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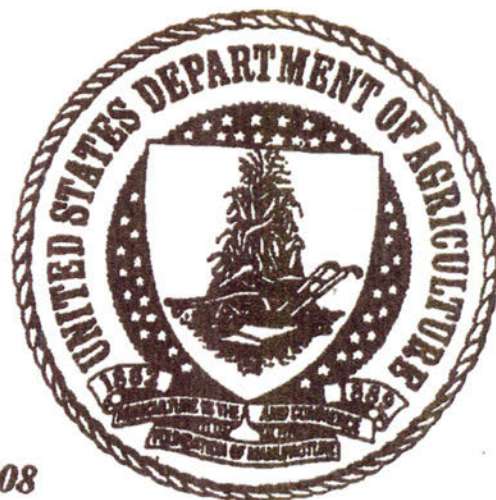
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD AND CONSUMER SERVICE
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
3101 PARK CENTER DRIVE, ROOM 803
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22302
TELEPHONE #: (703) 305-2064**



FACSIMILE #: (703) 305-2908

DATE: 2 / 16 / 96

NUMBER OF PAGES (including this page): 3

FROM:

Tracy Fox

Joe Berg

SUBJECT/COMMENTS:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Consumer Service

3101 Park Center Drive, RM 803
Alexandria, VA 22302Tel: (703) 305-2062
Fax: (703) 305-2908FROM: TRACY A. FOX
ASSISTANT TO THE
ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 2/16/96

TO: Joel Berg / Donna Hines

Attached is some info from
Ruthie Jackson re Americorps
projects in her region (SWRO).
Please let us know if
we need to do anything or
if you can follow up w/
her directly. Thanks -
Tracy



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Southwest
Region

1100 Commerce Street
Dallas, TX 75242

Handwritten: *Handwritten initials*
SNP
Grady

Reply to
Attn. of:

JAN 23 1996

Subject: **USDA AmeriCorps National Service Program**

To: William E. Ludwig
Administrator

Handwritten: 214-767-0222

In response to the Secretary's memorandum 1030-27 dated August 23, 1995, regarding the USDA AmeriCorps National Service Program, the Southwest Region would like to recommend the following cooperative initiative.

The Southwest Region serves several Tribal Governments which administer FCS programs: FDPIR, WIC and NPE Title VI. Tribes most often operate these programs with very limited staff and resources. This is a critical issue this fiscal year for our FDPIRs: Due to the limited funding provided by Congress, we have an estimated \$200,000 shortfall in this region. This will force tribes to reduce services and, thus, limit the accessibility of the program — participants may be denied the opportunity to participate in their program of choice. A joint initiative in which AmeriCorps members would be available to provide on-site assistance and expertise to ITOs could yield rewarding and worthwhile results for both groups and would be an excellent strategy to alleviate the adverse effects caused by funding shortfalls.

For example, nutrition education is one area where Tribes need assistance because monies are in short supply and trained individuals with the required expertise are often lacking. If AmeriCorps members with basic nutrition/nutrition education expertise assisted tribal programs, the desperately needed nutrition-related information could be disseminated to program participants and, at the same time, provide on-site training or mentoring opportunities to program staff.

Similar scenarios in other areas, such as program outreach, warehousing and inventory control, equipment maintenance, staff development and management, etc., would also provide beneficial expertise and assistance to tribal programs and serve as program enrichment opportunities.

This initiative would provide service and program enhancements to a culturally, politically, and socio-economically diverse group of Americans who suffer the highest incidence of nutrition related illnesses of any other group in this country. The benefits to be gained by all parties will be most positive and far-reaching.

If you accept this recommendation, I will be happy to take the lead on this initiative and implement a pilot project in our region. Our Office Of Native American Programs has a standing Advisory Committee composed of tribal representatives who could provide invaluable advice on how this initiative could be designed and implemented to provide a culturally and politically sensitive initiative which would ensure a truly successful project.

If you would like additional information regarding this proposed initiative, please call me at your earliest convenience.

Ruthie

RUTHIE JACKSON
Regional Administrator

cc: Lester Johnson

ISMaer @ Terceiro

(Chuck)

214 - 767 - 2146

A HALF OF SOMEONE ELSE'S LOAF

A Modest Proposal for Rescuing (and Redirecting) AmeriCorps

BY STEVEN WALDMAN

In their zeal to skewer President Clinton, Republicans are missing a delicious opportunity to overhaul the welfare state—using one of the president's favorite programs as the crowbar. The program is AmeriCorps, which allows young people to earn college scholarships by performing a year or two of community service. Clinton has touted it as his proudest achievement; Republicans, therefore, have targeted it for doom.

The GOP claims the program abounds in boondoggles and bureaucratic waste. In fact, AmeriCorps is better viewed as a potential conservative antidote to bureaucratic liberalism—a Swiss Army knife that can slash social spending, shake up municipal labor unions, undercut the handout mentality of some government beneficiaries and, just for fun, infuriate liberal interest groups.

Rather than whack AmeriCorps, Republicans should say to Clinton: "Okay, Mr. New Democrat, you're so impressed with AmeriCorps' ability to get things done? Let's use the program to replace the antiquated government bureaucracies that old-style liberals (unlike you, of course) have defended for so long."

Specifically, Republicans should propose cutting billions of dollars from existing social programs—and giving half of the savings to AmeriCorps. The Democrats want \$100 million for housing renovation? Cut \$100 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, then give \$50 million of that amount to AmeriCorps' Habitat for Humanity programs. Replicate that with any social program in which AmeriCorps could be said to offer a more efficient alternative, and you'll save taxpayers billions of dollars without harming the needy.

Missing an Opportunity

Through an AmeriCorps "buy down," Congress could replace bureaucracy with a substitute rooted in conservative thinking. *National Review* founder and editor-at-large William F. Buckley Jr. wrote an entire book, *Gratitude*, on the need for a national service program (yes, *paid* service) that would engender a sense of obligation

to the community among young Americans. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole once supported the creation of a new Civilian Conservation Corps. And Erie Chapman, the chief executive officer of U.S. Health Corporation (and House Budget Committee chairman John Kasich's chief fundraiser) recently said, "It's tragic to cut these programs. Why shoot a bunch of innocent kids just to get at the President?"

Although some conservatives attack AmeriCorps as a typical government program, it really is quite different. Most of the money is distributed through the states (federalism!) to local nonprofit groups (volunteerism!) which must vie for grants (competition!). In a 1993 letter entitled "National Service—Truly Republican," Rep. Christopher Shays of Connecticut and 15 other Republicans wrote, "We believe national service is a basic Republican idea, [and] that the President's proposal is structured as a Republican would have structured it."

To understand just how badly Republicans have missed AmeriCorps' potential, consider one line of attack from Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa). In a Senate floor speech he declared, "We recently uncovered that President Clinton's AmeriCorps is paying over \$70,000 for one—yes, Mr. President, that is one—volunteer for AmeriCorps." But the program in question is an effort by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation to encourage promising young lawyers to do *pro bono* work. Young men and women who have accepted offers from prestigious firms agree to take a 50 percent cut in pay for two years, if the firm will let them work at a public interest group for a year. The cost to the federal government is about \$5,000 per worker, not \$70,000, almost all of it in the form of a tuition voucher. Grassley cooked up the \$70,000 figure by defining "cost" to include contributions made by the lawyer (in lost pay) and the firm (in lost services).

In other words, the Philadelphia program takes a few federal dollars and leverages an enormous amount of private activity. Grassley could have just as easily harumphed, "This is leveraging \$13 for every dollar spent! Why can't the darned Legal Services Corporation be that efficient?"

Government That Works

Therein lies the opportunity for Republicans interested in picking apart existing federal social programs. Because it is based in the nonprofit sector and staffed by young, hard-working idealists, AmeriCorps tends to be far more efficient than a traditional government bureaucracy.

For instance, 24 AmeriCorps members are in Miami with Habitat for Humanity—House Speaker Newt Gingrich's favorite charity—constructing a 90-house development whose units will be rented and owned by the poor. They finished nearly half the job in just three months, a pace no public housing authority could ever match, in large measure because they have the help of 1,200 unpaid volunteers, who are managed by AmeriCorps members. Imagine what might happen if even a fraction of HUD's \$2 billion housing renovation budget was siphoned off to expand the size of AmeriCorps-Habitat projects.

Similarly, AmeriCorps can invigorate stultified school bureaucracies. While the federal Goals 2000 education program spends millions theorizing about tough standards for students, AmeriCorps members in Simpson County, Ky., are hard at work raising children's reading scores. Only a few months into the program, 70 percent of the 2nd graders involved have improved at least two reading levels.

In the area of health, the Clinton Administration has spent \$500 million on a troubled government-run child vaccination program that's based on the faulty assumption that money alone is the key to raising the immunization rate. By comparison, in the summer of 1993 about 90 AmeriCorps members—at a cost of just \$300,000—immunized 105,000 children in six Texas communities by going door to door with information and, in some cases, driving families to clinics.

What's in it for Republicans?

Liberals say you can't kick mothers off welfare without spending billions on day care. Why not let AmeriCorps members take care of the kids at a fraction of the cost? Need to cut Medicaid? Why not let AmeriCorps members help seniors with household chores so they don't have to move into nursing homes—often at taxpayers' expense?

Service programs also have important, Republican-friendly, subsidiary benefits. For example, they seem to uplift participants from poor backgrounds far higher than traditional antipoverty programs can. The reason is simple: Treat a poor person as a pathetic dependent and they will become just that. But demand something im-

portant of them—i.e., service to their country—and they will rise to the occasion. "I wasn't doing anything but hanging out on corners, going out with my friends and stealing cars," an AmeriCorps member told the *Galveston Daily News*. After working on a Seaborne Conservation Corps run by the Pentagon and National Guard, he feels certain he'll become a firefighter.

