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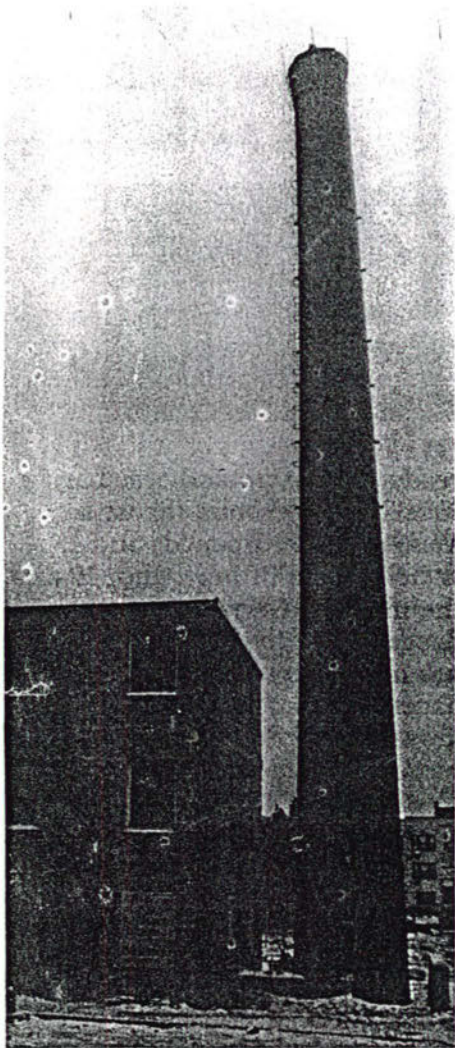
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[Miscellaneous News Articles About AmeriCorps] [loose] [2]

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## ETCETERA! ETCETERA! ETCETERA! ETCETERA!



On April 2, 1996, the smokestack at Ellen Wilson finally came down making way for a new era in mixed income housing.

It is evident that as Receiver David Gilmore's plan to restore the entire stock of D.C. public housing to quality living standards moves ahead, many residents are eager to have that process come to their developments ASAP. At a recent receiver's meeting, a **Hopkins** resident addressed the public notoriety that the new management and renovations to **Highland** have been getting. "We want that kind of help, too," she said. "We have a good manager but she needs help." Receiver Gilmore then acknowledged that his system wide Occupied Unit Rehabilitation plan will take two years to complete but that "no one will be left out." For example, currently underway are full facelifts at **Greenleaf** and **Park Morton**, (see page 1). . . . Popular WRC-TV (Channel 4) anchorwoman **Susan Kidd** can claim a few more fans from among youngsters and mothers at Highland. Kidd has quietly volunteered to read to children on Saturday mornings and the response has been very positive. "She shows up here without fanfare in jeans and a sweatshirt and stays with us for more than two hours," said resident and parent **Mary Ragsdale**. "She even brings the books. It gives the children and parents a lot of time to be together. We really appreciate her giving something back to the community." . . . The audience at the February 15 Receiver's meeting seemed to enjoy the first-ever evening Receiver's Meeting. The next evening session (beginning at 6 pm) for the twice-monthly event is scheduled for May 16. . . . Three cheers to **AmeriCorps** volunteers for the paint and plastering job done at the **Arthur Capper** senior building units, hallways and common areas. The residents are ecstatic over the new look and appreciate the lasting friendships they developed with the young people from all over the country who volunteered their time five days a week since mid-January. Soon they will turn their attention to 'Flower Power', a joint project between AmeriCorps and resident volunteers to beautify the surrounding grounds with colorful flowers and shubbery this spring. . . . Congratulations to aspiring artist **Chris Pierce**, Resident of the Month, who resides at **Hopkins**. Chris has been volunteering at Resident Services and helped organize the Black History celebration. . . . Congratulations to former Section 3 participant **Doreetha Manor** on the purchase of her new home in Bowie, Md. Ms. Manor, had been in the Section 8 program since 1987. . . . For the third time since last fall, DCHA scheduled the kickoff of a mixed-income renewal project at **Ellen Wilson** with the April 2 demolition of the 80-foot smokestack in the center of the long vacant Capitol Hill development. . . . On March 16, the U.S. Agency for International Development had a successful workshop to develop a work plan to restore a neighborhood health facility at **Arthur Capper** Senior building at the Church of the Reformation. . . . Residents of **Valley Green** took some of their neighbors at **Sky Tower** to Boston recently to view models of mixed-income redevelopment communities of the variety that DCHA and Valley Green are considering in D.C. . . . **Ernestine Bush**, TAP housing Program Specialist, is celebrating 25 years of marriage and has become a new grandmother.



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**How can they be volunteers  
if they're paid for their work?**

W247AT  
The front-page article, "AmeriCorps goes to work in service to community" (Dec. 26), included a despicable misuse of the English language amid an obvious "spin" in favor of President Clinton's social policy. The writer apparently was inspired by the "volunteers with President Clinton's new community service army."

Volunteers? What volunteers? They're not working for free. They are paid for their time. While most people's labor serves the community at large, "volunteer" is a term seldom used to describe the rest of us. They are not volunteers; they are capitalizing on a good offer.

While there is a debate over the value of this or any national service program, the front page is for news. Such blatant "spins" belong on the Opinion page.

DAN LITWIN  
San Diego



## MID-DELTA BRIEFS

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**GREENVILLE** — Ten AmeriCorps volunteers in the Delta will spend the year trying to improve bridges, sewer systems and recycling programs in an effort to improve the general quality of life among residents.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's new national service program, involving 20,000 Americans, 17 and older.

Volunteers receive money at the end of the year of service, which began in September. They can use the money to further their education or pay back student loans.

The 10 volunteers are stationed throughout the Delta, in Greenville, Greenwood, Belzoni, Cleveland and Stoneville, according to team leader Cassandra McClure.

"Each member has different objectives," McClure said.

In Greenville, for instance, Wandra Arrington and Jethro Henderson hope to obtain grants to help fund local recycling programs already in place in Washington, Issaquena and Sharkey counties.

"We're working with local leaders and public officials in the area to expand, evaluate and work with existing projects," Arrington explained.

Another volunteer is an assistant forester;

two in Cleveland are working on the sewer systems; and the Belzoni team is evaluating the safety of timber bridges to find out which ones need to be fixed, McClure said.

The Northwest Resource Conservation and Development Area in Stoneville acts as the sponsor for the program. Part of the federal Soil Conservation and Development Service, the non-profit agency works on rural development programs in the Mississippi Delta.

Throughout the year, volunteers also hope to initiate other projects related to education, public safety and human and environmental needs.



# AmeriCorps worker calls program a 'good deal'

By LISA YORKGITIS  
News Tribune

Earlier this year, Ed Gillmore of Jefferson City was exploring ways to continue working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture when he found out about AmeriCorps, the new national service program.

The national program enables him to earn a living stipend for about 10 months' work as well as \$4,725 for tuition or loan payments. Plus, he said, it will give him an edge in case a full-time job becomes available.

"It's a good deal," said Gillmore, 31, a father of two girls who became an AmeriCorps worker in October.

As an animal sciences graduate from the University of Missouri-Columbia, Gillmore said the education award will help repay his loans. He also is considering graduate school.

Gillmore works in Cole, Callaway and Osage counties with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly called the Soil Conservation Service.

More than a dozen AmeriCorps members work

## ★ AmeriCorps

From page one

with the service throughout Missouri. Other AmeriCorps members scheduled to work in Mid-Missouri include two people who will conduct pesticide safety training through Rural Missouri Inc., based in Jefferson City.

As an AmeriCorps worker, Gillmore helps farmers develop ways to reduce soil and land erosion, increase crop yields and protect water supplies.

"Our main goal is to conserve our natural resources," he said.

On a given day, he may help a producer develop a crop rotation plan, teach about soil erosion to

Although the office didn't have much time to prepare for having an AmeriCorps member, the staff quickly found a place for the new worker.

"It wasn't like we had to scramble," Van De Velde said.

Gillmore's position with AmeriCorps enables him to work with producers across a variety of landscapes in his three-county area.

Earlier this week, he visited farmer Cletus "Jake" Schellman in the Cole Junction bottom along with a wildlife biologist and another worker at the district office.

The rebuilt Cole Junction



AmeriCorps worker Ed Gillmore, left, examines a possible wetlands area on the property of Cletus "Jake" Schellman, center, at Cole Junction. With them is wildlife biologist Reggie Bennett.

Julie Smith/News Tribune

NEWS TRIBUNE  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI  
NOVEMBER 31, 1995



# AmeriCorps is launched nationwide

## Nebraska students will participate in service program

By Angie Goettsch  
Staff Reporter

President Clinton's service corps of college students soon will be marching into Nebraska.

In Nebraska, 20 college students will serve in AmeriCorps, said Craig Derickson, Nebraska's director of AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps, which kicks off today nationwide, is President Clinton's national service program that will offer students academic scholarships in ex-

change for community service. Through the program, students can help solve local problems while getting leadership and service opportunities.

Nebraska's Soil Conservation Service will work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fill the Nebraska positions. Five people will be working at offices in Norfolk, Lincoln, Omaha and Tecumseh.

Derickson said participants would earn a living stipend of \$7,660, and supervisors would receive \$12,000. They also would receive an educational voucher of \$4,725 when they completed 1,812 hours of service. The educational voucher may be used to pay for college loans or tuition.

This summer, organizers have been gearing up for the project around the

country. Students had to apply to participate in the AmeriCorps program by Sept. 2.

Derickson said many University of Nebraska-Lincoln students had sent him applications.

No specific qualifications were required to apply for AmeriCorps, he said, other than a strong interest to work in a community service program and on environmental projects. Site supervisors are required to be college graduates. Other service participants must be college bound.

John Beacon, UNL director of scholarships and financial aid, said the program would give people who normally couldn't afford it the chance to go to college.

But, he said, "it will be at least one

year before anyone will be able to get a voucher."

Beacon said: "Under this scenario, you are a servant for some years before you can use that money toward college, but students will not have loan dependencies."

Derickson said the Corporation for National Service administered the national program. State commissions sponsor 300 programs across the country, and federal agencies also sponsor some projects.

Derickson said AmeriCorps programs that were linked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, like Nebraska's program, would help solve environmental problems.

See AMERICORPS on 6

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## AmeriCorps

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"They will be working as a team to provide local communities support for flood relief, water quality protection, natural resource protection, complete rehabilitation and maintenance on recreation areas, and environmental and ecosystem management education," Derickson said.

"We want to work with the community and provide information on how to protect the environment," Derickson said.

Derickson said he expected 20,000 students to participate in AmeriCorps nationwide by the year's end.

He also expected the program to be a lasting one.

"Because this national service program gives students opportunities to help meet educational needs, I have speculation that this program will continue," Derickson said.

Beacon said AmeriCorps was a good opportunity for college students, but it would be better if more students could get involved.



Daily Nebraska  
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**SPRING CLEAN-UP -** West Virginia AmeriCorps members, along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, joined forces Wednesday to clean debris left by the winter flood at the Point Pleasant boat launch area. Assisting with the special project were Leah Ceperley of Hurricane, Tim Craddock of Huntington, Marie Maivro of Beckley, and Susan Henthorn and Allan Skidmore of Middlebourne. Pictured above are a few of the members as they clean a hillside.

WV

Front page news  
Point Pleasant Register  
4-11-96



"We aren't exactly rejoicing in the halls," Staton said, "but I think those numbers speak for themselves."

a Sebring, Fla.-based health management company that is overseeing

Please see GCH Page 2A



Bob Gay/Staff

Members of the East Fairmont High School Band display their patriotic pride during Saturday's Loyalty Day Parade.

## AML's projects improving water

By Jenni Vincent

STAFF WRITER

**BRUCETON MILLS** — Hundreds of abandoned mine sites have already been reclaimed by the state Division of Environmental Protection's Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation.

Locally, slightly more than \$6 million has been spent on AML projects in Preston County within the lower Cheat River Watershed.

Consequently, acid mine drainage — which otherwise would have gone into the Cheat River — has been reduced.

But that's not all.

According to Dave Broschart,

district engineer with the state Division of Environmental Protection's AML program, construction should begin on four additional sites here this spring.

Although many people don't realize how much work has already been done in the lower Cheat, Broschart is proud of the AML's track record and how much has already been done to improve water quality problems — especially those related to acid mine drainage.

"One type of environmental benefit surrounds improving water

quality within the state's waterways. This can occur not only by direct treatment of acid

mine drainage that often discharges from old deep mines, but also through reclaiming coal refuse piles, backfilling highwalls, or regrading and covering old mine spoil area," Broschart said, explaining

that environmental problems other than acidity such as erosion and sedimentation have also been reduced by the AML's projects.

Funding for AML remedial work

is obtained from the coal industry through a tax based on coal production, Broschart said.

AML work first began here in 1982, Broschart said, explaining that approximately \$20,588 was spent reclaiming the Demoss/Goines Project.

Located off Route 7 north of Kingwood, this project centered on the reclamation of a small refuse pile and sealing four open mine entries, Broschart said.

Overall, these AML projects have ranged from simple backfilling of highwalls to the construction of passive water treatment systems,

Please see WATER Page 2A



Bob Gay/Staff

While his owner, Dr. David Leveaux, studies information on protecting the world's rain forests, "Major" keeps an eye on other activities at Saturday's Environmental Awareness Day at Camp Mar Mac.

## Environmental Awareness: Simple lessons

By Jenni Vincent

STAFF WRITER

**FARMINGTON** — Just an ordinary bowl of water.

Why did it attract so much attention at the Environmental Awareness Day?

Because it didn't stay clear or clean for long, thanks to Leah Ceperley, an Americorps representative who staffed the Natural Resources Conservation Service's booth at Saturday's event.

While Ceperley and another staffer, Marie Maiuro spent a good deal of time explaining erosion and sedimentation, it was their demonstration which really helped illustrate these soil-related problems.

After seeing Ceperley pour water onto the bare dirt above the bowl, youngsters were surprised to see the water become a murky brown — right before their eyes.

"See how the soil actually washes down into the water? But in this other bowl, there's much less because there was grass

growing in the soil. The roots help hold the soil, so not as much will wash away," Ceperley said, smiling as a youngster moved closer for a better look at the discolored water.

From composting and rain forests to recycling and clean drinking water, participants were treated to more than a dozen environmental booths and presentations.

Organizer Mike Montgomery, who estimated that approximately 100 individuals participated in this event (including presenters and visitors), praised the displays and information which was available.

"The displays are just the best...everyone has something incredible to offer. For example, the Fairmont State College Costa Rica Association just finished a slide show on rain forests and why they're important," Montgomery said, explaining that participating organizations included state and federal agencies, private non-profit organizations and community groups.

Annie, a red-tailed hawk, also drew a

large crowd at a display presented by the West Virginia Raptor Rehabilitation Center.

Morgantown resident Kim Roff, an educational volunteer with the group, explained that Annie is an educational bird who can never be released into the wild.

"Since she was illegally taken when she was young, Annie never learned to fear humans," said Roff, explaining that the center cares for injured birds of prey until they can once again be released.

At another cabin, members of the Barrackville Busy Bisons 4-H Club were fashioning bird feeders out of used milk jugs and flowers from old plastic six-pack rings.

In between activities, leader Tonya Daft administered an environmental pledge to wide-eyed youngsters who — with their right hands raised — solemnly vowed to help make the world a better place.

"This is what it's all about. I know from watching these kids that they have gotten a lot out of the demonstrations and learned a lot," Daft said.



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"Your Sunday Morning Newspaper"



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# Henthorn Says Americorp Is Project Worth Keeping

By RAY SWEENEY  
Staff Writer

While support for the President Bill Clinton-implemented Americorp program is waning, a Paden City woman is a firm believer in the venture.

Susan Henthorn of Paden City finished her tour in the Americorp on Saturday and would gladly rejoin the program. On that day, Henthorn had finished 1,700 hours of community service, working as a rural community assistant under John Carr at the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Middlebourne.

"I would like to stay but my tour is up," Henthorn said. "I like getting out helping people. I was scheduled to stay in the program until July 1 but I have been getting a lot of hours here lately."

She has been all over Wetzel County during her 11-month tour. She has helped with stream bank stabilization at Tyler Consolidated High School and at Fisher Creek at Pine Grove. Also, she helped prepare correspondence and maps for the Pine Grove water survey and has worked with many aquaculture groups in the area. She has been in contact with Tyler Consolidated about the possibility of conducting outdoor classrooms and has done funding searches for the Tyler County Senior Center.

At Hundred, she located a computer for town recorder Judy McNeely to aid in garbage and police fee billings. She located the computer on the other side of the state around Beckley, W.Va.

Over the past few months, she has been helping

McNeely become computer literate. She has been spending nine to 10 hours a day helping McNeely learn the computer.

On her last day of work on Saturday, Henthorn along with high school students cleaned the Paden City Park grounds. The group had intended to paint the swimming pool also but inclement weather kept them from this job. This Sunday, the group will be back at the park finishing the job.

Henthorn said although she won't be in the Americorp program anymore, she will still be helping out in the community. She said she will still make trips to Hundred to help McNeely because she doesn't want to leave her "cold turkey."

A state project she will also be instrumental in will be the Ohio River Sweep.

In the Americorp program, a person earns money for college tuition or to pay of college debt by working for various governmental departments. Henthorn will receive \$4,785 for her work.

The money will come in handy because she intends to attend either West Liberty State College or Wheeling Jesuit College to get a bachelor's degrees in business administration and accounting. Henthorn currently holds associates degrees in applied science and accounting and business administration and certificates in small business management and PC specialist all from West Virginia Northern Community College.

