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Urban  
Corps  
Expansion  
Project

Suite 300  
399 Market Street  
Philadelphia PA 19106

215/592/9099  
fax 215/592/0069

A collaboration between:

Public/Private Ventures  
Michael A. Bailin  
President

The National  
Association of Service  
and Conservation Corps  
Kathleen Selz  
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Youth Corps Friends and Colleagues

FROM: Michael Bailin, President, Public/Private Ventures (P/PV)  
Kathleen Selz, Executive Director, National Association of Service and  
Conservation Corps (NASCC)

RE: Enclosed Report from the Urban Corps Expansion Project

DATE: January 21, 1993

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The Urban Corps Expansion Project, a collaboration of P/PV and NASCC, is concluding its third year with new urban corps up and running in twelve cities--Albany, Dallas, Durham, El Paso, Flint, Fort Lauderdale, Kansas City, Miami, Milwaukee, Newark, Rochester and Savannah. On any given day, over 500 young people in these cities are serving their communities and continuing their educations. Now that program development is well underway, we will be moving forward on the UCEP research agenda--the first comprehensive effort to assess the urban corps intervention and help us understand how, why and for whom the youth corps experience makes a difference.

To provide you with a brief picture of the UCEP corps' accomplishments, we are pleased to enclose *Good Practices in UCEP Corps: A Report from the UCEP '92 Conference*. While it reflects the 1992 annual UCEP conference, the report is also designed to share ideas about program practices implemented in UCEP corps with practitioners, supporters and others interested in the development of service and conservation corps.

We hope you and your colleagues find the report helpful, and we look forward to hearing from you with any comments or questions.

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# Good Practices In UCEP Corps

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*A Report  
from the  
UCEP '92  
Conference:  
Strengthening  
the Corps  
Community*

The Urban Corps Expansion Project, designed to test the conviction that youth corps are among the most promising interventions for out-of-school young adults, emphasizes the values that have traditionally separated conservation and service corps from other youth employment and training programs. These include service to the larger community and a sense of internal community with which corpsmembers identify and which they use as a base for personal growth. UCEP corps, in addition, are distinguished from many earlier corps by the emphasis they place on using the corps environment as the basis for rich educational experiences for corpsmembers, particularly in integrated work and learning.

The UCEP model includes goals and standards related to these values and a framework that promotes the good practices that can help corps achieve those goals. One aim of the UCEP '92 Conference: Strengthening the Corps Community, held in Savannah June 10 to 13, 1992, was to explore some ways this model has taken tangible shape among the 12 UCEP corps. How, for example, are corps building a sense of community among the youth in their programs? What strategies are they using to increase the likelihood that corpsmembers will internalize the service ethic and benefit from doing so? What practices have they implemented that build on the principles of Practical Education for Citizenship and Employment (PECE)?

Although young—some are still less than a year old—UCEP corps have, in fact, already developed a number of innovative strategies and good practices. These practices have evolved in a variety of ways. Some happen because of the concerns and initiative of a single staff member. Others are one-time activities that occur when a corps creates or takes advantage of an opportunity. Still others are designed into the ongoing corps programs.

This report looks at UCEP corps' approaches and practices in four key areas—the corps as a community, the service ethic, practical education and preparing for life after the corps. Its aim is to share ideas: in many cases, what has been effective in one corps can be successfully translated to the particular circumstances of other corps.

Much of the material presented here was gathered at the UCEP '92 Conference, and that material was supplemented by reports from site visits by UCEP staff and follow-up conversations with corps staff. There is also material from two non-UCEP corps whose staff attended the conference and shared information about some of their programmatic practices.

Corps programs are constantly evolving, and some of the practices outlined here will have been modified since this information was collected. More details about any of these practices are available from the appropriate corps. Their addresses and phone numbers are listed at the end of the report.

*The Urban Corps Expansion  
Project  
399 Market Street, Suite 300  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
215-592-9099/ 215-592-0069 fax*

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# CONSERVATION AND SERVICE CORPS PROFILES

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Spring 1991

National Association of Service  
and Conservation Corps



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# YOUTH CAN!

The Newsletter of the National Association of Service & Conservation Corps

Volume III

December 1992

Issue 4



Crew from conference work project in Balboa Park, San Diego

## ***Corps Converge in San Diego for NASCC Conference***

Approximately 290 corpsmembers, corps staff and other youth conservation and service corps advocates gathered in San Diego on October 21-24 for the Seventh Annual NASCC Conference. The four day conference, hosted by Sam Duran and the Urban Corps of San Diego, featured the third annual Corpsmember Development Institute (CDI).

This year the CDI, coordinated by Luis Acosta, was planned by NASCC's Corpsmember Council Steering Committee, comprised of six current and former corpsmembers from across the country, along with four members from the host corps. A "Leadership - Some Key Ingredients" workshop was facilitated by Jan Hoffman, Pennsylvania Conservation Corps and Jim Klasen, Public/Private Ventures. Leadership skills and potential leadership opportunities were identified and ways of enhancing both were suggested. Corpsmembers reflected on opportunities and challenges of taking leadership in their own lives outside the corps. Other CDI workshops included Environmental Education, Fair Supervision, and Team Building. A Cultural Diversity workshop, was facilitated by Keith Philipson, Eckerd Family Youth Alternatives. After a discussion promoting knowledge, understanding and respect for the diverse cultural backgrounds and traditions of corpsmembers and staff, corpsmembers representing 17 corps created a "Unity Quilt".

*continued on page 3*

**The Honorable Paul McCloskey, Jr. addresses NASCC conferees**