Finally, critics of government-dictated multiculturalism should appreciate AmeriCorps as a means of joining people of different backgrounds in a common mission, as the Civilian Conservation Corps and military drafts did. "We got a chance to eliminate some stereotypes that people had in their puny little minds," a 19-year-old dropout from Newark told journalist Suzanne Goldsmith regarding his experience in the Boston program, *City Year*. "Before, I couldn't stand white people. When there was a bum on the street asking for change, I would kick him. Now I'll give him a quarter."

There have been and there will always be ineffective AmeriCorps programs. Still, they are far preferable to bureaucracies for a simple reason: Bad AmeriCorps programs are far easier to kill. Federal agencies are nearly impossible to uncreate. But because AmeriCorps programs must compete for a grant every year, they must constantly justify their existence.

In raw political terms, enlarging AmeriCorps might seem to be a mistake for Republicans. And I'd be lying if I pretended I cared about the political fortunes of Republicans as much as those of national service. But Republicans should think hard about the political bind this strategy would create for President Clinton. It would pit him against an army of liberal interest groups, forcing him to make a Sophie's choice among his political children. Low income housing activists say AmeriCorps is fine and dandy, but not if it means cutting money from HUD. What would Clinton tell them?

Anyway, Republicans aren't helping themselves by vowing to kill AmeriCorps. In a high profile veto showdown over national service, I'm betting Clinton comes out ahead, even if AmeriCorps doesn't.

If Republicans could only get a grip on their Pavlovian impulse to smash anything associated with Clinton, they might just craft a politically shrewd strategy that even has the unintended consequence of being good for the country. ♦

Steven Waldman, national correspondent at Newsweek, is the author of The Bill, an account of AmeriCorps' conception and difficult birth (Viking, 1995). It will be issued in paperback in early 1996.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

FARMERS
HOME
ADMINISTRATION

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICE
3727 GOVERNMENT STREET
ALEXANDRIA, LA 71302 (318) 473-7920

(File) (orhesbawence)

April 19, 1995

Joel Berg, Director
of National Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Berg:

I would like to express my appreciation for your recent visit to meet with Louisiana's Team USDA AmeriCorps Members. I particularly want you know how much your visit meant to Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD) members.

It is very impressive to see the difference RECD AmeriCorps Members have made in their communities. The Louisiana AmeriCorps Program has truly been a "TEAM USDA" effort. The efforts of these volunteers and the Corporation for National Service are to be commended.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to see, first-hand, Louisiana's innovative AmeriCorps Program in action. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

AUSTIN J. CORMIER
Acting State Director
Rural Economic and
Community Development



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Complaints of discrimination should be sent to:
Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250



Cooperative
Extension

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

(File)

Correspondence

4-H Youth Development
114 Agricultural Hall
P.O. Box 830700
Lincoln, NE 68583-0700
(402) 472-2805
FAX (402) 472-9024



Mr. Joel Berg
Director of National Service
UNITED STATES DEPT. of AGRICULTURE
Office of Communications
Washington, D. C.

THANKS
Joel

for the copy of the first quarter report of the AMERICORPS/USDA project. It is apparent the program is working well and that the groups are "getting things done". I appreciate the diversity of the programs in addressing community needs. I applaud your efforts in initiating the program.

I trust the agency coordinators will find the "Turning Points" document and the checklists helpful.

I am currently maintaining contact with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Nebraska Commission office. I am confident that the mission of the program is well worth the cost and will make valuable contributions to communities and to the youth who participate. We desperately need the program to give some youth an expanded vision of their capacity.

Let me know if I can be helpful.

Your Friend in Service

Bill Caldwell

William Caldwell
Volunteer Development Specialist

TO: Angela Courtney

FROM: Joel Berg

How AmeriCorps/USDA is "Getting Things Done" Fighting Crime

Some USDA AmeriCorps projects also have public safety components. In the first quarter of operations, USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * In Logan County, West Virginia, Member assisted the organization of nine local rural communities so they can bring resources together to effectively reduce certain criminal activities.
- * Member is working in Jackson, Mississippi to create a "peer Helpers' group to reduce crimes committed by teenagers.
- * On the Texas/Mexico border, one Member is helping create a community crime watch program.
- * In Greater Orangeburg, South Carolina, Member is seeking to reduce the number of vacant buildings used for illegal activities by helping identify those premises and working with the city to demolish or improve those buildings.

Assessment of the FY'95 AmeriCorps Program

To improve the administration of the NRCS AmeriCorps program the AmeriCorps program the dates for the NRCS project year, and the maximum twelve month term of service is consistent with the fiscal year. By establishing this as national policy, we can do a better job with program management, especially in terms of:

- predicting the work load
- reporting statistics and accomplishments
- communicating internally

Our first year in AmeriCorps got off to a quick start, with inadequate time for states to recruit and with policy and procedures that were still being defined and tested for effectiveness. In addition, the Corporation implemented a six-week limit on enrolling members, that was later lifted. Our response to the lifting of the six-week rule was to reopen Member enrollment by redirecting slots to several states.

The NRCS AmeriCorps projects started over a span of time, from September through May. Members within states were recruited over a span of several months, and in a few cases with as much as a 10 month span.

This has resulted in a problem of inconsistency between the twelve month project year that was defined in the USDA application (as required), and the nine to twelve month term of service for Members. It also poses an administrative problem in handling two project years for a longer time period of time than is necessary. By prolonging the project year, we increase the potential for losing track of Members and their paperwork.

To align all NRCS projects with the fiscal year:

- We will assess the level of inconsistencies between the project year and the twelve month term of service for our FY '95 projects.
- Establish time limits for FY'96 to avoid the lag period in Member service.

All AmeriCorps Members must begin their term of service by these dates:

November 26, 1995 - Last start date for full-time AmeriCorps Members (1700 hrs)

April 21, 1996 - Last start date for part-time AmeriCorps Members (900 hrs)

Using the attached form, indicate the AmeriCorps Members that will not have completed their term of service by September 30, 1995. **No new AmeriCorps Member selections are to be made until you receive an official announcement of the sites authorized for FY '96.**

SUGGESTED AMERICORPS LANGUAGE FOR HRC SPEECH TO FRAC

Another important Administration initiative helping the fight against hunger is AmeriCorps, the President's national service program. As you know, AmeriCorps --- which provides college and vocational school aid in exchange for service to the nation --- strengthens communities, expands educational opportunity, and bolsters personal responsibility. Many AmeriCorps Members are working with grass-roots anti-hunger organizations around the country. Also, under the leadership of former St. Paul Mayor James Schleibel, the VISTA program --- now under the umbrella of AmeriCorps --- has increased its focus on anti-hunger work.

In addition, under the leadership of Secretary Glickman, the USDA Department of Agriculture is running a highly-successful AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Team, which is an innovative new partnership between USDA, local anti-hunger groups, and local youth service corps. The program engages 150 Members in five urban and rural sites across the country: the District of Columbia, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, the Mississippi Delta, and Vermont. Members of this Team have cooked and prepared meals at soup kitchens, created community gardens, conducted nutrition and food safety workshops for the elderly, sorted goods at food banks, developed nutrition education programs for schools, provided outreach for the Women's, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, began efforts to improve participation in the summer feeding program, assisted earthquake victims with emergency food information, and improved usage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

As you know, the President led the effort to dramatically expand the size of the EITC, in order to aid the all-too-many families who are working but are still poor. I like repeating this point over and over --- and over --- to remind the public of this massive tax cut initiated by this President. Through AmeriCorps, we are able to make the EITC available to even more working poor families. In Vermont alone, the USDA AmeriCorps program --- in just the first few months of operation ---- helped over 100 families obtain over \$61,000 through the EITC program. That's a great example of one positive way to promote work rather than welfare.

6 PAGES, including this cover

To: Paula
From: Joel
Subject: Revised Management Letter

As you will read, I included virtually all our your suggested changes in the revised draft. However, the other agency coordinators, CNS, my staff, and myself all agree that it is critical to maintain the Data Reporting Liaison position. As you recall, this positions' responsibilities were already lessened when we all previously agreed to delete the requirement that this position aggregate and summarize the quarterly reports. Now this position only need to collect the quarterly reports.

We still need to dramatically improve quarterly report collection. Many of agencies's third quarter reports were still late and highly incomplete, such as the NRCS reports for Arkansas and Indiana. Plus, my staff and myself now must spend countless hours combining all the agencies reports on a state-by-state basis. The best way to improve this is to have state collection of these reports.

Most importantly, we unfortunately can not count on CNS to accurately collect our forms. Because they lost many forms this year, 200 Members of our Members this year are still without proper documentation. Ron, Dee and others are now scrambling to ensure that these Members can get their educational awards. Thus, it is absolutely imperative that Ron receive a copy of all forms sent to CNS.

Elizabeth will contact you about signing the revised letter.

On another note, I understand that all State Conservationists will be in town next week. Would it be possible for me to give them make a brief, 10-minute update on AmeriCorps jointly with Chief Johnson?

DEC. -22' 95 (PRI) 11:3

*RBS AmeriCorps
Jesse - per edit.*

P. 006

AMERICORPS

MISSION

The mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) AmeriCorps Program is to involve a diverse group of Americans in partnership with communities to provide real and accountable service to meet environmental and human needs by members who develop an ethic of service, responsibility, and citizenship while earning educational benefits.