Henthorn became acquainted with the program

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## Americorp



Susan Henthorn, an Americorp volunteer and Paden City resident, in the background takes time from her busy schedule to pose for a picture with her high school helpers on Saturday. Henthorn and her group cleaned Paden City Park but inclement weather kept them from painting the pool. Henthorn is one of only two Americorp volunteers in the

(Continued from Page 1A)

after seeing an article in this paper in August 1994. At first, it didn't seem like she would be able to fit the work into her schedule. By May, her schedule cleared so she applied for the position. She was hired the next month.

"The point of this program is getting things done," Henthorn said. "That is the main thing."

Henthorn and Becky Shilling

Rodocker of Wheeling, who works with Multiple Sclerosis sufferers, are the only two Americorp volunteers in the panhandle but there are 188 statewide. Henthorn said nobody will know until August whether the Resource Conservation Service Americorp Program will be approved for another year. If it is, she many reapply. There are ten people who currently serve as Americorp volunteers in the RCS. Some Americorp programs have

been cut such as the one to aid the Department of Forestry.

What would she say to someone who is thinking of joining Americorp?

"Go for it," she said. "It is very interesting work and I have learned a lot and met a lot of nice people. It also provides you with college money. It is terrific."







# Clinton's Domestic Peace Corps Is Hard At Work in Vermont

By KRISTIN BLOOMER  
Herald Staff

One young person is helping Vermonters fight hunger. Another is teaching visually impaired people to cope with their vision loss. Another is working to control erosion along the Winooski River.

They are three Vermont members of AmeriCorps, otherwise known as the Clinton administration's domestic Peace Corps. The national service program has more members per capita in Vermont than in any other state, according to the Corporation for National Service in Washington, D.C.

With 130 members serving a population of 562,758 (1990 census), Vermont's AmeriCorps has one member for every 4,328 residents. Rick Allen, the corporation's deputy assistant to President Clinton, said only Montana rivals those numbers. Montana's AmeriCorps has 179 members serving a population of 799,065, has one member per every 4,464 residents.

There are six AmeriCorps programs in Vermont:

- > The Northeast Kingdom Initiative, run out of Lyndon State College, offers services ranging from tutoring to economic development assistance.

- > The Independent Living Project, based in Brattleboro, assists the elderly and Vermonters with disabilities to remain in their

homes and stay connected with their communities around the state.

- > USDA Rural Development Teams are working on soil conservation projects — such as one along the Winooski River — and on helping rural communities like Mendon get fire protection.

- > USDA Public Lands Teams are working with the Green Mountain National Forest and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to rebuild long-neglected parks, recreation areas and miles of hiking trails.

- > The USDA Anti-Hunger Corps is working to help communities locate their own hunger needs and realize or improve projects they deem important, such as food co-ops, community gardens, and school lunch programs.

Many of these programs had already existed through USDA funding. But they were able to extend their services on the strength of their applications, Allen said.

"They were very clear about the beneficial change they were going to make for their communities," Allen said. "Vermont programs proved they were going to get things done in Vermont."

"Getting things done" is the motto for AmeriCorps. Members are selected from applications and receive a small living stipend, health care benefits and, if necessary, child

(See Page 18: AmeriCorps)



Staff Photo by Peter Carve

Zebediah Kellogg-Roe is serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer in the Rutland area with the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps.

## AmeriCorps

Continued from Page 15

care. Vermont's AmeriCorps members range in age from 19 to 67.

At least three programs — the Public Lands Team, the Anti-Hunger Corps and the Independent Living Project — are still accepting applications.

For 1,700 documented hours of service and training, "full-time members" receive about \$600 a month and a \$4,725 voucher that can be used for college, graduate school or vocational training, or to pay back college loans. "Part-time members" receive travel allowance, no stipend and an education voucher of \$2,363.

Kathleen Furgeson, executive director of Vermont's Commission on National and Community Service, is in charge of the six programs. She said Vermont's relatively small

population helped groups cooperate during the grant-writing process in a way that made Vermont's proposals especially powerful.

"I don't think the decision (to fund Vermont's programs) was based on our being any more or less needy than any other state," Furgeson said. "It was based on whether we were able to best meet the needs of our particular state."

And the needs are there. Bari Gladstone, program director of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, said the Vermont Food Bank served 100,000 people last year — a fifth of the state's population and a significant increase over last year.

"There's a growing population of working people living right on the edge," she said. "Many don't consider themselves eligible for food

stamps, for example, when in fact they may be."

Zebediah Kellogg-Roe is a member of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps southwest team, whose six members live together in Sudbury and whose current work is to take "climate surveys" of the region.

The work has nothing to do with weather. The purpose is to collect information about the community's food and nutritional needs before moving into actual "project work," Kellogg-Roe said.

"We don't want to come in as Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps or some outside group and tell Rutland, 'This is what you should do,'" he said. "That's not going to fly. It has to be grass roots. It has to come from people who are affected by the problem."

So Kellogg-Roe is meeting with groups such as the Rutland-Area Co-Op, a group that has 77 members and needs 300 in order to get started, he said. He plans to help them with grant-writing and membership drives, and hopes to help revitalize a community garden in Bennington, he said.

The idea is to empower local communities, he said.

"I'll leave eventually," he said. "At the end of September our term will roll over. It's important that what we do has the potential to carry past us. We don't want to come in and fill a gap as a volunteer, and when we leave have it open again. We want to create a system, so that when we leave, the system is still there."



VT

**AmeriCorps Going Strong**

A public and private-partnership which is providing a needed year-round reliable water source for fire suppression is cause for celebration in the town of Woodstock, on September 27. The AmeriCorps Vermont Fire Technical Support Team, in a collaborative effort with Vermont's RC&D Council, provided the Woodstock Fire Department with engineering assistance for the installation of a dry fire hydrant, a critical element in the town's economic development plan. Governor Howard Dean, Senators Leahy and Jeffords, and Representative Sanders will be recognized for their support of the AmeriCorps Program.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



# Opinion

## Saving funding, food

**R**espectful, open-minded, community based, worthy. No, this is not the new creed of the Boy Scouts. These are some of the values embodied by the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, a program to feed disadvantaged Vermonters that is worth watching.

The year-old effort is part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps services program, his domestic version of the Peace Corps. In exchange for a small wage and later money for college, volunteers work in community service projects. In this case, the winners are hungry Vermonters.

Though the program is now a target for Washington's budget cutters, including the \$850,000 that goes to Vermont's effort, its attributes are precisely what government should be doing for disadvantaged people.

■ **Respectful.** The corps does not just give food away. Respecting the people it serves, the anti-hunger effort joins with city recreation in St. Albans, for example, and then provides lunch for the kids who come to swim.

■ **Open-minded.** The corps has tapped into whatever resources will feed whoever needs to be fed. The inmates' garden at the Northwest State Correctional Center in St. Albans — already a provider of 30,000 pounds of food to hungry Vermonters each year — has been a focus for one corps volunteer.

■ **Community based.** Far from using a federal know-it-all approach, the corps devises local solutions to local problems. Many of the workers are volunteers, and the food is often grown at community gardens.

The merit of this strategy is that the program's beneficiaries — often the rural poor — learn skills and develop systems that they can sustain themselves, without outside help. It also means the corps' work fits the community's needs.

■ **Worthy.** Some of the program's local ideas may be duplicated statewide, for example teaching proper nutrition to furloughed prison inmates. The anti-hunger effort has also won Vermont recognition and a chance to serve as a national model — "not by giving more handouts but by building opportunity and responsibility among the people they are working with," said Joel Berg, Agriculture Department director of national service.

These goals replicate those of many of Washington's fiscal conservatives, yet they do not place the corps above budget cuts. The federal government's debt is more than \$4.5 trillion, and growing. AmeriCorps' status as a pet Clinton initiative makes it particularly vulnerable.

So are the people it serves. The program's values are so Boy Scout-laudable, it deserves better. Its return on federal investment is high, too, for the hungry and for the participants.

The state's Congressional delegation should help it survive. Meanwhile Vermonters should continue to expand the program's volunteer supporters. Good ideas should survive no matter who is paying for them.

THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT  
JUNE 27, 1995



# Smyth County NEWS

MIDWEEK EDITION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1994

MARION, VIRGINIA

## Riverwalk planner coordinating grand vision

### Service program will benefit conservancy

By DON SIMMONS JR./Staff

A downtown focal point where families can enjoy the beauty of Marion's own river and an educational and therapeutic tool that can be used by schools, civic groups and health facilities in the community—this is Mindy Clark's vision for the Grassroots Conservancy's Riverwalk.

The three-mile riverwalk path, which extends from beyond the old ice plant in South Marion, past the town swimming pool and along Campbell Avenue almost to the Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute, is one of the first recipients of the benefits of Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps service.

Clark is part of a four-member AmeriCorps team headquartered in Wytheville. The team is assisting a variety of projects, but Clark's work will be concentrated on the riverwalk. Working out of office space donated by Bill Huber of Echols-Sparger, Clark's job is to manage the overall riverwalk project, design features for the project and to assist in negotiating easements to connect the riverwalk's three phases. She has nine-12 months to do this.

Originally from a rural community in New Hampshire, Clark holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture



Don Simmons Jr.

**Mindy Clark works on preliminary sketches for the Wilderness Road Park section of Marion's three-mile riverwalk.**

from Montana State University with a focus in landscape design.

With only six weeks on the job, Clark has spent most of her time familiarizing

herself with the existing features of the riverwalk.

"It's already a beautiful trail," she says. "My job will be to see exactly what people are looking for in the river-

walk. A lot of times people have assumptions that they don't communicate. I'll try to coordinate everyone's ideas and present a plan which meets their needs as closely as possible."

Soon Clark will distribute a survey to members of the Grassroots Conservancy, but she says she welcomes other input as well. There are numerous possibilities, maybe even including space for a community theater near Riverbend Park. There have also been discussions about re-stocking the river with trout.

"The goal of the trail is to serve the community as a whole," she noted.

Concurrently with her work on the riverwalk, Clark is also helping her AmeriCorps team members in a tree identification project along the riverwalk. The information gathered will be used on educational tours by Marion Middle School students and other schools in the county.

The riverwalk is divided into three parts. Phase one runs from Riverbend Park near the old ice plant to the railroad trestle at Church Street. One of the most scenic parts of the walk, this phase features the old dam and ice plant, a variety of trees and wildflowers and a quiet, removed atmosphere in the middle of downtown Marion. Clark is suggesting the addition of markers with information about the various vegetation and wildlife along the trail. Benches for quiet repose are also being considered.

Once at the trestle, walkers must now take to the street until they reach the town swimming pool, but one of Clark's tasks is to attempt to negotiate easements (or rights-of-way) so that

■ See CLARK, Page A8

## AmeriCorps team begins its service in region

By ANDY KEGLEY/Staff

Take four individuals with diverse backgrounds, add their strong interest in conservation and public service, and then meld them into members of the new rural development and conservation team in Southwest Virginia.

The result: one of the newest AmeriCorps teams—the new national service initiative pushed by President Bill Clinton to tackle a wide range of critical needs across the nation. As envisioned, over 100,000 people will eventually be put to work solving a multitude of problems, and in return, receiving living stipends, health insurance, child care and an educational allowance for their

one or two year service.

This particular four member team headquartered in Wytheville (a fifth member has yet to be brought on board), falls under the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development wing, and will be specifically answerable to the New River/Highlands Resource Conservation and Development district.

As explained by Gary Boring, director of the NR/H RC&D, when the president's program was announced earlier this year, the local forestry committee applied for a grant to staff five positions to assist in the overall marketing of timber, but with the goal of enhancing the existing soil erosion and conservation programs.

And now, since this team was sworn in a Nashville ceremony Sept. 18 along with approximately 2,000 other AmeriCorps volunteers from a five-state area, the members are busily defining their tasks, and becoming familiar with new terminology and bureaucracy.

Audrey Biggs, Adrienne Perkins, Mindy Clark and Delton Alderman bring diverse backgrounds of communications, forestry and horticulture to their newly created positions. Three of the four hold degrees from Virginia Tech, while Clark completed a horticulture program at Montana State University in Bozeman.

As the team, they will be spend one day a week working out of Clark's Marion office, where their focus will be on a tree

identification program along the town's three-mile long Riverwalk and Greenway project. That project has received two other state grants, one of \$100,000 from the state Commonwealth Transportation Board's ISTEAP program; and another from the Division of Forestry's Urban Forestry program. With Clark's expertise in landscape architecture, the project can move forward.

Clark may also be available to localities in the service region, to assist with park planning, Boring noted.

Separately, the team members have their own responsibilities throughout the NR/HRC&D to implement aspects of conservation.

■ See AMERICORPS, Page A11



## Team begins service

■ **AMERICORPS**, from Page A1

Biggs, for example, will serve as outreach coordinator, predominantly working in the 11 county region of the NR/HRC&D, developing quarterly newsletters and press releases. "Basically, I will be working to improve the community's knowledge of the programs available," and more specifically, "whatever affects soil conservation or forestry in the area."

She earned an English degree from Tech, plus a master's in communications from Radford, and had been working in a management position in Harrisonburg when she learned of the AmeriCorps program. "The initial attraction? This allows me to utilize my degree to its best potential. Plus, it allows me to give back some of what we've gotten. If Uncle Sam helped us out (in student loans), I have no problem giving back to him."

Biggs will also develop four newsletters specifically targeting watershed groups in the region, including the Middle Fork of the Holston in Smyth County, Little Reed Island Creek in Wythe and Pulaski counties, Little River in Floyd, and Chestnut Creek in the Galax area.

Also bringing a communications background and degree to the team, Perkins will be serving as forest economics specialist. "No," she says, "I don't have any background in forest economics, but that's why they hired me. They told me when they hired me they would train me in forestry, but they wanted my expertise in communications," said the 1992 Tech graduate.

Perkins will serve as a liaison between the forest industry, producers, and local governments, and how local forest resources can most efficiently be marketed. "I've been going to planning meetings of the Appalachian Hardwood Expo in Princeton," she noted, "and will be working on publicity."

Alderman brings over a dozen years of practical private forestry consulting to his job as Forest Engineer. After working out of his home in Mt. Airy, N.C., he says he had gotten of that aspect of the industry, and was interested in "learning something new."

His specific task is assisting with the design and construction of low cost, low value timber bridges, "to take advantage of what there's a lot of in this area." The main benefit for timber bridges will be to loggers, who won't have to worry about stream crossings when bringing logs out of the forest. In turn, stream conservation and soil erosion will be protected, and loggers won't be in violation of state mandated Best Management Practices.

There are no timber bridges in this area yet, Alderman said, but he hopes to find some suitable cooperators to build demonstration projects on soon. The bridges are constructed by laminating timbers

together, and are capable of holding a tractor-trailer load, 80,000 pounds, across spans of 20 to 40 feet. He will also be working on the dry hydrant program offered by the RC&D, and is encouraging fire chiefs to apply for grants before a Dec. 1 deadline.

Alderman is also the tree expert on the Greenway project, and will be contributing more technical work on growth rates potential along the trail. "There is some old growth along the river, and some huge red and white oaks dead from

recent droughts," he observed.

Because the local AmeriCorps team has strong a forestry emphasis, the Jefferson National Forest is cooperating in support of the team as well. The public relations office of JNF is providing video equipment for the team to film various forest facilities and recreational areas, which will then be edited into a promotional video. The equipment will also be used for assisting with the Marion Greenway project and the tree identification educational program. □

## Grand vision

■ **CLARK**, from Page A1

walkers will be able to continue along the riverbank.

Much of the construction is already completed at phase two—the walking park in the vicinity of the pool. Plans for future construction include picnic tables, lighting and an information kiosk which will note community events and club meetings.

To get to phase three, walkers must now cross the old bridge beside Happy's Restaurant, then cross Main Street to Campbell Avenue. This phase of the riverwalk uses the old Wilderness Road Garden Club park. Although the park has suffered some over the years, it will be redeveloped as funds become available.

Clark is already working on preliminary drawings for development of all three phases of the riverwalk. She says Marion Senior High School has expressed interest in using the Wilderness Road section for its cross country runners to

practice on. And, with supervision, patients at Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute may benefit from the therapeutic value of quiet strolls along the river.

In addition to coordinating the planning and design of the riverwalk, Clark will also be in charge of organizing the various volunteer groups who have helped so far in its construction. She must also stay in communication with the Middle Fork Holston River Water Quality Commission and the Tennessee Valley Authority as well. The Grassroots Conservancy recently was awarded one of the Commonwealth Transportation Board's ISTEAs grants for \$115,000. In helping administer the grant, Clark says there are many struggles ahead in keeping within the grant's guidelines. Local contractors must be used for some of the work and there are also rules governing materials used. The stack of paper with information regarding the grant and its usage stands at over an inch high,

so there's definitely some reading in Clark's immediate future.

But Clark remains undaunted. "There are so many interesting people here who are excited about the riverwalk, that I don't think I'll have too many problems that can't be solved."

As its part in the annual Smyth County Trash-Off, a county-wide clean-up day, the Grassroots Conservancy will host a river clean-up this Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon. Anyone wishing to participate should meet at the riverwalk near the swimming pool. Clark says she will also be using the occasion to get more community input on the riverwalk. □





AmeriCorps volunteers (l-r) Henry Silentman, Andrea Dyer, and Sam Sellers. Staff photo

## AmeriCorps program benefits area

Three college graduates are hard at work in San Juan County as part of the new domestic Peace Corps, the AmeriCorps National Service Program.

