drawn from businesses and government agencies and includes four student members. A student support group was established to provide positive feedback for students having trouble learning to read, or those who need extra encouragement. The VISTA Volunteers have also established a tutor support system that provides tutors with a means for discussing successes and problems with their tutoring activities.

At present, the organization has nearly 150 active student/tutor pairs. During the project quarter ending in November 1992, 47 new student matches were made and 37 new students were recruited and are waiting for tutors.

The project also includes:

- A Student Support Group that meets every two months. This group encourages other students in their learning activities, provides feedback to the staff and VISTA Volunteers, and gives students a voice in policy making.
- A Literacy Volunteers of America Speakers Bureau involving 25 speakers who promote literacy and tutoring activities.

- A newsletter which is published quarterly and distributed throughout the community.
- A corps of 80 community volunteers (non-tutors) who have taken part in fund raising and public relations efforts.

Since its inception, a total of 14 VISTA Volunteers have been assigned to the project. Their accomplishments include establishment of an annual "Booking for Literacy" 10K run, the development of a fund raising plan, the organization of a public relations committee, and the creation of a speaker's bureau.



# VISTA PRESS CLIPS

Compiled 2/23/93

## NATIONAL SERVICE

# New VISTAs ahead?

IN THESE TIMES

Chicago, IL

12/14/92

***If Clinton reinvigorates VISTA as part of his national service plan, volunteers could help energize thousands of grass-roots organizations.***

By Robin Epstein

**T**hough Bill Clinton champions national service as a way for college graduates to pay back student loans, he also hopes his plan to spend up to \$8 billion creating 250,000 national service positions will spark a stronger commitment to community among Americans young and old, rich and poor.

Invoking the legacy of the G.I. Bill and the Peace Corps in a September speech, Clinton vowed to give people from all walks of life a "summons to service and to citizenship." "Just think of it," Clinton said during a campaign stop at the University of Notre Dame, "millions ... teaching the children, policing the streets, caring for the sick, working with the elderly or people with disabilities, building homes, helping children stay off drugs and out of gangs." All of Clinton's examples describe volunteers providing direct services to people in need.

But people immersed in citizen efforts to solve local problems hope his national service proposal will also fund community organizers.

In 1988 he wrote a glowing preface for a book on his state's experience with VISTA, the federally funded domestic peace corps, during its first 20 years. "Contemporary Arkansas history owes much to the groundbreaking efforts of VISTA volunteers," Clinton wrote of Volunteers in Service to America, a program inspired by his role model John F. Kennedy and created by Lyndon Johnson during the War on Poverty. "VISTA projects relied on the ... hard work of people within poverty communities and demonstrated that the effective use of resources and planning would produce positive results, but only if the people themselves maintained the effort."

Clinton's appreciation for VISTA is good news. If he reinvigorates the agency as part of his national service plan, its volunteers could

help energize thousands of grass-roots organizations that have hung on by a thread during the Reagan and Bush administrations. "If citizen groups depend on philanthropy to fuel the grass-roots movement, we'll wait until hell freezes over," says Pablo Eisenberg, executive director of the Center for Community Change. "To rebuild inner cities and poor rural areas we need strong resident involvement. For Clinton, pumping money into community groups so they can fight for their own rights is a cheap way to go."

Since VISTA's inception in 1965, VISTA volunteers have functioned more like community organizers than direct service providers—though, depending on the prevailing political winds, they haven't always claimed that label. In the early days, most volunteers were middle class and worked far from home. Then in the '70s, VISTA strived to place college-educated volunteers next to low-income volunteers from the communities the program served, says Margery Tabankin, VISTA director during the Carter administration. During the Reagan years, middle-class volunteers were dubbed outside agitators by conservatives, so VISTA participation was limited to community residents. Under Bush, VISTA was allowed to once again recruit from outside the communities, but funding shortages hampered its efforts.

VISTA's anti-poverty focus distinguishes it from many service programs. Volunteers, who work in 764 public agencies and non-profits in 50 states, live in poor communities and subsist on allowances averaging \$610 a month. They receive health insurance, are eligible for deferral or some forgiveness of student loans and don't lose welfare benefits.

VISTA already receives many more requests from prospective volunteers and sponsors than it can accommodate with its \$40 million budget. Clinton could double the number of VISTA volunteers from the current 3,500 with-

out restructuring the agency, says Tabankin, and it could easily grow beyond that with additional management staff.

"Most people, however, believe VISTA is either dead or a credit card," says Mimi Mager, Tabankin's special assistant during the Carter administration. "VISTA needs revitalized leadership. It's had none. Public awareness and recruitment are essential."

Pennsylvania Sen. Harris Wofford, one of the nation's premier national service experts, is likely to be one of Clinton's allies on Capitol Hill. Wofford, who was an adviser to Martin Luther King and an aide to John F. Kennedy, helped create the Peace Corps and organized a service corps in his home state

Wofford envisions a national service plan that gives volunteers a wide variety of options—including existing federal programs such as VISTA. National service should be decentralized, should fund ideas generated by local people, governing bodies and institutions, and should favor projects that get people from different classes working together. Wofford believes that the unity between the incoming Clinton administration and congressional leadership bodes well for such a plan.

For those who might balk at the price tag for national service, Wofford is ready with both short-term and long-term economic arguments. He points to studies showing that for every dollar spent, \$1.80 in services is produced. And well-designed programs that require difficult work nourish qualities participants need to be productive workers later.

Wofford also says national service can have benefits that are not easily quantified—participants, for example, will emerge more active politically. "A million young people engaged in problems in America are going to want action on those problems," he says.

To bolster chances that Clinton will strengthen VISTA as part of his national service plan, community organizers, citizen advocates and people in the foundation world plan to send

Clinton's transition team proposals for national service and for other community-based efforts.

Some observers, however, believe VISTA's radical reputation could prove a political liability. In the late '60s, local officials accused VISTA volunteers of biting the hand that fed them. Recalls Wofford, "The mayors and others said, 'For God's sake, the VISTA Volunteers come in here and the next thing I know they've organized a march on city hall.'"

Others say times have changed and predict nobody will bat an eyelash over VISTA. Because there are more community groups today than there were in the '60s, local officials are more accustomed to citizens demands, they argue. And, they note, the word "empowerment" is in vogue—even among Republicans.

Judy Wagner, an aide to Illinois Sen. Paul Simon, doesn't deny VISTA volunteers make waves. "As long as VISTA gets community people working on their own behalf, they are inevitably going to bump up against someone in power," she says. "But that would happen with or without VISTA. It's much more mainstream now."

Clinton acknowledged this tension in his preface to the book on VISTA in Arkansas over the past two decades. "Of course VISTA workers were not free of controversy," he wrote. "Change in those days was often accompanied by strife, but the work on balance had a very positive impact."

As Wofford sees it, what some people call "service" others term "advocacy" or "organizing." Faced with volunteers engaged in confrontations, national service supporters may say, "That's not what we mean. That's politics," Wofford says. To some extent, federal legislation will set limitations on volunteers' political participation, but he believes each community will interpret any future law in its own way. "That's part of what's going to make this a great adventure."

2012

(2)

## FAX TRANSMITTAL

# of pages 1

To Mike Buning	From Rocco
Dept./Agency	Phone # Rocco III
From Phila Daily News	Fax #

NSN 7540-01-317-7300

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS 2/23

## Guest Opinion

# Tax dollars well spent in ACTION

**N**ational service has been labeled a priority for the new administration and it has been the subject of much discussion recently. I feel I have some important information and opinions to share, as I have served as a VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) on two assignments. I worked with low-income elderly in the Boston area and with Native Americans in a remote Alaskan village. VISTA is part of ACTION, the Federal Domestic Volunteer Agency. I have become concerned because I feel some of the most important ideas are not being addressed. I read a recent article that exemplified national service as "cleaning parks." I have seen volunteers accomplish much more.



JOHN ZELSON

ACTION (created in 1971, but evolved from programs developed during the "War on Poverty") is dedicated to the proposition that every individual is a potential resource in the community. The philosophy has been to work with local people, sharing skills and experience, not to do for people. It is clear that when you do for people, they are weakened; when you share tools, they are "empowered." ACTION philosophy is grounded in the idea that one can most improve their quality of life by participating in the local community.

Long before this current trend of talking about the elderly as a resource, ACTION maintained the Older American Volunteer Program. Long before the dawning awareness that education and prevention is part of a long-term solution, ACTION initiated programs with at-risk youth from housing projects in Pittsburgh to rural Appalachia. Long before this latest discussion of harnessing the skills, enthusiasm, and idealism of recent college graduates, ACTION ran the VISTA program.

VISTA volunteers are helping set up health clinics in the Appalachians, working with tribal governments in Alaska, and expanding literacy projects around Philadelphia. VISTA volunteers work in cities and in rural areas, with grassroots groups and large human service agencies, but always with low-income and disadvantaged populations, and always with the goal of putting structures into place so the community will still be helping itself after VISTA leaves.

In an era where many Americans have expressed dissatisfaction with how their tax dollars have been used, we can be proud of the efforts of ACTION. With scant funding and amidst hostile politics, ACTION has not only "cleaned up parks," but organized communities to meet their needs, empowered individuals, and created structures that allow local people to contribute their energies to solve problems in their home community.

John Zelson is a recruiter and former volunteer for VISTA. He says this reflects his own views and not necessarily those of the agency.

JAN 24 1993

BURRELLE'S1670  
...000XF  
...X

# The class of '93 ready to be at your 'service'

6297AT

By TERRI P. GUESS

For college graduates, starting a career can be a long, arduous and competitive process, and for the 1993 graduates the experience will be no different.

College career professionals are cautiously keeping an open mind as they prepare another group of educated youngsters for the job market.

Of the counselors interviewed, all agreed that the economy is changing to one of a "service producing economy," which includes such fields as financial and health services.

"We are pleased that more companies are coming to campus to recruit, but we are being cautiously optimistic," said Laure Paul, director of Career Planning and Placement at Drew University in Madison.

Paul said the number of recruiters scheduled to visit the campus is higher than last year and they seem to be "enthusiastic." "They are still cautious and not really sure how many jobs they will be offering," Paul described the situation as being in "limbo".

At most college campuses, heavy recruitment happens during the spring, but some colleges have received visits from recruiters and held career fairs.

William Corwin, associate director of career services at Princeton University, said his school is feeling somewhat of a pinch in relation to past years.

"We estimate that the number of on-campus interviewing schedules is down by 10 percent versus last year. We have 120 companies scheduled and that is not like three or four years ago or during the mid 1980s when we had as many as 150 to 200 companies," he said.

