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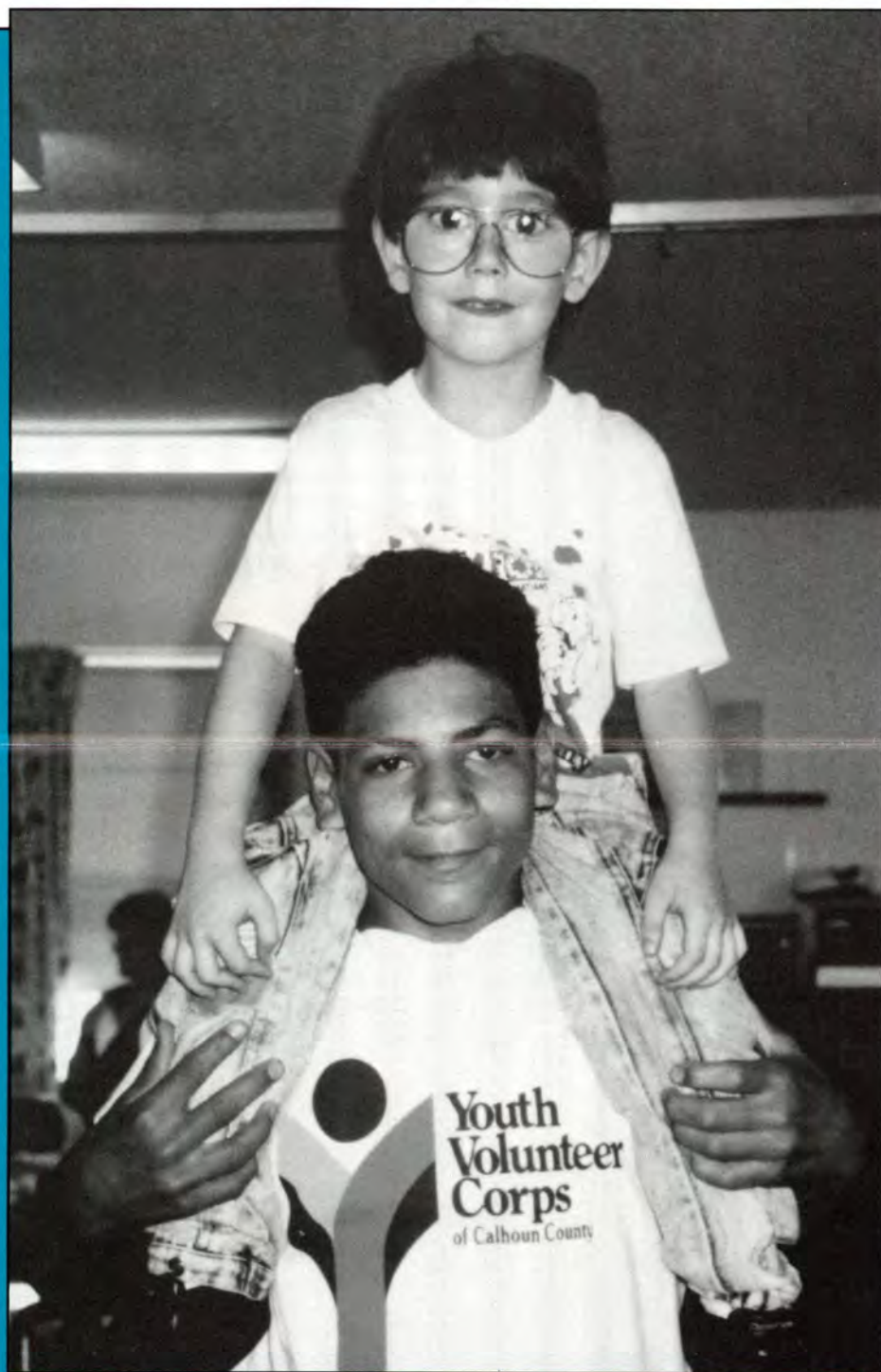
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REFLECTIONS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2 1992



Youth Volunteer Roger Holloway and Justin Hammick quickly become friends. The Southwestern Michigan Urban League sponsors the Youth Volunteer Corps of Calhoun County in Battle Creek.

