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Thought you
might be interested in
the results of the
summer program run
through the Service Corps.
Keep up the good work
on national service.

Regards,
Diane Jackson

ANSWERING THE CALL: THE DC SERVICE CORPS' SUMMER OF CHANGE 1993

While Congress struggled this summer to create the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, 51 Washington, D.C. young people worked side-by-side to create a better community through service. The DC Service Corps answered President Clinton's call to service with its own version of the White House's Summer of Service Program.

The goals for the DC Service Corps' Summer of Change were:

- to create positive exposure of service and service organizations in Washington, D.C.;
- to help young people develop leadership characteristics, as well as practical and "real world" applicable skills;
- to make the Summer of Change experience a positive experience that meets the needs of the young people volunteering and the communities in which they are working.

The DC Service Corps' Summer of Change proved itself as an exciting and innovative national service program model. Community-based organizations worked together, across project lines and with the support of the DC Service Corps, in the true sense of community involvement and national service.

The goals of the Summer of Change were successfully accomplished through the service provided by the young people during this six week program. More than 10,400 hours of direct service were logged by the DC Service Corps' Summer of Change Corpsmembers during the program. Of that time, 6,160 hours were spent on education-related projects; 3,550 hours on providing human services; 400 hours in community improvement; 15 hours towards conservation and the environment; and 275 hours meeting other community needs. The remaining 1,850 hours were spent in orientation, training, and reflection for the volunteers.

As participants in the DC Service Corps' Summer of Change, 51 DC youth logged more than 12,000 hours of community service, impacting at least 1,000 younger children. As Corpsmembers, they:

- volunteered as teachers' aides in the Shaw Neighborhood and the City Lights School, acting as tutors and mentors, and assisting in project and lesson planning;
- developed a Young African-American Females Program, acting as positive role models for girls between the ages of 8-13;
- organized and led a visual arts program for children in the Marshall Heights Neighborhood;
- taught 8-14 year-olds alternative summertime activities such as tennis and soccer;
- worked in conjunction with 12-15 year-olds at the Frederick Douglass Community Center, SE to develop programs for 5-6 year-olds and tutor in language arts and science;
- developed and integrated service-learning curriculum in pilot DC Public Schools;
- taught at-risk children sports, arts and crafts, self-esteem, and conflict resolution in conjunction with Camp Fire Boys and Girls and the Community of Hope;
- performed as camp leaders, recreational aides, landscapers for new coop tenant houses, medical assistants for pediatric patients, GED tutors, and organizers of neighborhood recycling projects.

"I feel like I've found a family away from home," DC Service Corps Summer of Change team member Niki Thomas told an audience of Senators, young people, and celebrities at a forum this summer. "We're all different, but we have one thing in common -- the desire to change our community."

PROJECT RECRUITMENT AND PARTICIPANT SELECTION:

As the lead agency for Washington, D.C., the DC Service Corps coordinated and acted as chief administrative body for this innovative national service model. Working in partnership with seven community-based organizations across the city, the DC Service Corps helped to support, develop and implement site placements to enable 51 young people to serve their communities.

All of the projects selected as sites for this summer corps were developed by and with the communities and young people involved. They grew out of necessity, fulfilling the needs of each respective community. One of the key achievements of the DC Service Corps' Summer of Change was that this model brought community-based programs together, across project lines and with the support of the DC Service Corps, in the true sense of community involvement and national service.

Once approved by the DC Service Corps, the community-based organizations hosting project sites assumed responsibility for recruiting and selecting young people, from within the communities and local colleges and universities, to participate in the six week summer pilot. The 51 young people who participated as volunteers in the DC Service Corps' Summer of Change program represent a broad diversity of backgrounds and experiences which truly enhanced the success of the overall program. For a complete demographic breakdown of the DC Service Corps' Summer of Change, please see Appendix A.

STIPEND AND POST-SERVICE BENEFIT:

The DC Service Corps' Summer of Change was a six week program, lasting from July 5 to August 13, 1993. For six weeks of work, each summer corps member received a weekly stipend of \$125. Upon completing the program, each summer corps member received a \$500 post-service benefit award to be used for furthering their academic or career goals.

TRAINING AND GROUP ACTIVITIES:

All community-based organizations hosting Summer of Change participants were required to provide on-site orientation and training, follow-up skills training, and reflection and feedback sessions with their young volunteers. Roughly 18,050 hours were devoted to participant development this summer.

In addition to the community support of the young people, the DC Service Corps provided several opportunities for the young people to come together as a corps. An orientation focusing on the mission and goals of the program, as well as communication and conflict resolution skills, was provided for all corps members. Additional skills training around diversity issues was provided mid-way through the program by the United Way of America and the Nestle's Very Best In Youth Program. Also, DC Service Corps staff provided additional reflection and feedback at project site visits throughout the summer.

The Summer of Change participants came together to support and promote community service in Washington, D.C. at the HFStival at RFK Stadium over the July 4th weekend. Later in July, participants converged on Capitol Hill to support fellow corps member Niki Thomas as she testified before Congress. Finally, Summer of Change participants came together on August 13 for an awards ceremony recognizing their achievements.