However, Corwin said he believes the outlook for this year's graduates is slightly better. "The activities will probably pick up. This is the driest

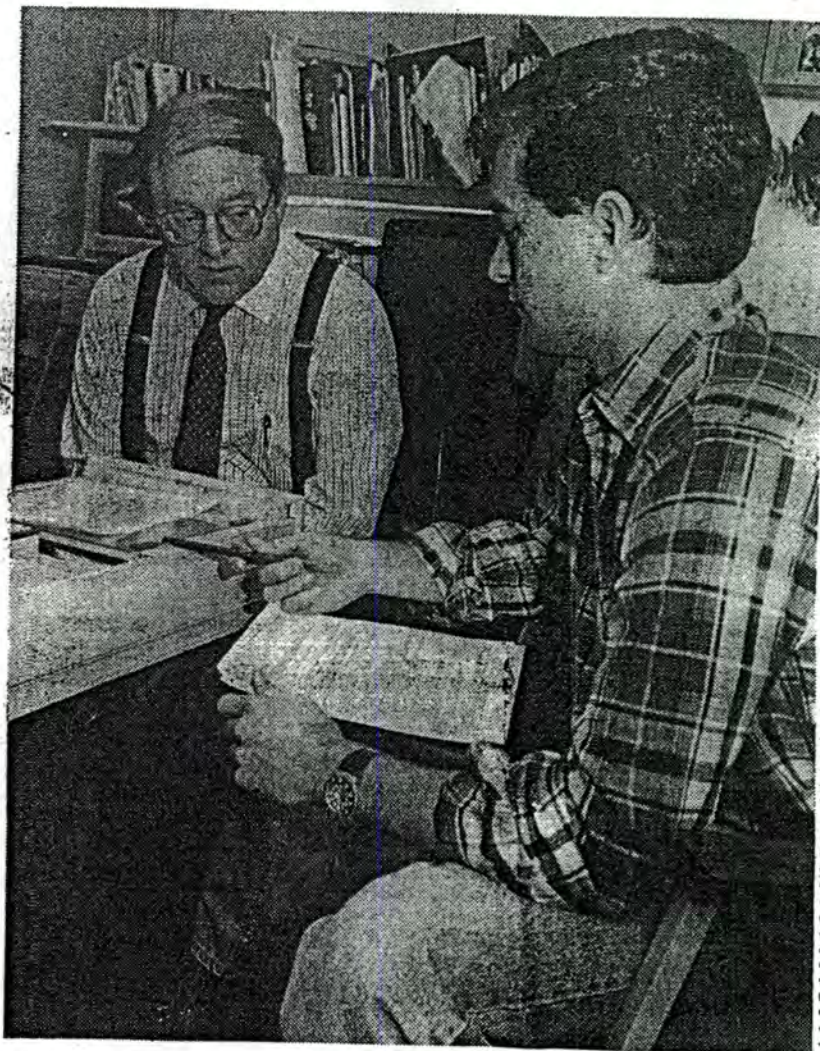


Photo by Steve Andrascik

William Corwin, associate director of career services at Princeton University, helps senior Jason Wood with his resume

season we've had in the last three years and we will be grateful for a turnaround. We are looking for an upturn," he said.

Princeton's major recruiting begins in February and Corwin said the month is full of interested companies.

Corwin said graduates are most

interested in two fields: investment banking and management consulting. The Princeton career official said he thought students were showing a strong interest in public service groups. He named the Peace Corps and Action/Vista, a domestic public

Please turn to next page

# Students accepting the sales pitch

From preceding page

service group, as the most popular.

Corwin said this sudden interest in public service was sparked because "students have a sense that what they are doing is worthwhile, constructive and meaningful."

Paul also said the new trend is toward social service organizations and that many of her students are moving away from business and looking towards education and different kinds of teaching.

"The new trend is toward being interested in jobs that directly help people," Paul noted.

Sharon Spaltro, director of the Office of Career Services at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, an "upper division business center" serving juniors, seniors and graduate students, said a large number of students are going into sales, a field that students traditionally shy away from.

"Students realize that for a number of companies, sales is the stepping

stone to bigger positions," Spaltro said.

The career counselor said starting in sales is the usual route for marketing majors, and that recruiters claim that the best marketing people are those in the sales force because they not only know the market, but also the consumer.

She also said that a number of marketing departments in consumer product or pharmaceutical companies require employees to start through sales.

Spaltro said they are "right on target" with the number of recruiters that visited the campus last year, with the difference that there are more opportunities this year.

"The recruiting schedule for Spring '93 is the same in number as the companies recruiting in the Spring '92. The big change I have seen with our spring recruiting schedule is the companies coming to campus this year have positions to offer. Last recruiting season a number of companies came

to campus to interview our students, only to put their resumes in a resume bank. The positions just were not there," she said.

Eileen Bruck, director of Career Services at Montclair State College, is also being cautiously optimistic. The counselor said she doesn't see a "surge" in jobs, but believes the outlook will be brighter because of the new president.

"The election of a new president will change the mood of the consumer, and if people spend more, companies will be more optimistic. If they are optimistic, they will hire more," she said.

"There are jobs out there, but I think it's harder for the new graduates. There are fewer jobs than for the 1988 graduates, and people who graduated six months or a couple of years ago are still competing.

"There is keen competition out there because the people who should be working aren't working," she added.

At Montclair State, Bruck said

Please turn to next page



Photo by Richard Rosent

Janice Mallett (left) program coordinator for the Office of Career Services at Fairleigh Dickinson and Sharon Spaltro, director of career services, plot strategy at the Rutherford campus

# To a degree, recruiters visiting campuses in a more systematic way

From preceding page

employers are continuing to come to the campus, but their goals for hiring have been diminished.

"Where some companies may have had a goal to hire 30 people, it may now be down to 20," she said.

Bruck added that there are a combination of things that might affect the number of college campus recruiters.

"They look at the selection process in terms of what colleges to visit in a more systematic way. If a college hasn't given good candidates, employers may not come back," Bruck said. "They are being more selective about the schools they go to. If they went to a place for three years and didn't get any candidates, that school may not be on their list any longer."

The sales field, in addition to science and health, were mentioned as favorable markets by Bruck. However, she said, there aren't many students interested in these careers, making the market unbalanced, because, "Where

the jobs are, the candidates aren't and where the candidates aren't the jobs are."

Many students want to work in management training programs, an opportunity Bruck said is becoming obsolete. "Companies are cutting management training programs because they are cutting levels of management."

The counselor said she believes students are hesitant about entering sales positions because they don't think of them as being professional. "Students tend to shy away from sales because some are commission and others offer a base salary with commission. Sales is connected to productivity and they don't think its professional."

Rosemary Germinder, a recruiter for Liz Claiborne Inc. in North Bergen, said the job market for her company "looks good."

"We hire on as an as needed basis. When jobs become available, we try to fill them as quickly as possible. We are able to fill jobs because we work from a

strong resume bank," she said.

Germinder, a recent graduate, said she knows how frustrating the process can be. "Making the change from college to career is one of the

*"Making the change from college to career is one of the hardest transitions a student has to make."*

—Rosemary Germinder  
recruiter

hardest transitions a student has to make."

Even though Germinder is not able to tell prospective candidates what specific jobs are available, she said an assessment will be made. "We can give them insight on whether we feel they'll be called back for a second interview." The process, she said,

takes approximately three weeks.

For Liz Claiborne, the hiring practices have stayed the same during the past couple of years. "It has become more competitive for the stu-

dents," said Germinder, adding, "There haven't been too many changes for us."

The recruiter said the company will accept resumes from all areas. However, there are some technical areas that require specific degrees.

She cited marketing, production design, merchandising, cus-

tommer service and entry-level financial positions as traditional starting positions for college graduates.

Tom Joyce, director of public relations at Prudential, said they are also recruiting, but at a smaller level.

"Given the present economic conditions, we are not extremely active in doing recruitment," said Joyce, adding, "We are doing some at an appropriately smaller level in our business unit, but not a large amount."

Both Spaltro and Bruck said they have seen a marked increase in the number of alumni who have returned to their career centers looking for jobs after being laid off.

Alumni services have been offered at Montclair State for 16-years, said Bruck, noting that the alumni have used the career services office more in the last couple of years than in the past.

"Many people either haven't gotten jobs, have become unemployed or were dissatisfied with their first choice," Bruck said.

"A number of alumni have come

back to the college placement office, some that graduated over 20 years ago," Spaltro said. "It just shows that they probably have exhausted every other possibility."

The FDU Alumni Association has recently contracted with Job Bank USA. Spaltro said the job bank will provide an automated employment service for more than 84,000 alumni.

The FDU campus also uses the Kinexus system, which is a partnership between the country's top employers and colleges/universities to build a national computerized database of students and alumni seeking employment.

"Through these technological systems the individual's resume reaches more prospective employers than simply those the student is considering contacting," Spaltro said.

In October, when FDU held a Career Day, Spaltro said the employer involvement was much higher than expected. Forty-three companies at-

Please turn to next page

GE STATION  
LE  
TX  
22,271  
AY  
DEC 6 1992

# VISTA here to help lift the literacy rate

By ANTON RIECHER

6297AT Eagle staff writer

Newly arrived VISTA volunteer Laurie Ellington's mission for the next year will be to establish a family reading program in the Brazos Valley that will benefit children by improving their parent's reading skills.

"If a child learns to read at school and then goes home and the parents can't read, this child is not going to progress," Ellington said.

Ellington is the first full-time Volunteers in Service to America recruit assigned to the local chapter of Literacy Volunteers of America, said Pam Rosynek, chapter executive director. The VISTA program serves as a domestic Peace Corps for impoverished Americans.

"A lot of VISTA volunteers are being assigned to literacy projects," Rosynek said. "A lot of [federal] money is being pumped into the literacy problem, which is what we need."

A second VISTA volunteer will be joining the Literacy Volunteers chapter in January to direct efforts to improve the existing work force literacy program.

Ellington, 22, of Hartford, Conn., graduated from the University of New Hampshire in May with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts concentrating on Spanish. She decided to postpone entering the job market in favor of spending a year working "for a good cause," she said.

"There are so many problems out here in this country," Ellington said. "I would just feel like I was being selfish if I was just doing the normal thing like looking for, quote, a real job, unquote," Ellington said.

VISTA, created in 1964, provides full-time volunteers to communities across the country trying to address the issues of poverty. Nearly 100,000 people have served as VISTA volunteers since the program's inception.

In applying for help from VISTA, the Literacy Volunteers used statistics showing a pressing local need. Texas ranks 47th out of 50 states in literacy and, in Brazos County, one out of five people qualifies as functionally illiterate.

The Literacy Volunteers are sponsor-

10/2

16



Eagle photos/Mike Mulvey

VISTA recruit Laurie Ellington, right, joins a teaching session between tutor Beth Hostetler, left, of the Brazos Valley Chapter of Literacy Volunteers of America and student Marie Lewis at Lewis' home. Ellington's assignment locally is to organize a family reading program.

ing Ellington's stay in Bryan-College Station only to the extent that the agency provides the project and small expenses such as mileage and office supplies, Rosynek said. Ellington's living expenses are paid by VISTA.

Her work with the Literacy Volunteers will be purely administrative in setting up the family literacy programs financed by a recent \$10,000 grant from the Dansby Grant Foundation. The first step is to find the people in the community that need this help, Ellington said.

During her first week on the job, Ellington met with local Head Start officials to brainstorm ways to reach parents reading below a sixth-grade level. Public service announcements on KAMU-FM public radio are already being broadcast.

"I'm thinking about going into the local churches to try and reach these folks," Ellington said.

"There are so many problems out here in this country."

**LAURIE ELLINGTON**  
VISTA volunteer

The next step is to find volunteers willing to tutor these parents on a one-on-one basis, she said. The likely candidates are teachers, college students, high school students and other members of the community.

"We want to try and make the matches as compatible as possible," Ellington said. "We wouldn't want a 60-year-old individual being tutored by a 16-year-old individual."

Out of 150 members, the Literacy Volunteers chapter has 102 active tutors

already working with illiterate adults. Originally founded in 1985 as the Brazos Valley Adult Literacy Council, the council became a chapter of the national Literacy Volunteers group in 1990.

The work force literacy program already in place will expand in January when VISTA volunteer Chris Crowther of Harrisonburg, Va., arrives to take charge, Rosynek said. That program, now serving 15 students, helps people wanting to improve their reading ability referred to Literacy Volunteers by their employers.

Rosynek's contribution to Ellington's education about Texas and Bryan-College Station was to take the VISTA volunteer to the Texas A&M bonfire on her second day in town.

Her only comment about the bonfire event was that she regarded it as "a cultural experience," Ellington said.

2012

17

STANDARD-TIMES

NEW BEDFORD, MA  
DAILY 43,600

MONDAY  
NOV 23 1992

*BURRELLE'S*

167  
...eck

PK  
....y

# VISTA volunteers take on challenge

6297/47 FRONT PAGE

**J**ennifer Solomon and Louann Tavares have their work cut out for them.

*Commentary*

Some of the challenges they face finding things to do for the kids of New Bedford's low-income housing other than teetering on the edge of lawlessness, and trying to motivate the adults whose spirit of community involvement has nearly been beaten out of them.