Although they are working on projects throughout southeastern Utah, the three are headquartered at the Monticello City Offices.

In exchange for their hard work, the AmeriCorps program provides a modest monthly stipend, health care, and an educational benefit. The \$4,725 annual benefit can be used to finance tuition or pay back student loans.

All three AmeriCorps workers are college graduates. They say the program bridges the gap between college and graduate school or work.

"We have the chance to develop work experience, serve communities, and pay off student loans," said Sam Sellers.

Sellers graduated from Northwest Missouri State with a geology degree. He plans to further his education by studying city planning or economic planning.

Sellers is seeking funding for a Blue Mountain ski-area feasibility study. He also is developing a corridor management program for the Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway. A third project is developing and marketing mountain bike trails on the Abajos.

Sellers had never been in the Four Corners area before arriving for his AmeriCorps assignment.

Henry Silentman, a Navajo from Twin Lakes, New Mexico, is working on a number of projects in the Montezuma Creek area.

The 24-year-old graduate of Grand Canyon University has bachelor's degrees in French and International Business.

He recently returned from studies in France. Si-

lentman plans to further his education with graduate work in economic development or sociology.

He is establishing a county-wide food bank to serve individuals who are not adequately served by existing social programs. The goal is to improve the nutritional content of diets in low-income families.

Silentman encourages participation in this grass-roots organization. Volunteers can donate time to serve on an advisory board or donate storage space for the food bank. Call 801-587-2271 for more information.

In addition, Silentman is working on a McElmo Creek irrigation project and development of the proposed sheep dairy.

Andrea Dyer is working on projects in Moab and the La Sal Mountains. The biology graduate from Mesa State College is completing a tree inventory of Moab. In addition, she is working with the Grand Water Conservancy District to develop guidelines for recreational use of Ken's Lake.

Dyer will further her education with studies in botany or counseling.

UTAH



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# AmeriCorps to fund Galveston Bay work

## Environmental restoration planned

By **BILL DAWSON**

Houston Chronicle Environment Writer

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AmeriCorps, the Clinton administration's new national service program, will fund environmental restoration work around Galveston Bay as one of its inaugural efforts.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday that 18 to 20 jobs will be funded for the bay project for about nine months starting this fall.

The work will be directed by the department's Soil Conservation Service, which has been involved for several years in a widely praised program to plant marsh grass around the bay.

That effort is aimed at fighting shoreline erosion and restoring wetlands.

Eddie Seidensticker, a resource conservationist for the service who manages the local planting program, said the AmeriCorps employees will work on projects already proceeding with volunteer labor.

Possible work sites include Clear Creek, the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and the mouth of the Trinity River, he said.

In April, the state-federal Galveston Bay Program proposed a comprehensive conservation plan for the bay that identified the loss of wetlands and other wildlife habitat as its top priority.

That document, the Galveston Bay Plan, proposes creation or restoration of 15,000 acres of vegetated wetlands in the next 10 years, accompanied by public acquisition of

50,000 acres of wetlands and floodplain habitat over a 20-year period.

Linda Shead, executive director of the Galveston Bay Foundation, a private conservation group, applauded the decision to target the bay for inclusion in the AmeriCorps program.

"Anything that can help stem the loss of valuable bay habitat is exciting," she said.

Jim Lyons, assistant agriculture secretary for natural resources and the environment, said his department will administer 1,200 AmeriCorps positions, about half the total, in the national service program's first year.

"We have a host of projects across the country to focus on opportunities to improve the environment and improve public lands," Lyons said.

Other USDA-directed AmeriCorps projects will focus on hunger and rural development.

In Texas, for instance, people will also be hired to help secure water and sewage services for people living in South Texas colonias, Lyons said.

AmeriCorps lets participants earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing government service jobs in areas that also include education and public safety.

They will receive yearly stipends of at least \$7,500 and educational vouchers worth \$4,725.

People who are 17 and older can apply for the Agriculture Department positions by calling 800-880-4183.



# AmeriCorps succeeds in S.D.

BY ROBERT PORE  
OF THE PLAINSMAN

Despite attacks by House Speaker Newt Gingrich as "coerced volunteerism," President Clinton's AmeriCorps program has been a success in South Dakota, said an official of the Natural Resources and Conservation Service.

"It has made a difference with the communities that have been working with the environment here in South Dakota," said Joyce Watkins of Huron, who is the director for the Natural Resources Conservation Service AmeriCorps team.

Last September, nine Huron residents were sworn in as members of AmeriCorps, a national service organization.

Among the members of the Huron team are: Brad Bader,

Jeffrey Dronen, Jim Hansen, Neal Hegg, Jason Kleinsasser, Michael Knigge, Shelli Meehan, Kendra Sargent and Kerry Zihlman.

Twenty AmeriCorps slots were allocated for NRCS in South Dakota, Watkins said. Currently there are 18 AmeriCorps members, nine in Huron, four in Brookings and five in Mitchell.

In Clinton's budget, he's proposing to increase funding to the AmeriCorps program. He would boost the number of participants from 20,000 currently to 47,000 by the end of the 1996 budget year, boosting the funding for the program's parent agency by \$290 million.

Sixteen of the 18 AmeriCorps workers receive \$7,760 for 1,700 hours of community service, Watkins said. The other two

members will receive \$12,000 for their supervisory responsibility.

The workers also receive free health care and a \$4,725 educational voucher for one year of work. The \$4,725 can be used for college, vocational education or to pay off college loans.

Also in South Dakota, there are AmeriCorps members working on the Rosebud Reservation and on a YMCA program in the Timber Lake area, Watkins said.

"The AmeriCorps members working outside of Huron have been involved in conservation work designing and building riparian areas by planting trees and helping in stream bank stabilization," Watkins said.

She said AmeriCorps members have also been collecting information for the USDA's Natural

AMERICORPS / page 3

## AMERICORPS / from page 1

Resources Inventory and doing conservation programs, such as on windbreaks and wetlands, for South Dakota youth.

"AmeriCorps members will be working with the Beadle Conservation District on the Ravine Lake project this spring," Watkins said. "They have helped to bring a lot of community awareness when it comes to conservation programs."

While Watkins said their wages amount to "just enough to buy groceries and keep a roof over their heads," AmeriCorps members are keeping busy.

She said the AmeriCorps program is a "valuable aid" to conservation work in South Dakota.

"It gives the Natural Resources and Conservation Service another tool to help promote environmental awareness and what it means to South Dakota," she said.

Along with AmeriCorps help-

ers, NRCS also has an Earth Team Program, with members providing more than 10,000 hours of volunteer service to the field of conservation work.

Watkins said the NRCS will be seeking to renew its grant with the organization that administers the AmeriCorps program.

AmeriCorps teams across the country work in a variety of programs including anti-hunger, public lands and environment and rural development.

Watkins said her agency will be working with the Consolidated Farm Service agency and the Rural Economic and Community Development agency on future AmeriCorps projects.

"What's important is that the program is giving the AmeriCorps members a sense of personal satisfaction in the work they are doing," she said. "They also learn the value of community service."



## MORNING NEWS

Volume 74, No. 115

50 cents

### Students join Americorps workers in tree planting

By Brian Hickey  
Morning News staff writer

FLORENCE — About 20 Americorps workers joined with St. John's Episcopal School students here Tuesday to plant 100 trees at Freedom Florence, including one flowering dogwood in memory of the Oklahoma City bombing victims.

They joined 2 million other children and young adults in National Youth Service Day across the country, said Ann Barre of Youth Service America. With corporate sponsorship and endorsements from non-profit organizations, Barre said about 3,000 youth projects were undertaken Tuesday.

To observe the day of service, the young people gathered to "improve the quality of life of the community," said Chris Bever, member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural development branch of the national youth service organization.

"Each member out here today has a different reason for being here, but we have the same goal: to get things done in South Carolina and in the country," Bever said. "I'm at peace with myself because I know what I'm doing with my life. It's not corny. I believe in it and the program has given me a lot."

Speaking generally about Americorps, Bever said the nationwide organization focuses on community service projects to better the country. Those involved receive a stipend and an education allowance which can go toward tuition or reconciling college loan debts.

While members and students spent several hours at the recreational facility, the focus rested on remembering the 163 victims of last year's Oklahoma City bombing.

Chaplain Richard Sale, who just returned from the bombing site, said it is heartwarming to see the Pee Dee cares about the victims and survivors.

"I'm really proud of Florence to have this concern about other areas. It really makes you feel good," Sale said. "Nineteen kids were lost in the bombing, and to see kids out here participating in this is very significant."

The commemorative tree — adorned with a plaque signifying its purpose — was planted between the entrance to the softball field area and parking lots. Sale said the tree not only honors the victims, but also the "hundreds who were injured and thousands who were affected."

"It's very important to realize we should be of service to our community," Sale said in a statement echoed by the Americorps members.



Kris Trahnstrom / staff

Americorps worker Wilbert Kennedy helps Anna Huntley and Gerard Jebaily, students from Trinity Collegiate School in Florence, plant a Ball Cypress at Freedom Florence Tuesday afternoon. The students and Americorps workers planted over 100 trees at the park.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION





RICH BANICK / THE SUNDAY TIMES

Kevin Braniff and Doris Ignatow hit the streets in Tunkhannock to deliver flyers and information about flood relief assistance to

Wyoming County residents. The pair belong to the President's National Community Service organization, or Americorps.

# Americorps Teams Helping Out

BY GINA THACKARA  
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Thirty years ago Peace Corps volunteers lived in foreign lands and helped people develop a new way of life.

Today, Americorps workers build, teach and provide help to Americans who need help.

Teams of Americorps workers are canvassing neighborhoods in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming and Columbia counties. Their job is to ensure that everyone has information about sources of help following recent flooding.

"We might be here as long as four weeks," said Doris Ignatow, of North Brunswick, N.J. "We'll

stay on until the job is done."

A team of three from a New Jersey chapter of Americorps met with workers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin their work in Tunkhannock Saturday.

Their first job was a door-to-door canvass of the downtown, distributing flyers listing services and help agencies available and asking if flood victims have signed up for aid.

Each Americorps worker went with a FEMA representative.

"We're not offering to do anything. We don't ask for money," said volunteer Adam Payne, of Glen Ridge, N.J. "We're just

distributing information."

They are among more than 25,000 young Americans earning dollars to spend on education under President Clinton's National Community Service program.

Payne said he holds a bachelor's degree in English from Boston University and is working with Americorps to earn money to begin a master's degree in social work.

"It's understandable if people are leery about strangers knocking on their door right now," he said. "So we just give them the information and move on."

Americorps workers are famil-

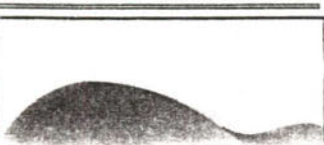
iar with post-disaster work, said Janet Lowe, FEMA disaster assistance operations coordinator.

"But these young people don't just help in emergencies," Lowe said. "They also work on housing projects, in schools, wherever they can perform public service."

For example, Lowe said, Ignatow also developed a school garden in an elementary school near her home and teaches youngsters the basics of non-polluted, environmentally responsible gardening.

"This work helped me understand what I like to do best," Ignatow said.

## TODAY'S WEATHER



CLOUDY, COLD

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## O.J.: Nicole Padded Abuse

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson claimed in deposition testimony that his slain wife "used drugs and had affairs," and that he had "several entries about spousal abuse as part of a scheme to void their

son and Ronald Goldman, where he was acquitted of all criminal charges.

Under five days of questioning by Robert Patrocelli, the attorney for Goldman's father in a wrongful death lawsuit, Simpson tried





UNITED  
STATES  
DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

January 16, 1995

To: Tom Amontree, Martha Phipps, Billy Cox

From: Joel Berg JB

Subject: **Article from Oregon About Shut-Down of Forest Service Project**

For your information, attached is a clip from the Medford, Oregon *Mail-Tribune*, a paper which has previously praised our local Forest Service project in two separate editorials. Although I was unaware that the Forest Service had provided comments for such a story, it turned out to be relatively positive for us. While I am not thrilled to read an article indicating that some of our projects aren't running, this does squarely place the blame on Congress.

Focusing on hundreds of lives placed on hold, the article provides yet another concrete example of the devastating impacts caused by the refusal of Congress to pass an acceptable Interior Appropriations Bill.

You may want to share it with the White House; I have already forwarded a copy to Wofford's Office at the Corporation for National Service.



# Budget battle halts funds for AmeriCorps program

## Forest Service awaits action by lawmakers

By PAUL FATTIG  
of the Mail Tribune

A pile of applications for the AmeriCorps program in the Rogue River National Forest is gathering dust.

Funding for the U.S. Forest Service's part of the program, which was slated to begin its second year last fall, has not yet been approved because of the budget battle in Washington, D.C., said Mindy Martin, forest coordinator for the program.

"I have so many people calling me, some on a weekly basis, to find out what's going on," she said, noting that about 150 applications have been received. "It's really frustrating," she added.

After 31 AmeriCorps members based in the Rogue River forest finished a 10-month tour late last summer, applications were taken for another group slated to begin work early last November.

But funding for the Forest Service's par-

ticipation in the national service program, which depends on passage of an Interior Department appropriations bill, was never approved. Instead, the Forest Service is depending on a continuing resolution passed last week by Congress. That temporary funding expires Jan. 26.

Congressional leaders, vowing to reduce federal spending, have questioned the merits of the \$580 million in funding for the 20,000-member national service corps during its first year. President Clinton has supported expanding the program.

Yet there is still time for a six-month program this year, Martin said.

"Right now, we're looking at converting from full time," she said. "We're still waiting for the go-ahead to start in mid-March or early April."

Because of the shortened work period, the expected \$7,500 pay and educational voucher of \$4,725 for college or trade school would be reduced accordingly, she said.

AmeriCorps participants must be 17 to 23 years old. Last year they worked out of the old Star Gulch facility of the Applegate Rang-

see AMERICORPS, Page 2A

## AmeriCorps

from Page 1A  
er District.

Forest officials credited last year's group with completing more than 280 miles of trail maintenance, more than 2,000 acres of forestry work as well as building erosion control projects, cleaning up after forest fires and working on various construction projects.

They also participated in community projects in Butte Falls and Prospect renovating community

buildings, installing sidewalks and building an arboretum.

"We want the program but time is slipping away," said Drinda Lombardi, program coordinator for the Forest Service program in the Pacific Northwest.

"We're still caught in budget uncertainty," she said. "I don't know what's going to happen at this point."

The Rogue River forest program represents nearly half the

agency's AmeriCorps 70-member program in Oregon and Washington, she said.

In addition to the program based in the Rogue River forest, there is one in the Olympic National Forest in Washington state, and a smaller one in the Columbia River gorge.



# INSIDE THE SOUTHWEST

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Land and Water in Political Mix

Recent statements from state officials indicate the political mix regarding the issue of public land grazing reform.

The public land and water issues are a hot topic in the state capital. Lawmakers who have public land issues in mind should vote on the bill. The bill is a key to the state's future.

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**TEXAS**—Paris native Marsha Martin will probably chair the Farm Credit Administration in October, following Senate confirmation hearings. She is senior vice president of public affairs with the Farm Credit Bank of Texas. . . . The state Coastal Coordination Council has added Goliad rancher C.F. "Dick" Schendel to represent ag interests. . . . The Texas AgriFood Master program grows as T.A. Vestal, its San Antonio director, assumes an Extension specialist post in ag education at Texas A&M. AgriFood teaches nonag audiences the facts of agriculture. . . . O'Sama Ed Lissy is the new program manager for the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc., in Abilene. He will manage activities in each of the nine eradication zones established in Texas. . . . Imported fire ants attacked and destroyed corn seed and seedlings up to 2 inches tall on a farm north of D'Hanis this year. That's good reason for planting-time insecticide, say entomologists. . . . Texas Wildlife Expo takes place Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Austin. Call 1-800-792-1112 or 512-389-4472.

**OKLAHOMA**—94% of conservation plans on the state's most highly erodible cropland are being carried out on schedule, according to a status review by SCS. Almost half have been fully implemented. . . . The Oklahoma SCS has been selected to run one of the 42 different USDA Americorps projects. These involve windbreak restoration in 22 western counties. Participants will work for a year, earning a stipend of at least \$7,500 and then receiving an educational voucher worth \$4,725. Americans 17 years of age or older may apply for the USDA programs by calling 1-800-880-4183. . . . Mike Mahoney, executive vice president of Wheeler Brothers Grain Co. in Watonga, has been elected president of the Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association. . . . Kenneth Rose, a sorghum producer from Keyes, is the new head of the Oklahoma Grain Sorghum Producers Association.

**KANSAS**—Kansans planted 1,300 acres to windbreaks last spring. Kansas State University supplied trees and now offers containerized plants for October delivery. Order from forester Bill Loucks at 913-537-7050 or from your county agent. . . . The updated 1994 Kansas Swine Nutrition Guide is available from Extension agents or Production Service, 11 Umberger Hall, KSU 60506; phone 913-532-5816. . . . Extension offices in Lincoln and Mitchell counties merged into a single district in July, the first merger under the 1991 Kansas Extension District Law.

**ARIZONA**—The Supima Association of America has signed its first licensing agreement with a textile mill in South Korea, PangRim Co., Ltd. The mill can use the Supima name and logo to promote products made of 100% American Pima cotton. . . . In the lighter soils around Coolidge, grower Noah Hiscox has seen cotton yields increase by as much as 50 pounds per acre after treatment with micronutrients. The treatments are based on tissue tests. . . . Whiteflies are the biggest late-season threat to cotton yields in Arizona, says state cotton specialist Jeffrey Silvertooth.