The vision for the USDA AmeriCorps Program is to have created, within 5 years, a model for the Federal Government of a program with a measurable impact upon quality of life, a clear national identity respected for its focus on successful results, a set of measurable accomplishments in meeting environmental and human needs, and along-term plan for continuing to be expanded, replicated, and sustained until service opportunities are available to all Americans.

The AmeriCorps program is administered in cooperation with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the USDA Office of National Service, RBCDS, Rural Housing and Community Development Service (RHCDS), Farm Services Agency (FSA), Food and Consumer Services (FCS), U.S. Forest Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS).

As part of the agreement with the National Service Corporation, RBCDS supported 69 Rural Development Team positions during Fiscal Year 1995 to work in low-income rural communities and help them define and implement community plans and project. and RHCDS the Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service USDA created a Rural Service Corps with participation from the U.S. Forest Service (FS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS), and the USDA Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD) mission area. As its contribution, the Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service (RBCDS) supported 66 student-member positions during Fiscal Year 1995 to work in low-income rural communities to help them define and

DEC. -22' 95(FRI) 11:3

P. 007

implement community plans and projects. To assure the program provides maximum support for the Presidential Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Initiative, most RECD AmeriCorps members are located in or near communities designated as a rural Empowerment Zone, Enterprise Community, or "Champion Community". **DESCRIBE CHAMPION COMMUNITY**

RECD AmeriCorps participants are involved in programs or projects that provide a direct and demonstrable benefit that is of value to the participant, Agency, and community. The activity must result in a specific identifiable service or improvement that otherwise would not be provided, does not duplicate the routine functions of workers, or displace paid employees. The efforts must result in strengthened communities, bringing together both institutions and individuals to cooperate in creating lasting constructive change.

Recall: ch:a:fcstht ac

From: Martha Phipps
To: jberg, awebb, tamontree
Date: 8/7/95 3:04pm
Subject: Americorps

Greg asked that I let you know it is okay to proceed with the recruitment efforts for Americorps, based on Joel's August 1 memo.

Please let me know if there is another issue that needs to be resolved.

Thanks.

TALE OF TWO FOREST SERVICES

SUPPORT

Great project on the ground in Forests - project managers reinventing government, doing extra duties

Great rural development - building back trust in communities

"Hate forests service -love this"

Cost effective

Reducing backlog

Lower injuries, more work than YCC

I visited 9 different Forests - 11 different Rural development

Loved by media - HAND-OUT CLIPS

Love by Congress - HAND OUT HATFIELD LETTER, AND OLYMPIC LETTER - Hatfield, Murray, Jeffords, Snow, Cohen, Gorton,

Dicks Taylor

Great application process for next year

LACK OF SUPPORT

\$3.5 million for RDT really is \$2.5-- missing \$1.0 million
At the Forest Service is fighting to keep this competent, lack of support

Staff fired for supporting Department - Beasley told me that Lou was permanent - staff so little respected not meeting - latest one exiled for three years

President appointee, Espy, Glickman delegation, but still stuff goes to the field, incorrect, illegal information of displacement - Chief Thomas says follow the law

Alternative funding - foundation, Golden Eagle passport

Reprogramming letter last year sent at end - Given incorrect information

Reprogramming letter I wrote in less than two hours takes three months to approve

Incorrect messages sent to field about impact of CNS appropriations - told not to recruit

Staff basically told not to have conference calls with site

Joint management - after two months, need original (President doesn't get), still no response

Then just at end, money was taken away from them

San Bernardino can't do - California has three sites in region

Getting calls from partners around the country

NRCS off the top - less FTEs and less budget

Other programs being planned



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Economic
and Community
Development
Service

771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40503-4477
(606) 224-7360
(606) 224-7480 TTY

March 21, 1996

SUBJECT: Visit to Kentucky

TO: Jim Gilliam
General Counsel

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

In reference to your upcoming visit to Kentucky on a last urgent call the following evening. I have arranged a dinner on April 4, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. with Phil Mullaney, State Council Liaison, LECS state representative for Happy Home, State Executive Director - PSA.

On the morning of April 5th, I would like to depart Lexington at approximately 8:00 a.m. and arrive in Ashland, KY. There, we have arranged an event at Ashlee's House, a homeless shelter in Ashland, KY. The two-story shelter was purchased with Emergency Shelter Grant funds from the Kentucky Housing Corporation. The second floor contains a newly renovated apartment and two apartments that are currently being renovated to provide housing to homeless transient individuals. One of our Ashland staff members, Kathy Phillips has been very instrumental in the renovation of the shelter. We have arranged for a tour of the facility as well as the opportunity to meet with the staff and residents. The tour will be at 10:00 a.m. and the meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the second floor apartment. The meeting will be held in the second floor apartment. The meeting will be held in the second floor apartment.

The Rural Economic and Community
Development Service
Secretary of Agriculture

Best Practices

Media

Congressional
Public Speaking

March 22, 1994

MEMO TO FILE

This is to relate that I have met with Joyce Espy Searcy, Executive Director of the Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, about national service. I have subsequently had telephone conversations with her and exchanged correspondence. This memo is to record that the technical assistance and advice that I provided to Ms. Searcy are precisely the kind of assistance and advice that I routinely provide to all citizens who contact me about national service.

I further note that I will provide no information about our communications to Secretary Espy, nor will I engage him in the process in any manner whatsoever.

Today, I discussed this matter with USDA Associate General Counsel Michael J. Kelly and he opined that none of these actions constitute a conflict of interest. He advised me to write this memo to file.

Jul Berg 3/22/94



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 22, 1994

To: Joyce Espy Searcy
From: Joel Berg
Subject: Your 1993 Summer of Service Application

Since we talked on the phone, I have had a chance to review your 1993 application in more depth. I would again make the general point that, while the application is excellent in explaining both the objectives of the program and the institutional ability of the partners, the application needs more explanation about the specifics of how the program would be run on a day-to-day basis.

I would suggest that any future applications amplify the following areas:

- 1) Specific projects to be completed on a daily basis
- 2) How the participants will interact with the children 3-5 and 6-12
- 3) Recruitment plan for ensuring socio-economic mix of participants
- 4) Overall training to prepare the participants for service and specific, technical, training for each work project
- 5) Ongoing educational opportunities for the participants, including G.E.D. classes for high school drop-outs
- 6) Description of how the management team would be structured and who would run the program, select project sites, recruit participants, provide training, provide ongoing educational activities, serve as crew leaders, and conduct the evaluations
- 7) Which non-federal entities would fund the 25% program match and the 15% stipend match
- 8) Detailed timeline for implementation

I hope you find this feedback to be useful. Call me soon at 202-720-6350 or 202-720-4623 if I may be of further help.



**Bethlehem Centers
of Nashville**
A UMC Mission Agency

FILE COPY

1417 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203, (615) 329-3386, Fax (615) 329-0261

101 University Court, Nashville, TN 37210, (615) 242-1791

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Executive Committee

Executive Director

Joyce Espy Searcy

April 1, 1993

Commission on National and Community Service
529 14th Street, N.W., Suite 452
Washington, D.C. 20045

RE: Attached Proposal for Summer of Service Site

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Bethlehem Centers of Nashville (BCN) is pleased to submit the attached proposal in collaboration with Tennessee State University and Fisk University to become a Summer of Service site.

Since 1894, Bethlehem Centers of Nashville has served the community providing multifaceted services. Our mission is to *empower at-risk children, youth, and their families to build better lives for themselves*. Most of the families are African-American with single females as the head of household residing in six public housing sites. In 1991-92, through 23 different programs, we served 4,121 persons with 74% (3,053) being children and youth under 20 years of age.

Bethlehem Centers of Nashville proposes to collaborate with Tennessee State and Fisk Universities to provide meaningful service opportunities for 60 participants ages 17-25 from diverse racial, economic, and educational backgrounds. Services for at-risk children and youth will be focused in two areas: 1. Educational enrichment activities for 85 low-income children ages 3-5 in two community centers located in and near five public housing sites and for 180 children ages 6-12 in and near five public housing developments. 2. Personal Safety and Leadership Development for 60 low-income adolescents and youth enrolled in BCN homicide and violence reduction, juvenile justice alternative and alcohol and drug intervention programs and low-income teens in the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (JTPA).

We believe that our proposed program will provide youth opportunities for community service, community problem-solving, and leadership development in urban areas of Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County. Participant youth will be role-models for those who are younger who will, in turn, become valuable citizens who contribute to the community and nation.

Should you need more information, please feel free to call us at (615) 329-3386. We hope that your proposal receives your most serious consideration.

Respectfully,

Thomas W. Bridgwaters
Board President

Respectfully,

Joyce Espy Searcy
Joyce Espy Searcy
Executive Director

Supported by

United Methodist Church
United Way of Middle Tennessee
Tennessee Dept. of Human Services
Tennessee Dept. of Health
Metropolitan Government
of Nashville & Davidson County
Friends of the Center

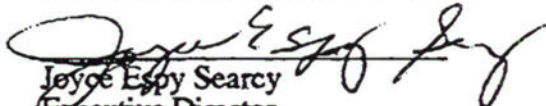
PROPOSAL FOR SUMMER OF SERVICE PROGRAM

APPLICANT NAME: Bethlehem Centers of Nashville
ADDRESS: 1417 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Community-based, private, not-for-profit

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Tennessee State University
TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Urban land grant institution

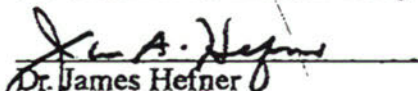
PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Fisk University
TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: Private HBCU

For Bethlehem Centers of Nashville


Joyce Espy Searcy
Executive Director

3/31/93
Date

For Tennessee State University


Dr. James Heimer
President

3/31/93
Date

For Fisk University


Gerald Washington
Dir., Development &
Public Relations,
Fisk University

3/31/93
Date

Project Description

Bethlehem Centers of Nashville proposes to collaborate with Tennessee State and Fisk Universities to provide meaningful service opportunities for 60 participants ages 17-25 from diverse racial, economic, and educational backgrounds. Services for at-risk children and youth will be focused in two areas: 1. Educational Enrichment Activities for 85 low-income children ages 3-5 in two community centers located in and near five public housing sites and for 180 children ages 6-12 in and near five public housing developments. 2. Personal Safety and Leadership Development for 60 low-income adolescents and youth enrolled in BCN homicide and violence reduction, juvenile justice alternative and alcohol and drug intervention programs and low-income teens in the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (JTPA).