**CHRIS GONSALVES**

They don't have much of a plan yet — their work is just starting — but the two don't lack drive. Jen, from Santa Barbara, Calif., and Louann, a New Bedford native, last week began planning a better life for the folks of Verdean Gardens and United Front Homes.

The two are VISTA volunteers. VISTA stands for Volunteers In Service To America, something Jen and

(See VISTA, Page A5)

10/2

18

# VISTA

(Continued from Page 1)

Louann say they strongly believe in.

VISTA, which began in 1964, is a sort of domestic Peace Corps, taking volunteers with a hankering for helping folks and shipping them to some of the meanest streets the country has to offer.

Jen and signed up to serve for one year. Both are serving in New Bedford by choice.

The VISTA program is federally funded. Verdean Gardens and United Front got their volunteers when the common mortgage holder, the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, applied for help in organizing tenants and youth programs.

Jennifer, 22, seems out of place in the Verdean Gardens community room, where she and Louann were planning their strategy. With a smooth West Coast drawl and a constant smile, the recent college grad with a degree in French literature said she had planned to go into the Peace Corps, but chose VISTA instead.

"I did a lot of work like this in college," she said. "I like working with kids and I wanted to continue to do something like that."

"There are a lot of pluses to this, (especially) feeling that you are doing something positive," she said.

Jen requested her East Coast assignment, she said, because she lived in Newton a decade ago and wanted to come back. New Bedford is pretty much how she pictured it, she said.

"I knew the area was really economically depressed," Jennifer said. "It's good to work in an area that needs the help. I think this city has a strong foundation for the kinds of things we want to do here."

Unlike her counterpart, Louann is right at home in the projects. A product of low-income housing in the South End, herself, she now lives in United Front and said she sought out VISTA because she remembered the impact VISTA volunteers had on her as a child.

"Those people opened up a whole new world for me," Louann said. "I



Photo by Chris Gonsalves

VISTA volunteers Louann Tavares, left, and Jennifer Solomon last week began planning a better life for the folks of Verdean Gardens and United Front Homes in New Bedford.

thought maybe I could give something back and have a positive influence on someone else. I have kids myself. They need something to do, just like all the other kids in this area."

VISTA administrators custom-design a priority list based on each city's needs.

In New Bedford, Louann and Jennifer will work on youth programs, tenant involvement to improve security and quality of life in the projects, and drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs. To do that, they hope to involve local college students, elderly volunteers and local social service agencies.

One local agency already committed to supporting the VISTA volunteers is the Mayor's Drug Free Community Partnership.

"This is a great idea. I hope the community is open to it and parents let their children participate," said partnership community organizer John Lobo. "We'll be there to help any way we can."

The job promises to be tougher at Verdean Gardens than at United Front. Verdean Gardens has slipped into an inner-city apathy that has seen its once-active tenant association go belly up.

The 110-unit South-Central development is spread out in six

apartment buildings and, project managers say, the distance and related rivalries between the buildings has made any effort to organize tenants difficult. The low-income project has also been shunned by other private neighborhood groups in the area.

"I'm just waiting to see what happens," Verdean Gardens manager Debbie Clark said of the VISTA program. "I think initially it's going to be rough. People here have been disappointed by other organization efforts before. These folks are really going to have to show them that something is going to happen."

With 200 units all in one place, United Front should prove more fertile ground for the community-involvement seeds the VISTA duo is carrying. United Front has a long history of active tenant involvement in its own group, as well as the larger West-Central Neighborhood organization.

In either place, however, Louann Tavares and Jennifer Solomon have their work cut out for them.

"When you look at the whole pie, it seems overwhelming," Louann said. "If we just concentrate on one piece at a time, we'll succeed."

Staff writer Chris Gonsalves covers New Bedford neighborhoods for *The Standard-Times*.

19

SATURDAY  
DEC 5 1992

# Teacher keeps VISTA alive in Attleboro

1960s program  
paying dividends

BY VIRGINIA TERHUNE  
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

FRONT PAGE ATTLEBORO

Retired teacher Robert Hunter has spent most of his life so far teaching English literature to students who can read and write.

Now he is helping teach a different side of the language to people who are still learning those skills as the new administrative assistant at the Literacy Center on North Main Street.

He said he likes the job, because he believes literacy is a way to more fully participate in a democratic society and in life.

"If people are illiterate, most of the intellectual experience is lost to them," he said.

Hunter, who lives in Attleboro, is one of 120 people in the state working for Volunteers in Service to America, a federal program that began as part of the "war on poverty" in the mid-1960s.

Despite some funding bumps



MARTIN GAVIN/ THE SUN CHRONICLE

VISTA volunteer Robert Hunter enjoys teaching.

along the way and an all-time low of 1,500 volunteers in the early 1980s, the program is now on the move again with nearly 3,300 volunteers nationwide.

"Since 1985 we've grown substantially," said William Barrett of public relations.

"We're seeing a greater interest due to recruitment, especially through the colleges."

The program is currently administered through ACTION, an independent federal agency with a recruiting office in Boston.

Hunter's job for the next year will be to assist the center's director Donna Morse, for which he will receive about \$7,000 from VISTA.

Morse says she is pleased to have him, and he is pleased to be

▼  
**'If people are illiterate, most of the intellectual experience is lost to them.'**

Robert Hunter

▲  
there. "In a short time, I've met so many Attleboro people that I used to see but didn't know," he said.

"I have a much stronger feeling for the community by having a chance to meet all these people."

## Taught in Mansfield

Hunter taught English in Mansfield for 20 years before retiring a few years ago. He said he had done some volunteering in hospitals when he spotted a small advertisement in the paper.

"I've always had a streak of altruism, and this job looked like it also had enough variety to make it interesting," he said.

▲ SEE VISTA, PAGE 2 ►

## ► VISTA: Retired teacher helps people read

FROM PAGE 1

Still settling in, Hunter said he is writing grants and soon hopes to begin computerizing information from the center's 200 learners and 200 volunteers from Attleboro and surrounding towns to help improve teaching techniques.

He will also be a link between Morse and volunteers on the center's fundraising, planning and public relations committees.

"I'm on tap to do anything," he said.

Administrators say the demand

▼  
**Programs include  
adult basic education,  
graduate equivalency  
certificates, literacy,  
English for foreign-  
born speakers and  
citizenship training.**  
▲

for the Literacy Center's services has mushroomed since it moved from the Attleboro Public Library to the city-owned Sweet House next door when the library closed for renovations.

"Since the day we put the sign up, everything has just exploded," said Morse.

Since then, learners and other volunteers have helped transform the abandoned building into a warm and welcoming place for people who are often intimidated by schools or libraries.

"It's like a home to them, not like an institution," said volunteer Dan West, who both teaches and does much of the remodeling work.

According to the state Department of Education, one third of the state's adults cannot read, write or compute in English at the level expected.

Contrary to popular belief, most of them are native-born Americans who dropped out of high

school.

To help turn that around, the center currently offers programs in adult basic education, high-school equivalency certificates, family and workplace literacy, English for foreign-born speakers and citizenship training.

The Literacy Center was also recently awarded a state grant to help 20 learners who meet certain guidelines to improve their reading, writing and computing skills.

Called "Operation Employ," the year-long program to start in January will require that learners spend 20 hours a week of computer, classroom and individual tutoring time.

The center is also still looking for more volunteers. Reading and writing tutors are asked to commit five hours a week for a year and take a training course.

For more information about the Literacy Center, call 226-3603 in Attleboro.

To contact VISTA, call 1-617-565-7000 in Boston or Washington, D.C. toll free at 1-800-424-8867. Applicants must be 18 or older and American citizens.

Those accepted are assigned to work for a year in low-income communities for a living allowance and a \$95 monthly stipend paid at the end of the year of service.

The VISTA recruiting drive is targeting college graduates but everyone is welcome to apply.

2 of 2

21

GATES COUNTY INDEX

GATESVILLE, NC  
WEEKLY 2,700

DEC 2 1992



**VISTA project completed**

The first of the VISTA program projects, which involved the installation of a septic tank and water services for a county residents has been completed. The project, at the home of Ella Jordan of Hobbsville, was also made possible through

6297N7

assistance provided by the North Carolina Rural Communities Assistance Project Inc. and a FHA grant. VISTA worker Barbara Harrell has been working with Jordan less than one year in an attempt to make the project a success.

10/2

23

# Sewer project completed

FRONT PAGE

By Helene C. Knight  
News Editor

GATESVILLE -- The first septic tank project in the county under the watchful eye of the sponsoring agency, North Carolina Rural Communities Assistance Project Inc. has recently been completed, according to Barbara Harrell, Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) worker.

Harrell, who works at the Gatesville office of the Economic Improvement Council (EIC) is sponsored by NC/RCAP, based in Piusboro.

The first project completed under the VISTA Program, in cooperation with the NC/RCAP was the placement of a septic tank and water services to the home of Ella Jordan of Hobbsville. The project was completed through the efforts of the VISTA program and a FHA grant. Harrell has been working with Jordan a little less than one year to make this project a success.

The sponsoring agency, NC/RCAP, founded in 1987, is a

private, nonprofit organization whose goal is to ensure all the residents of rural North Carolina affordable access to potable water and safe waste disposal. NC/RCAP sponsors VISTA Volunteers at human service organizations around the state to provide outreach and technical assistance in rural communities.

Harrell is available to help individuals and communities throughout the 10-county service area of EIC which includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington Counties.

With technical support from NC/RCAP, Harrell is able to help interested counties, towns, communities, water corporations, sanitary districts, and the like on a variety of issues. For example, she will be able to help communities to define water and waste disposal needs such as lacking adequate facilities and create solutions. She is also able to help water systems

assess water loss and identify pipe leaks.

NC/RCAP also works at the community level to promote environmental protection and to explain the link between people and the environment; monitors and contributes to public and private policy regarding water and waste disposal issues to insure the interest of low- and moderate-income rural residents are considered and; educates people about how the lack of safe and proper waste disposal can effect a community's health and economic viability.

Twenty-four percent of the residents in Gates County do not have adequate indoor plumbing, according to a report released last year by the NC/RCAP and the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center. Gates County has the highest such percentage of residents of any county in the state, the report stated.

The report also stated, there are

(See SEWER, Page 3)

## Sewer

(From Page 1)

more outhouses in regular use in North Carolina than anywhere else in the nation and one in six minority households in North Carolina lacks complete indoor plumbing.

For more information about the VISTA Program, persons interested should call Barbara Harrell at 357-0555. The VISTA Program is part of ACTION, the federal domestic volunteer agency.

20/0

24

FRIDAY  
DEC 18 1992



SCOTT D. RUBY/Redlands Daily Facts

VISTA worker Bill Bell plays music for a group of senior citizens.

# Volunteer gives up job, donates time for the benefit of others

By TINA BORGATTA FRONT PAGE  
Staff Writer

*BORGATTA*  
MENTONE — 'Tis the season to be jolly.

And a group of about 30 Mentone senior citizens appeared to be just that on Wednesday. They were tapping toes, clapping hands and singing along to a rendition of country music tunes and Christmas carols performed by a quartet of musicians led by VISTA (Volunteers in Service To America) worker Bill Bell.

Bell was at the Mentone Congregational Church talking to the seniors about his organization — the second such visit with the

group since he first began his VISTA work last January.

He spoke for about 20 minutes, then finished off with the entertainment.

Bell, a 40-year-old Banning resident, is one of six VISTA workers in Redlands. His job is to educate the community about another organization, Food For All, and recruit volunteers for its distribution committee.

Bell said Redlands Family Services and New Hope in Beaumont are just two of the area agencies that receive help from Food For All.

So, what are VISTA and Food For All?

Well, Bell likes to refer to VISTA as the domestic Peace Corps. It is federally funded and pays its workers a small stipend for their efforts — between \$500 and \$650 a month.