**NEW MEXICO**—The state ag department will sponsor a country store at the state fair again. The shop features products raised or made in the state.

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# of pages 1

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| To    | JOSIE BERG   | From    | TOM BEANMAN  |
| Co.   | USDA         | Co.     | N/A          |
| Dept. | ?            | Phone # | 405-949-9001 |
| Fax # | 202-720-4614 | Fax #   | 405-949-0281 |

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## **Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker**

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This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

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JUN 21 1994

BURRELLE'S

# AmeriCorps to help restore some of Columbia Slough

■ **Workers in the new program will receive a small monthly wage and college tuition credits for their part in the project**

By **JOE FITZGIBBON**

Correspondent, *The Oregonian*

At least two dozen of President Clinton's newly created AmeriCorps workers will be helping restore portions of the Columbia Slough before the end of summer.

On Monday, President Clinton announced the creation of AmeriCorps, a cadre of 20,000 young men and women to work on soil conservation projects in return for college tuition waivers and monthly living expenses.

In a program patterned after Peace Corps and Vista, college-aged young people will work for a year restoring wildlife habitats, farmlands and urban greenspaces. In addition to a stipend of about \$700 a month, AmeriCorps volunteers will earn a \$4,725 tuition credit to be applied to a college of their choice.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, selected a Portland

project to restore portions of the Columbia Slough and Whitaker Pond as a model for the national service program.

"This sends out an important message to the entire region, but especially the African-American community that we are going to do something about environmental damage," said Metro Councilor Ed Washington, who co-sponsored the project proposal with Portland State Professor Barry Messer. Washington grew up in North Portland near the Columbia Slough and said that he has made its restoration a personal goal.

"People of color have been fishing and using the slough for recreation and it's long past time we make it the jewel it's always had the potential to be."

According to Messer, the program will hire 20 youths full-time to work on restoration projects along the slough over the next two years. Another dozen part-time college students will act as mentors for high school students from Roosevelt, Grant, Jefferson and Marshall high schools studying natural resource management along the 18-mile waterway.

Messer said that he and Washing-

## ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE CORPS

■ **WHAT:** The newly created AmeriCorps to help solve environmental problems.

■ **WHO'S IN IT:** High school and college students.

■ **WHAT DO THEY DO:** In Portland, the job will be work along the Columbia Slough and Whitaker Pond

■ **WHAT DO THEY GET:** A \$700 monthly stipend and up to \$4,725 in tuition credits.

■ **WHERE TO CALL:** Contact Ed Washington at Metro, 797-1546 or call 1-800-94ACORPS.

ton spent more than a year drafting the slough proposal and expected work to get under way around Labor Day.

"The actual amount of money we will have to spend has not been determined yet, but it might be close to \$1 million," said Messer.

For its initial year, CNCS will fund 42 different AmeriCorps projects operating in 32 states. Portland and five other urban sites were selected for funding, including Atlanta, Chicago, East St. Louis, Boston and Washington, D.C.



# AmeriCorps program may bring sewer improvements to Bolivar

By Margery Smith  
BC Staff Writer

Bolivar County may soon be seeing needed developments and improvements in rural sewer systems, thanks to the efforts of those behind the new federal AmeriCorps program.

Lebrunski Richard, Bolivar County-area member of the AmeriCorps program, explained that the program will be used to help pinpoint funds for and assist in the development of a rural sewer system in the county.

The program, which is President Clinton's national service initiative intended to address the nation's education, human-service, public safety and environmental needs at the local level, also calls for the improvement of living conditions through urban forestry, according to information given by Richard.

However, Richard noted, the program will initially focus only on obtaining technical assistance with rural sewage systems in the county.

"Right now, we'll just be working on the sewer systems," Richard said. "We're looking at

Stanton subdivision (northwest of Cleveland), Hills and East Boyle subdivisions in Boyle, Shelby Farms, Isaac Daniels subdivision of Mound Bayou and Hogan subdivision of Mound Bayou."

Richard explained that he and Andrea Clark of Cleveland, the other team member of the county AmeriCorps program, will be working with the Bolivar County Board of Supervisors to ascertain money for a rural sewer system,

but the job of determining which area will be designated to receive the system will be left up to supervisors.

Area evaluation surveys have already been conducted in the aforementioned areas, said Richard, adding that he expects to meet with supervisors "in the next couple of weeks" to see if they have settled on a target area in the county for the sewer system.

Clarence Finley of Greenville, coordinator with the Northwest Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Area (RCD) in Stoneville, confirmed that the AmeriCorps program will focus on rural sewer systems.

"We are a nonprofit organization based in the Mississippi Delta," explained Finley, who supervises Richard and Clark. "We are participating in the AmeriCorps program with the U.S. Forest Service, which is funding the program through RCD."



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## Business

# USDA to run AmeriCorps national service program

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced recently that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will run 42 different AmeriCorps projects that are designed to fight hunger and improve nutrition, preserve national forests and improve community environmental quality, promote rural development and increase rural water delivery, and boost ongoing flood-relief efforts in the Midwest.

The USDA program, funded in part by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), will be the largest single federal agency component of the President's national service initiative.

"President Clinton has made it clear to members of his Cabinet that national service is one of his top priorities, and I am especially pleased that USDA will be playing a key role in the AmeriCorps program," said Espy. "The USDA projects will fulfill the President's vision that national service bring together citizens of varied backgrounds to perform services vital to their communities."

Espy announced that beginning this September, USDA will place 1,200 AmeriCorps national service participants throughout urban and rural America. The participants in these projects will be placed in 32 states, representing every region of the country. The Anti-Hunger and Rural Development campaigns will also begin in Mississippi Delta in September.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of Americans to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend of at least \$7,500 and then receive an educational voucher worth \$4,725.

Americans 17 years of age or older may apply for the USDA programs by calling 1-800-880-4183.

"Grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility, and opportunity, national service makes sense because it meets multiple ends," Espy said. "It is good for the participants who benefit from

their increased ability to attend college or vocational school, good for the communities which benefit from their service and good for the country which benefits from a renewed civic spirit. Moreover, the program is good for USDA because it gives us new ways to boost our mission areas of fighting hunger, protecting the environment and rebuilding rural America."

CNCS is an independent federal corporation created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Its purpose is to administer national service programs and provide funding on a competitive basis for national service programs that address the nation's education, human, public safety and environmental needs.

Under provisions that are unique to that Act, federal agencies are empowered to compete against each other in a competitive grant process to obtain funds from CNCS. The White House announced recently that, as a result of the first year of this process, CNCS had awarded USDA 1,200 AmeriCorps slots and \$2.6 million in operating funds. Funds for the Department's program will also be provided from existing USDA programs and from non-profit organizations that serve as partners at individual sites.

The USDA AmeriCorps projects reflect a new emphasis on cooperation among USDA agencies. USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Food and Nutrition Service, Forest Service, Rural Development Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, and Soil Conservation Service will play significant roles in managing this program.

The Anti-Hunger projects will be at five sites -- two rural and three urban -- with high levels of hunger and poverty. The projects will work to reduce the number of citizens suffering from hunger and improve the nutritional content of family diets. This program has been designed, and is to run, as a unique partnership between USDA, youth service corps and local anti-hunger groups.

The environmental projects will occur at 32 rural and urban sites in 21 states. The goals of the projects are to help solve local environmental problems, protect local watersheds, repair and upgrade community facilities, promote sustainable agriculture, conduct environmental seminars, and preserve and restore national forests.

The rural development projects will engage generally older participants, who are college graduates and

professional school graduates, in work in 10 pilot regions throughout America. Participants are to help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Initiative. Special disaster-relief projects will also be run in the eight Midwest states most impacted by last summer's record flooding.

## DOE Salmon Corps chosen for AmeriCorps grant

President Clinton announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) Salmon Corps project will receive an AmeriCorps National Direct Grant from the Corporation for National Service. DOE's Office of Science Education and Technical Information along with the department's Office of Environmental Management, the Earth Conservation Corps (ECC) and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission developed the Salmon Corps' proposal.

The Earth Conservation Corps works with community leaders building the natural partnership between youth and the environment. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission represents the Nez Perce, Yakama, Warm Springs and Umatilla Indian Nations governing the fishing practices of the Columbia River Area. The commission also works with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes who will participate in the Salmon Corps project.

"We are proud to be part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps team. The Salmon Corps will restore not only salmon habitats, but will contribute to the personal and professional development of AmeriCorps members," said Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary about the award announcement.

"The Salmon Corps project is a step in building a true working relationship between the federal government, Native American governments

and other public and private partners in the Columbia River region. We are pleased that the department and its partners, Earth Conservation Corps and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, are working together for the betterment of the region and its residents," Secretary O'Leary added.

Participants will work "hands-on" to restore historic salmon breeding grounds of the Columbia River Basin in the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The 72 members of the Salmon Corps will restore stream structures and riparian vegetation, erect pole fences to restrict livestock access and remove debris.

In addition to their field work, team members will receive training, attend seminars at DOE sites, and receive mentoring from scientists and technicians at local DOE facilities and environmental agencies. The department's Richland Operations Office, Bonneville Power Administration and the Pacific Northwest Laboratory will participate in the Salmon Corps Project.

Salmon Corps members will be selected from Native American tribes in the region and the national AmeriCorps pool. The project will be funded for one year and may be renewed for an additional two years. Start up date is September 1994.



## Feds study Michigan food banks' success

**Summit held to help forge alliance between government and firms.**

By Anjali J. Sekhar  
*The Detroit News*

Michigan is one of the most effective states in helping the hungry with food that otherwise would be thrown away, experts say.

And U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman came to Detroit on Monday to see how it's done.

Glickman visited the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Greater Detroit to lead a discussion on how to save food, as well as pack crates of beans for needy families.

The discussion, part of Food Recovery Leadership Summit 1996, was the first of seven to be held around the country to build alliances between government and businesses to feed the hungry.

"Between 10 to 12 percent of all food prepared every day is not eaten," Glickman said. "It ends up in the Dumpster rather than in somebody's stomach."



*Alan Lessig / The Detroit News*

**Rodney Tucker, 17, helps U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman load bags for needy.**

Gleaners Food Bank is a part of the Michigan Agricultural Surplus System (MASS), a partnership between Michigan's food producers and food banks. Last year, MASS

gathered and distributed 3 million pounds of surplus food.

Gleaners President Gene Gonya said state support for programs that save leftover food will be increased to \$720,000 in the next budget. "We want to encourage the feds to give matching grants to the states who are doing these kinds of projects," Gonya said.

Gordon E. Guyer, director of the state Department of Agriculture, said he needs more money for storing and transporting food, and some of that money could come from cooperation between government and business. "If the partnership is between private, public and federal, it's win-win for everyone," Guyer said.

Glickman said he hopes to get money for storage and transportation from the 1996 Farm Bill Community Food Security Act, which offers grants to hunger projects.

One concern that could lead restaurants to hold back on donating food is the question of legal liability, said Williams Ridella, director of food sanitation for the state health department

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



# AmeriCorps director says the program does what government should be doing

By NICOLE DURAN

Chronicle staff writer

One of the heads of President Clinton's controversial AmeriCorps project came to West Michigan Friday to check up on volunteers who are working with area farmers to help keep their groundwater clean.

Joel Berg, director of the USDA's AmeriCorps Program, said the criticism the program has drawn is politically motivated and has nothing to do with the quality or value of the volunteers' efforts.

Berg said that if more Americans were just familiar with AmeriCorps, they would have a positive reaction. "(They would say) 'this is great, this is finally what a government program should be doing. It gets things done, it strengthens communities and expands educational opportunities and says you don't get a dime unless you serve' — the conservative idea of personal responsibility," Berg said.

AmeriCorps is working in con-

## MUSKEGON

junction with the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Muskegon County Soil Conservation District to run Farm-A-Syst evaluations.

Farm-A-Syst workers check abandoned well closures, test water for nitrates and herbicides, examine fertilizer and pesticide storage. They also look at livestock runoff and evaluate locations of wells and fuel tanks.

Statewide, the USDA has 16 AmeriCorps volunteers. Nationally, AmeriCorps has about 25,000 volunteers; 1,300 work under the USDA's guidance.

A Michigan State University agriculture student from Montcalm County has been working in Newaygo County to help West Michigan farmers.

Brett Bartlett, the MSU student stationed there, said the people he helps usually take his advice and

the necessary steps, which are often simple, toward keeping their groundwater clean.

"A lot of the time they say, 'Why didn't I think of that?,' " Bartlett said.

Preventative measures can be easy, Bartlett said. He also emphasized that all AmeriCorps assessments of farmland within the area are confidential.

Bartlett receives a \$12,000 stipend for his service, along with a \$4,725 educational grant that, without which, he says he probably could not afford to attend college.

Berg said in response to criticism of the program, "If Ronald Reagan proposed a program and said that two-thirds of the money goes to state commissions appointed by governors, (that) the projects are picked by local communities, not Washington bureaucrats, and it's not just for low income people ... oh, and you don't get a cent unless you work ... everyone would say what a grand conservative idea."

THE MUSKEGON CHRONICLE

Muskegon, Michigan

March 16, 1996

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# A test you can't fail

*Confidential assessments of risks to your farm's water quality*

BY STEVE FAIRCHILD

**A** voluntary program called Farm-A-Syst is bringing rural water sources and management of possible pollutants into the spotlight. The program critiques how farmstead practices might affect ground water and is reminding farmers that they have some control in the purity of their water.

Farm-A-Syst, an extended acronym for Farmstead Assessment System, doesn't scrutinize field crop practices. Instead, the program concen-

trates on potential problems on the farmstead — petroleum and pesticide storage, manure management, and others.

A Farm-A-Syst evaluation is no more than a series of 10 worksheets. The worksheets use a ranking system for risks. The pesticide storage and handling worksheet, for example, catalogs what is good and bad on the farmstead: how much pesticide is stored on the farm? Is downslope from the well? Are pesticides stored on impermeable surfaces? Is there an anti-backflow device for the waterline used to mix pesti-

cides? The hazardous waste worksheet looks at disposal of cleaners, solvents and other possible contaminants.

Farm-A-Syst is a national effort, but each state has a different approach. Missouri's is unique because it is one of the few that uses AmeriCorps volunteers to deliver the program. AmeriCorps is a program championed by President Clinton that aims to resemble a Peace Corps here at home. Volunteers in AmeriCorps receive a living allowance and a stipend to be applied toward education.

David Myers, the AmeriCorps Volunteer stationed in Boone County, says much of what he finds during his farm assessments is easily corrected.

"After you've been on the farm a long time, working every day, you get busy and just don't think of some of these things. This way, we can leave it in writing and the farmers can look at the package whenever they want to."

Before going on a farm visit, Myers does some background work, checking the farm's soil types at the **National Resources Conservation Service**. During the farm visit, he likes to spend 20 minutes walking the farmstead with the owner. Myers and the farmer fill out the worksheets together. Myers adamantly points out that no one but he and the farmer see the finished assessment.

As farmers show they are concerned about the environment, we'll probably see more programs like Farm-A-Syst. Because it's voluntary and confidential, it could be a good way to make sure a farm is able to continue to meet regulatory requirements.

Farmers interested in participating in Farm-A-Syst should contact their local extension agent or the State Water Quality Extension office at 573-882-0085. ♦



David Myers, AmeriCorps volunteer in Boone County.



## In remembrance

A special tree planting ceremony will be conducted by the USDA AmeriCorps at the Sue Bennett College Belle Hall on 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 23 at in remembrance of last year's Oklahoma City bombing, in which 68 persons died and hundreds were wounded.

The public is invited to attend and to remember those innocent persons who lost their lives in one of the nation's worst tragedies.

4-17-94

4-24-96



**TRAGEDY REMEMBERED** - Tuesday's gray, rain-threatening skies withheld their morning downpour as students, faculty, community leaders, and citizens gathered at Belle Bennett Hall on Sue Bennett College campus for a memorial service commemorating the families and victims of the Oklahoma City bombing. In attendance were State Senator Albert Robinson, State Representative Tom Jensen, Sue Bennett College President Paul Burnell, and members of AmeriCorps, along with three family members of Alvin Justes,

native Laurel Countian who was the last victim pulled from the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building last May. AmeriCorps members planted two white flowering dogwood trees outside the Belle Bennett Building, dedicating one of the trees in Justes' memory. Pictured at far left are Vicki Feltner and daughter, 4-year-old Kristen, with Feltner's mother, Viola Ruth Root, sister of Justes. Robinson, Jensen, and other guest speakers are on the far right.

Photo By Nita Gilley



KY  
Site ID P21C Project funded by the State: (Initial Purchase of Property)

## Ford gets state to include money in budget **\$42,500 for purchase of school property approved**

Ruth Martin, Housing Program Director for the Daniel Boone Development Council, announced Monday that funds to purchase the Livingston school property have been placed in the state of Kentucky's budget for next fiscal year.

Mrs. Martin, who has been working on a revitalization project for the city of Livingston which includes complete renovation of the school property, credited State Representative Danny Ford with saving the project.