PROGRAM NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Demonstrated Need and Impacts

Bethlehem Centers of Nashville (BCN) services a geopolitical area inclusive of six public housing complexes where 2300 families reside. Of these families, the overwhelming majority are headed by single African-American females. The overall unemployment rate in Davidson County is 4.1%, yet for the families we treat it is 83%. Income per household is less than \$4,488.00 per year. Of the 207,530 households in Davidson County in 1990, 14% were headed by females. Of those female-headed households in Davidson County with children under five, 56% lived below the poverty line. 10% of youth in grades 9 through 12 dropped out of high school in Davidson County and 10% of youth ages 10-17 were referred to juvenile court for offenses or parental neglect. The picture for children and youth living in public housing is the quintessence of risk. Comprehensive approaches alone have the potential of addressing and subsequently reversing these trends.

BCN, founded in 1894, has a near 100 year track record of addressing the needs of a disadvantaged community. The agency implements its mission *to empower at-risk children, youth and their families to build better lives for themselves* through 23 comprehensive programs. A major goal of BCN is family and neighborhood self-determination through the empowerment of individuals and groups in the total life of the neighborhood and in the structures that serve the total community by:

- continuing to provide quality programs of direct service and social action
- providing a holistic approach to developing and maintaining programs and services for the families
- developing programs through cooperation between neighborhood persons, staff, and Board of Directors in response to neighborhood needs

In the 1991-92 fiscal year, BCN served 4,121 persons. Of this number, 3,053 were children and youth ages 6 weeks to 19 years. The following programs are offered at two community centers and off-site locations in and near housing developments in the service area.

- Child care on-site at our two centers and in 10 family day care homes
- A family day home network of providers in business for themselves
- After school program for children 5-12
- Tutoring for ages K-6 with TN State Univ., Fisk Univ., and Vanderbilt Univ.
- Adult literacy (Reading Clubs and an IBM literacy lab)
- Employment and training for youth
- Hot lunch for home-bound and elderly (meals-on-wheels)
- Seniors activity group
- Alcohol and drug intervention for youth
- Homicide and violence prevention for African-American male youth
- Youth health promotion
- Juvenile justice alternative program in collaboration with Metro juvenile court
- Summer day camp in area housing projects and at Camp Dogwood
- Christmas toy store program
- Resale shop
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
- Youth recreational programs
- Emergency food bank
- Information and referral

Page 2
Summer of Service Proposal
Bethlehem Centers of Nashville
April 1, 1993

Our homicide and violence reduction program, "Men of Distinction," was selected by the U.S. Department of Juvenile Justice in the spring of 1992 as one of four program models in the nation recommended for replication. Some of the services we provide seniors allow them to interact with our adolescents and teens. We know this is significant when the FBI tells us that the most likely victim of inner city crime is a woman more than 62 years of age and the most likely perpetrator of that crime is a African-American male less than 21 years of age.

Bethlehem Centers of Nashville proposes to collaborate with Tennessee State University and Fisk University to provide meaningful service opportunities for 60 participants ages 17-25 from diverse racial, economic, and educational backgrounds. Services for at-risk children and youth will be focused in two areas:

1. Educational Enrichment Activities for:
 - a. 85 low income children ages 3-5 in two community centers located in and adjacent to public housing
 - b. 180 children ages 6-12 in public housing developments
2. Personal Safety and Leadership Development for 60 low-income adolescents and youth

The educational enrichment component for 3-5 year olds will focus on readiness for school (social and intellectual development). The enrichment component for 6-12 year olds will seek to enhance skills in reading, mathematics, analytical thinking, geography, science and team sports. A natural and environmental science curriculum for the 6-12 year olds will be conducted at Camp Dogwood, a BCN site located in Cheatham County, a 20 minute drive from Nashville.

Public Safety will incorporate crime prevention activities for youth enrolled in the homicide and violence reduction, juvenile justice alternative and alcohol and drug intervention programs. This component will be developed in conjunction with the public housing resident associations, Metro Police Department, Metro Juvenile Court, Metropolitan Development and Housing Authority, and the youth themselves.

To promote public safety, develop youth leadership and provide recreational alternatives, a youth council composed of teens will be developed to plan and implement programs for youth. Teens participating in this component will be enrolled in the JTPA sponsored Summer Youth Employment and Training Program and/or live in public housing. One innovative activity will be "Teen Talk," a Donahue-type talk program for teens where topics specifically addressing teen issues can be discussed.

Program Participants

The BCN Summer of Service site will employ 60 youth ages 17-25 who are enrolled in college, recent graduates, entering college students, and non-college bound youth. The Career Planning and Placement Office at Tennessee State University and The Dean of Students at Fisk University will recruit applicants for the program. Program staff will also recruit applicants from other area colleges and universities (Belmont University, David Lipscomb, Trevecca, Nashville Area Technical School, Vanderbilt University, Aquinas Junior College, American Baptist College, Meharry Medical College, Volunteer State Community College). Applicants will be from diverse racial, economic and educational backgrounds.

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Summer of Service Proposal
Bethlehem Centers of Nashville
April 1, 1993

Students recruited to the program will complete applications designed to determine the applicant's skills, accomplishments, and areas of interest. Applicants will be screened by an interview team composed of representatives from program staff, BCN Board of Directors, resident associations' elected leadership, and participating universities. Information gathered will be used to hire and place participants on sites and with appropriate age groups.

The participants will recruit children ages 6-12 and youth ages 13-17 to be involved in the program as volunteers. Wedding the college age youth with at-risk youth will provide mentoring and role modeling that can only have positive results. Participants will also assist in recruiting motivational speakers and other volunteers where needed to ensure the programs' success.

Service Activities

Program participants will provide a minimum of 8 weeks of service to at-risk children and youth. On-site training and leadership development will be conducted at BCN, Fisk University, Tennessee State University, and in the public housing community rooms.

On-site leadership and technical training will include:

- cognitive, social and psychological development for children who will be receiving services
- detecting learning and behavioral disorders
- detecting visual and hearing problems
- discipline techniques
- developing work plans
- leadership training
- information on the neighborhoods in the service area
- problems in the neighborhoods
- problems children are facing in schools
- age-specific techniques for supervising children and youth
- developing a budget for summer earnings
- program goals for Summer of Service
- participant expectations
- communicating with diverse groups
- increasing self-esteem in children and youth

Speakers and presenters from area public housing residents associations, Mayor's Office, Metro Police Department, Metro Public Schools, the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, Metropolitan Development Housing Authority, and area university departments of education, sociology and psychology will be recruited to participate in training and leadership development.

At the end of the one-week orientation period, participants will be divided into work teams of ten each. They will then vote to elect a team leader and an alternate. BCN believes that employing the work team model in the program will empower participants to fully participate, be creative, plan and do problem-solving. This work team model was popularized by the Japanese and is currently being implemented at Saturn Corporation and at Nissan. Work teams will meet briefly at the end of each day to discuss "what went on today and how to improve it tomorrow."

Teams will also meet to do planning, scheduling, evaluation and/or engage in on-going training as necessary on Friday of each week in space provided by Tennessee State and Fisk Universities. During work team sessions, youth will design programs and materials to implement the services

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Summer of Service Proposal
Bethlehem Centers of Nashville
April 1, 1993

targeting children and youth. Teams will also be required to submit weekly reports to monitor program progress.

Organizational Capacity, Leadership and Experience

Bethlehem Centers of Nashville is governed by a diverse Board of Directors composed of 27 elected and 7 ex-officio members. One-third of the elected members represent the population and/or the neighborhood served. One-third come from the larger community, selected for specific leadership needed. One-third come from United Methodist Churches and are selected for specific skills needed. Expertise includes child development, property, finance, fund-raising, management, public relations, and community development. Approximately half are female; half are male. Half are minority; half are white. Five are under 35 years of age.

Ex-officio members are the District Superintendent, District President of the United Methodist Women (UMW), President of the TN Conference of UMW, a member of the General Board of Global Ministries, President of the Shopping Bag, a representative of the TN Conference of UMW, President of Friends of Bethlehem Centers, and Treasurer of the Hot Lunch Cooperative.

An Advisory Board of five members meets quarterly. The co-chairs are Dr. T.B. Boyd, President of the National Baptist Publishing Board; Mr. Ben Rechter, C.E.O. of Rogers Group Investments and Chair of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce; TN State Representative Mary Pruitt; Andrea Conte, community volunteer, and Judy Liff, Community Development Director for Steiner Liff.