"They pay just enough for you to squeak by," he said. "And I've been squeaking by for a whole year."

As a VISTA worker, Bell's job is to talk to people about Food For All, a program which began here in Redlands in 1986 at Gerrard's Market. It has since grown to include 1,400 grocery stores — mostly in California. About 100 of

See VOLUNTEER, Page A4

3

10/2

## VOLUNTEER / Continued from Page A1

those stores are in New England and around 30 are in Nevada.

Food For All works this way. The grocery stores display blue, red and green postcards at the checkout stand — all printed with the words Food For All in big white letters. The blue cards cost 50 cents, the red postcards are a dollar, and the green ones cost \$5. Shoppers can purchase any or all of these cards at the checkout stand, and the supermarket sends all the money to Food For All for distribution to area agencies.

"Now we've raised over \$3 million," Bell said. "And it all started right here in Redlands. . . . And how the money is spent, the funding decisions, are all made by the Food For All volunteers in the area — the people who know best what the needs are in their own community."

Bell said his opportunity working with VISTA "sort of fell into my lap."

Bell, who was born in Redlands and graduated from Redlands High School, once volunteered for Food For All and worked on the group's funds distribution committee. It was through his work there that he became acquainted with VISTA people.

"Now that I'm working for VISTA, I can no longer be on a distribution committee," Bell said. "But I would like to do that again."

Food For All volunteers only meet

about four times a year. But working for VISTA has required a lot more time. In the 11 months that Bell's been a VISTA worker, he's spoken to about 50 groups — an average of about one a week. He also works on placing volunteers in position that best utilize their special talents.

"I speak to anyone who's interested," Bell said. "That ranges from senior groups to working with the junior high schools. I gave a talk at the University of Redlands last week, and I also speak to various service organizations. I speak at a lot of churches."

Before becoming a VISTA worker, Bell — also a musician — worked for 20 years as a library assistant. His last position was held at the University of Redlands, which he left to record an album.

"I really needed to work on that full time," he said. "I had already been a volunteer for Food For All and I was told about this VISTA opportunity. The timing was just right. I always thought that this would be something I would do when I retire, but sometimes you just have to grab these kinds of opportunities when they come your way."

Besides, Bell said he likes the feeling he gets when gives something back to the community.

"And then," he said, "doing this work here in Redlands is kind of like coming home."

20/2

4

# Local program gets a second chance

## Big Brothers-Big Sisters rises out of the ashes even stronger

By HOPE GREER

Times Lifestyles Editor

6217A T

The Leavenworth County Big Brothers-Big Sisters program will have a merrier Christmas this year for a couple of reasons.

The building which housed the program last year at 508 Shawnee Street was destroyed by fire four days before Christmas.

"Last Christmas we had no idea where we'd end up," said Deborah Gregor, executive director of Big Brothers-Big Sisters. "We didn't get into our new building until February and it was close to January before we ended up finalizing any deal."

Gregor said her biggest Christmas presents didn't arrive until April. They came in the form of two Volunteer In Service To America recruits that were assigned to assist her in rebuilding the program.

Wanda Young, formerly of Junction City, and Robert Weigel, Leavenworth, saw VISTA's help-wanted ad in the newspaper and quickly applied for the job.

"They have been absolutely wonderful," Gregor said. "Robert is a godsend as far as sorting through the paperwork. It was all destroyed by fire or was soaking wet. He's managed to reconstruct most of it and put it on the computer."

Weigel is also in charge of applying for grants and raising funds. Young handles the volunteer recruiting and



VISTA volunteers Wanda Young and Robert Weigel joined the Leavenworth County Big Brothers-Big Sisters program four months after a fire destroyed its building last December. Times Photo/Hope Greer

public relations.

VISTA has assigned them both to Big Brothers-Big Sisters for one year, but Young and Weigel have already written to the foundation and asked to stay another year.

"I just want to help the community," Weigel said. "VISTA's a one-way ticket to doing that."

"I feel that before I wasn't really interested in what my neighbors were doing. I was only interested in my life. Now I see these children and understand their problems. Now I'm interested in them

and that's something I never did."

Young moved from Junction City last year and immediately fell in love with the city.

"Junction City is more an out-for-yourself kind of town," she said. "Leavenworth is a really close-knit community."

"I was surprised at how many people are willing to help here."

There are nine people who regularly volunteer to help the 700 children enrolled in the program. Numerous others drop in to assist whenever they can.

Over 600 children and 165 adults are enrolled in the program, which provides role models for at-risk youths. Big Brothers-Big Sisters also provides after-school and summer programs, homework help, career training, craft classes and recreational activities.

"The children are exceptional," Weigel said. "We kind of thought, 'We're taking care of these poor children.'"

"It's not like that. They're strong and they only want to survive. They need a chance like everyone else. This is their chance."

*Project seeks volunteers***VISTA aims at removing barriers**

BY TINA GOODWIN

Managing Editor

Helping disabled persons overcome barriers in education, health care and employment is the main goal of a new VISTA project initiated in Sherman County.

VISTA, Volunteers In Service To America, is a full-time, year-long volunteer program for men and women 18 years of age and older from all backgrounds, who commit themselves to increasing the capability of low-income people to improve the conditions of their own lives. The VISTA program has been in existence since 1965. Volunteers are assigned to local sponsors which may be state or local public agencies or private non-profit organizations.

The VISTA project in Sherman County is being sponsored by the LINK office. LINK, Living Independently in Northwest Kansas, is an independent living program for adults who have physical, mental or emotional disabilities. LINK serves individuals in the 18 counties of Northwest Kansas. LINK is affiliated with and partly funded by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, Inc., a large non-profit organization that provides services to people with disabilities.

Rick Knight, Independent Living Specialist with the local LINK office, is heading the Sherman County VISTA project. Knight said the project is aimed at three primary goals: 1) Organizing and coordinating health care programs designed to assist persons with disabilities; 2) Organizing and coordinating placement in education programs designed to assist persons with disabilities; and 3) Organizing and coordinating career oriented and training or employment programs designed to assist handicapped persons.

The first step in accomplishing these goals is finding volunteers willing to help the VISTA project succeed.

"That's the way VISTA works," Knight said. "We are asked to recruit volunteers."

Knight hopes to find a core of at least five volunteers to begin implementing the VISTA project. The five will work with and use the newly formed Western Kansas Association on Concerns for the Disabled, a non-profit organization established to assist disabled persons in western Kansas.

After the core of volunteers is established, Knight hopes others will want to work with the VISTA project. The only stipulation is that 51 percent of the volunteers in the core group must be disabled.

Knight hopes that the community will recognize the importance of the VISTA project and see the benefits it can offer, not

only disabled persons, but the entire community.

The VISTA project is closely connected to the work Knight has been doing to help local businesses and public facilities meet the ADA requirements. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires all public facilities be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Although the VISTA project is mainly concerned with eliminating barriers for disabled persons in health care services, education programs and employment, the project comes together with what the LINK office has been trying to do.

"We are not pointing fingers at anyone," Knight said. "We want to show businesses of all

types that it is beneficial if they are handicapped accessible. People with handicaps will go to business that are accessible to them and that's where they will spend their money. That's simple economics."

Knight said many times people with disabilities will go out of town for many services that are not accessible to them here. They will also rely on mail order instead of local services.

Many are also unemployed because jobs are not accessible to them.

"People with disabilities are normally very good employees," Knight said. "It's hard enough for us to find a good job. When we do, we want to keep it. People with disabilities have also



**FRONT PAGE**

**ACCESSIBLE BUILDING** - Although the community is making strides at removing barriers for handicapped persons, such as the entrance to the City Building (above), there are still areas that need improvement, according to Rick Knight. - Photo by Tina Goodwin

proven to be just as productive as people without disabilities."

Knight, who has Multiple Sclerosis and uses a wheelchair, visions the VISTA project opening doors for many disabled people in Sherman County.

The 1990 census showed 285 people in Sherman County with disabilities so severe they could not work. Knight estimates many more disabled persons the VISTA project could help.

Some of the projects VISTA volunteers could be involved in include surveying major health care service providers for accessibility and making them aware of any barriers that prevent disabled persons from obtaining services. Knight noted that health care services include everything from the hospital and clinic to dentist and eye doctor offices.

"Barriers may be physical, financial or attitude" Knight said. "People need to be aware of the need to remove the barriers that prevent disabled from getting

services in Sherman County. It's not a matter of pointing fingers. We want to show the benefit of removing the barriers."

Knight said other focus areas for the VISTA volunteers will be employment and education. He said the Northwest Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School would be the logical place to begin exploring education opportunities for disabled. VISTA volunteers will also be awarded of the need of making the workplace accessible to disabled employees.

Knight noted that removing barriers does not have to be costly. According to published figures, 30 percent of reasonable accommodations can be made at no cost at all, while 60 percent can be made for around \$50. Knight envisions VISTA volunteers also helping public facilities construct accessible accommodations.

"It's important for the community to see the benefit of removing barriers," he said. "It not only helps the disabled persons here, but also the community."

2 of 2

13

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

CUMBERLAND, MD  
DAILY 31,640

MONDAY  
DEC 21 1992

6297A7

# Blighted homes come alive thanks to program

J. SUTER KEGG  
Contributing Writer

CUMBERLAND — If you have reason to venture past the double-frame dwelling at 307-309 Bond Street, you will notice a fully-renovated residence. A peek on the inside at 307 will reveal new carpeting, attractive wall paneling, new fixtures, all-weather windows, newly-painted woodwork, etc. In short, the interior has the appearances of a new home.

The interior at 309 is 60 percent completed and should be ready for occupancy in a month or more.

This is the result of "Western Maryland's Best Kept Secret," the intervention housing phase of the Interfaith Consortium.

The consortium, headquartered at 209 North Centre Street, is a non-profit organization which has functioned in the role of "helping people" since 1969. Intervention Housing had its beginnings in August 1990, at a time when the IFC was "growing up."

C. Larry Sweeney, housing coordinator, says it's "about time" that the citizens became familiar with intervention housing, which he has accurately labeled "Western Maryland's Best Kept Secret." He then goes on to explain how the idea was hatched and nurtured into reality. "With the shortage of housing, abandoned and blighted property, and the need to improve some of the neighborhoods, we could do something for the public," he said. "We could help families obtain a home and at the same time return these once decrepit properties to the tax base, paying the going rate, the same as everyone else."

1013

The first house to experience Interfaith's "magic touch" was on Independence Street. Money was borrowed from local banks and the dream soon turned into reality. Under the able leadership of Guy True and Bernard Wenrick, workers for Volunteers In Service to America (VISTA) plus much volunteer help, the first project was completed.

Since then the "Intervention Housing Machine" has turned "Western Maryland's Best-Kept Secret" into little more than minimal public knowledge. Through this story, however, the Times-News hopes to make the area aware that "peace on earth, goodwill toward fellow man" just doesn't exist in Cumberland during the Christmas season. Thanks to the efforts of Interfaith Consortium, nine houses that were labeled

5

(Continued From Page 1B)

as eyesores have been made into attractive homes.

In addition to the dwellings on Independence and Bond streets, other examples of work by the busy volunteers can be seen on Humbird, Walnut, Columbia, Bedford, Knox and Polk streets.

Homes are obtained several ways. According to Mr. Sweeney, "We drive through different neighborhoods, work with the City of Cumberland Planning Office and Fire Department; get assistance from local realtors, citizen input, or respond to phone calls. In fact, if you know of a house, give us a call at the office and we'll check it out."

Perspective tenants may call the office and request a housing application. Guidelines for perspective tenants are based on Federal W.I.C. low-income guidelines.

All building materials are purchased locally and appliances are donated by Danny Harris of People For America, another non-profit organization. Of course, the bottom line is volunteers and Mr. Sweeney explains, "We've had volunteers who barely had money for a sandwich or even a pack of cigarettes, and could easily have been more financially secure elsewhere, but chose to help us, as we choose to help others."