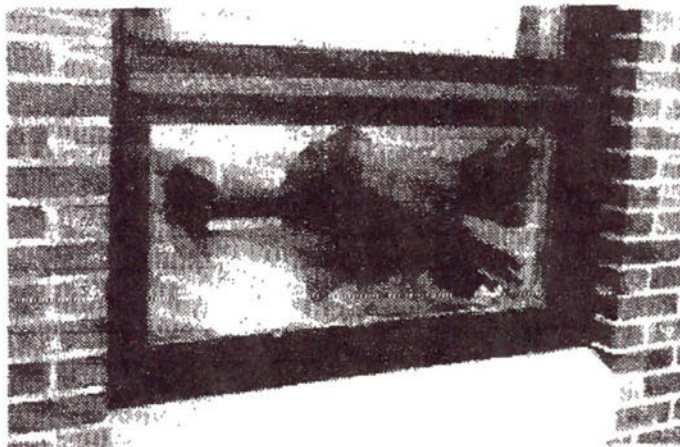
"Our option to buy the property had run out and the school board was considering other alternatives," she said.

"Now that we can purchase the property we can go ahead and work to complete the funding package which will be around \$3 million," Mrs. Martin said.

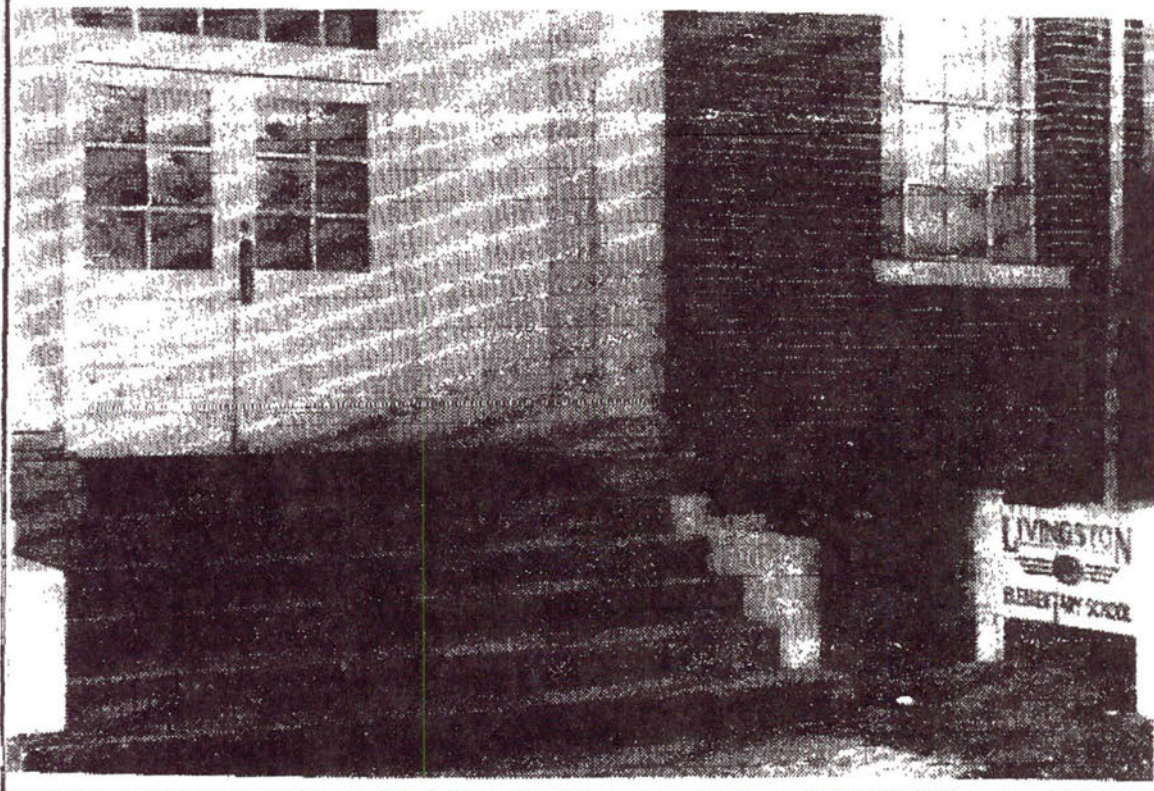
Ford, who is a member of the

state's budget committee, said Tuesday that he was going to work closely with the council to complete the

project. "When completed the entire county will benefit from this project," he said.



Vandals have been active at the former Livingston Elementary School as can be seen in these photos. Many windows are broken out (top photo) allowing entry by persons and the elements while most have already been boarded up (bottom photo).





KY

**THE SENTINEL ECHO**  
**LONDON, KENTUCKY**  
**MAY 29, 1995**

## **AmeriCorp workers building new home for WWII veteran**

**By Eddie Arnold**

Keavy resident Bertress Feltner served his country during World War II — now, the government is getting a chance to help him.

Feltner will soon have a new home thanks to the efforts of local AmeriCorps workers and other local community service agencies.

Local AmeriCorps worker Tina King, who is assigned to the London Rural Economic Community Development office (formerly the Farmers Home Administration), has been working to make the Feltner project a reality for more than seven months.

When King first visited the

Feltner home to do a health and safety assessment, she found that the elderly man, who has numerous health problems, was living in conditions that were less than adequate.

Walking through Feltner's frame home, King explained that the house was extremely cold in the winter. His only source of heat was a coal-fired stove which left a layer of coal dust throughout the house.

King said that she worked with members of London's Heavenly Helpers to get a cook stove for Feltner to allow him to cook meals at home.

"I bet I've made 50 trips out here," King said, adding that she



## EDITOR'S OPINION

### Americorps exists for a reason

Americorps is sometimes maligned as an example of unnecessary federal spending, of liberal Democratic policy run amuck.

We wonder if anybody in Hays sees it that way today.

Americorps is President Clinton's national service program for young adults, a sort of domestic Peace Corps. They work in exchange for a small stipend and college tuition.

One group, organized through Fort Hays State University, assists non-profit youth organizations. Nearly 30 volunteers are working in Hays and surrounding cities, helping in libraries, Head Start classrooms, counseling programs, and scout troops.

A second, more visible contingent, funded through the U.S. Agriculture Department, has been at work in Hays since mid-October cleaning up Big Creek.

Big Creek does not have the grandeur of, say, the Mississippi River, nor the power of the Colorado, but it is vital to Hays. People take pleasure in its trees and wildlife. They walk along its dike for exercise. They celebrate Oktoberfest on its banks.

Unfortunately, the creek has been littered with brush and dead trees since it flooded in 1993. Additional flooding this spring only made things worse.

Big Creek's eroded banks were not just an eyesore, said Ken Urban, an Ellis County Soil Conservation Ser-

vice official, they were a safety problem.

Enter a group of about 11 Americorps volunteers, supervised by Urban.

They've picked up the brush. They've cleared out dead trees. Big Creek is looking better already.

And along the way, something wonderful has happened. A group of young people from different backgrounds, with different skills, have learned to work together. They have discovered the satisfaction of hard, physical labor. They have experienced the value of public service, and they will be better because of it.

To those who regard Americorps as a waste of tax money, we ask this: Where have you and your volunteers been since 1993, when Big Creek flooded? Why didn't you collect the brush and clear the trees?

What have you done to assist the children of northwest Kansas? What have you done to improve its libraries? What skills have you shared in its classrooms?

What have you done to bring young people together? What have you done to cultivate their work ethic and make them better citizens?

Americorps exists because too few of us did what was needed, and it should continue to exist until the spirit of public service takes hold.

Which, considering how long Big Creek was neglected, could be a long time.

— editorial by Gregory Halling





Roy Sykes photo

Trish McCracken, an AmeriCorps volunteer, looking at a ruptured levee off Dwiggins Road. The levee is in the North County Levee District.

## *A working education*

*AmeriCorps program repays volunteers with knowledge*

By Laura Bradford  
Correspondent

**W**ith the help of the Clinton administration and her own hard work, the past 10 months have earned Trish McCracken "money" toward her education.

The St. Peters woman just completed her term as an AmeriCorps volunteer. The domestic Peace Corps program — introduced by President Bill Clinton — rewards its members for their service with an education.

AmeriCorps volunteers can be found working with various federal agencies, public school districts and organizations such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society. McCracken served her time with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, working out of an office in St. Charles County.

Each AmeriCorps member embarks on a community service project for a predetermined number of hours and is given a small living allowance. Once a volunteer completes the term of service, he or she receives an education voucher, which must be used within seven years. The voucher, which is not redeemable for cash, may be applied toward obtaining a college education or a master's degree or paying off student loans.

McCracken's 1,700 hours of service earned her a \$4,700 voucher, which she plans to use to pay off her student loans. She has a bachelor's degree in biology from Lindenwood College; she also has a teaching certificate in secondary education.

See EDUCATION, Page 2A



KS  
RUTLAND DAILY HERALD  
RUTLAND, VERMONT  
FEBRUARY 11, 1995

"This allows me to utilize my degree to its best potential. Plus, it allows me to give back some of what we've gotten. If Uncle Sam helped us out (in student loans), I have no problem giving back to him."

Audrey Biggs, AmeriCorps/USDA

"The best part is we're doing something that people are going to be able to notice years from now."

\* "One criticism of AmeriCorps has been that if you pay a volunteer, you won't be able to get normal volunteers. In my case, that is not true. . . I enjoyed my AmeriCorps projects so much that I have chosen to come back as an unpaid volunteer.

Trish McCracken, AmeriCorps/USDA member

"Not only has AmeriCorps opened the door to higher education for Sonoma County residents, it has given life to meaningful new programs in our communities that have been neglected for too long."

\* A giant step has been taken toward a 911 emergency service system in Saluda County, now that ~~all~~ the county's roads have been identified. . . . Recently, a Natural Resources Conservation Service AmeriCorps team of volunteers spent three weeks identifying all of the county's named and unnamed roads.

THE STATE  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Enter a group of about 11 AmeriCorps volunteers. . . They've picked up the brush. They've cleared out dead trees. Big Creek is looking better already.

And along the way, something wonderful has happened. A group of young people from different backgrounds, with different skills, have learned to work together. They have discovered the satisfaction of hard physical labor. They have experienced the value of public service, and they will be better because of it.

HAYS DAILY NEWS  
HAYS, KANSAS



# Americorps' recruits sweep into the city

By Ray Quintanilla  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy swept up piles of broken glass at the Madden Park housing development Tuesday to underscore the Clinton administration's resolve to improve conditions for America's poor.

"The administration is going to clean up America," Espy said, pushing a broom over an asphalt basketball court in the South Side development at Ellis Avenue and Pershing Road.

The agriculture secretary arrived to give a pep talk and promote Clinton's Americorps, a domestic national service program.

Some 50 program participants will clean up and plant upwards of \$60,000 in donated flowers, trees and vegetables at Madden Park. In a few weeks, the group will begin the same work at the Ida B. Wells development.

The recruits, as part of the agriculture department's "Summer of Safety" program, also will help residents of both developments form neighborhood watch groups.

"This is a program where students can give something back to the communities. We cannot do anything without the participation and goodwill of the people we are trying to help," Espy added.

His visit marks the third time, since April, that top administra-

tion officials, including the president and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, have made Chicago Housing Authority developments the backdrop for social ills they want to address.

The president pushed for passage of his crime bill and an assault weapons ban while touring the Robert Taylor Homes earlier this month. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros even spent a few nights at the Taylor project to see what was needed to improve life in public housing.

Since then, Cisneros has embraced CHA Chairman Vincent Lane's plan to demolish many of the high-rise buildings in favor of scattered-site and smaller developments.

Now the agriculture department is getting into the action by putting youth, who will earn \$147 a week and a \$1,000 educational bonus upon completion of the program, into some of the toughest public housing developments to get residents to spruce up.

Some residents said they're skeptical of politicians who promote efforts designed to help them. "There's been a lot of talk ... and very little done," said David Smith, 47, a Madden Park resident.

Smith said once the students disperse in August, much of the garbage, broken glass and other



Tribune photo by Eduardo Contreras

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy (left) helps Terrell Davis, 18, of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences during Americorps' cleanup Tuesday at the Ida B. Wells development on South Ellis Avenue.

refuse, will slowly return.

About half of the recruits come from the Wells development. The rest come from across the city.

"I don't see how they expect people to volunteer to do anything. I clean up in front of my house, that's it," said Glenda Watkins, who lives in Madden Park with her husband and five children. "I think the work they'll do is good," she added.

For the workers themselves,

even small tasks such as sweeping can improve residents' lives, they said.

"I've never seen so much glass in my life. It's terrible, and to think kids were playing around all this stuff isn't very good," said Sheena Hodges, 16, who lives in the 9800 block of South Union Avenue.

Madden Park has 487 dwelling units and is one of the CHA's smallest developments. It also has

one of the housing agency's lowest vacancy rates at 3.1 percent.

Nearly one in four of the 2,788 units at the Wells development is vacant. That doesn't worry the program's organizers. "Only one person has quit because of questions about safety," said Barbara Valerious, principal of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, who is overseeing the youths' efforts.

"That's not bad," she added.



# AmeriCorps: Boon or boondoggle?

\$658,000 allotted  
for garden project  
in East St. Louis

By George Pawlaczyk

Belleville News-Democrat

EAST ST. LOUIS — Does this sound like getting things done for America?

- Community gardens are planted but become overgrown with weeds.
- Workers are paid during the winter to sit around and do nothing.
- The same workers are sent home at noon during the summer because it's too hot.

These and other factors have turned an ambitious \$658,000 federal jobs program in East St. Louis into what the director admits has been a disappointment.

This is AmeriCorps — a program begun last year by President Clinton that was supposed to provide job training and education benefits for workers and raise community spirit in poor neighborhoods.

But after 10 months, the local program still lacks basic equipment, and Director Don Wallace plans to lay off 15 workers early because the program is nearly out of money.

"I'll take the blame for letting them sit around all of January," Wallace said. "I should have given them the month off. Maybe then we would have had enough money to pay them."

With the motto "I will get things done for America," AmeriCorps workers set out to work for a year in their communities while earning minimum wage and money for education.

But the program has since come under fire nationally from congressional critics who call it an inefficient, overpriced bureaucracy.

"We're told we're getting a good government program," said U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa. "Instead it appears to be a Great Society-style boondoggle."

The program — a domestic version of the Peace Corps — currently is budgeted at \$376 million for 20,000 workers. Clinton wants it

See AMERICORPS/7A



News Democrat/Erik Mahr

PARK DUTY: An AmeriCorps worker uses a chain saw to cut down a tree in Kenneth Hall Park in East St. Louis

## AmeriCorps in the metro-east

### EAST ST. LOUIS

COST:

\$658,000

PARTICIPANTS:

29 full-time

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

15 gardens begun

8 lots cleared

Flood control work

### BELLEVILLE

COST:

\$375,000

PARTICIPANTS:

14 full-time, 12 part-time

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Computer center renovation

Tutoring of students

Rotary Park cleanup



News-Democrat/J.S. Nussbaumer

## Belleville workers serve as tutors, day laborers

By Teri Maddox

Belleville News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — Kim Dammetich pulled off her brown work gloves, wiped the sweat from her brow and broke out in a friendly — yet tired — smile.

She had spent a hot, humid morning at Rotary Park, clearing thick brush, weeds and trash from an overgrown section. Eventually, a

hiking and biking trail will run through the park along Richland Creek.

"When we started, you couldn't even see the fence," said Dammerich, 41, of Belleville.

The park cleanup is one of the projects of Belleville AmeriCorps, a local arm of the national service corps established last year by President Bill Clinton.

See BELLEVILLE/7A

[Belleville News-Democrat, Sunday, July 30, 1995, 1A]

PHOTOCOPY  
RESTRICTION



[Belleville News-Democrat, Sunday, July 30, 1995, 4A]

Belleville News-Democrat

# OPINIONS



Our viewpoint

## AmeriCorps waste

Today on the front page we update the AmeriCorps projects in the metro-east. Read it and weep.

The stories confirm what many people suspected: AmeriCorps is a blatant waste of taxpayers' money, a feel-good social program that doesn't even accomplish that. The East St. Louis project is such a disaster that even its director, Don Wallace, considers it a disappointment. (Of course he's still getting his \$45,000 salary and additional benefits.)

The problems with the East St. Louis program were obvious from the week the program started without tools for the workers. "Don't judge us by what we are now. Come back in a year and see," Rufus Williams, co-director of the program, told us in October. After nine months, we've seen more than enough.

The workers sat in a classroom and got paid for doing nothing in January. Now, when they could be working, the program is almost out of money and Wallace is ready to lay off most of them. Not that it matters. They've accomplished virtually nothing in the time in between. They never did get all the equipment they needed. (Wallace now admits he failed to plan for equipment when he wrote the application for the \$658,000 grant.) A few gardens,

most of them overgrown, are the corps' most visible legacy.

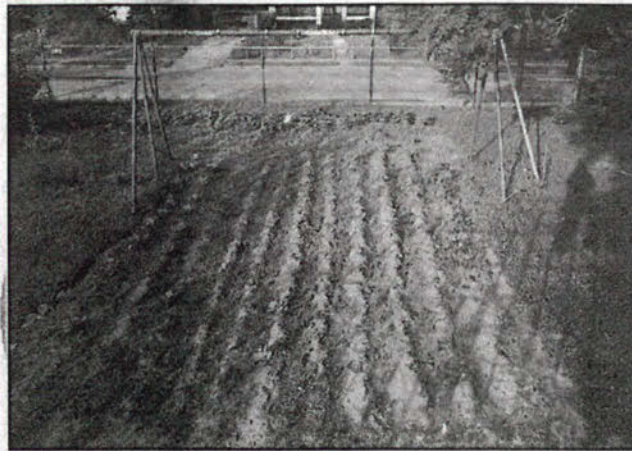
The Belleville project is better run, and it at least accomplished some worthwhile things, like tutoring students and renovating a building in the Franklin Neighborhood. But was it worth \$375,000? Not in our view. This work would have gotten done, with or without AmeriCorps.