ROLE MODELS

In the movie "Field of Dreams" there is a line, "Build it and they will come." For Elaine Woods, Project Coordinator for the Youth Volunteer Corps of Calhoun County in Battle Creek, MI, the line could be, "Plan it and they will volunteer."

One hundred and thirteen Youth Volunteers, ranging in age from 12 to 17, turned out for two four-week projects working with Camp Cereal City. Nearly two-thirds of the volunteers were young men.

The day camp, a summer recreation program for elementary school-age children, operated at eight camp sites throughout the city.

Teams of Youth Volunteers worked at the camp sites Monday through Thursday. The volunteers supervised the campers and served as positive role models for the younger children. As 13-year-old Ricky Gebhardt explains it, "We helped the kids play games and were there to be their friends."

"IT GIVES YOU A GOOD FEELING ABOUT YOURSELF TO KNOW THAT YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING GOOD FOR YOUR COMMUNITY."

On Fridays the Youth Volunteers visited and worked at a variety of other social service agencies, sampling volunteer opportunities with nursing homes and day care centers.

During the Friday projects, the volunteers saw first-hand how volunteers can help make a difference. Ricky says he learned to appreciate people of different ages through the visits. He especially liked going to see the elderly. "There was this one 90-year-old woman who remembered all these poems and stories she had written when she was young. She was pretty neat."

La'Kesha Williams, 13, participated in the program with her two brothers and a sister. She says she liked working with the kids at Camp Cereal City, but she especially enjoyed the Fridays she spent painting at Hope House, a facility for teenage mothers. "It was a lot of fun working with the other kids, and we did something to help other people."

Ty'Sheena Williams, 18, returned as a volunteer group leader, after participating in several Youth Volunteer Corps projects last summer and during the school year. She sums up why she thinks youth should volunteer: "It gives you a good feeling about yourself to know that you've done something good for your community." ♡

On playgrounds in Battle Creek, MI 113 Youth Volunteers contributed their time and energy to help make summer fun for the city's children.



IN THIS ISSUE

ROLE MODELS

DEAR JOURNAL...

THE YVC NETWORK



JEFF BEIERMANN, FOR THE CHRONICLE

Thirteen-year-old Tracy Morgan (right) spent part of her summer helping disabled young people, including Julie Nicholson, through the Youth Volunteer Corps of Omaha, part of a nationwide program that aims to teach kids the ethic of community service while supplying charities with a fresh crop of energetic volunteers.

Helping Kids Learn the Virtues of Volunteering

New group hopes charity work will teach youngsters about their communities; program to expand to 40 cities

By KRISTIN A. GOSS

Reprinted with permission of *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, Washington, DC

IT'S A HOT SUMMER DAY, and like many other kids Brandie Jenkins and Sean Bender are spending the morning at one of the most popular attractions here, the Henry Doorly Zoo.

But Brandie, 12 years old, and Sean, 13, are not just visitors; they are also volunteers who have given up the lazy days of summer to spend 30 hours a week helping a local non-profit. Today, they have come to show the birds and the beasts to severely disabled young people who receive therapy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

"Sometimes you want to do things you don't get paid for," says Brandie. "I want to do this again next summer—it's really fun," chimes in Sean.

Brandie, Sean, and 116 others spent part of their summer as members of the Youth Volunteer Corps of Omaha, a year-round program sponsored by the Mayor's office that is trying to give local kids a civic education and an alternative to hanging out in shopping malls or on the streets.

Omaha's is one of 13 community-service brigades under the umbrella of the Youth Volunteer Corps of America, a new non-profit with headquarters in Kansas City, Mo. The national group is in the midst of assembling volunteer corps in 40 cities nationwide—from Bellevue, Wash., to Vero Beach, Fla.

A principal goal of corps organizers is to bring young people of different races and socio-economic backgrounds together in the hope that they will gain a greater appreciation for the growing diversity of their communities.

For that and other reasons, the YVCA and its 29-year-old founder and president, David Battey, have already won a \$1-million vote of confidence from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

"We were impressed by David's leadership potential," says Joel J. Orosz, who coordinates Kellogg's philanthropy and volunteerism program. "He obvious-

ly is a person who has a strong sense of mission and a lot of drive and ambition to make that work."