Even though People for America donates much of the furniture from their base in Cabin John, Md., (near Washington), "We'll gladly accept donations of building materials and/or appliances," says Fred Farrell, a housing foreman.

Besides the utilization of a volunteer force consisting of community service workers and just anyone interested in helping, college and high school work camps are utilized from winter to late summer. Two such camps are scheduled for January.

Mr. Sweeney points out the importance of the work camps: "We have been fortunate enough to obtain skilled persons from the work camps, such as carpenters and electricians. Of

course, all duties are important, whether it be warehouse maintenance, clothing or appliance pickup, or just sweeping floors. With this abundance of help, all necessary duties are met."

The work camps consist of high school and college students from various locations who volunteer a week of their time. Mr. Sweeney says foreign exchange students love to become involved in the work camps.

He is quick to point out the benefits reaped upon the community by the one-week stays in the city by these camps. "Basically, we are provided with a free work force that will benefit the community. They pay for their own room and board, and a work camp of 10 individuals will generate about \$700 in the community."

He also stresses that the camp members have to supply their own transportation. Housing for camp members is donated by local churches and the Allegany County Civil Defense provides cots, plus the YMCA allows the use of its shower facilities.

The tenants are also pleased with the opportunity to own their own home and "just feel good" about themselves. The resident of the second home completed by the intervention crew has resided there since June 1991 with her three children. "Interfaith has really helped us," she said. "We all like the house and Fred Farrell is really prompt whenever we need something fixed."

The tenant says she was directed to Intervention Housing by her ex-landlord. "He talked to the folks at HUD (Housing and Urban Development), who in turn recommended us to Interfaith."

Another tenant also expresses satisfaction with her home. "I'm very pleased. I have had small problems, but nothing major. For the most part, they receive prompt attention."

The same tenant explains that she heard about the housing program while reading about Rep. Beverly Byron's visit to the area when she toured the housing sites. "I

2013

(6)

called the Interfaith office and put in an application," she related. "Soon I was called and found a home."

Guy True, retired local union carpenter and VISTA volunteer, elaborates on the "before-and-after" concept of the projects: "You know, it's pretty amazing how these houses turn out, considering the shape that they were in to begin with. One has to see it to believe it, and to see the finished product, one cannot help to be impressed." Mr. True has been volunteering for one year and during that span of time, six homes have been completed.

Wenrick, retired local painting contractor and the other VISTA volunteer, is in charge of the painting at the Interfaith houses. He also lauds the precision of how the houses are rescued from delapidation, and transformed into nice homes. "It takes teamwork to get the job done," he said. "You can look at a house and think, 'this will never get done' and before you know it, we're near completion. "Things like getting the insulation into place take a lot of time, but once that's done, things get rolling pretty good."

Also part of the volunteer team is Don Haney, secretary of Central Labor Council AFL/CIO. And two retired craftsmen from St. Luke's Lutheran Church are lending their assistance once a week.

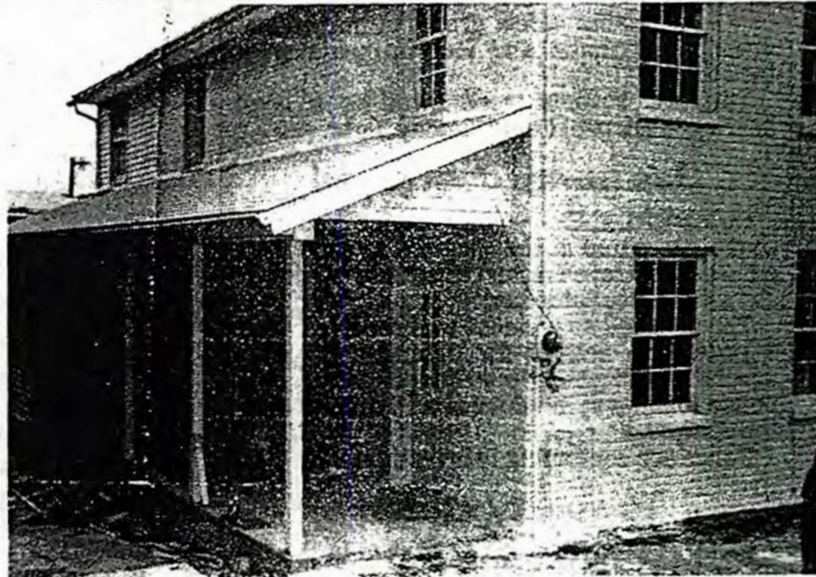
Although the intervention housing program has come a long way, Mr. Sweeney and the others behind the scenes would like to get the public more involved and become more aware of what this dedicated group of people has done for the community.

"We have several goals," he explains. "As I have said, we're probably Western Maryland's best-kept secret. We are anticipating more local volunteers to further our goal, which in part is to improve the appearance of many neighborhoods. Again I emphasize, we return these homes to the tax base and pay the going rate."

Fred Farrell agrees. "We're trying to make the dream come true for those who otherwise would not have a home."

For years, citizens have complained of "eyesores" on the community's rundown, abandoned or blighted properties, Mr. Farrell stresses. "We not only improve the City of Cumberland, we instill self-respect in those who need a gentle nudge in the right direction."

Continuing to make the



**BEFORE AND AFTER** — These two photos show the graphic results of the Interfaith Consortium's housing program which has been in effect for two years.

"dream come true" takes much work. Besides the VISTA volunteers and local volunteers, the staff consists of John O'Donnell, executive director of the Interfaith Consortium; Walter E. Basilio, HOMAR foreman; Sandra Coates, office manager; Farrell, Sweeney, William L. Leasure and Sister Angelina Catina, SSND, Ret., Green Thumb volunteers.

The local courts also cooperate by providing juveniles and adults who are assigned "community service" hours.

Mr. Sweeney emphasizes the need for community support. "We need your help. If you are interested in an application, call the office at (301) 777-7388, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. However, we will gladly accept volunteer help with our houses. Donations are most important — building supplies, appliances — any input from the community is greatly appreciated."

Mr. Sweeney also speaks for the entire staff in expression of thanks to businesses, merchants and other civic-minded individuals who have given the Interfaith Consortium discounts and over-all support.

Sitting in a comfortable chair at the just-completed unit at 307 Bond Street, Larry Sweeney and Fred Farrell reflect on the goals of Western Maryland's best-kept secret, while the VISTA workers and volunteers continue to prepare the unit next door for occupancy. When asked the projected total of homes, Mr. Sweeney calmly replies, "We project a total of 300 to 500 homes to be ready in the next four years."

The sign in front of the property, with the Interfaith Consortium logo, reads "Making the Dream Come True." The determination and dedication of this group of caring individuals has been doing just that, and will make many more such "dreams" come true.

3013

7

BOSTON GLOBE

BOSTON, MA  
DAILY 504,675

FRIDAY

JAN 22 1993

BURRELLE'S

32  
xææææ

PW  
a...n

## Mr. President: Take a close look at VISTA

As both VISTAs - Volunteers In Service To America - and recent college graduates with substantial student loans, we are intrigued by President Bill Clinton's plans to develop a domestic Peace Corps.

Unfortunately, many people are unaware that a national volunteer service corps already exists. VISTA was created by President Kennedy in 1963. Like the Peace Corps and Boston's City Year, VISTA is a full-time, yearlong volunteer program for people who commit themselves to increasing the capability of low-income people to improve their lives. VISTA's role is to combat poverty by mobilizing community resources and increasing the capability of the target community to solve its own problems.

Unlike the Peace Corps, however, the VISTA program has undergone extreme financial hardship in the last 10 years. Reaching a record high of 5,000 volunteers a year during the Carter administration, VISTA was cut by two-thirds during the early Reagan years. At a current total of 3,202 VISTAs throughout the country and an annual budget of \$37.3 million, the rewards of being a VISTA are many, but the program, unlike Clinton's plan, does not forgive college student loans.

We hope Clinton takes a closer look at the domestic Peace Corps, and perhaps in the future VISTAs will be able to enjoy full student loan cancellation and recognition for the program's tremendous contribution to our country.

DEBORAH POTE and  
five other VISTA volunteers  
Commonwealth Literacy Program

DEC 13 1992

BURRELLE'S510  
...wbn

QF

# Alternative to soup kitchen sought for local homeless

Cafe to stress <sup>LOSTRA?</sup>  
dignity, respect for  
Iowa City patrons

By Lyle Muller

Gazette Johnson County Bureau

IOWA CITY — Efforts are under way to establish a special Iowa City cafe that serves dignity as well as food to homeless people.

The cafe, which organizers hope to open next spring, would be an alternative to traditional programs that feed the homeless.

"It's not a soup kitchen," said Meg White, administrator of the Episcopal Chaplaincy in Iowa City.

"That's a very important distinction."

As planned, the cafe would be a comfortable place where about 20 people can eat as neighbors in exchange for some sort of decision to improve their lives.

Support for the proposed cafe would come from various sources.

"We want to see that this is part of the larger community response to the needs of homeless," said the Rev. Julia Easley, Episcopal chaplain at the University of Iowa.

**WHAT SHAPE** the cafe will take is yet to be determined by local organizers.

Discussions are at an early stage and there are several people whose help will be requested but who have not been contacted yet, Easley said.

But organizers said they are negotiating for a location and have committed to establishing the cafe.

In January they plan to visit a

*"We want to see that this is part of the larger community response to the needs of homeless."*

**The Rev. Julia Easley,  
U of I chaplain**

Chicago cafe similar to the one they envision so they can get some ideas.

They also want to contact possible donors in the Iowa City area who will help the program get off the ground and eventually sustain itself.

The program would be supported by donations from sources such as individual people and businesses, organizers said.

**THE ORGANIZERS** of this project come from various public service agencies, such as the Iowa City Crisis Center and Emergency Housing Project, that are seeking ways to help homeless people located in the Iowa City area.

New ways are needed, officials of the agencies say, because of a growing homeless population in this area.

The Emergency Housing Project, for example, feeds some 70 people each night and is unable to keep up with the need for services, officials there have reported.

Cafe organizers said they would like to start their program with one breakfast weekly and add more meals as needed.

"We see a need," said Deb Keller, a VISTA volunteer brought to Iowa City by the Johnson County United Way this year to

work on problems facing homeless and hungry people.

"Whether people actually say, 'Yeah, I'm going to participate in this,' that's something that's going to take some time."

The Chicago cafe Keller and others will visit next month is the Inspiration Cafe, on the city's north side.

Operated by former Chicago police officer Lisa Nigro, it provides free meals to people who make promises to improve their lives.

That improvement could range from becoming drug free to sustaining full-time work to getting an apartment, Nigro said.

Failure to meet a goal could leave diners without the monthly pass that entitles them to a meal.

"The main idea is to serve homeless people with dignity and respect," Nigro said.

**NIGRO LIKENS** what she does at the Inspiration Cafe with what Americans did for her grandmother after the grandmother immigrated to the United States from Poland.

"That's what I'm trying to bring back, really. All the neighborhoods working together to solve problems in a way government can't do it."

Organizers of the Iowa City effort said they have not determined the level of commitment diners would have to make toward their own lives in order to be fed. That is one of many issues that have to be hammered out.

"We all have some shared vision on this but we just need to talk and talk and talk," Easley said.

26



# Health-care booster

## VISTA helps AIDS Project, Health Care Access

6297AT

By LEIGH ANNE NICHOLSON  
J-W Staff Writer

Dan Purcell moved to Lawrence for a taste of "the real world."

"I was tired of academic settings and school," said the 22-year-old Columbia, Mo., native. Purcell had majored in American studies at Amherst College in Massachusetts but couldn't find a career he was interested in pursuing.

"I was going through a bunch of options in my head," he said. "I knew I could try teaching or something else. But my mother suggested I contact VISTA."