The national picture is equally bleak. Overhead in some programs is as high as 50 percent. The cost of each worker, originally estimated at \$13,000 to \$15,000, is now set at \$27,000 in a report by the nonpartisan General Accounting Office.

At this point the best thing Congress can do is cut the losses and refuse to fund it next year. AmeriCorps is budgeted at \$376 million this year. President Clinton wants to throw away \$575 million on it next year. Let's not.

If by some chance AmeriCorps returns for another year, the federal government needs to promise it will not fund the East St. Louis program. Wallace plans to apply again, this time to plant trees instead of gardens. He wants to make East St. Louis a tree capital of America. After the waste and mismanagement this year, it would be a travesty to award him one more dime of the taxpayers' money.





UNTENDED: Dying okra plants fill a garden behind Lessie Bates

## AmeriCorps —

Continued from 1A  
expanded to \$575 million and 33,000 workers next year, while Grassley and others in Congress want it killed.

Overhead has been estimated as high as 50 percent, although local programs claim only 10 percent of their money goes for administration.

And the cost to field each worker, originally estimated at \$13,000 to \$15,000, has escalated to \$27,000, according to a report by the General Accounting Office.

"Taxpayers are paying far more for this program than advertised," Grassley said.

AmeriCorps officials disagree. "This is community service," said Joel Berg, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps division. "It's not just a feel-good plan to change the world. It's supposed to change the people who participate, and not all of them are poor."

### Community gardens

A small garden in Rush City that was supposed to provide fresh vegetables for neighborhood residents has been abandoned and is overgrown with weeds. A "no trespassing" sign was posted after it was learned the garden mistakenly was placed on public land.

Behind the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, another gardening effort has failed. A few cabbages can be seen in it, but little

else. Kids yanked out most of what was planted there.

These and 13 other gardens are the most visible results of the horticulture program funded by AmeriCorps.

Twenty-nine workers were hired for the East St. Louis program, which began Oct. 3. Nine workers later were shifted to a separate flood control program.

As the program nears the end of its first year, the 15 gardens built by AmeriCorps workers have been turned over to residents to tend. Many have been overtaken by weeds.

Lacking equipment and supplies, workers now spend much of their time mowing grass, pruning trees or picking up trash. They quit at noon on hot days. During the winter, they sat in their office at State Community College with little to do.

"Because of the obstacles, we did not accomplish what we set out to do in our first year," said Wallace, who earns \$45,000 a year.

"People think we got a wheelbarrow full of cash down here that we just frittered away, but it just isn't true. I think we've done pretty well considering the circumstances," he said.

Besides building the gardens, AmeriCorps workers cleared eight vacant lots and cleaned out a small greenhouse at East St. Louis Senior High School.



WEEDING: A plot behind State Community College is the only garden cared for by AmeriCorps

But some of the lots are overgrown again, and a second greenhouse project in Kenneth Hall Park has barely been touched.

A plan to sell the vegetables from the gardens was scuttled when it was learned that the gardens could not be placed on public land.

Homeowners who later agreed to have gardens planted on their lots said they were unwilling to tend the plots, only to see the produce trucked off for sale.

"I'm not selling this stuff," said the Rev. Johnny Davis, who said he daily weeds a 50-by-20-foot garden on 8th Street around the corner from his home.

Davis, 63, said that while AmeriCorps workers cleared the ground, he planted the garden himself.

"They gave me some seeds. I haven't seen them since," he said.

### Two local programs

Belleville and East St. Louis have the only AmeriCorps programs in the metro-east; there are 22 programs in Illinois.

Cities must apply for AmeriCorps grants. The applications are evaluated and approved by commissions set up by the government. The amount of money cities receive is determined by how much they ask for in their applications, and how well they make their cases.

Full-time workers are paid minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour or slightly higher and receive health insurance coverage for a year worth about \$1,200. Those who stick with the program for a full year also get a \$4,725 grant for college tuition.

Belleville Area College and the Franklin Neighborhood Association administer the Belleville program,

which is budgeted to cost \$375,000 if all the education grants are used. The program's 26 workers have performed a variety of neighborhood improvement projects and worked as tutors in Belleville schools. Its director, Jody Lauf, earns \$23,000 a year.

"Obviously this is taxpayer money that is going into the project, but it's a program in which taxpayers can actually see things that are being accomplished," Lauf said.

Wallace said he didn't plan how to obtain equipment — such as garden tractors and back hoes — when he wrote the project's grant application.

"We thought the city and state would help us out with things, but we found the opposite to be true," he said.

Much of the \$30,000 allocated for



DIRECTOR: Don Wallace

equipment and supplies was spent on gasoline and other expenses, Wallace said. Last week, only \$500 of that money remained and is reserved for emergencies.

"We never anticipated being short of equipment this late into the project," he said. "We have had to fight for everything we get."

Wallace said that despite the failures, he is proud of the way the program's workers have adapted.

"They have worked hard and have been willing to learn," he said.

James Pace, 40, of East St. Louis said he is proud of the master gardener's certificate he earned in the program after attending a 12-week course at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

"It's hard making ends meet on minimum wage, but it's been worth it," said Pace, who plans to start a landscaping business.

Mike Smith, 48, of East St. Louis said criticism of the program's \$27,000 per worker estimated cost is unwarranted.

"That ain't no money for what we're doing," Smith said last week while using a chainsaw to cut tree limbs in Kenneth Hall Park.

Wallace said the program should not be judged on its accomplishments but on how it has benefited the participants.

"These people have learned responsibility. They've learned what a hard job it is to plant a garden," he said. "They are better off for it. It's better than having them on welfare. Is it better to be sitting around doing nothing or picking up trash?"

[Belleville News-Democrat, Sunday, July 30, 1995, 7A]



Continued from 1A

The program has been criticized by some as an expensive government make-work project with few accomplishments, but others defend it.

"We've increased our park acreage by over 66 percent in the past two years, but our manpower has not increased, so we've been stretched," Parks Director Gary Hopfinger said. "The AmeriCorps people have helped us keep the rubber band from breaking."

Working along with Dammerich were Chris Meyer and Becky Soppe, both 18 of Belleville. They did the work by hand — with clippers and saws — to keep from damaging heavy equipment and to allow recycling of concrete, conduit and steel beams left by a construction company years ago.

About 25,000 people nationwide work in the AmeriCorps program, including 14 full-timers and 12 part-timers in Belleville. They're paid minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour or slightly higher — Belleville workers get \$4.38 an hour — and earn educational grants of \$4,725 for a year of full-time service.

Most of the Belleville workers are local residents, ranging from recent high school graduates to middle-age changing careers. Nearly 80 people applied, filling out a lengthy application that included essay questions on why they wanted to serve.

"We were looking for people who had some interest in the community, people who we thought were committed to service," said Director Jody Lauf of Belleville Area College.

BAC is administering a \$269,000 federal grant for Belleville's AmeriCorps program, which could increase to \$375,000 if all the workers use their education money.

The grant was obtained after a joint application was submitted by BAC, Belleville School District 118 and the Franklin and Abraham Lincoln neighborhood associations. About \$35,000 in matching funds was provided by the city, state and private donors.

"It's Peace Corps work, but we're doing it in our own communities, which makes a lot of sense to me," said Corky Smith, 46, of Belleville, an AmeriCorps worker. "It's not just another handout program."

Smith, a former property manager who wants to go into a field of community service, said it's difficult to make ends meet on the AmeriCorps stipend, but the work is rewarding.

"I'm recapturing some of the idealism I had as a young man," he said.

Recently, Smith and Patricia Had-den, 42, of Shiloh, an Air Force



**PARK CLEANUP:** Kim Dammerich, an AmeriCorps worker, cleans up brush in Rotary Park in Belleville

"We were looking for people who had some interest in the community, people who we thought were committed to service."

— Director Jody Lauf  
Belleville AmeriCorps

retiree, were making home visits to elderly people in Belleville to identify those with safety concerns or special needs. The survey results will be passed on to BAC's Programs and Services for Older Persons.

"Every once in a while, you come in contact with ... a senior citizen who needs help — a lot of help — and they don't know what services are available. That's what this program is all about," said Smith, who works in the public safety category.

Another safety project was helping to enforce a city requirement that all residences have address numbers so emergency vehicles can find them.

AmeriCorps workers went door-to-door on 156 streets in the target



**RENOVATED:** Director Jody Lauf in new computer center

neighborhoods, bringing 121 homes and apartments into compliance.

Public safety is one of four categories in the AmeriCorps program, along with education, human needs and environment (Belleville has the first three).

Members of the education team have spent most of their time in schools tutoring students, helping in libraries and working at summer day camps. In some cases, this fills gaps left by state cuts in education funding.

"It's Peace Corps work, but we're doing it in our own communities, which makes a lot of sense to me. It's not just another handout program."

— Corky Smith, Belleville  
AmeriCorps worker

scaper.

"This is the best job I've ever had," Dammerich said, who also has worked in a dental lab, floral shop and fast-food restaurant. "I'm helping my community. I'm helping my country. It's really raised my self-esteem. It's really raised my consciousness about the community."

Another effort was renovating a dilapidated building near Franklin School and turning it into a public computer center. Private contractors and neighborhood residents volunteered on weekends, but AmeriCorps served as the daily work force.

"They did all the tear-out," said Mark Eckert, executive director of the Franklin Neighborhood Community Association. "They did all the dry-walling. They did all the painting. They did all the insulating. They did a lot of work there."

The center is set to open in August with 30 computers donated by Ashmun-Bush.

A block away, an AmeriCorps crew worked with neighborhood families to convert a vacant lot owned by St. Paul United Church of Christ into a community garden.

The garden teaches children how to grow vegetables, encourages residents to function as a team and provides a symbol of hope in a neighborhood that once was deteriorating, Eckert said.

"There's a great educational message coming from that garden," he said. "It may not have a huge impact, but it has a very positive impact."

Lauf, the program supervisor, predicted that most participants will continue their educations once they're through in the program because of the "blood, sweat and tears" involved in earning the grants.

"After working for a year to get their grants, I think these people are far more likely to make better use of the education money than someone who just gets a handout," she said.

Several workers said they will continue to do community service as well.

"I think working for AmeriCorps will make us more likely to work as volunteers in the future," Soppe said. "We see how much you can get done by volunteering. We see how good it makes you feel."

[Belleville News-Democrat, Sunday, July 30, 1995, 7A]

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION





Renyold Ferguson

AmeriCorp workers prepare the soil for a garden in Rush City.

## Gardens A Matter Of Pride

By Margaret Gillerman  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

It won't be long before the lot next to Jesse and Donna Haire's home in the Rush City neighborhood will be ripe with yellow peppers, plump red tomatoes, tasty green peas and summer squash. Marigolds and zinnias will bloom.

The gardeners who are tilling and planting this week are building a community garden. And backers of the project hope this community garden — and about a dozen like it around East St. Louis — also will grow a bumper crop of neighbor-

### Crews Are Preparing Community Project

hood pride.

Crews of workers from AmeriCorp and neighbors are helping prepare the soil, build the wooden sides and walkway, and plant seeds and cuttings at the garden at 910 Sycamore.

Other folks also helped get the community garden project — called Harvesting Good Neighbor Relations — this far. MECCO/Operation New Spirit, a citywide

neighborhood organization, started the garden program about two years ago and has been expanding it since. At least four community gardens are new this spring. AmeriCorp joined as co-sponsor this season.

"Community gardens serve as a way of bringing neighbors and neighborhoods together for a common purpose . . . and of harvesting good neighbor relations," said Venessa Marion, administrator of MECCO/Operation New Spirit.

See GARDENS, Page 4

## Gardens

From page one

Florine Johnson, an AmeriCorp worker, coordinates the tilling and planting and was busy on Sycamore this week. Johnson, 46, of Centreville, recently completed a master gardening course offered by the University of Illinois' Extension Service.

She joined AmeriCorp because she wanted "to give a year of community service." In March, she and others

experimenting with a raised bed garden, Johnson said.

Sheets of plastic were placed on top of the original neighborhood soil, and then covered with clean soil, so any possible contamination would be eliminated. The original soil has been sent to a lab for tests.

James Pace, 40, an AmeriCorp worker from East St. Louis, helped install wooden planks around the garden and till the soil. He recently completed the master gardening course and joined AmeriCorp "to try to beautify the community" and improve the environment. He said he

for their community."

The garden on Sycamore is just outside the window of the Haire's house in Rush City, on land donated by the Haires. Most years, Donna Haire, has planted a smaller garden on the lot. "I love gardens and I like to see stuff grow," Donna Haire said.

She already has plans to freeze the tomatoes and make stew and chili for her husband and two daughters.

MECCO/New Spirit and AmeriCorp are sponsoring 11 gardens in the Winstanley, Olivette Park, Dayton Wedgewood, Fairlawn and Lans-



12/8/84

# Cleaning up the Meadows takes lots of cooperation

JOHN SELL  
Editor

Turning a dumping area into a picnic site is not an easy endeavor, but a coalition of forces is making that happen on the property adjacent to the East Lake Meadows Housing Authority Community.

DeKalb Clean and Beautiful spearheaded the effort with help from the East Lake Meadows Residents' Association, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Americorp Program and the Atlanta Housing Authority.

The project had three parts to it. The major portion was the clean up effort. The property, which fronts Glenwood Road and sits next to the housing community's ballfield, is privately owned by Sang Ho Na. However, Na donated the ballfield to the community and part of the agreement was to keep up the adjacent property, according to Eva Davis, president of the East Lake Meadows residents' association.

The property has traditionally been used as a place to throw trash, Davis said. Broken glass, plastic bottles, fast-food containers and other litter covered much of the area.

The grounds were also unkempt as the vegetation was stomped down in some places and overgrown in others, according to Jacqueline Singleton of DeKalb Clean and Beautiful.

In addition to the clean up, the working group of about 50 people, including about 15 residents, seeded the area and used mulch donated by Georgia Power to cover a trail through the area.

Singleton said someone had dumped a load of cow manure onto the property, so the crew spread it out and used it as fertilizer for the grass.

Vincent Washington of Americorp in Suwanee, a program of the Conservation Service, said the project was large enough in scope for his group to get involved. He said there will be follow-up work days because there was too much work to be done in just one session.

The Atlanta Housing Authority, which hires many community residents as workers, donated a truck and took more than three loads of trash to the dump from the property.

Once the project is completed, Davis plans on using it as a recreation area to include having cookouts, picnics, and fundraisers.

Singleton said cleaning up the project is just the start. DeKalb Clean and Beautiful will follow-up by hosting a community meetings to find out what the residents want to do with the property. The environmental group will also conduct workshops for residents in landscape maintenance and beautification, according to Singleton.

Davis said she is grateful that DeKalb Clean and Beautiful has taken an interest in the area and organized the project.

Vivian Eichelberger, director of DeKalb Clean and Beautiful, also sits

on the advisory board for Americorp and took advantage of an opportunity to find projects for the group. She said the work being done will help to stop erosion of the soil in that area, as well as making a nicer area for the residents. Eichelberger had worked with Davis on other projects and knew of the need, so she put together the resources to make the cleanup a reality.

Davis said the property made a bad impression about the community because it had become an eyesore from Glenwood Avenue. She hopes that one day businesses along that corridor will donate a fence and landscaping to improve the appearance of the property.

Davis said she tells the residents and the Atlanta Housing Authority will work together to keep the area nice, because they have kept the ballfield next to the property clean. She is also working with the owners to place "No littering or dumping" signs on the property.



Workers from Americorp Program, the Atlanta Housing Authority, DeKalb Clean and Beautiful, East Lake Meadows Residents' Association and the Natural Resources Conservation Service all pitched in last week to clean up, regrade, clear and lay mulch on trails and generally clean up the property next to the housing complex's baseball field.

For Your Information



# AmeriCorps coverage unfair

By Joel Berg

The recent article by George Pawlaczyk — and accompanying editorial and cartoon — on the USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects in East St. Louis and Belleville contained many serious inaccuracies and omissions.

Last fall, your paper also ran a negative article on the project — also by Pawlaczyk — that inaccurately reported that the program started without the proper tools and that misquoted AmeriCorps members.

Subsequent to publication of that original story, my staff and I each made individual site visits to the project. We discovered firsthand that the project is "getting things done" while strengthening the communities, expanding educational opportunity and encouraging personal responsibility.

When I learned a number of weeks ago that Pawlaczyk was preparing another story on the project, I called him immediately. Upon my request, he called me at home that Sunday and we spoke for over an hour. In our conversation, he admitted the bias of both himself and his editor, saying that neither of them personally believe that East St. Louis needs either more gardens or more trees.

It seemed clear he had made up his mind that the whole idea was stupid and that his article would say so, regardless of the facts presented by myself or anyone else. Still, at a few points during our conversation, he admitted that he had misunderstood a few things about the program and that he would correct those issues; unfortunately, his final article included almost all of his original, mistaken ideas.

For example, during our conversation, Pawlaczyk admitted he knew that preliminary cost estimates leaked to the media by congressional opponents of AmeriCorps were false, yet he included these numbers in his article as if they were fact. The truth is that each USDA AmeriCorps member in Southern Illinois costs federal taxpayers a maximum of \$21,000 per year, including a \$4,725 educational award to be used to pay

## Guest viewpoint

for college or job training. This per-member figure is \$6,000 less per year than the figure reported by your newspaper.

In addition, the article and editorial both:

Exaggerated the cost of the project by at least \$48,000.