This summer, in Omaha alone, young people put together disaster-preparedness kits for the American Red Cross, served meals to low-income elderly people at the Bishop Moore Over 60 Center, tended gardens at the zoo, bathed homeless animals at the Nebraska Humane Society, and planted flowers and painted benches at apartment buildings owned by the Omaha Housing Authority.

Mr. Battey says the local corps aim to provide charities and public agencies with new, energetic volunteers, while promoting a "lifetime ethic of service" among the young people. The corps offer both full-time, two- to ten-week programs during the summer and more-limited after-school projects throughout the rest of the year. The kids receive no pay for their work.

Idea Based on a College Thesis

A Kansas City native, Mr. Battey decided to test the Youth Volunteer Corps model there in 1986, the year after he graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts. He had written his senior thesis on national service and concluded that young people represented a huge, untapped source of volunteer labor.

"No one came into my junior high school, or my high school, and really challenged me to do voluntary service to help people in need in my community," says Mr. Battey, who was introduced to volunteering by a church he joined in the eighth grade. His volunteer experience has included tutoring inner-city children while he was in junior high and high school and, later, helping to build an addition to a school in a rural Kenyan village.

Two years after creating the Kansas City program, Mr. Battey began a national expansion effort under the aegis of Youth Service America, a Washington-based advocacy group. This past May, the YVCA was spun off

Continued on Page 10

Group Trying to Create Volunteer Corps for Young People in 40 Cities

Continued from Page 8

as an independent non-profit with four staff members and an annual budget of about \$250,000. For a \$400 annual fee, the national office provides the local corps with technical assistance, advice on how to raise money from private and government sources, program evaluation, access to reasonably priced insurance, a national conference, and help with sharing information about their programs with the local press and other corps.

Mr. Battey estimates that since he started the Kansas City program in 1986, young people in that and the other local corps have contributed more than 290,000 hours to service projects. This summer alone, 860 kids contributed more than 100,000 hours.

Program Evaluation Planned

Mr. Battey says his organization has hired a consultant to evaluate what impact the volunteer experience had on young people's self-esteem, attitude toward their community, and ability to work with people of different backgrounds.

This summer, 66 per cent of corps members were white, 29 per cent were black, 2 per cent were Asian-American, 1.5 per cent were Hispanic, and 1 per cent were American Indian.

The local corps generally are sponsored by established charities—the American Red Cross, the Urban League, the United Way, and the YMCA, to name several. The Omaha program is the only one to be sponsored by a city and its Mayor.

"Everyone talks about youth really being the future," says Mayor P. J. Morgan, a Republican. "And at the same time, it sounds good, but what's the follow through?"

Mr. Morgan—whose 12-year-old son, Jay, participated in the first of two summer sessions—helps the youth corps recruit in the schools and visits the kids at their volunteer sites. "It's summertime," the

Mayor says. "Kids are sitting around watching TV. Most of the time both of the parents are working, or are pretty involved. So this really fills a gap, plus gives them a feeling of, I'm doing something really good."

"Kids are getting a bad rap, with gangs and drugs and everything," says Ronald G. Abdouch, the Omaha program director. "There needed to be a way to spotlight the good things that kids can do."

This is the second year for the Omaha effort, whose creation was spearheaded by Harold W. Andersen, then the publisher of the *Omaha World-Herald*, who is also Mr. Battey's uncle.

Mr. Abdouch and the group's associate director, Kandi K. Srb, recruit volunteers from 30 junior high and high schools and assemble 10 teams of six young people for each of two summer sessions. Each team stays with its assigned non-profit throughout the program.

"A lot of agencies have never really considered youth as a source of volunteer labor," says Mr. Abdouch, a former campaign director for the United Way of the Midlands here. "We've been able to change some of those attitudes."

During the past two summers alone, the Omaha program has enlisted more than 200 young people, who have provided more than 21,000 hours of community service.

Intergenerational Activities

Volunteers at United Methodist Community Centers on the city's northeast side have served as mentors to low-income children and helped elderly people do crafts and compile oral histories of their lives, among other projects.