VISTA, which stands for Volunteers In Service to America, is a domestic Peace Corps-like agency that has been working since 1965 to end poverty and help disadvantaged communities in the United States.

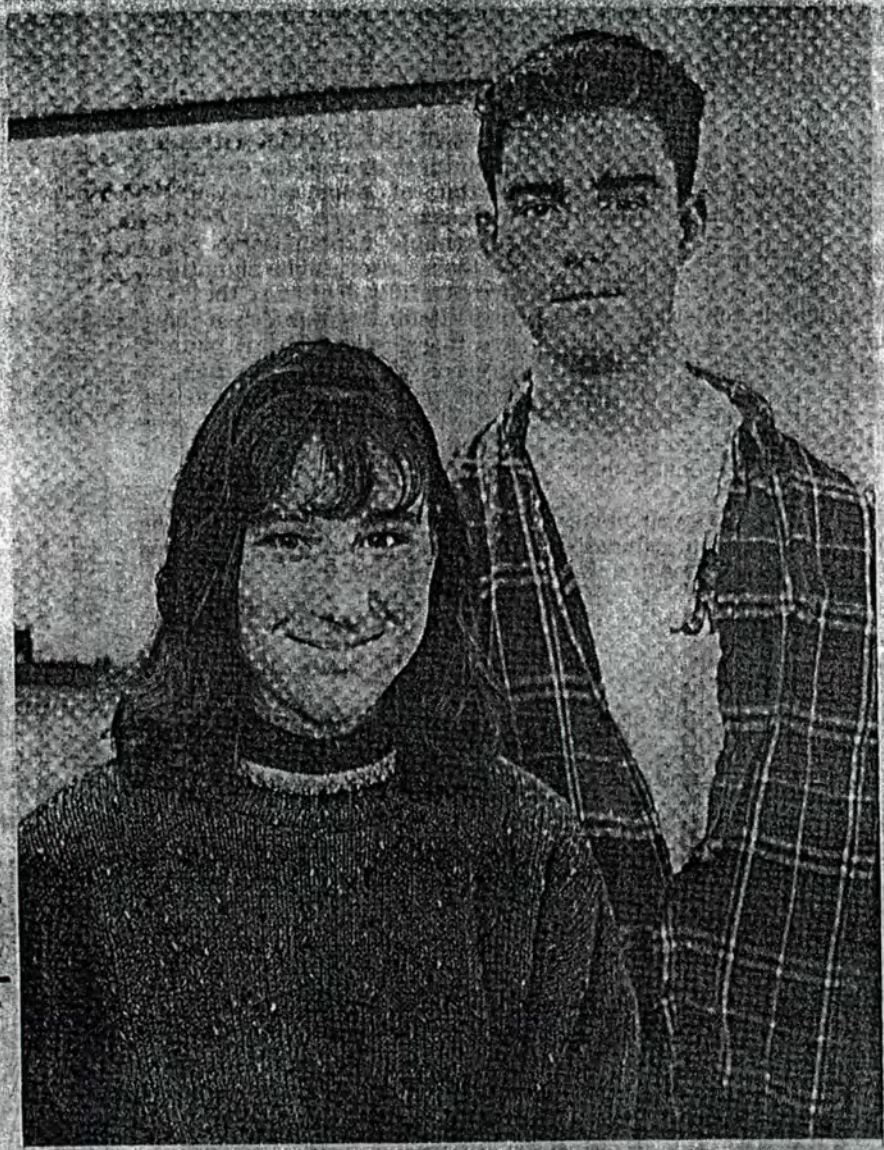
VISTA volunteers earn health insurance and a limited stipend a month for room and board, but basically the job is a non-profit career move financially.

AS A LEARNING experience, though, Purcell said, working for VISTA offers top-notch "pay."

Purcell's assignment is as public affairs coordinator for the Douglas County AIDS Project (DCAP). He recruits volunteers and works to develop support for the agency so it eventually will be able to operate without VISTA's assistance.

"I've read about AIDS," he said. "But I've never had any practical firsthand experience with the disease before now." AIDS stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

He said DCAP didn't provide many direct services but the project did help people find needed information and services.



(Staff photo by Richard Gwin)

Amy Bollig, left, and Dan Purcell are VISTA volunteers at the Douglas County AIDS Project.

LAWRENCE DAILY  
JOURNAL-WORLD  
  
LAWRENCE, KS  
DAILY & SUNDAY 18,898  
  
TUESDAY  
DEC 8 1992

10/2



27

"I've learned the importance of networking," he said, "and learned that it's important to stay on good footing with everyone else."

AMY BOLLIG, 25, also is a VISTA volunteer with DCAP. Her position as health education coordinator allows her to develop the speakers bureau, and plan peer education and health service providers' meetings.

"This job fit my college degree perfectly," said Bollig, who has a bachelor's degree in community health education. "It's a good experience. And you get emotional benefits because you know you're getting the message about AIDS out there and changing some people's attitudes."

Each VISTA volunteer promises to serve for at least one year and can enroll for up to two more years. Non-profit agencies are allowed to hire VISTA volunteers for a particular need for only five consecutive years.

JIM BYRNES OF Topeka is Kansas director of ACTION, the federal agency that oversees VISTA grants and volunteers. He estimates there are now 31 VISTA volunteers in the state.

"The number is small in Kansas because of the size of the population here and the amount of poverty," he said.

A non-profit Kansas agency addressing a poverty issue and look-

ing for VISTA volunteers must submit an application to the ACTION agency in Topeka, Byrnes said.

If the application is approved, ACTION will match volunteers, who are recruited locally and nationally, with the agency or the agency can advertise the position and hire a person with the allocated VISTA funds.

Projects that VISTA volunteers now are helping with in Kansas include homelessness, economic development and food resources.

ANOTHER LAWRENCE agency with a long-term VISTA relationship is Health Care Access, a non-profit health clinic serving people

without any public or private health insurance.

Health Care Access is in its fourth year with the program and has had seven VISTA workers over time. In fact, executive director Judy Eyerly started with the agency as a VISTA volunteer.

"I was living in England for five years and when I arrived back here my whole family was telling me to go get health insurance," she said. "I was used to the socialized medicine in England. When I heard they were starting the Health Care Access program, I was interested."

Health Care Access VISTA workers help recruit clients and volunteers and assist with fundraising.

"The whole point in having them is in mobilizing community resources," Eyerly said, noting Health Care Access would have had a tough time getting started without VISTA.

NOW, THE AGENCY is coming to the end of its period of eligibility for VISTA volunteers. "We're working on setting systems in place after the volunteers go so the work they've started will continue," Eyerly said.

Kevin Elliott, 27, is a VISTA volunteer working with Health Care Access.

"I've always been an active volunteer in the community," he said, "and I was interested in continuing my volunteer work. Then a friend with VISTA in Topeka told me I could get paid for what I was already doing."

Elliott works as a volunteer assistant coordinator, helping to schedule and train volunteer staff on the office side.

"I'm also going to help coordinate and develop fundraisers and set up office procedures so when VISTA leaves, the office will continue," he said.

Elliott said he also was seriously considering signing up for another year of service after his first year was completed.

"Health Care Access is very important, especially during bad economic times like now," Elliott said. "VISTA helps provide a solid foundation for (Health Care) Access so it can continue offering assistance."

For more information on joining VISTA or having a VISTA volunteer at a not-for-profit agency, write to the ACTION Agency, Federal Building, Room 147, 444 SE Quincy, Topeka, Kan. 66683.

DEC 16 1992

# Giving their time, talents

## Volunteers aid GED teachers

BY HOLDEN LEWIS  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

0267A

When up to 40 adults gather in a classroom, each working on a different level and at a different pace toward a General Equivalency Diploma, their teacher has a challenging job.

In the space of a five-hour class, one student might need a 15-minute explanation of division of fractions, another might want to talk for 20 minutes about the difference between adverbs and adjectives, someone else might have questions about the aftermath of the Civil War, and so on. And that doesn't count the time it takes for the teacher to grade tests and do paperwork.

So Volunteers in Service to America is recruiting people to help teachers in GED classrooms run by the Toledo public schools' adult basic education department. The volunteers tutor students, grade tests, and otherwise relieve some of the teacher's workload.

Some classes are so big, students "are not getting the individual attention they need," said Karen Nutt, a recruiting coordinator for VISTA.

One volunteer is Rose Croley, who spends 20 hours a week helping with a GED class at Woodward High School.

"I help the teacher — whatever she needs — grading, helping students, that kind of thing," Ms. Croley said. "I like grading papers and helping people. I like math, so I like to help people with that."

---

*The VISTA volunteers tutor students, grade tests, and otherwise relieve some of the teacher's workload.*

---

She's been volunteering for a couple of months. That's not very long, but she earned her GED only in April.

"Sometimes the teachers says, 'Go help that person,' so that's what I'll do," she said. "Some people don't want any help at all, and some know me well enough now that they'll come to me and ask for help."

At last count, 1,511 people were taking GED classes with Toledo public schools, said Jamesetta Mickens, coordinator of adult basic education. They attend classes at 29 sites, day and night. The early classes begin at 8:30 a.m., and the latest classes end at 9 p.m.

VISTA seeks volunteers for all those shifts, Ms. Nutt said. She added that class sizes are swelling because the state Department of Human Services is encouraging welfare recipients to attend GED classes under a year-old pilot program.

Ms. Mickens said class sizes actually aren't appreciably bigger this year than usual, although one teacher had 43 students in her class. No matter what the class size, the volunteers perform a service, she said.

Part of that service is freeing time for the teachers to do their paperwork, which has increased with the Department of Human Services' pilot project because teachers have to keep detailed attendance records of welfare recipients in their classes.

Under the state program, welfare recipients are asked to attend at least 20 hours of GED classes a week.

On the other hand, volunteers are asked to spend at least three hours a week in the classroom. Some, such as Ms. Croley, spend a lot more.

Volunteers take several weeks of training sessions and take tests to determine their academic strengths and weaknesses, Ms. Nutt said.

And how do potential volunteers know whether they're going to be in over their heads?

"First of all, if they want to do it, that's a sign that they're able to do it," Ms. Nutt said.

29

# VISTA

- PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICANS OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS TO VOLUNTEER ON A FULL-TIME BASIS TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS;
- VOLUNTEERS ARE ASSIGNED TO LOCAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS FOR ONE YEAR TO PERFORM ACTIVITIES DETERMINED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL;
- PROGRAM AREAS FOCUS ON NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES: FOOD, LITERACY, EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, HEALTH, NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION AND A VARIETY OF OTHER ACTIVITIES;
- VISTA IS A NON-GRANT PROGRAM IN WHICH **ACTION** HAS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH VOLUNTEERS AND PROJECT SPONSORS.

## OTHER VISTA INFORMATION

- THERE ARE 775 VISTA & LITERACY CORPS PROJECTS AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH ABOUT 3,400 VOLUNTEERS ASSIGNED;
- ALL PROJECTS MUST BE APPROVED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL BEFORE SUBMISSION TO **ACTION** FOR APPROVAL;
- VOLUNTEERS ARE RECRUITED EITHER:
  - LOCALLY, BY THE SPONSOR
  - OR
  - NATIONALLY, BY **ACTION**.
- ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST BE APPROVED BY **ACTION**.

## WHAT VISTA VOLUNTEERS DO

- 40% - LITERACY ACTIVITIES
  - 21% - EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES
  - 16% - HOUSING/SHELTER
  - 8% - HEALTH
  - 6% - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- 

## VISTA VOLUNTEERS MOBILIZE:

- PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES
  - PART-TIME VOLUNTEERS FROM THE COMMUNITY
- TO ENABLE LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO CONTINUE VISTA ACTIVITIES THEMSELVES.