THE PROJECTS:

Following are highlights of projects and accomplishments of the DC Service Corps' Summer of Change:

CAMP FIRE BOYS AND GIRLS:

Ten young people from local high schools and colleges served as Junior Counselors and Counselors at two campsites in the city. More than 100 children filtered through each camp on a weekly basis. The Summer of Change volunteers mentored these young children, many of whom could be considered "at-risk", teaching sports and arts and crafts, as well as advising them on how to get along with one another and take pride in themselves.

CITY LIGHTS

City Lights School is a non-profit organization that works with students with learning disabilities and some behavioral problems. The program provides students with academic remediation, pre-vocational skills training, and recreational activities. The Summer of Change participants worked with 25 of these youths, acting as teachers' assistants, classroom mentors and group leaders, and field trip coordinators. They also provided individual tutoring for students with reading disabilities. At the end of each day, volunteers reflected on the day's activities and gave each other performance feedback.

"My Summer of Change job has allowed me to work with young people with some reading disabilities," said Wendy Jenkins, a Summer of Change participant volunteering at City Lights. "By doing so, I have made a career choice to work with children with learning disabilities. This has been an experience that has affected my life."

COMMUNITY OF HOPE:

Each Summer of Change participant was given responsibility for tutoring and developing activities for a group of 10-12 younger students. They served as a partner with one other teacher. An extensive staff training and weekly staff meetings were required hours of learning. One project that emerged from the work with neighborhood youth was a club called "Teens Against Drugs and Violence" which encourages junior high-aged students to act as mentors to younger children, teaching them to stand up against peer pressure. The project, which was started by a Summer of Change participant and her class, will continue into the school year.

"The DC Service Corps' Summer of Change program offers young adults to show what service means in action," said Pebbles Branham, a Summer of Change participant at the Community of Hope.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMUNITY CENTER:

At the Frederick Douglass Community Center in SE Washington, young people worked to improve youth and community services through the center's summer programming. The young people worked to provide a cleaner community, better child care, and improved summer programming for 8-12 year olds. In addition to DCSC activities, all Frederick Douglass volunteers received a two hour orientation on site, weekly personal growth and development activities, and structured reflection and feedback sessions.

"This has been a great experience for me, just knowing that I, Tanya Rogers, am doing something to better my community," said one Summer of Change participant volunteering at Frederick Douglass. "I am working with younger kids, being a role model and a leader for them, making sure they don't go down the wrong road, but the right one."

IDEALS PROJECT:

The IDEALS (Innovative Democratic Education And Learning through Service) Project is working with several schools and teachers in Washington, D.C. to develop service-learning training materials to be incorporated into the regular curriculum. Summer of Change participants worked with staff of this project to develop lesson plans that include "youth voice."

"From being involved, I gained the experience of working in a team and working for the community. Now that I'm out of the Corps, I plan to open my own community center," said Julian Peterson, a Summer of Change participant volunteering with the IDEALS Project. "This community center is not going to be based on sports, but mostly on the talents of the kids in the community."

MARSHALL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, INC.

Summer of Change participants created and implemented positive summer activities for and with young people in the Ward 7 area of Washington, D.C. The team implemented programs at a Boys and Girls club, a junior high school, and four area recreation centers. Team members created a Young African American Females Program, a Boys to Men Program, an Alternatives to Basketball Program (i.e. tennis, soccer, track, volleyball), and a Visual Arts Program.

The team also met daily for reflections, discussions, training, and group development. The team took an active role in educating policy makers about the benefits of youth service through the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

"The MHCDO Summer of Change Team consisted of 10 people," said team leader Scott Cooper, a senior at Duke University. "Personal development is difficult to measure, but based on attitudes shown and comments made as the six weeks went on, the participants learned much about responsibility, planning, team work, and being positive role models. The team members also became more aware of the challenges that our generation will have to face, as well as the importance of community involvement."

THE NEIGHBORS PROJECT:

A team of George Washington University students and a team of Shaw Neighborhood young people spent the summer working on projects with a direct impact and benefit in the Shaw Neighborhood. Each participant spent half of the week independently working at a local community center or agency, and the remaining half of the week in group projects. Training sessions, which were held once a week, allowed time for reflection and confronted such issues as race and class differences.

"Our program promoted three primary objectives: to develop a sense of community responsibility and leadership in the participants; to support the work of and foster strong ties to organizations concerned with social issues in Shaw; and to create personal ties and partnerships between GW students and young people in Shaw," said team leader Jeff Rickert.

APPENDIX A:

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN:

The 51 young people who participated as volunteers in the DC Service Corps' Summer of Change program represented a broad diversity of backgrounds and experiences. The demographic breakdown for the corps members is as follows:

Gender:

•Male:	45%	(23 participants)
•Female:	55%	(28 participants)

Age:

•Under 18:	15%	(8 participants)
•18-21:	71%	(36 participants)
•22-25:	12%	(6 participants)
•26-35:	2%	(1 participant)

Race/Ethnicity:

•White:	15%	(8 participants)
•African-American:	81%	(41 participants)
•Asian-American:	2%	(1 participant)
•Latin American:	2%	(1 participant)

Educational Status:

•High School:	15%	(8 participants)
•College:	38%	(19 participants)
•Graduate School:	4%	(2 participants)
•Out-of-school:	43%	(22 participants)

Other Characteristics:

•Single Parent:	18%	(9 participants)
•Homeless:	4%	(2 participants)
•Economically Disadvantaged:	41%	(21 participants)
•Educationally Disadvantaged:	8%	(4 participants)