The kids say their work with the elderly has taught them to be patient and courteous. The older people, like Alice Butler, who is 71, say they appreciate the kids' work. "I understand these children haven't been around seniors much," she says. "I think it's good

for them, and it's good for us because it keeps us young."

Jesse J. Payne, the centers' executive director, says the six volunteers increased the size of his staff by 37 per cent "without costing us anything." Money that he otherwise would have spent to hire summer workers has been put toward much-needed repairs and maintenance, Mr. Payne says.

Racial Diversity a Challenge

But he sees another advantage: increased understanding between the white volunteers who were assigned to his group and the black young people who work there. "Like a lot of urban communities, Omaha is segmented along racial and economic lines," he says.

Mr. Abdouch admits that fulfilling the corps' goal of racial and economic diversity can be difficult. "A lot of low-income kids are those who would benefit most but are also the ones who need a job to buy school supplies," he says. What's more, he says, "there's a lot of pressure on these kids to buy a \$150 pair of Reeboks."

Nonetheless, Mr. Abdouch says the make-up of the Omaha summer programs has closely reflected that of the city. Among the volunteers, 8 per cent were black, 5 per cent Hispanic, 3 per cent Asian-American, and 2.5 per cent American Indian.

Mr. Abdouch says he tells kids that volunteer experience appeals to colleges and scholarship committees that are looking for well-rounded applicants, and to employers who want evidence that the young people can make a commitment to a task and work with a supervisor. "We try to stress the future with them, but a lot of them are simply more concerned about reality," he says, referring to many kids' need to earn money during the summer.

The youth volunteer corps aims to help kids as much as they help the charities by teaching such skills as decision making, cooperation,

and communication, as well as instilling values like citizenship, respect for diversity, and appreciation for community service, Mr. Abdouch says.

"I'm not saying all the projects don't have their boring moments, because they certainly do, but one thing that we stress with our agencies when they send in proposals to have kids during the summer is that they have some educational component in it," he says. "We won't send kids to an agency where they're just going to be stuffing envelopes."

The Omaha program received start-up grants from the city, a local school district, the Peter Kiewit Foundation here, and private contributors, including Mr. Andersen. Today it operates on an \$80,000 annual budget; revenue has included a \$50,000 grant from the federal volunteerism agency Action, proceeds from a talent show, and cash and in-kind contributions from local businesses.

One-quarter of the kids who participated in the summer of 1991 returned this year, Mr. Abdouch says, and two volunteers who participated in the first program this summer weren't ready to quit when the program ended.

Michael Pinkard, who is 13, and Dale Bender, 14, can be found each morning helping the janitor at a city-owned apartment building for elderly people and each afternoon doing office work there.

Michael, whose mother works two jobs that keep her away from home until after 10 p.m., says he continued volunteering because "I don't like staying at home a lot. I like to go places and be useful." He adds: "My mom is glad I'm not in the house."

Dale says his parents too are glad he's continuing to volunteer. "They think it's good that I found something to do on my own," he says, adding with a laugh: "They're proud it's something constructive instead of destructive."

Youth Volunteer Corps

A Proposal for National Service

Submitted Monday, December 14, 1992

Presented to:

President-elect Clinton's Transition Team
National Service Trust Committee
Bill Galston - Chairman
Robert Gordon
Adam Sohn

By:

Rich Davis, MD - Chairman of the Board
David Battey - President
Youth Volunteer Corps of America
1080 Washington St.
Kansas City, MO 64105
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INTRODUCTION

Although it is accepted that youth have a need to learn, it is less recognized, but equally true, that youth have a need to serve, to help others. Recognizing and nurturing this inherent good in school-age children and adolescents is long overdue. Through a national youth volunteer program, America can unlock a tremendous force for good, both for the young volunteers and for those they serve.

The Youth Volunteer Corps of America has created, currently operates, and is expanding nationally just such a program. And while serving in these programs, these young volunteers are developing through experiential learning a lifestyle for a lifetime - a lifestyle leading to self-esteem and appreciation for people of diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Serving *with* others of diverse backgrounds while serving others *of* diverse backgrounds is a successful way of preventing prejudice, unjustified fears and ethnic intolerance among America's youth. It leads to America at its best, as these involved youth then enter adulthood and the mainstream of American life.