BCN operates three (3) facilities:

- A full-service community center located at 1417 Charlotte Avenue in North Nashville.
- A child development center and programs for youth located in the Tony Sudekum Homes at University Court in South Nashville. This facility is leased from the Metropolitan Development Housing Authority
- Camp Dogwood, a 300 acre camp site, located in Cheatham County

Ten (10) Family Day Homes also operate under the Centers' day care license. Five (5) are located in the Tony Sudekum Homes Area.

Area churches and Metro Development Housing Authority provide space for other neighborhood youth health programs. Neighborhood churches also provide space for the Hot Lunch Cooperative on a rotating monthly basis. Summer day camps are located in host neighborhood facilities.

The general oversight of the financial operations of BCN is the responsibility of the Finance Committee which is responsible for the preparation of the annual budget. This budget is based upon anticipated income and expenses for the operation of BCN.

The Board of Directors employs an Executive Director who hires staff to implement programs. Currently, 27 full-time employees, 17 part-time employees, and 6 VISTA volunteers implement programs. In 1991-92 783 other volunteers also provided over 24,858 hours of service.

BCN operates other federally funded programs. BCN has been involved in successful Summer Youth Employment and Training since 1979. With funding from the Mayor's

Employment and Training Resources Agency (METRA) and Private Industry Council under the Jobs Training Partnership Act, BCN has placed 774 participants in training with private businesses and public agencies. In the youth jobs programs the team model is utilized. One measure of the jobs programs' success has been the increasing number of businesses and agencies who volunteer to participate as training sites. In fact, the demand from local employers for trainees from BCN has consistently exceeded the number of youth enrolled in the program. IBM and Viacom Cablevision have hosted planning and evaluation sessions for employers to help ensure that the programs continue to be innovative and successful.

BCN operates its licensed child development and tutoring programs with funds from the Tennessee Department of Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program was recently visited by representatives of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and was declared a "model site."

The Metropolitan Development and Housing Authority has also contracted with BCN to implement programs in public housing with funds from federal drug elimination grants.

Liability insurance will be carried on all participants and youth served in the program. Funds are included in the proposed program budget for insurance. Each participant will complete an emergency form upon enrollment. Forms will be kept on each job site and in the offices of accounting, project director, and program coordinator. In case of emergency, participants will be taken to a nearby hospital and family listed on the emergency will be notified. An incident form will be completed describing the nature and resolution of the emergency. This form will be distributed to the offices listed above.

Stipends and Post-Benefits

Participants will receive federal minimum wage stipends for the duration of their employment and a \$1,000 post-service benefit to be used for education and training. Upon receiving proof that participants are enrolled in an education or training program, BCN will distribute the \$1,000 post-service benefit to the institution where the participant is enrolled. All funds received from the Commission on National and Community Service to implement the program will be maintained in an account separate from the agency's regular operating account. These funds will be subject to a compliance audit by an independent auditor.

National Leadership Training

BCN commits to attending the required national training activities. A line item for travel to the 4-day training for staff, to the 5-day training for participants and staff, and to the weekend summit in Washington, D.C. is included in the proposed budget.

Evaluation Plan

Funds for an independent evaluator are included in the program. The evaluator will conduct any necessary pre- and post-testing and assess completion of program goals. Criteria for program success will include participant and recipient experiential exchange; enhancement of learning skills of the recipient population; daily attendance by program recipients at program activities; and extent to which the quantum of overall neighborhood security has been increased as measured by reductions in juvenile crime indices.

Page 6
Summer of Service Proposal
Bethlehem Centers of Nashville
April 1, 1993

Program participants, staff, parents of children and youth, youth and neighborhood leadership will help to evaluate the program as well.

BETHLEHEM CENTERS OF NASHVILLE

SUMMER OF SERVICE PROGRAM

Budget

For each program (minimum of 50 participants) in the application, provide the following cost information and supporting explanations:

1.	Participant Costs				
	$\frac{60}{\text{\# of participants}}$	x	$\frac{4.25}{\text{Federal min. wage}}$	x	$\frac{10 \text{ wks} \times 40 \text{ hrs}}{\text{\# of weeks (minimum 9.5)}^1} =$
					\$ 102,000
2.	Project Leaders' Salaries (40 hrs x 10 weeks)				\$ 10,780
3.	Other Supervisors'/Leaders' Salaries (40 hrs x 10 weeks)				12,982
				9621	
				3130	\$ 12,751
4.	Other Expenses ² * see Attachment #1				
					\$ 55,804
5.	National Training & Travel ³	60 Participants		80,550	
		Leaders/Supervisors $\frac{3}{(\#)}$		6,480	\$ 87,030
	TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED FROM THE COMMISSION				\$ 281,347
6.	Matching Funds				\$
7.	In-Kind Contributions *see Attachment #1				\$ 13,531
8.	Other Federal Funds				\$
	Total Project Costs				\$ 294,878

1 There must be a minimum of 8 weeks of service plus one week of national training and 2-1/2 days for conclusion summit.

2 Any other expenses should be included and briefly explained.

3 The travel for participants and project leaders/supervisors. Should be based on one trip to the West Coast and one summit trip to the East Coast (Washington, DC., area). Cost of travel should include airline or other transportation and per diem, calculated at \$75 per day per participants or leader, the number of leaders/supervisors should be cited.

BETHLEHEM CENTERS OF NASHVILLE

SUMMER OF SERVICE PROGRAM

ATTACHMENT #1

OTHER EXPENSES

Transportation Costs (4 vehicles x 10 weeks)	\$ 18,800
Computer Services	6,144
Office Supplies	1,800
Duplicating/Printing	650
Occupancy	3,650
Activity Fees	16,000
Independent Evaluator	2,000
Training Consultant	5,000
T-Shirts (2 per participant)	1,400
Liability Insurance	360

TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 55,804

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Personnel	\$ 5,481
Consultants (Speakers)	3,500
Occupancy	4,550

	\$ 13,531



Office of the President
Tennessee State University
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37209-1561

April 1 1993

Mrs. Joyce Espy Searcy
Executive Director
Bethlehem Centers of Nashville
1417 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

Dear Mrs. Searcy:

I am privileged to submit to you a letter of commitment illustrating my wish to have Tennessee State University be one of the institutions of higher learning partners with Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, a nonprofit organization, to put President Clinton's Summer of Service into action here in Nashville, Tennessee.

Tennessee State University and Bethlehem Centers of Nashville have a very long and fruitful history together beginning with the opening of the 1417 Charlotte Avenue site in 1913. We have always provided instruction and direction to the clients and administration of the agency whenever the needs of the community dictated. We will surely continue in this capacity.

In meeting the needs of Bethlehem Centers of Nashville in connection with the Summer of Service, Tennessee State University will provide the following:

- Tennessee State University personnel will recruit students to work during the ten week program and to assist in whatever administrative capacity needed to serve the needs of Summer of Service. The personnel, one to two persons, will be donated to Bethlehem Centers of Nashville at an in-kind cost of approximately \$132.68 (fringe benefits included) a day for a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 30 days.
- Recruit up to 45 Tennessee State University students to work in the Summer of Service. We proudly proclaim our student body to be one of the most racially mixed in the United States (60% African-American, 35%

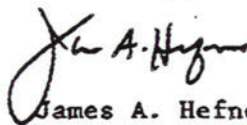
Mrs. Joyce Searcy
April 1, 1993
Page 2

Euro-American, 3% mixed minorities, 1% Asian). This mixture of students will easily provide the impetus for all other Summer of Service participants to gather knowledge, understanding, sensitivity, and appreciation for a diverse culture.

- Provide up to five meeting locations on either the Tennessee State University main or downtown campuses where orientations, leadership meetings, individual group program meetings, and general planning sessions can take place. The rooms will be provided as an in-kind service at a cost of \$50.00 per room per day with an unlimited time of usage throughout the ten weeks, weekends included.

Thank you for including Tennessee State University in this exceptional plan and opportunity for Nashville and the United States as a whole. I look forward to continuing our strong bond through our commitment to making Summer of Service a tradition in this country.

Sincerely,



James A. Hefner
President

JAH/pu

FISK UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37208-3051

April 1, 1993

Commission on National &
Community Service
529 14th Street, NW
Suite 452
Washington, D.C. 20045

Re: Summer of Service

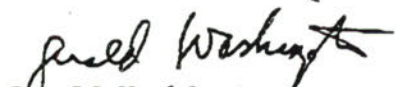
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the Bethlehem Center of Nashville's application for your new Summer of Service Program. Fisk University strongly supports this initiative and has agreed to provide at least fifteen (15) students who would work with Bethlehem Center programs during the coming summer. Further, through in-kind resources, Fisk University will provide space for meetings and conferences by students and program staff on Summer of Service activity, and provide limited supervision of Fisk University students.

Fisk University and the Bethlehem Center have had a long association in the North Nashville Community. The Center is the social agency of choice for student and staff volunteers. The agency is also the most comprehensive social service agency in the our immediate vicinity and well regarded by the community.

Fisk University students have a legacy of involvement and activism in issues of human need. The Summer of Service program allows many of our most select students to work on the human agenda while helping to finance their own education. We would be proud to participate in this novel and long overdue effort to reinvigorate more students on the importance of the human social agenda.

Sincerely,


Gerald Washington
Director of Development &
University Relations
(615) 329-8717

JOYCE ESPY SEARCY

837 Gale Lane, Nashville TN 37204
(615) 383-6191 home • (615) 329-3386 office

HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Over 21 years experience in social services as manager and volunteer at national and local levels; Over 10 years teaching experience at the college level.
- Tracking record of responsibility for managing complex, multi-program organization with budget over 1.1 million dollars.
- Conceptual talent for seeing the "the big picture," pinpointing an organizational objective, and setting goals and priorities to achieve it.
- Successful in utilizing team concept in management.
- Public speaker and group facilitator.