- Severely underreported the amount, the complexity, success, and the importance of the community service tasks performed.

- Failed to report that food grown in the community gardens has been used to help feed hundreds of low-income families.

- Incorrectly failed to describe the vital planning, outreach and education service provided by the AmeriCorps members throughout the winter.

- Fabricated untrue stories that AmeriCorps members were paid for quitting early on hot days.

- Claimed erroneously that the project did not have the required tools and equipment.

- Confused the reality that the members are successfully completing the program and thus officially terminating their term of service during the summer with the false notion that they are somehow being laid off.

The truth is that the AmeriCorps members worked hard throughout the year providing vital services to the people of East St. Louis and Belleville. The project correctly spent the budget allotted to it. The truth is that the people of both Belleville and East St. Louis are benefiting greatly from AmeriCorps.

In our conversation, Pawlaczyk promised his article would include full coverage of the flood-relief work performed by the USDA AmeriCorps crew serving in Belleville. However, his lengthy article only included one sentence on flood relief. I believe his article did not seriously describe the flood relief work for two reasons: 1) describing such obviously worthwhile work would undermine his

assignment to prove AmeriCorps was a "boondoggle," and 2) focusing — on Belleville — where your paper's readers live — would allow your readers to learn for themselves that the article was inaccurate.

Had the article been fair, it would have reported that the USDA AmeriCorps crew based in Belleville stabilized 4,000 feet of stream and land adjoining Bluff Road, which suffered from massive flooding in 1993. Among other things, the AmeriCorps members surveyed the area, drew engineering charts, removed trees that would interfere with the stabilization work, cut out ditches and removed silt, and placed "filter fabric" and "rip-rap" in the stream to prevent future flooding and erosion. This service was performed far more cheaply by the AmeriCorps crew than if it had been performed by government employees or private contractors.

Pawlaczyk also failed to report a very moving story from my site visit to the project, which I related to him. In June, I traveled to a project site in Centreville, where the AmeriCorps members were working to create a park on land that had been donated by a mother in memory of her son, who had been recently shot.

On that day, a mostly white group of about 15 volunteers from the seventh and eighth grades from St. Phillips Church worked alongside the mostly African-American AmeriCorps members. Together, they constructed an entire playground for that new park. This day provided an inspiring testament not only to AmeriCorps' ability to bring people together across racial lines, but to AmeriCorps' success at boosting local volunteer efforts and empowering local communities.

The true facts are clear. AmeriCorps is cost-effective. AmeriCorps rewards work instead of welfare. AmeriCorps renews the spirit of community involvement that made this nation great.

I simply hope that when the News-Democrat covers this issue in the future, it reports the facts — and only the facts.

(Joel Berg is director of national service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.)



LOCAL NEWS / WEATHER / EDITORIAL PAGES

# METRO



JILL CONNELLY / For The Times

AmeriCorps volunteers are sworn in by President Clinton Monday via satellite link at the Universal Amphitheatre.

## Dream Team

■ **Public service:** The thread uniting nearly 1,000 Southland volunteers sworn in to AmeriCorps is idealism and the belief they can change things.

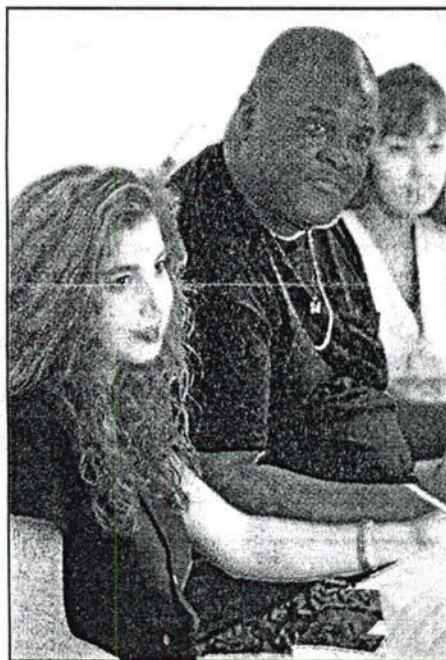
By JOCELYN Y. STEWART  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

With an economics degree from UCLA and a resume laced with honors, 22-year-old Anna Ouroumian figures she could easily command a higher salary, complete with impressive business cards and a lofty title.

Instead, the young Glendale woman is content to spend this year working with a local anti-hunger project, earning a modest income.

Her co-workers will be people such as Garland Robinson of South Los Angeles, who temporarily put off a master's degree to fulfill a lifelong dream of "working with the people."

Along with thousands of others across



RICK MEYER / Los Angeles Times

From left, inductees Anna Ouroumian, Garland Robinson, Dawn Takeuchi.

the country, Ouroumian and Robinson have signed up for a "season of service" in AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program. On Monday, the two gathered with nearly 1,000 other participants at the Universal Amphitheatre for the mass swearing-in of the nation's first AmeriCorps class.

In Los Angeles, the one thread uniting an otherwise disparate group of AmeriCorps members—young and old, middle-class and poor—is an idealism reminiscent of a bygone era in American history: the belief that they can be the agents of change.

Like a domestic Peace Corps, the AmeriCorps members will combat problems ranging from hunger and crime to illiteracy and pollution.

"I'm interested in community empowerment and . . . showing people that things can be done," said Ouroumian, who grew up in Glendale. "I know it sounds cliché-ish, but I believe anything is possible."

At the ceremony, AmeriCorps members listened to a string of speeches—

**Please see VOLUNTEERS, B3**





JILL CONNELLY / For The Times

President Clinton, addressing recruits to service program, tells them he knows they are "a generation of doers."

## VOLUNTEERS: National Service Program

Continued from B1

laced with words of encouragement and praise—by Mayor Richard Riordan, Police Chief Willie L. Williams and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, as well as past and present members of other service organizations.

"AmeriCorps will rise or fall with your success this year," Cisneros said.

Speaking via satellite in a speech that was simulcast to AmeriCorps members nationwide, Clinton applauded members for their commitment to changing America and "getting things done."

"Every generation in our history has learned to take responsibility for our future, and your generation is no exception," Clinton said. "We look at you now, and we know you are no generation of slackers. Instead, you're a generation of doers."

For all its seriousness, the event—hosted by actor Andrew Shue, a star of the "Melrose Place" television series—felt like a pep rally at times, with members breaking out in impromptu chants ("We want Bill!") and songs ("Lean on Me") while waiting for the satellite hookup.

Performers Patti LaBelle, who donned a black AmeriCorps cap, and the R&B group Immature brought the crowd to its feet.

"I like what you're doing," LaBelle said as the crowd cheered wildly. "Keep on striving for the positive things in life."

The centerpiece of the event was the pledge that all AmeriCorps members took.

Standing in front of a screen, right hands held high, they listened to the words spoken by Clinton, then repeated them:

"I will get things done for America to make our people safer, smarter and healthier. I will bring Americans together, to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. . . ." In return for their

pledge, they will receive a living stipend—often minimum wage, though some team leaders will make up to \$1,200 a month—along with basic health insurance, a child-care allowance and a monetary award for college, vocational training or to pay off a previous educational loan.

Trial runs of the program this summer have received mixed reviews, and participants say they know the work will be difficult, especially for the pay they will receive. But for some, at least, the compensation is secondary to the life-changing experiences they expect to have during their year of service.

Robinson, for instance, sees his year as a way to help and to lay the foundation for a career in social work.

But with a degree in political science from USC, and no experience, he could not find anyone to hire him. "I asked, 'How can I get the training if I'm not given a chance?'" he said. "I just wanted the chance to prove myself."

A self-proclaimed "product of the '60s," Robinson grew up on 27th Street between Central Avenue and Naomi Street and remembers "a brighter time in Los Angeles," when people knew and cared for each other, he said.

Robinson, 44, has reason to believe in the possibility of change. In May he became the only one of his parents' seven children to graduate from college.

"I have a story to tell because I've been there," he said.

Like Robinson, who was active in student government and other organizations, many AmeriCorps members are no strangers to community work.

Ouromian, who graduated magna cum laude from UCLA in June, spent her extra time outside the classroom planting trees at the Nickerson Gardens housing project, promoting environmental awareness, helping with earthquake relief and working with a number of service organizations.

Last year, she spent her summer break working with residents of the Pico-Union area, organizing community members in Summer of Service, the pilot program for AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps is open to anyone over

17, including high school dropouts, college graduates, students and professional school graduates. Thus the program attracts individuals from varying backgrounds—some of whom might have been overlooked by other employers.

Before coming to this country four years ago, Mayra Perez volunteered with the American Red Cross, assisting the victims of war in her native El Salvador.

A clerk at a shoe store, she is studying for her high-school equivalency degree and will spend her AmeriCorps year working with an anti-hunger project.

David Guizar, 21, was once in a gang and lost a brother in a gang killing. He will spend a year working in his neighborhood in South Los Angeles, trying to help the kinds of young people he once fought with and against.

"I finally got my chance," Guizar said. "This is my first job. I'm part of staff. It feels pretty good, you know?"

Guizar will be working in the same program as Aqeela Sherrills, 25. When a fire at Jordan Downs housing projects sparked racial tension three years ago, Sherrills, a resident of Watts, stepped in and served as a mediator.

Sherrills will spend a year with Building Up Los Angeles, where he will work to establish tutoring programs, a public safety project, gang prevention and conflict mediation in the schools.

Beginning next week, 40 AmeriCorps workers—including Ouromian, Robinson and Perez—will be added to the Interfaith Hunger Coalition, which administers anti-hunger programs in the region. Its annual budget of \$320,000 will increase to more than \$1 million.

One of the biggest assets AmeriCorps members will bring with them is familiarity with their communities, organizers say.

Along those lines, Robinson said he will offer a basic message to the people he works with:

"I understand and I am one of you," he said. "I'm just a regular person who cares and wants to help."



## EAST VALLEY FOCUS



- Arleta
- N. Hollywood
- San Fernando
- Sunland-Tujunga
- Universal City
- Lake View Terrace
- Pacoima
- Sherman Oaks
- Sun Valley
- Valley Village
- Mission Hills
- Panorama City
- Studio City
- Sylmar
- Van Nuys



Photos by SCOTT RATHBURN / For The Times

Burbank Boulevard Elementary students react with glee to a trick by Dave Skale, the Nutrition Magician during Interfaith Hunger Coalition program. At right, 7-year-old John Galyan giggles after apparently breaking the magic fan.

### NORTH HOLLYWOOD

## Breakfast Gets Top Billing at School Assembly Show

"What's the most important meal of the day?" Dave Skale, the Nutrition Magician, asked several hundred squealing students in the Burbank Boulevard Elementary School auditorium in North Hollywood.

"Breakfast!" they yelled in unison.

Friday's assembly stressing the importance of breakfast was part of a campaign by the Interfaith Hunger Coalition called "Start Your Head, Eat Breakfast." During the presentation, the children were urged to eat at home or take advantage of the free breakfast program at school.

"It's very important that kids eat breakfast," said Carolyn Olney, associate director of the coalition. Children "do much better in class and on tests and they suffer less from headaches," she said.

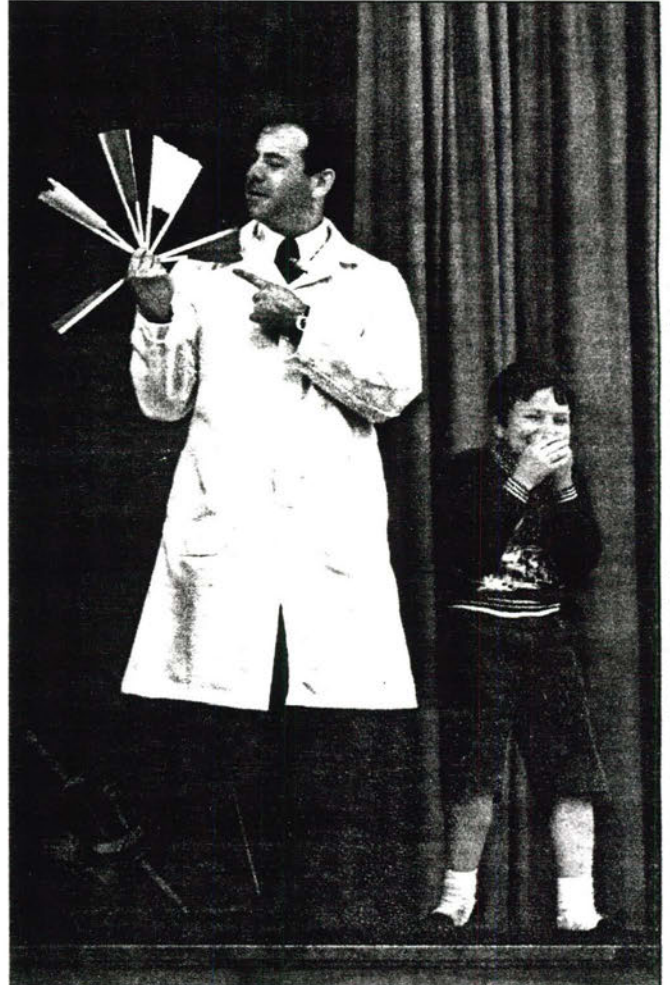
The "Start Your Head" campaign was aimed initially at high school students but has been broadened to include children, said Frank Tamborello, an advocate for the coalition. "As kids get older, they stop eating breakfast," he said. "We try to show that eating breakfast is cool."

The show was put on by participants in AmeriCorps, who are from 18 to 53 years old. A series of videos touting the coalition's campaign began with one featuring a teen-age boy making himself a breakfast shake of milk, leftover pizza, a hot dog and a tomato.

The next one showed a classroom of students who did not eat breakfast. Their stomachs growl and contort as the teacher scowls at them. The third clip depicted the daydreams of a young woman who is so hungry that she keeps imagining breakfast foods popping up around her.

The next part of the program was a sing-along. The final act was a magic show, where a secret recipe transformed motor oil, a flower and spinach juice into a healthy breakfast of an apple, a small box of cereal and a bagel.

—MAKI BECKER







JULIE MARKES / For The Times

Jennifer Whitcomb, a graduate of the AmeriCorps service program, hopes to become a team leader if the program is funded.

## North Hollywood

### AmeriCorps Opens Doors, Eyes for Grad

She joined on a whim last September, driven by the "romantic idea" of helping the less fortunate, Jennifer Whitcomb said. Last month, the 21-year-old North Hollywood resident became part of the first graduating class of AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program.

It was a long road for the Valley native, who had never done volunteer work.

Previously she worked as a receptionist and a customer-service manager for a furniture company.

"We knew that we had a lot of goals to cover," Whitcomb said of the program.

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JENNIFER WHITCOMB  
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Indeed, during her 10 months as an outreach team member, she worked with half a dozen projects all over Los Angeles, from a farmers' market to AIDS Project L.A.

Her longest stint was five months of advocacy work for clients of the San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal

Services clinic in Pacoima.

"I liked working there a lot," she said.

For her time in AmeriCorps, Whitcomb earned \$5,000 toward a college education—and a sobering understanding of the homeless and hungry of Los Angeles.

"It breaks down your illusions. You have to realize that there are a lot of things that need to be taken care of," she said. "It's not in Bosnia, it's outside your front door."

Buoyed by her experience, Whitcomb is already planning to become a team leader for the next AmeriCorps project—that is, if the federal program survives a threatened funding cut. She is also planning to attend Valley College with an eye to studying psychology.

After that? "I'm hoping I'll get a clue in college," she joked. "I think I'll always work with the community in some way. . . . It really does feel good."

—DAVID E. BRADY



# EAST VALLEY FOCUS

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### Program Brings Lessons on Diet to Classroom

After meeting anti-hunger workers in the Mississippi Delta, seeing neighborhood vegetable gardens in Pico Union and listening to community members across the country, federal agriculture official Joel Berg offered his assessment of AmeriCorps, the President's national service program.

"It's here, it's real and it's working," Berg said, standing in a classroom at Arminta Street School. "A lot of people thought it was just another promise, that it wasn't going to happen."

Berg, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Service Program, visited the school as part of a national tour of AmeriCorps projects. Since the program was launched in September, AmeriCorps workers have been placed at community-based projects throughout the country, wrestling with a range of problems, from drug abuse to illiteracy and hunger.

Although organizations are required to submit quarterly reports detailing their progress, officials should observe the projects for themselves, Berg said.

"I don't believe you can learn how things are going by sitting at your desk in Washington," Berg said. "You have to be out here, talking to the people."

At Arminta Street School, the last stop on his two-week tour, Berg watched as the third- and fourth-graders in Jan Shaffer's class participated in a presentation on nutrition and the importance of eating breakfast.

On one side of the room, students gathered around a TV watching several "Start Your Head" commercials promoting breakfast.

"What happens when you don't eat breakfast?" asked Peter Val Verde, an AmeriCorps worker assigned to the Southern California Anti-Hunger Coalition.



Photos by RICARDO deARATANIA / Los Angeles Times

AmeriCorps co-team leader Terri Piggee pours a yogurt shake to fourth-grader Julian Arellano, prepared by children during a nutrition program at Arminta Street School. Right, fourth-grader Salatiel Gray samples yogurt shake in the program offered by AmeriCorps.



Hands—and bodies—shot up jostling for a chance to answer.

"You don't have enough energy to play," said Alfonso Garcia, 10.

"You get grouchy," another student answered.

Students laughed and howled at the short, comical commercials.

Across the room, AmeriCorps workers Terri Piggee and Lee Henderson taught students the five groups and demonstrated how fruit smoothies are made—part of an attempt to show that food that is healthy can also taste good.