The following outline of our proposal for a national Youth Volunteer Corps specifically encourages positive behaviors in the earlier years of school life, since many of the attitudes and characteristics among our young are implanted and operational by young adulthood.

Simply ask any parent, teacher or behavioral professional - if they had their choice in order to have the greatest impact on developing attitudes, values and lifestyles of youth, which of three age groups would they choose to work with: 11-14, 14-18, 18-22? We predict the answer would be nearly unanimous - 11-14. Our Youth Volunteer Corps, by design, works with youth from 11-18 years of age.

Through the YVC program there are numerous indirect benefits of importance to the Clinton Administration:

- * community revitalization
- * youth empowerment
- * school reform
- * youth employability
- * appreciation of diversity
- * improved community-school relations

YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS PROGRAM MODEL

A. Program Goals

1. To offer young people from diverse backgrounds between ages 11-18 rewarding volunteer opportunities that provide services to people in need in their communities.
2. To offer young people an opportunity to engage in service projects that are challenging, rewarding and educational.
3. To promote among young people and residents a greater understanding and appreciation for the diversity of their community by organizing volunteer groups with a spectrum of different ethnic and socio-economic participants.
4. To serve unmet needs of the community and its residents as determined locally.
5. To promote a lifetime ethic of service among young people through experiential learning.

B. Program Design

While each community's Youth Volunteer Corps program is tailored to meet unique community needs, the program consists of two fundamental components: an intensive summer component providing a sustained service experience and a school year component featuring frequent short-term service projects.

The School Year Component:

During the school year, young people from schools and youth groups throughout the community work on service projects during and after school, on weekends and during school breaks. During school year service projects, agencies and YVC staff conduct an orientation to the project and issue addressed. Reflection activities are also conducted to underscore the service experience of volunteers.

YVC Program Directors work closely with teachers to design and implement age-appropriate service projects and reflection activities correlating to subject matter. Service projects during and outside of class allow teachers to tie school curriculum to community service.

The Summer Component:

During the summer component, young people recruited by the Program Director volunteer for service projects designed by not-for-profit organizations in the community. Local volunteer centers assist the YVC in developing team projects. Youth Volunteers are assigned in six- to nine-member teams supervised by a trained Team Leader. Volunteers work on their projects Monday-Friday, generally 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for up to eight weeks. Volunteers are often provided with some lunch and transportation assistance.

An orientation at the beginning of each session allows volunteers to get to know each other and understand their responsibilities as members of the Youth Volunteer Corps. Development of a long-term service ethic is reinforced through on-going education and reflection.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS

Community Budget

Budget is based on the Pittsburgh metropolitan area with approximately 90,000 youth, grades seven to twelve in all public, private and parochial schools. Figures are for the third year of a YVC program with 90% of the targeted age group participating.

Staff

1 Director (30-40K salary range) BA or MA	\$35,000
1 Assistant Director (20-25K) BA	22,500
1 Project Developer (20-25K) BA	22,500
1 Clerical (14-18K)	16,000
(above 4 staff are housed at the local sponsoring organization)	
18 School Facilitators/summer Team Leaders (18-22K) BA (one/5,000 students, based in schools)	360,000
Benefits (20%)	<u>91,200</u>
	547,200

Program

Rent at local sponsoring organization	10,000
Rent at schools for facilitators	in-kind
Transportation in summer	30,000
Transportation in school year	30,000
Meals (most provided in-kind or through existing government programs)	20,000
T-shirts (for approximately 1,000 youth with more than 50 hours of service)	5,000
Recognition (\$1/youth involved)	81,000
Office Expenses	30,000
Printing and Copying	30,000
Postage	20,000
Telephone	5,000
Insurance	<u>5,000</u>
	266,000

<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>\$813,200</u>
	=====

Total number of youth involved	81,000
Total Hours	
288 summer youth (35 hrs/wk x 4 wks)	40,320
81,000 school year youth (5 hrs/youth/yr)	<u>405,000</u>
	445,320
Cost per youth involved	\$10.04
Cost per hour	\$ 1.83

YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS
Budget for National Headquarters