EDUCATION

- 1980- 84 Completed course requirements for Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
1978 Vanderbilt University, Peabody College, Nashville, TN. M.S., English.
1971 Fisk University, Nashville, TN. B.A., English.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultations and Workshops

- Conduct workshops on developing diversity in organizations and building strong boards.
- Technical writing consultant for an information system to facilitate hospital management and communication at Hospital Corporation of America.
- Designed and presented hospital technical writing seminar for public relations employees at Hospital Corporation of America.
- Wrote women's health lectures for marketing women's health services for Tanner Corporate Services.
- Developed and produced public relations materials for elderly program at Meharry Medical College.
- Designed and implemented precollegiate writing program for INROADS/Nashville, Inc.
- Consultant to writing competency program for Meharry's Mental Health Paraprofessional Program.
- Member of evaluation team for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Employment History

- 1987- present Executive Director, Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, Nashville, TN. Provide leadership for two community centers serving at-risk children, youth, and their families. Administer budget of \$1.1 million for over 20 programs. Supervise over 30 full-time and 14 part-time staff. Built strong team of board and front-line managers. Created homicide and violence prevention program for African-American male youth that received national recognition from U.S. Dept. of Juvenile Justice. Solicit donors to support programs. Write grants. Promote agency in media. Develop and sustain relationships with government, community, and church agencies.
- 1985- 87 Self employed Communications Consultant.
- 1983- 85 Asst. Professor/Coordinator for Administrative Internship Program, Meharry Medical College, Health Care Administration and Planning, Nashville, TN. Developed program and trained students for health facilities' administration internships nationally and locally; designed and implemented program grants; Taught Technical Writing, Health Research, and Introduction to Health Care.
- 1980- 81 Managing Editor, *Sunbelt Magazine*, Nashville, TN. Managed branch office for regional lifestyle publication; prepared and administered budget; wrote, edited and solicited for 3-state area.
- 1978- 83 Instructor, Tennessee State University; Taught Composition, Literature and Technical Writing.
- 1971- 78 Writing Lab Coordinator, Fisk University, Nashville, TN. Administered developmental writing skills program.

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

- 1985- Present National Board of Directors, YWCA of the USA. Current: Chair of the National Black Caucus; Co-Chair, National Support Task Force; Advisor, National Student Committee; National Board Nominating Committee; World Relations Committee; Past: Committee to Study the Purpose, Membership in the National Association, Program, Public Relations, Youth, Membership, Elections, and Resolutions Committees; Visitor to associations for accreditation review.
- 1992- Present United Way of Middle Tennessee. Current: President, Council of United Way Executives; CEO Selection Committee; Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee for Success by Six; Chair, Early Childhood Services Committee; Board of Directors, Volunteer Center. Past: Treasurer, Council of United Way Executives; Management Development Center Committee; Literacy Task Force; Youth Task Force.
- 1992- Present Nashville Academy Theater, Board of Directors.
- 1992- Present Leadership Nashville, Board of Directors; 1986 Program Chair. Selected to Class of 1985 by Hospital Corporation of America.
- 1992- Present Metro Arts Council; Grants Review Committee.
- 1992- Present Mayor's Frederick Douglass Task Force.
- 1992 Women's Education and Leadership Forum (WELF) Organizing Committee for Senator Jim Sasser.
- 1991 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Delta Omega Chapter, Cotillion Co-Chair.
- 1991- Present Friends of Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Board of Directors.
- 1984- 91 Cumberland Valley Girl Scout Council; Board of Directors, Vice-President; Strategic Planning Committee.
- 1990- 92 Black Family Life Center, Board of Directors.
- 1990 5th Congressional District Military Academy Selection Committee.
- 1972- 85 Nashville YWCA, Board of Directors. Vice-President for National Affairs; Chair, Public Affairs Youth Committee; Financial Development Committee; Volunteer Personnel Committee.
- 1984- 87 W.O. Smith Community Music School, Board of Directors.
- 1982- 84 Nashville Adult Literacy Council, Board of Directors.
- 1979- 80 Nashville Council Teachers of English, Vice-President.

CHURCH EXPERIENCE

Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church; Member and substitute pianist, Allegro Chorus; Board of Christian Education; Bible School Teacher, Member, Lay Organization; Progressive Club; Former YPD Leader, Addie Primm Missionary Society, Women's Day Chair.

HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1992 Reva Allman Award, "Regional Soror of the Year," Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.
- 1992 Vanderbilt University "Schola Prophetarum" Community Leader of the Year Award.
- 1991 Community Service Award, St. Luke A.M.E. Church.
- 1990 Community Service Award, Riverside Chapel SDA Church.
- 1987 Sertoma Club Award
- 1982 Advisor Award, Pi Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha.
- 1991 CABLE Spotlight for August.
- 1989 "Nashville Saint," *Nashville Scene*.
- 1983 Nashville Links Award.
- 1981 Listed in *Outstanding Young Women of America*.
- 1971 Departmental Honors, Fisk University.
- 1971 Listed in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*.
- 1979 "Teacher of the Year," Meharry Medical College.
- 1971 Selected to Lambda Iota Tau Honor Society.

TRAVEL

- 1992 Appalachian Women's Study Tour • 1991 Palestine Women's Study Tour to Israel • Jamaica • Mexico • Paris • Cuba • Mexico • Canada •

Rita A. Grant
825 Hillview Heights
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
(615) 297-6472

WORK EXPERIENCE:

June 1991 - August 1991

EDGEHILL CENTER, INC.
Community Services Department
Communications Director/Volunteer
Coordinator

Responsible for agency public relations and media coverage including: press releases, newsletters, special events (fundraisers) and volunteers.

June 1987 - June 1991

SUNDAY SCHOOL PUBLISHING BOARD
Christian Education Department
Managing Editor and Religious
Education Coordinator

Responsible for the public relations, organization and daily operation of this National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. religious education program including writing proposals on policies, procedures and curricula, and presenting them during national conferences. Wrote articles and histories explaining the operation and origins of the program for publication. Responsible for departmental public relations activities such as the preparation of the department's quarterly religious education journal inclusive of the following duties: writing articles, editing, developing promotional fillers, arranging contents for layout, proofing vandykes as well as distributing the journal nationally to 5000 subscribers; assist the director with the editing of all incoming manuscripts; and organize departmental special events: workshops, conferences, seminars.

Page Two
Rita A. Grant

April 1985 - Sept. 1985

NASHVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL
Editorial/Research Assistant

Researched public real estate documents, bankruptcies, new incorporations, and architectural renderings for the "For the Record" section of the paper. Edited news releases for interest and content. Wrote cutlines for architectural renderings. Organized and maintained editorial files.

EDUCATION:

August 1982 - August 1986

Tennessee State University
Bachelor of Science
Major: English
Concentration: Communications
Honors: Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges,
Dean's List (seven semesters)
English Department Junior and Senior of the Year
Literary Guild President
Meter (student newspaper)
Student Government Association (SGA) Leader of the Year
SGA Freshman Representative

ORGANIZATIONS:

Nashville Branch NAACP:
Press and Publicity-Chairperson
Black Economic Development Task Force
Voter Registration and Education Campaign-Chairperson
Minority Enterprise Development Week (MED Week) 1991

BOARD OF HEALTH

Robert P. Thomas
Chairman

Judy Swor, R.N.
Secretary

Alvin R. Singh, M.D.
Member

Philip Bredesen, Mayor

Cynthia Turner-Graham, M.D.
Vice-Chairman

Herman J. Kaplan, M.D.
Member

Justin P. Wilson
Member

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT of NASHVILLE and DAVIDSON COUNTY

FREDIA S. WADLEY, M.D.
Director of Health

METROPOLITAN HEALTH DEPARTMENT
311 - 23rd Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
TEL: (615)862-5900
FAX: (615)340-5665



April 1, 1993

Mrs. Joyce Espy Searcy
Executive Director
Bethlehem Centers of Nashville
1417 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

Dear Mrs. Searcy:

The Metropolitan Health Department supports the collaboration between Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, Tennessee State University and Fisk University as part of the initiative proposed by President Clinton. These institutions have worked closely for many years promoting a healthy environment for at-risk children, youth and their families.

Bethlehem Centers of Nashville is also presently collaborating with 89 other agencies in Metro Nashville Davidson County on the National Immunization Program.

Sincerely,

Fredia S. Wadley, M.D.

Fredia S. Wadley, M.D.
Director of Health

FSW:DJR

MEMBERS:

REP. CHARLES ALLEN
REP. JOHN ARRIOLA
REP. JOHN CHILES
REP. LOIS DUBERRY
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REP. DOUG JACKSON
REP. STEVE McDANIEL
REP. GARY ODOM
REP. BRENDA TURNER
REP. PAGE WALLEY

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF TENNESSEE**

**SUITE 17, LEGISLATIVE PLAZA
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0093
(615) 741-7046**

**CHAIRMAN
ROSCOE DIXON**

**VICE CHAIRMAN
MARY PRUITT**

**SECRETARY
JOE ARMSTRONG**

April 1, 1993

Commission on National and Community Services
529 14th Street N.W. Suite 452
Washington, D.C. 20045

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a privilege to support the collaboration between Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, Tennessee State University and Fisk University's model program for President Clinton's Summer of Service Initiative, presented at Rutgers University March 8, 1993. These three institutions have had a long standing history of collaboration and make an impact on at risk children, youth and families in the Nashville Community.