## WHERE VISTA VOLUNTEERS SERVE

- IN ALL STATES AND PUERTO RICO
  - 38% ARE IN RURAL AREAS
  - 62% ARE IN URBAN AREAS
- 
- 66% OF PROJECTS ARE SPONSORED BY PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
  - 16% BY STATE, COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
  - 7% BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
  - 5% BY CHURCH-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS
  - 6% BY ALL OTHERS

## VISTA VOLUNTEERS KEY CHARACTERISTICS\*

- 79% ARE FEMALES
- ABOUT 41% ARE MINORITIES (22% BLACK)
- 22% ARE RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES; THIS IS DOUBLE THE PERCENTAGE TWO YEARS AGO
- 36% ARE COLLEGE GRADUATES
- BETWEEN 19-20% ARE 55 AND OLDER
- 26% ARE BETWEEN 18-27 YEARS OLD
- THE AVERAGE AGE IS 40
- 81% OF THOSE WHO ENTER STAY AT LEAST ONE YEAR. AVERAGE LENGTH OF SERVICE--18 MOS.

• As of Sept., 1992

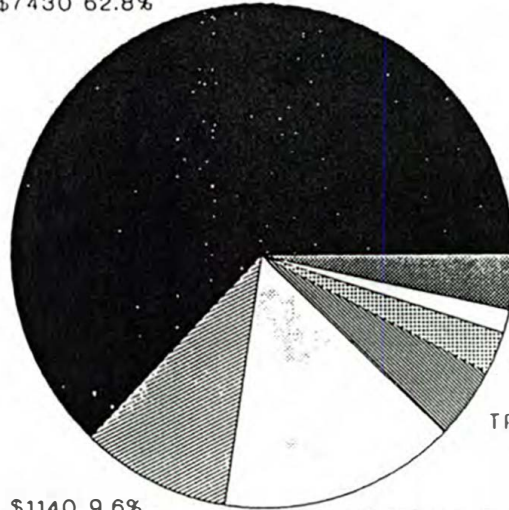
## VISTA VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE:

- SUBSISTENCE PAYMENTS AT AN AVERAGE OF 105% OF THE POVERTY LEVEL FOR A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL (CURRENTLY \$620/MONTH)
- END-OF-SERVICE STIPEND: \$95 PER MONTH
- PRE-SERVICE AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING
- ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT LOAN DEFERMENTS, AND PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF PERKINS LOANS
- COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH COVERAGE BY ACTION
- COVERAGE BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACTS
- ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE BENEFITS
- INCOME EXCLUSION OF VISTA ALLOWANCES

# VISTA PROGRAM COSTS PER VOLUNTEER FISCAL YEAR 1993 (EST.)

\* Total = \$11,837

SUBSISTENCE \$7430 62.8%



OTHER \$420 3.5%

RECRUITMENT \$177 1.5%

SUPPORT \$320 2.7%

TRAINING \$550 4.6%

STIPEND \$1140 9.6%

HEALTH CONTRACT \$1800 15.2%

• Excludes ACTION's admin. costs

# VISTA -1965-1993

*Budget, Service Years, and Training Entries*

FISCAL YEAR	BUDGET (in millions)*	Service Years	Training Entries
1965	3.0	50	1069
1966	13.0	1715	3592
1967	21.0	3661	3546
1968	24.0	4061	4452
1969	25.0	4130	5061
1970	27.1	4487	2774
1971	29.0	4257	3878
1972	22.9	4030	3435
1973	25.2	3928	4811
1974	22.0	4253	3508
1975	23.2	4580	3525
1976	22.2	4170	3649
1977	22.6	4271	4810
1978	25.6	4466	3336
1979	25.6	4016	3518
1980	30.0	3982	4718
1981	30.6	4208	2418
1982	16.0	2227	2514
1983	11.8	1728	1382
1984	15.0	2000	1150
1985	17.0	2200	2025
1986	18.2	2413	1976
1987	19.0	2425	2019
1988	19.8	2502	2158
1989	21.6	2600	2540
1990	28.1	2806	2449
1991	30.2	2928	2065
1992	32.6	2928	2296
1993	34.6	2928	2377

# LITERACY CORPS -1987-1993

*Budget, Service Years, and Training Entries*

FISCAL YEAR	BUDGET (in millions)*	Service Years	Training Entries
1987	2.0	250	430
1988	2.9	342	429
1989	2.8	335	291
1990	2.9	329	288
1991	4.6	444	314
1992	4.8	436	364
1993 (est)	5.0	430	326

**VISTA -- VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA**  
**FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS**

VISTA VOLUNTEER STRENGTH

FEDERAL COSTS PER VOLUNTEER

3,400

\$3,500

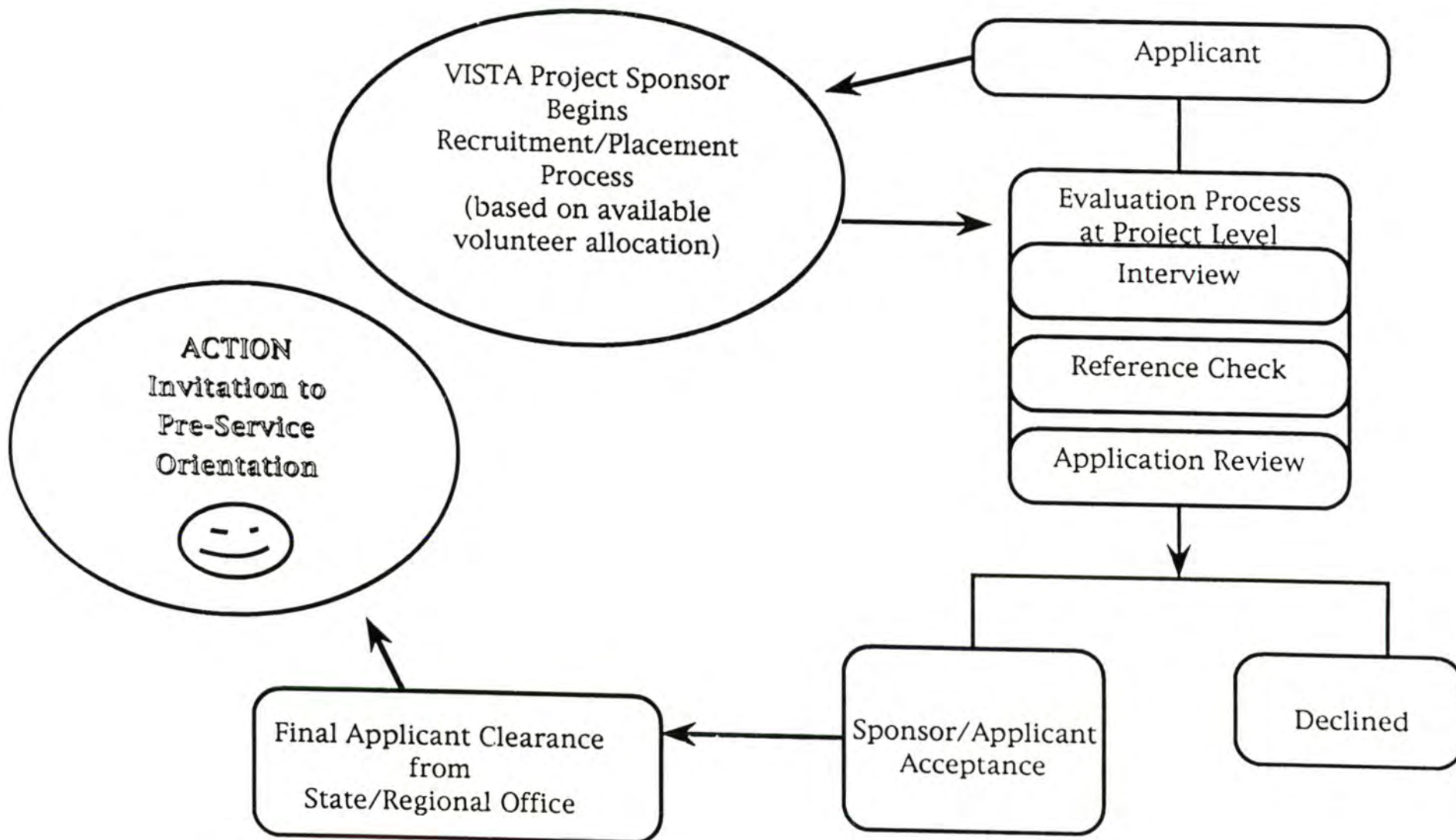
5,000

\$2,400

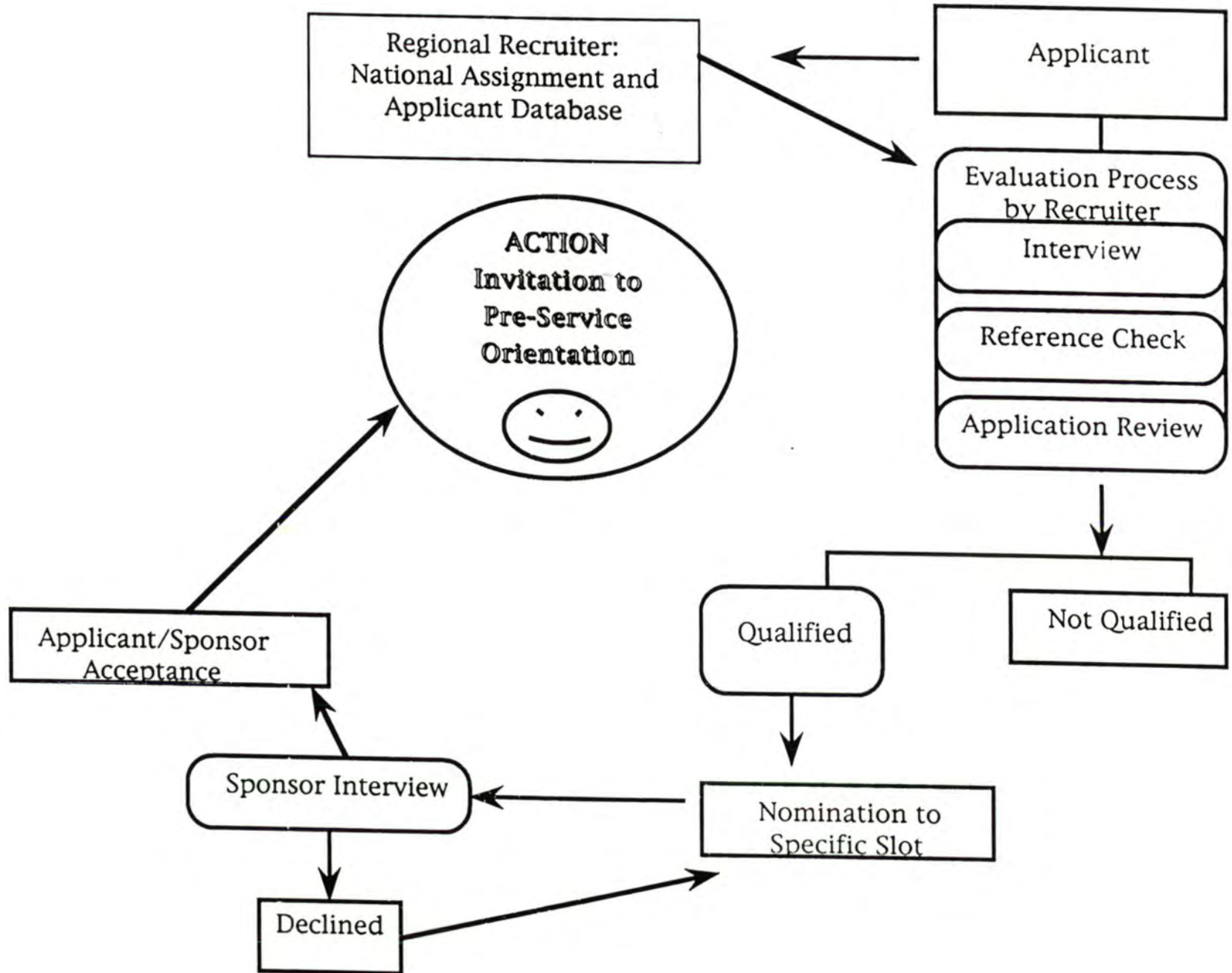
7,500

\$1,900

VISTA Recruited by Local Project



# VISTA Recruited by ACTION



## Selected Profiles of Service Activities

### • Colorado

State Contact: Richard Laughlin  
Colorado Department of Education  
(303) 866-6808

### K-12 Programs:

Colorado's Serve America program is addressing critical community needs by identifying schools and communities committed to implementing high quality service-learning programs and organizing them into "clusters." These clusters are receiving training, financial support, and technical assistance. They are also receiving assistance in defining collaborative working relationships with community-based, business-based, and governmental agencies and with other components of Colorado's state comprehensive plan. As a result of these activities, participating schools and communities can document that the quality of their programs, participating students' attendance in school, grade point averages, attitudes toward learning and service, foundation skills, and learning competencies should improve.