Staff

1 President (80-100K)	\$ 90,000
5 Vice Presidents: Field Operations, Training, Marketing, Evaluation, Administration (60-80K)	350,000
20 Field Organizers (1 per 5 communities) (35-45K)	800,000
10 Trainers (35-45K)	400,000
4 Marketing Assistants (25-35K)	120,000
5 Evaluators (35-45K)	200,000
3 Financial (35-45K)	120,000
20 Clerical (14-18K)	320,000
Benefits (20%)	<u>480,000</u>
	2,880,000

Program

Rent (200 sq. ft./person x \$15/sq. ft.)	189,000
Travel (\$20,000/yr x 40 traveling staff)	800,000
Office Expenses	75,000
Printing and Copying	450,000
Postage	30,000
Telephone	120,000
Conferences and Trainings	<u>150,000</u>
	1,814,000

Total Budget

4,694,000
=====

YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS

Overall National Budget

Budget is based on the 100 largest metropolitan areas having approximately 6.4 million youth, grades seven to twelve in all public, private and parochial schools. Figures are for the third year of the YVC program with 90% of the targeted age group participating and a minimum of ten teams per summer session in each metropolitan area.

Staff

100 Directors (30-40K salary range) BA or MA	\$3,500,000
50 Assistant Directors (20-25K) BA (only in top 50 metro areas--pop. over 750,000)	1,125,000
100 Project Developers (20-25K) BA	2,250,000
100 Clerical (14-18K)	1,600,000
1,280 school facilitators/summer Team Leaders (18-22K) BA (one/5,000 students, based in schools)	25,600,000
Benefits (20%)	6,815,000
Summer Team Leaders (\$7/hr x 10 wks x 40 hrs/wk)	2,352,000
	<u>43,242,000</u>

Program

Rent at local sponsoring organization	1,000,000
Rent at schools for facilitators	in-kind
Transportation in summer	3,000,000
Transportation in school year	3,000,000
Meals (most provided in-kind or through existing government programs)	2,000,000
T-shirts (for approximately 100,000 youth with more than 50 hours of service)	500,000
Recognition (\$1/youth involved)	5,760,000
Office Expenses	3,000,000
Printing and Copying	3,000,000
Postage	2,000,000
Telephone	500,000
Insurance	500,000
	<u>24,260,000</u>

Total Staff and Program Budget	67,502,000
Budget for National Headquarters	4,694,000
<u>Overall National Budget</u>	<u>\$72,196,000</u>

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Total number of youth involved	5,760,000
Total Hours	
21,120 summer youth (35 hrs/wk x 4 wks)	2,956,800
5,760,000 school year youth (5 hrs/youth/yr)	28,800,000
	<u>31,756,800</u>

Cost per youth involved	\$12.53
Cost per hour	\$ 2.27

CONCLUSION

An operating model of this proposal for a national youth corps for youth ages 11-18 is already in operation in 20 cities, and is expanding exponentially from coast to coast. The model effectively combines the best of school-based service learning, youth corps programs and Volunteer Center capacity building. It is a proven concept currently under professional evaluation for effectiveness.

The YVC is remarkably modest in cost. By implementing the program through our school system, it would be available to all of America's youth; it could be implemented on any appropriate cost or time basis; and it would provide the basis for a pool of experienced young adults for incorporation into an 18-22 age group college loan pay-back program, part of that pay-back completed by becoming trained team leaders for summer YVC programs.

The YVC model is uniquely qualified to positively impact community and school systems in this country, while empowering youth to make a difference in their communities today and tomorrow.



Youth Volunteer Corps of America Fact Sheet

* *Mission*

To increase opportunities for young people to participate in organized service programs that address community needs and develop a lifetime ethic of service.

* *Purpose*

The Youth Volunteer Corps of America is a national network of proven, cost-effective programs involving young people from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds in sustained community service. Local YVC programs actively involve youth, ages 11-18, in volunteer projects that combat many of this nation's pressing social issues like homelessness, illiteracy and the environment. Since 1987, young people participating in YVC programs across the country have contributed almost 300,000 hours of local community service.