Sincerely,



Mary J. Pruitt
Advisory Board of
Bethlehem Center

MJP:db

Metropolitan
Government
of Nashville
and Davidson
County

Philip Bredesen
Mayor

April 1, 1993



Office Of
The Mayor

Commission on National and Community Service
529 14th Street, N.W.
Suite 452
Washington, D.C. 20045

Dear Commission Members:

It is a pleasure to support the joint proposal being submitted by Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, Tennessee State University and Fisk University to carry out President Clinton's Summer of Service program in Nashville, Tennessee.

These three partners have a long term, established history of effective service to this community and I am confident they can oversee a model program to achieve the very worthwhile goals of this project.

This city is especially committed to creating work experiences for the youth that you are targeting. We salute you for developing this opportunity for cities and we pledge to carry out its mission.

Warmest regards,

Philip Bredesen
Mayor

USDA AmeriCorps

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Proposal

Submitted By:

**Sharron S. Longino, Associate Administrator
Angela F. Courtney, Confidential Assistant**

March 14, 1994

USDA AmeriCorps

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Proposal

FmHA Objective: To elevate and advance the capacity development of Delta Region residents through the National and Community Service AmeriCorp by incorporating the existing resources of FmHA through a collaborative effort with the National Service Corp.

FmHA Partnership with Delta Residents: FmHA participants will be targeted in areas where FmHA subsidized (rental) housing facilities are located.

FmHA Collaboration with Welfare Reform: The selected participants would be welfare recipients and at-risk male youth.

Proposed Funding Structure

FmHA Demonstration Project = 40 Slots @ 7 States = 280

1. 25 Current Welfare Recipients (Ages 21-25)
2. 15 At-Risk Male Youth (Ages 13-15) *17-22*
- ** 3. 7 Case Managers @ \$20,000 = \$140,000.00
(one case manager per 40 participants)
- ** 4. 1 Case Manager Coordinator @ \$25,000

Total \$ 165,000.00

165,000.00 @ 4 years = \$660,000.00

280 @ 7,000 = \$1,960,000.00

Total cost @ 4 years = \$ 2,620,000.00

Child Care expenses and health care are not included in the yearly stipend per participant.

Food and Nutrition Collaboration--The Service Corp recipient's food stamp allocation would be reduced based on their stipend.

**** Salary and Fringe Benefits**

**FmHA AmeriCorp Proposal
National Service**

Health Care Collaboration--The participants would receive a waiver that will allow them to keep their health insurance (Medicaid) from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

FmHA proposal focuses on breaking the welfare cycle in rural areas. the proposal will provide welfare recipients and at-risk male youth with an alternative that would enable them to become self-sufficient.

FmHA's proposal would identify and certify 40 participants; and develop case files on each participant with an assessment of the participant's needs. Additional assistance for each participant will be provided during the application process for entrance to a junior college or four year college within a given area. Each participant would be required to agree to behavior modification counseling. They will be placed in a job within their local or state government. The job placement will correlate with their educational field of study.

Once the participants are in the AmeriCorp training, a follow-up criteria will be utilized to assist them in accessing other resources they may need, such as child care, transportation, etc.

The case manager will also work with the participants in establishing a support group. A year-end progress report on each participant will be provided to the AmeriCorp USDA Coordinator.

FmHA's proposal will not only provide a mechanism for assisting welfare recipients, but it will have a value-added component for local government bodies in the recipients area.

1996 AmeriCorp Program

Question: What work will be done by AmeriCorps?

Answer: While the delay in funding has hampered our ability to plan the final details of what service each AmeriCorps project will provide this year, the service is likely to be similar to that provided in FY 1995.

Members funded through the National Forest System performed the following service and accomplishments:

- o Constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trail.
- o Achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement; built 133 structures to shelter or protect wildlife; built 296 nesting boxes; and constructed a threatened and endangered plant greenhouse.
- o Improved 668 acres of timber stand.
- o Built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites.
- o Reforested 638 acres of land.
- o Prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities.
- o Improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat.
- o Constructed 86 miles of new fence.
- o Maintained 18 miles of vehicle trails to keep them free of obstructive growth and slides.
- o Improved watershed damaged by fire by cutting and planting 92,500 willows in riparian areas.
- o Built 11 flood fences to prevent future flooding.
- o Improved Forest Service road and safety conditions--by "day lighting" 50 curves.
- o Released 775,000 salmon fry in a fish stocking operation.
- o Constructed a major visitor information center.
- o Provided conservation education to 88,373 students, grades K-12.

DRAFT

Members funded through State and Private Forestry performed the following service and accomplishments:

Arkansas - Members worked to promote alternative energy sources which are environmentally safe, to select appropriate sites for installation of dry fire hydrants, to facilitate implementation and coordination of demonstration projects for five poultry litter spreaders. They also helped to promote alternative wood products and value-added manufacturing technologies, resulting in local people obtaining job training and higher paying employment while maintaining the quality of the rural environment. Tons of industrial wood waste is now being processed into energy in the form of wood pellets. The Members also helped the Community of Holly Grove facilitate the FEMA buy out of homes in the 100-year flood plain.

Georgia - A member created of Recreation Opportunity Guides for the Forests; assist in developing series of videos entitled "America's Great Outdoors, working with the Environmental Education Coordinator to present environmental education programs and fire prevention programs, worked with the Wilderness Ranger on the Brasstown Ranger District doing trail maintenance and doing presentations to local groups on wilderness management. The Recreation opportunity Guides that the Member produced will also be of value to thousands of Forest visitors expected to visit the Forest during the 1996 Olympics.

Kentucky - A Member worked with the McCreary County Fiscal Court, primarily with the County Road Supervisory, to take help create a (911) emergency response system and to start a road inventory and management system for the county.

Louisiana - One Member assisted grant development for a successful application to use timber bridge technology and materials for recreation tourism project in Lake Providence, LA. He continues to assist Humphreys County, MS in their timber bridge construction efforts. Two members assisted in the first stage of the Shiitake Mushroom forestry-related project.

Mississippi - One Member helped develop a recycling program in Leflore County. One Member organized construction of an outdoor classroom and implemented a plan to improve science test scores by 25 percent. A Member worked to start a community recreation and education program.

North Carolina - One Member developed a 5-year Master Plan for the development of a Parks and Recreation Department on the Cherokee Reservation. In addition, he established a Mountain Bike Trail on the Qualla Boundary for public use and special biking events. Another Member assisted in the identification and renovation of parks and other recreation facilities which did not comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements.

South Carolina - Two Members worked a dry fire hydrant project to improve rural fire protection, lower fire insurance rates, reduce losses from fire, and stimulate rural development. A member worked to create a nature trail at an elementary school. One Member provided technical assistance in solid waste management and recycling to communities in Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins, and Union Counties.

Tennessee - One Member assisted the Shady Valley Ruritan Club (non-profit) in organizing native cranberry restoration Action plan. The purpose of the cranberry restoration project is to stimulate economic development through tourism and educate the public about the uniqueness of the native cranberry and the Shady Valley community. One Member sponsored household hazardous waste collections held in 6 counties in July with participation increasing by 23%.

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Virginia - A Member researched and wrote a Tree Identification Teachers manual and completed tree identification plaques for the Marion Riverwalk. Another Member completed timber bridge design for 2 species of lumber, 3 lumber grades for each species, and 6 different bridge spans for each species and lumber grade. He also developed and received funding for designing and constructing 2 nail-laminated pedestrian timber bridges in the towns of Teasel and Marion. They also contacted over 100 volunteers and municipal fire departments pertaining to interest in installing dry fire hydrants.

Minnesota - Members completed major analysis of the current situation in the development of hybrid poplar as an alternative crop. Members also completed analysis and documentation of a survey of primary and secondary forest products manufacturers to determine barriers they face in engaging in more value-added production.

West Virginia - AmeriCorps Members have helped implement Hayfield-McCoy Trail System by identifying trail heads, as well as conducting inventories of service providers such as gas stations, motels, and restaurants. AmeriCorps Members also completed field work and analysis of current amounts of residues left in the forests after logging has been completed. This survey, covering the central counties of West Virginia has been used as a template for other areas of West Virginia and surrounding states. In West Virginia, probably the most meaningful project was the Braxton County project; development a trail system for environmental education. The project included clearing and constructing interpretive nature trails, building a large wooden foot bridge over a river, hanging bird and bat boxes, and identifying and labeling plants and trees along the way.

Colorado - Members completed draft of the San Juan Skyway Corridor Management Plan, completed conceptual master plan for a Petting Zoo, completed conceptual plan for Mangos Watchable Wildlife Wetland Park, developed GIS base map of political boundaries and wildlife corridors on the San Juan Skyway, initiated Ponderosa Pine Partnership, which allowed a timber contract to be bought and delivered to Montezuma County (first time in history this has occurred), and completed the Mangos Riverwalk, which received Governor Roemer's Smart Growth and Development Award for 1995.

Utah - Members completed a site inventory of 23 sites for inclusion in the Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway, completed signing project for Scenic Byways project in San Juan County, completed Urban Forestry project in Moab and in Huntington, and completed work with College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum on sorting and cataloging artifacts collected in 1987.