As one of eight Serve-America "Leader States", Colorado is focusing on three initiatives. First, the development of a western regional center for service-learning. The center's activities include developing networking strategies with other western states; providing consultants and on-site assistance to western states; inviting other states to visit model programs in Colorado; organization of a western regional student advisory board; expansion of the Interdisciplinary Resource Center located at the University of Northern Colorado to provide materials, a talent bank, and a regional networking system; planning collaboratively with regional representatives to host a regional conference; and coordinating with national clearinghouses to share expertise, collaborate on newsletters, produce teleconferences, and share materials and strategies. The second focus is on middle level education. This involves linking Serve-America with Carnegie's Turning Points Initiative, and enhancing the middle level service-learning field with materials, expertise and strategies for incorporating service-learning into curriculum and school structure. The third focus is linking service-learning with the New Standards Project, Re:Learning (Coalition of Essential Schools), and Comprehensive Health Initiative.

## **Full-time Service Programs:**

1. Florida Conservation Corps, Christmas  
At this location the corps will engage in a wetland plant nursery project to help preserve existing wetlands. Contact: Frank Phelan 813/461-2990
2. Palm Beach Urban Conservation Corps, Palm Beach
3. Greater Miami Service Corps, Miami  
This corps has opened a satellite office in the area devastated by Hurricane Andrew in order to assist in the rebuilding efforts. Contact: Barbara Jordan 305/638-6927
4. Fort Lauderdale Conservation Corps, Ft. Lauderdale  
Contact: Jarrett Jordan 305/468-1590

## **•Indiana**

**State Contact: Jack Wood McKillip**  
**Governor's Voluntary Action Program**  
**(317) 232-2504**

## **K-12 Programs:**

The State of Indiana has awarded Serve-America subgrants to 28 schools, school districts, and community based organizations. Although their approaches to service-learning are varied, there are shared objectives: renewing the ethic of civic responsibility and empowering students to identify and address real issues in their own communities. An example of this is Richmond, Indiana's Hibberd Middle School where students will work with a local community center and the police department's DARE drug prevention personnel to develop and implement a drug education program for elementary school students. A second project is St. Joseph County's Youth Service bureau 70001 Program, which will involve young people in work with patients at the Northern Indian State Developmental Center who suffer from various forms of mental retardation. Students will help implement the patient's treatment plans, and learn about the cause of retardation, which include drug and alcohol abuse.

## **Higher Ed Programs:**

**• Indiana Consortium for Voluntary Service**  
Earlham College/Indiana University Center on Philanthropy  
Indianapolis, IN

CNCS monies support a state-wide effort to provide training/leadership development, and subgrants to involve many more college students on more campuses in community service. In addition, Earlham College has several community service projects including a comprehensive partnership with Test Middle School involving students and faculty from several departments.

- **Ball State University**  
Muncie, IN

Ball State University has a program that involves 300-500 Teachers College students in service activities through their teacher training curriculum.

- **Center for Social Concerns at the University of Notre Dame**  
South Bend, IN

The University of Notre Dame has several programs, notably one that involves students in advocacy and service on issues of homelessness. They have received CNCS funding through the Indiana Consortium.

There are several other programs throughout the state. State coordinating efforts have really gathered momentum in the past year.

- **Illinois**

**State Contact: Allyson Zedler, Director**  
**Office of Volunteer Action**  
**(312) 814-5220**

### **K-12 Programs:**

The State of Illinois has constructed its Serve-America programs into two phases: I.) statewide demonstration projects and II.) subgrantee programs. An example of a phase I project includes "Project Success." There are six "Project Success" sites across Illinois that are designed to deliver comprehensive services to youth and incorporate a youth volunteer component. The majority of the programs have chosen an intergenerational model called Illinois READS which involves retired senior citizens who read to 3rd graders and then jointly perform service projects for the community. Other phase I projects are coordinated by the American Red Cross, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Prevention resource Center, and the Cooperative Extension Service.

Under phase II, 32 program models were funded. Of the 32 models, 22 are school-based and involve young people volunteering as part of their school-work. For example, students in two middle schools are acting as "Problem Solvers" who identify problems in their neighborhoods, brainstorm solutions and work to implement their solutions. In the Chicago area, the Constitutional Rights Foundation is helping to incorporate service learning in government classes at

2. For information on local corps programs which are receiving CNCS funding, contact: Andrea Lasky 603/228-9500

### • Pennsylvania

**State Contact: John Briscoe, Director**

**PennSERVE: The Governor's Office on Citizen Service  
(717) 787-1971**

### **K-12 Programs:**

Pennsylvania, another Serve-America "Leader State", is building a self-sustaining system of service. Through a public-private partnership, they are offering a three tiered system of grants to over 300 schools and community organizations. Training evaluation and support systems will be greatly strengthened through five new initiatives, including a newly created Pennsylvania Service Corps. Pennsylvania is building on almost five years of experience in operating grant, training and support systems to schools. Their Serve-America initiative includes community-based organizations and adult volunteer programs, and focuses student service on three major themes - youth as resources for economic and community development, intergenerational programs, and youth service and restructuring.

Pennsylvania's "Leader State" activities are grouped into three components. The first, the Center for Service Learning and School Change builds on Pennsylvania's Regional Fellows Program, linking it with the state's Re-Learning initiative and the new "outcomes-based" policy; build a regional network of service learning, educational restructuring groups; and work closely with school districts on strategic planning. The second element is the Pennsylvania Institute for Environmental and Service Learning. This Institute presently offers a series of annual workshops which reached over 200 teachers in 1991-92, and, as a result of foundation support, supported a mini-grant program for schools interested in linking different service learning projects. The Institute has been approved to offer a basic for-credit course for teachers and a six course "certificate" program in service learning. Commission funding is assisting in continuing the basic workshop program and expanding its for-credit certificate program.

Also, funds are being used to assist in the launching of a major effort in linking service-learning to vocational education. The third component, the Pennsylvania Intergenerational Consortium provides workshops, teacher training, technical assistance, written materials and evaluation assistance to PennServe's attempt to build a system of service.

Corpsmembers spend their mornings in academic instruction at the high school and the afternoons engaged in conservation or service projects.

**Worcester Community Action Council, Worcester**

This corps focuses on environmental issues, neighborhood development, handicapped accessibility and human services.

**ROCA Revere Project, Revere**

This corps focuses its outreach efforts on Southeast Asian gang members and involves them in a mix of service and conservation work.

**•New Hampshire**

**State Contact: Ray Worden**  
**New Hampshire Job Training Council**  
**(603) 228-9500**

**K-12 Programs:**

To ensure a comprehensive K-12 experience, New Hampshire is developing models that further character and citizenship. Toward this end, the State is administering a comprehensive plan to enhance teacher education in community service, provide state level technical assistance to local schools in developing quality community service projects, and distribute mini-grants to local educational institutions and community based organizations for implementation of models. New Hampshire's approach focuses on four key community service issues: 1.) meeting real, human needs in local communities; 2.) increasing commitment to civic responsibility and community building among youth and adult volunteers; 3.) meeting environmental preservation needs to help protect New Hampshire's landscape; and 4.) recognition of schools as integral parts of communities.

**Higher Ed Programs:**

Dartmouth College has a long-standing community service program that places students in a variety of service positions ranging from development work in Third World countries to literacy tutoring with young children.

**Full-time Service Programs:**

1. New Hampshire Conservation Corps

Work projects involve improvements to public lands by improving trails, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities throughout the state.

Contact: Steve Boisvert 603/826-4301

**VISTA SUMMER ASSOCIATES  
FACT SHEET**

**Program:** As part of the Administration's economic stimulus package, \$1.2 million will be transferred from the Commission on National and Community Service to ACTION to support 600 VISTA Summer Associates. These individuals, primarily 18-25 years old, will work full-time along with full-year VISTA Volunteers for a period of 8-10 weeks addressing the needs of children at risk primarily from low-income families.

**Service Activities:** VISTA summer associates will focus on the broad needs of these children, including: building houses through Habitat for Humanity; serving as tutors in literacy programs with Literacy Volunteers of America and Laubach Literacy International; providing supportive services within shelters or transitional housing for the homeless, in conjunction with affiliates of the National Coalition for the Homeless; and serving with regional Rural Community Assistance Projects in surveys and outreach related to a lack of potable water and waste water systems, and other environmental health issues.

**Cost:** The Summer Associate Program will cost \$1.2 million, or approximately \$2,000 per volunteer. In addition to payments to volunteers, some projects will receive support funds for supervision, transportation, and related costs. ACTION will administer the activity at no additional cost.

**Benefits to Service Participants:** VISTA Summer Associates engaged in service on a full-time basis will receive: a payment averaging \$620 per month to cover living expenses; on-site training and skill development in a variety of technical and other areas; a meaningful service opportunity, an experience that will translate to a life of service; coverage under FECA and Tort claims; and ongoing support and supervision from a variety of local organizations addressing critical social and economic needs.

**Other Information:** (1) VISTA Summer Associates will be recruited locally from the low-income communities being served as well as from ACTION's national recruitment system. (2) The programs will last from 8-10 weeks over the summer, with variation reflecting local community needs. (3) Approximately 30-60 projects will be supported around the country averaging 10-20 VISTA Associates each.

March 10, 1993  
ACTION/VISTA Office  
202/606-4845



## **Full-time Service Programs: —**

**City Year (Boston):** An innovative, diverse "urban Peace Corps," City Year is a national service model supported by the Commission on National and Community Service and the private sector. The program enrolls over 200 diverse youth ages 17 to 24 in full-time service in exchange for a \$5,000 post-service scholarship. Contact: Alan Khazer at (617) 451-0699.

### **YouthBuild Boston, Boston**

Work projects involve renovating abandoned buildings, energy conservation, and the testing of soil for toxins.

### **Lawrence Youth Commission, Lawrence**

This corps brings intergenerational and interracial groups together to repair homes destroyed by arson.

### **Old Colony YMCA Services Corp: City Pride**

Work projects focus on beautification, conservation and maintenance projects in downtown Brockton and in Housing Authority developments.

### **Berkshire Training and Employment Board, Pittsfield**

This corps trains young women in non-traditional occupations, e.g., conservation work.

### **Hull Public Schools, Hull**

To Jack Lew  
Date 8/11 Time 2:37P

**WHILE YOU WERE OUT**

M. Bill Cochran  
of Cong. Montgomery  
Phone 225 9166

Area Code	Number	Extension
TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN <input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT <input type="checkbox"/>

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message Meeting w/ VA  
from MS

would like  
to meet w/ ejs

Operator KE



AMPAD  
EFFICIENCY®

23-021 - 200 SETS  
23-421 - 400 SETS

CARBONLESS

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

- Eli met w/ Joint Chiefs  
working w/ them
- Summary of Service
- Preparing Analysis
- want to work w/ you committee
- will call