* *Services Offered*

YVCA offers a comprehensive list of affiliate services primarily emphasizing:

1. Technical Assistance and Fund Development
2. Program Development and Enhancement
3. Policy Advocacy and National Collaboration

* *Origin*

The first Youth Volunteer Corps program was launched in 1986 in Kansas City. In 1988, the Youth Volunteer Corps began its nationwide expansion effort. The successful development of additional programs led, in 1990, to a \$1 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to rapidly expand the Youth Volunteer Corps network. Youth Volunteer Corps of America, Inc. is an independent, national non-profit organization headquartered in Kansas City, Mo.

* *Management*

YVCA is managed by a national Board of Directors with Dr. Rich Davis, founder of K.C. Masterpiece barbecue products, serving as Board Chairman. David Battey is President of YVCA. Monica Meeks is the Director of Marketing and Communications. Joseph Gonzales is a consultant to YVCA in a field operations capacity. Rosemary Barnes is YVCA's Administrative Assistant.

* *For More Information, Contact:*

Youth Volunteer Corps of America
1080 Washington St.
Kansas City, MO 64105-2216
816/474-5761 FAX 816/472-4207



Youth Volunteer Corps of America Affiliate Services

Youth Volunteer Corps affiliates are tied into a national network of program expertise through the Youth Volunteer Corps of America. For an annual affiliation fee of \$400, YVC programs receive:

- *Developmental Technical Assistance*
On-site assistance by YVCA Field Organizers and the YVCA Planning Guide help local programs build public support, organize a planning committee, prepare program plans and raise funds
- *Operational Technical Assistance*
On-site implementation assistance, a comprehensive step-by-step Operations Manual, Team Leader Guide and an in-depth training program for local program staff
- *Fund Development Assistance and Fundraising Materials*
Strategies with local programs to tap national funding sources, including federal government monies; items include a nationally developed fundraising video and supporting materials
- *Policy Advocacy and National Collaboration*
Collaboration with government officials and other national youth service organizations to promote and advance youth service through legislation and funding
- *Program Evaluation*
Assessment of local program operation through a comprehensive evaluation program including on-site evaluation and YVCA report forms developed with an independent evaluator
- *Volunteer Insurance*
Excess health, liability and auto insurance for volunteers available to YVC programs at cost
- *National Conference*
Reduced registration fees for the annual national gathering of Program Directors, Youth Volunteers and others for training and networking opportunities
- *Promotional Materials*
Free start-up kit with materials for first-year Youth Volunteer recruitment; other YVC recruitment, promotion and recognition items provided free or at nominal cost
- *Share Network and Database Network*
Regular communication through YVCA with other affiliates sharing information and materials; clearinghouse for other national and local youth service organizations offering information on national training and recognition opportunities
- *Publications*
Free subscriptions to *Corps Communique* featuring nuts-and-bolts YVC programming strategies and *Reflections*, designed for Youth Volunteers and program constituents
- *Media Relations Program*
Publicity of YVC programs and youth through an annual YVCA national media campaign with YVCA providing assistance to tap local media resources
- *Bulk Purchasing*
Cost-savings on YVC recruitment and promotional materials through its bulk purchasing program
- *Affiliation with Youth Service America*
Youth Service America, the country's leading advocate for youth service, offers training, recognition and policy programs to advance the youth service field



Youth Volunteer Corps Program Model

The Youth Volunteer Corps offers young people from diverse backgrounds rewarding volunteer opportunities to help provide services to people in need in their communities.

Each local Youth Volunteer Corps program aims to meet four fundamental goals:

1. To serve the needs of the community and its residents.
2. To offer young people an opportunity to engage in service projects that are challenging, rewarding and educational.
3. To promote among young people and residents a greater understanding and appreciation for the diversity of their community.
4. To promote a lifetime ethic of service among young people.

Youth Volunteer Corps programs are sponsored locally by non-profit organizations like the YMCA, Red Cross, United Way, a school district and a municipality. Funding is generally provided through a combination of grants from foundations, corporations, individuals, United Ways and government agencies. Programs pay a \$400 annual affiliation fee to the Youth Volunteer Corps of America for technical, marketing and program development assistance.

While each community's Youth Volunteer Corps program is tailored to meet unique community needs, the program consists of two fundamental components: an intensive summer component providing a sustained service experience and a school-year component featuring frequent short-term service projects.