New Mexico - A Member worked with the non-profit Castile Arts and Crafts Guild to find work for people who were under-employed because of the closure of a lumber mill. AmeriCorps provided technical assistance to develop a plan for the second year of operation of the Sangria De Crista Wood Workers. Working the Carson National Forest engineer, AmeriCorps helped the people of the village of Velocities figure out how to improve their situation of a contaminated and insufficient water supply. AmeriCorps worked with the non-profit organization Gannets Del Vale and La Madeira Cooperative to develop a long range plan for economic development in the village of Velocities, using forest products and locally produced arts and crafts. In addition, because of the efforts of AmeriCorps, the 2,000 residents of the village of El Rico is one year closer to having safe drinking water. In Coyote, AmeriCorps is assisting the Volunteer Fire Department in locating a building the house the fire engine and to serve as a fire house. Trees in Taos County: AmeriCorps also assisted in the development of a group who will provide a long range plan for tree planting in Taos County.

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Arizona - Members assisted distressed Arizona communities to retain or expand businesses. AmeriCorps members implemented the Econ DB, an economic data base profile in 8 communities. Area Developers as well as the Arizona Department of Commerce's National Marketing Team will use the Econ DB. Public and private enterprises alike consider the Econ DB beneficial in attracting, developing and retaining businesses. Members also assisted multi-community action teams to have the Four Corners Heritage Council adopt the "Trail of Many Tracks" into the Four Corners Heritage Trail System. The Trail of Many Tracks is a heritage auto-touring route covering approximately 260 miles located in north central Arizona. The touring route passes through all communities adjacent to the Apache Sitgraves National Forest.

Oregon - The University of Oregon's Learn and Serve AmeriCorps Members are working and living in fourteen rural communities, five of which are USDA Forest Service supported. These participants are providing assistance in the areas of 1) Economic Development; 2) Environmental Preservation, Restoration, and Education; 3) Community Empowerment and Development.

Question: Does the AmeriCorps staff have the required professional experience to do the work?

Answer: All AmeriCorps members receive extensive technical training before they start their service and ongoing professional supervision during their service.

Question: Who has done this type of work in the past? If contracts were used, why not continue to use competitive bids and get professional quality work with appropriate oversight?

By law AmeriCorps Members can not displace existing employees or duplicate existing work. AmeriCorp provides a way to accomplish needed work and also meet a social objective of helped young people obtain a higher education.

The benefits of using AmeriCorps members to perform work are not limited to just the work (hours or volume) performed by the members themselves. Because of the nature of the AmeriCorps program and its legislation, projects utilizing AmeriCorps members can form partnerships with other government and non-government entities, wherein these entities can provide money, tools, supplies, volunteers and other support that could not and is not provided when other means such as private contractors are used to perform the work.

Question: Are the AmeriCorps centers appropriately located so the priority projects are tackled for each of the main program areas listed?

Answer: All Forest Service projects, developed at the ground level, are selected after an intense internal competition and then a highly competitive external competition run by the Corporation for National Service. The projects are designed to contribute to the planned program accomplishments of each unit.

DRAFT

Correspondence

November 14, 1994

Belleville News Democrat
120 S. Illinois St.
P. O. Box 427
East St. Louis, Illinois 62220

To The Editor:

We are writing to set the record straight about a recent article and a recent editorial you published about the AmeriCorps project --- in which we proudly serve --- in East St. Louis.

Not only were both pieces based on information that was either inaccurate or taken out of context, but they missed the "real" story of how a small group of citizens are "getting things done" in our community through a unique new public/private partnership that is extremely cost-effective and that builds community, opportunity, and responsibility.

The pieces claim that, on the first day of service, Members did not have the proper tools they needed. However, the Members were engaged in activities that didn't require tools that day. The fact is that our Members will have the proper tools needed to complete all their actual service assignments.

The pieces also highly inflated the financial costs of the project. They reported that child care will cost \$68,000, while the actual cost is approximately \$10,000. The article attributes \$7,000 for a tree-planting grant, but that grant was unrelated to AmeriCorps. In reality, by law, AmeriCorps has a far lower administrative overhead than most programs run by either governments or non-profit organizations.

The great majority of spending will pay for the minimal, \$7,600 living stipend and the \$4,725 educational award for the Members. AmeriCorps is based upon the model of the original GI Bill, which awarded educational benefits in exchange for service to the country. The GI Bill, which also required a significant initial investment, played a critical role in creating America's prosperity following World War II. Likewise, AmeriCorps too will pay large dividends for our entire society.

Your editorial criticized some of our Members who stated that receiving the educational benefit was a significant reason for their joining AmeriCorps. In order for both our local and our national economy to prosper, all our best students must simply be able to earn the opportunity to obtain college, vocational school, or graduate school educations. Moreover, working one's way through school is the essence of the American way.

(more)

While our small stipend barely pays all of our bills, we are excited to have this opportunity to provide real and meaningful service to others.

AmeriCorps is cost-effective because it meets multiple needs. Our projects will build urban gardens, renovate public parks, and provide flood relief work, at a small fraction of the cost that would be required by government workers or government contractors. Furthermore, our projects will bring people of varied backgrounds together to forge bonds of "sweat equity," and will remind all citizens that, in addition to the rights that citizens enjoy, they also have very serious responsibilities to their communities.

We respectfully suggest that your article and editorial missed the point. AmeriCorps is neither a jobs program or a volunteer program ---- it is a service and citizenship movement. AmeriCorps is a "domestic Peace Corps," and just as generations past were proud to serve their world, we are proud to serve our own backyards.

We look forward to working with all communities in the East St. Louis area as we all work together to build a new ethic of citizen service.

Sincerely,

AmeriCorps Members
East. St. Louis

1. William Archer
2. Doree Hark
3. Beatha Maxwell
4. Bill Wallace
5. John Brown
6. Arthur Johnson
7. Dana Filler
8. Doree Johnson
9. Michael Smith
10. James Pace
11. Theresa Taylor

1839457

1775 Sol-Legary Road
Charleston, South Carolina
September 2, 1994

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Action Office: oc
Referral Code: 34



* 3 0 6 8 5 8 9 *

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a copy of my AmeriCorp/USDA application. If I'm not mistaken, this program is headed by the Honorable/ Mr. Espy of the United States Department of Agricultural.

I am 19 years old and presently a freshman at the University of South Carolina. I am somewhat pessimistic of the selection process of the AmeriCorp/USDA. Even though I haven't received a reply nor have there been any indications for my pessimistic position, I do understand that individuals of the lower economical class of society seldom is afforded the opportunity to participate in programs of this nature.

If you afford me some of your valuable time and read only section 1X, Additional Information, then you might

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be able to relate to my pessimistic position.

my application is being sent to:

Mr. Greg White

Strom Thurmond Federal Bldg.

1835 Assembly Street

Room 1007

Columbia, S.C. 29201

(803) 253-3356.

Thank you for your time and
may God bless you.

Sincerely,

-Jermaine Brown

IX. Presently, I am a freshman at the University of South Carolina. My mother is the only one working in the household. At the present time, the company which she works for, AT&T, is laying off workers. It's a great possibility that my mother might be budget cut. I have two brothers and one sister. One of my brothers who is named Desmond A Brown, attends Howard University, in Washington, D.C. my sister, La Shonda, also attends Howard University. My sister and brother will both be sitting out this semester because of finances. They both intend to get a job this semester so that at least one of them can go back to school next semester. Presently, half of my tuition is paid through the (FAF). My mother is doing all she can to pay the other half of my tuition, in the forefront of a budget cut. I do not have books to attend school but I take good notes. Through my brother's leniency this is his second time sitting out for a semester because of finances, I gain strength. Now, I ask you, why do I have to go through the anguish of being selected based on skills, experiences and possible politics.

(IV Cont.) So many individuals from the lowest of the low economical class of society who have the potential and desire to attend college can't go because of finances. Now, when a program of this sort becomes available, you ask for skills/experiences camouflaged by politics, knowingly that these skills/experiences are rare in this particular class of society. I say to you, that my particular hardship or special circumstances is merely being born in the lower economical class of society and not having any means to finance my college education whereas I can someday rise above it.

Correspondence# 1839457
Department of Agriculture

October 18, 1994

Mr. Jermaine C. Brown
1775 Sol-Legare Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

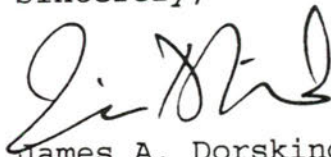
Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have shown in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Agriculture for review and any appropriate action. Please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the issues you have raised. Should you wish to contact the Department of Agriculture directly, you may write to: Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



James A. Dorskind
Special Assistant to the President
Director of Correspondence and
Presidential Messages

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Mr. Jermaine C. Brown
1775 Sol-Lezure Road
Charleston, South Carolina
(29412)



WASH., D.C. ONE DCE#7 09/08/94



President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.



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Correspondence

(2)

While our small stipend barely pays all of our bills, we are excited to have this opportunity to provide real and meaningful service to others.

AmeriCorps is cost-effective because it meets multiple needs. Our projects will build gardens, renovate public parks, and provide flood relief work, at a small fraction of the cost that would be required by government workers or government contractors. Furthermore, our projects will bring people of varied backgrounds together to forge bonds of "sweat equity," and will remind all citizens that, in addition to the rights that citizens enjoy, they also have very serious responsibilities to their communities.

We respectfully suggest that your article and editorial missed the point. AmeriCorps is neither a jobs program or a volunteer program ---- it is a service and citizenship movement. AmeriCorps is a "domestic Peace Corps," and just as generations past were proud to serve their world, we are proud to serve our own backyards.

We look forward to working with all communities in the East St. Louis area as we all work together to build a new ethic of citizen service.

Sincerely,

AmeriCorps Members
East St. Louis

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We look forward to working with all communities in the East St. Louis area as we all work together to build a new ethic of citizen service.

Sincerely,

AmeriCorps Members
East St. Louis

Handwritten list of names:
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