The Summer Component

During the summer component, young people recruited by the Program Director volunteer for service projects designed by not-for-profit organizations in the community. Youth Volunteers are assigned in six- to nine-member teams supervised by a trained Team Leader, who is generally college age. Volunteers work on their projects Monday-Friday, generally 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. for up to eight weeks. Volunteers are often provided with some lunch and transportation assistance.

An orientation at the beginning of each session allows volunteers to get to know each other and understand their responsibilities as members of the Youth Volunteer Corps. Development of a long-term service ethic is reinforced through on-going education and reflection.

The School Year Component

During the school year, young people from schools and youth groups throughout the community work on service projects during and after school, on weekends and during school breaks. During school year service projects, agencies and YVC staff conduct a brief orientation to the project and issue addressed. Reflection activities are also conducted to underscore the service experience of volunteers.

YVC Program Directors work closely with teachers to design and implement age-appropriate service projects and reflection activities correlating to subject matter. Service projects during and outside of class allow teachers to tie school curriculum to community service.



Youth and Media Comment on the Youth Volunteer Corps

"I feel really good about myself when I get involved. I can look back at a project that made a difference in my town and say, 'Hey, I did that and I'm proud of it.'"

Nick Kalainoff, 14
Quad Cities, IA/IL

"More teens are finding 'they can make a difference'. YVC's David Battey says emphasis from schools, president increasing interest."

USA Today
September 18, 1991

"In Youth Volunteer Corps, there are all different kinds of people. I had a lot of fun getting to know about other cultures and other kinds of people from all over the city."

Susan Banaszak, 16
Pittsburgh, PA

"We find YVCA to be operating consistent with its goals to develop high quality, cost-effective youth service programs in communities nationwide."

Norman A. Brown, President
W. K. Kellogg Foundation

"My team members and I learned something about ourselves. Each one learned something different, but each lesson was equally important. I learned that a smile from a stranger can last forever, and a small job like serving lunch can make a world of difference to a hungry person."

Kristen Wynne, 17
Baton Rouge, LA

"It's been a summer of working with refugee children from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam; of repairing toys for Christmas Unlimited, a charity that distributes presents to needy children; and of serving as a docent at the Colorado Springs Children's Museum."

Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph
July 23, 1990

"The Youth Volunteer Corps is one of the most powerful youth corps models in the rapidly growing youth service field."

Roger Landrum, Executive Director
Youth Service America

The Youth Volunteer Corps has also been featured in *The New York Times*, *Business Week*, on C-Span, in industry trade publications and by local media nationwide.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS OF AMERICA
Current Sites and Sponsors

Anderson, SC

Youth Volunteer Corps
Foothills United Way

Baton Rouge, LA

Youth Volunteer Corps
Volunteer Baton Rouge!

Battle Creek, MI

Youth Volunteer Corps of Calhoun County
Southwestern Michigan Urban League

Bellevue, WA

Youth Volunteer Corps of Bellevue
Central Puget Sound Council of Campfire

Colorado Springs, CO

Youth Volunteer Corps
American Red Cross Pikes Peak Chapter

Detroit, MI

Youth Volunteer Corps of Metropolitan Detroit
United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit

Grand Rapids, MI

Youth Volunteer Corps
United Way

Kansas City, MO/KS

Youth Volunteer Corps of Greater Kansas City
YMCA of Greater Kansas City

Marquette, MI

Youth Volunteer Corps
Marquette-Alger Intermediate School District
Co-sponsor: Peninsula Waters Girl Scout Council

Omaha, NE

Youth Volunteer Corps of Omaha
Office of the Mayor and the City of Omaha

Pittsburgh, PA

Youth Volunteer Corps
Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania

Quad Cities, IA/IL

Youth Volunteer Corps of the Quad Cities
Volunteer Center of the Greater Quad Cities
Co-Sponsor: United Way of the Quad Cities Area

Spartanburg, SC

Youth Volunteer Corps of the Piedmont
United Way of the Piedmont

Tulsa, OK

Youth Volunteer Corps of Tulsa
Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa
Volunteer Center

Vero Beach, FL

Youth Volunteer Corps
Vero Beach Family YMCA