"It tastes like candy," said 9-year-old

Elizabeth Meza, after taking a sip.

For the students at Arminta, which has a high number of homeless and low-income students, the nutrition message is an important one.

"It's really needed—especially in areas like this," said Principal Marcia Cholodenko.

Elizabeth Riley, executive director of the Southern California Interfaith Hunger Coalition, said the presentation was one of many anti-hunger projects conducted by AmeriCorps workers assigned to the organization.

"AmeriCorps really has enabled us to

impact various communities in a very sort time," she said.

For Berg, scenes like those at Arminta are evidence that the program works.

"They say a picture is worth a thousand words," he said.

—JOCELYN STEWART



# METRO

## Central Los Angeles

**HUNGER CONFERENCE:** The question posed to a group of 500 high school students Wednesday morning resonated of John F. Kennedy's famed 1961 rallying

call to the American public.

"What are you going to do to make America make good on its promises?" asked Joel Berg, director of national service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Berg was the keynote speaker at an anti-hunger conference at the Wilshire United Methodist Church in the Wilshire district, sponsored by the Interfaith Hunger Council and Americorps, President Clinton's national service program.

The Youth Anti-Hunger Conference drew students from across Los Angeles, offering education about hunger and how they can make a difference by volunteering through programs like Americorps.

"[The conference] helps young people think they can do significant things in their community," said Carolyn Olney, associate director of the coalition.

After Berg's remarks, the youngsters split into groups for workshops. Americorps members in the community gardening program demonstrated how to grow plants such as Swiss chard and watermelon.

April Drayton, 16, who is a student at Crenshaw High, said she was especially moved by a discussion billed as "It Could Happen to You." April said she has considered running away in the past, and now knows that there are alternatives to "the streets," such as teen shelters.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SECTION

B

THURSDAY

MAY 2, 1996



# A nonprofit group combats hunger and teaches children the joys of growing their own food.

By PAUL H. JOHNSON  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

**C**rouched over a small dusty garden beside Elysian Heights Elementary School, two young children bring Chris

Braswell a small discovery.

"This right here is a caterpillar," Braswell explains to them.

"They eat all the leaves," he proclaims, noting that the little bug can wreak havoc on plants. The girls remain fixated on the insect, found crawling in the dirt, and pull and tug on the future butterfly. One girl declares that the bug smells.

Like a modern-day Johnny Appleseed, Braswell, associate director of the nonprofit Interfaith Hunger Coalition, works to get young people excited about gardening.

He sees vegetables as a weapon in the battle against childhood hunger, which afflicts 698,000 California children under the age of 12, according to the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project.

As head of the coalition's community gardening effort, Braswell travels across Los Angeles County tending the gardens of 12 elementary schools, showing youths that a tomato comes from a plant, not a can, and a potato comes from the ground and not a deep fryer.

Research has shown that planting a garden reaps many benefits for urban areas, beautifying a neighborhood while providing a boost to a family's food budget.

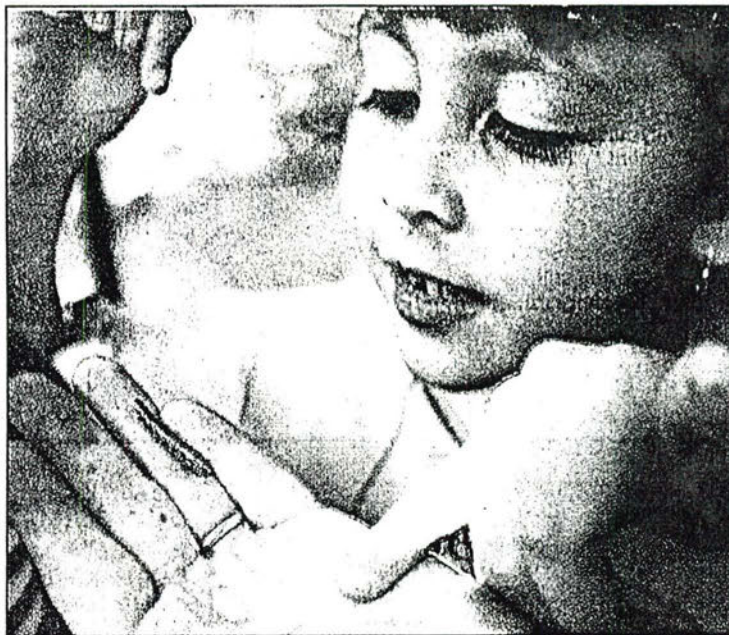
**A** 1993 UCLA study found that a 64-square-foot plot can save a family \$650 a year in food purchases. Other studies have shown that a community will see a drop in crime through gardening, as residents befriend one another and form civic ties.

The tilling of a garden can also serve as job training and helps clean a city's grimy air, researchers have discovered.

It isn't even necessary to have a free patch of land to grow a garden, Braswell said. Plants can be grown in rooftop gardens or on a patio, in containers ranging from a bucket to a plastic cup.

Braswell works with volunteers from the Americorps program, who visit each school at least once a week to help the children grow vegetables that they can take home or eat at school.

The students also learn about the life cycles of plants and how to compost and grow food organically,



Kindergartner Gabriella Flores examines caterpillar from school garden.

and discover the impact of weather on gardens.

During the school year, the students keep a journal of their experiences in the garden and are encouraged to keep a growth record and write vegetable-inspired stories and poetry.

A former landscape engineer from Houston, Braswell got involved in gardening through his desire to meld his interests in community activism, nature and nutrition.

He started a gardening project in Houston and was hired by the Inter-

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---

faith Hunger Coalition last winter to start a similar initiative here.

Braswell is working to expand the garden project to libraries and community centers around Los Angeles County.

The program is funded through grants from food companies and the state and federal agriculture departments.

**A**t Elysian Heights Elementary, where more than 90% of the students receive free or reduced-price lunches from the state, students grow lettuce, endive, spinach and radishes, as well as flowers, which repel harmful insects and attract beneficial ones.

The plot is littered with mulberries, which fall from a native tree that shades parts of the garden. Students tug at weeds and nurture seedlings

that will blossom in the summer, bringing a near-dead patch of soil back to life.

Elysian Heights Principal Judy Moe said the free program has expanded the school's curriculum without breaking its budget, giving children the opportunity to learn hands-on how to eat and grow a healthful meal.

"These are the kinds of programs we need," said Susan Lustke, a counselor at the school who works with at-risk youth.

Providing young people with lessons that don't come from books increases the chance that students will find a subject that interests them and stay in school, she said.

Children who participate in the program say the garden has changed their views about vegetables.

Fifth-grader Vanessa Barraza, 11, said she eats more vegetables now and has even started growing her own flowers at home after working in the school's garden.

Alex Cortez, 11, said he is growing watermelons that he can't wait to eat this summer.

"It's fun," Vanessa said of her work. The reason is simple, she said: "Because we get to get our hands dirty!"

**G**ardening is one of many efforts pursued by the coalition to combat hunger in children.

The group also supports the "Start Your Head" public information program, which encourages young people to eat breakfast. It staffs a hotline, (800) EAT-N-GRO, to direct young people to places where they can get free food in the summer after school cafeterias close.

Carolyn Olney, who also works for the hunger coalition, said the group has one main purpose.

"It's all done with the goal that kids, even if they're poor, have enough to eat."



# HEARTS OF THE CITY

Exploring  
attitudes and  
issues behind  
the news.

## The Beat

Today's centerpiece focuses on the **Community Gardens Project**, which teaches children in urban areas how to grow vegetables and encourages better nutrition. The project is run by Chris Braswell of the **Interfaith Hunger Coalition**. For more information, call (213) 637-1600, Ext. 23.

“ It's all done with the goal that kids, even if they're poor, have enough to eat. ”

CAROLYN OLNEY  
*Interfaith Hunger Coalition*



Photos by LAWRENCE K. HO / Los Angeles Times

Chris Braswell describes insects found on garden plants to students Vanessa Barraza, center, and Alex Cortez.

## Garden of Learning



## EAST VALLEY FOCUS

## NORTH HOLLYWOOD

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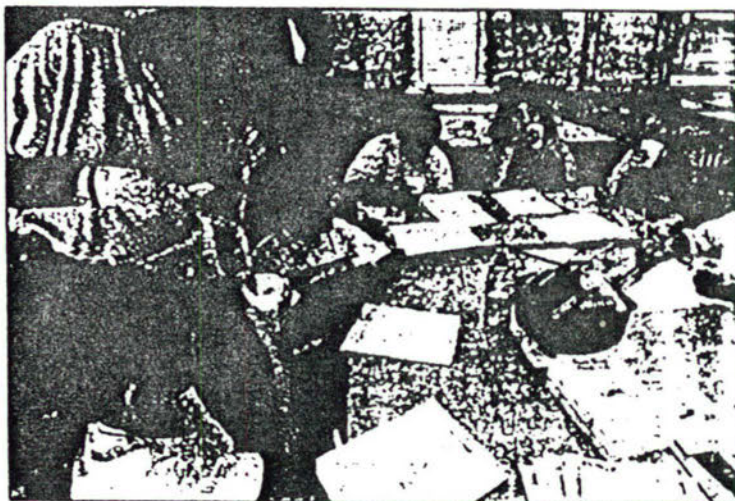
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—JOCELYN STEWART

## VAN NUYS

## Masters Greeted by Noisy Protesters

A Sun Valley man who shot and killed a tagger and wounded another was greeted Tuesday morning by a small but loud group of protesters as he entered Van Nuys Municipal Court.

But after his hearing on gun possession charges was continued to next month, William Andrew Masters II was whisked through a courthouse back door to avoid the protesters and reporters.

Masters is charged with misdemeanor counts of carrying a concealed weapon and carrying a loaded weapon. He faces a maximum sentence of 18 months in jail if convicted.

The charges stem from a Jan. 31 incident in which Masters, while taking his usual late night walk, confronted two men scrawling graffiti beneath a freeway overpass in Sun Valley. Masters told police that he pulled out a gun he was carrying in a fanny pack and shot the two men when one of them tried to rob him with a screwdriver.

Cesar Rene Arce, 18, was killed and David Hillo, 20, was shot in the buttocks. Hillo recovered from his wound and was charged with vandalism.

The protesters, a group calling itself Four Winds Student Student Movement, staged a mock funeral and candlelight vigil Monday night. Tuesday morning, the protesters exchanged words with people entering the court on other business.

The protesters said Masters should be tried for murder for killing Arce. The district attorney's office declined to file felony charges against Masters, calling the shooting self-defense.

—JULIO MORAN



VALLEY EDITION

# Los Angeles Times

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1994

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## Local Service Corps Takes Pledge of Action, Altruism

By JOCELYN Y. STEWART  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

UNIVERSAL CITY—With an economics degree from UCLA, and a resume laced with honors and awards, 22-year-old Anna Ouroumian figures she could easily command a higher salary, complete with impressive business cards and a lofty title—but Our-

NATIONAL SWEARING-IN: A23

oumian has her sights on a different goal.

The recent UCLA graduate from Glendale is content to spend this year working with a local anti-hunger project, earning a modest income.

Her co-workers will be people like Garland Robinson of South Los Angeles, who temporarily put off

Please see CORPS, A3



JILL CONNELLY / For The Times

An AmeriCorps representative holds torch during swearing-in.





JILL CONNELLY / For The Times

AmeriCorps members at the Universal Amphitheatre listen to President Clinton speak about the goals of the national service program via satellite.

## CORPS: Group Sworn In With Pledge of Action

Continued from A1

obtaining a master's degree to fulfill a lifelong dream of "working with the people."

Like thousands of Americans across the country, Ouroumian and Robinson have signed up for a "season of service" in AmeriCorps, the President's national service program. Monday, the two gathered at the Universal Amphitheatre with nearly 1,000 other participants for the mass swearing-in of the nation's first class of AmeriCorps workers.

In Los Angeles, the thread uniting an otherwise disparate group of AmeriCorps members—young and old, middle class and poor—is an idealism reminiscent of a bygone era in American history: the belief that they can be the agents of change. Like a domestic Peace Corps, the AmeriCorps members will combat problems ranging from hunger and crime to illiteracy and pollution.

"I'm interested in community empowerment and . . . showing people that things can be done," said Ouroumian, who grew up in Glendale. "I know it sounds cliché-ish, but I believe anything is possible."

At the ceremony, AmeriCorps members listened to a string of speeches laced with words of encouragement and praise by Mayor Richard Riordan, Police Chief Willie L. Williams and U.S.

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, as well as past and present members of other service organizations.

"AmeriCorps will rise or fall with your success this year," Cisneros said. "You're on the ground floor of something really big. Today is an historic event."

Speaking via satellite to AmeriCorps members nationwide, President Clinton applauded members for their commitment to changing America and "getting things done."

"Every generation in our history has learned to take responsibility for our future, and your generation is no exception," Clinton said. "We look at you now, and we know you are no generation of slackers. Instead, you're a generation of doers."

For all its seriousness, the event, hosted by actor Andrew Shue of the television show "Melrose Place," seemed like a pep rally at times, with members breaking out in impromptu chants—"We want Bill!"—and songs—"Lean On Me"—while waiting for the satellite hookup.

Singer Patti LaBelle, who donned a black AmeriCorps cap, and the R & B group Immature brought the crowd to its feet.

"I like what you're doing," LaBelle said as the crowd cheered wildly. "Keep on striving for the

positive things in life."

The centerpiece of the event was the pledge, taken by all new AmeriCorps members.

Standing before a screen, their right hands held high, the group at the amphitheater listened to Clinton's words and repeated them:

"I will get things done for America to make our people safer, smarter and healthier. I will bring Americans together, to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. . . ."

In return for their pledge, they, like members nationwide, will receive a living stipend, basic health insurance, a child-care allowance and a monetary award for college, vocational training or to be applied toward a previous educational loan.

Trial runs of the program this summer across the nation have received mixed reviews. Many know that the work is difficult, especially for the pay they will receive. But for some, at least, the compensation is secondary to the life-changing experiences they expect to have during their year of service.

Garland Robinson sees his year as a way to help and to lay the foundation for a lifelong career in social work.

Please see CORPS, A25



# CORPS: Activists Have Wide Interests

Continued from A3

While working on a political science degree at USC, Robinson became convinced that his calling is social work. But with a degree in political science and no experience, he could not find anyone to hire him.

"I asked, 'How can I get the training if I'm not given a chance?'" he said. "I just wanted the chance to prove myself."

AmeriCorps, he said, will give him that chance and an opportunity to put to use the experiences that have shaped his life.

A self-proclaimed "product of the '60s," Robinson, 44, grew up on 27th Street between Central Avenue and Naomi Street. He remembers a different Los Angeles, one filled with communities where people knew and cared for each other.

"There was a brighter time in Los Angeles, and I was part of that time," he said.

And Robinson has reason to believe in the possibility of change. In May he became the only one of his parents' seven children to graduate from college, realizing a decades-old dream.

"I have a story to tell because I've been there," he said.

Like Robinson, who was active in student government and other organizations, many AmeriCorps members are no strangers to community work.

Ouroumian, who graduated magna cum laude in June, spent her extra time outside the classroom planting trees at Nickerson Garden housing projects, promoting environmental awareness, helping with earthquake relief and working with a number of service organizations at UCLA.

And last year, she spent her summer break working with residents of the Pico-Union area near downtown Los Angeles, organizing community members in Summer of Service, the pilot program for



JILL CONNELLY / For The Times

Anna Ouroumian and Garland Robinson are sworn in as AmeriCorps workers Monday during ceremony at the Universal Amphitheatre.

AmeriCorps.

"We reached so many people that I was really inspired, and that reinforced my belief in community service," Ouroumian said.

AmeriCorps is open to anyone over the age of 17, including high school dropouts, college graduates, students and professional school graduates. With these requirements, the program attracts individuals from varying backgrounds—some of whom might have been overlooked by other employers.

Before coming to this country four years ago, Mayra Perez volunteered with the American Red Cross, assisting the victims of war in her native El Salvador.

A clerk at a shoe store, she is studying for her high school equivalency degree and will spend her AmeriCorps year working with an anti-hunger project.

David Guizar, 21, was once in a gang and his brother was killed by gang members. He will spend a year working in his neighborhood in South Los Angeles, trying to help the same kinds of young people he once fought with and against.

"I finally got my chance," Guizar said as he waited for the ceremony to begin. "This is my first job. I'm part of staff. It feels pretty good, you know?"

Guizar will be working in the same program with Aqeela Sherrills, 25. When a fire at Jordan

Downs housing project sparked racial tension three years ago, Sherrills, a resident of Watts, stepped in and served as a mediator.

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Beginning next week, 40 AmeriCorps workers, including Ouroumian, Robinson and Perez, will be added to the Interfaith Hunger Coalition's permanent staff of four full-time and four part-time workers, who administer anti-hunger programs in the region. Its annual budget of \$320,000 will increase to more than \$1 million.

"This is going to enhance what we've been able to do, yet it's part of something that's brand new for us," said Carolyn Olney of the Southern California Interfaith Hunger Coalition.

Perhaps one of the biggest contributions AmeriCorps members will bring to community service is their familiarity with their community and its problems, organizers say.

Along with his life experiences, Robinson will bring a very basic message to the people he works with:

"I understand, and I am one of you," he said. "I'm just a regular person who cares and wants to help."



# Valley

Los Angeles Times  
F/CC+ MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1995



JULIE MARKIN / For The Times

Jennifer Whitcomb, a graduate of the AmeriCorps service program, hopes to become a team leader if the program is funded.

## North Hollywood

### AmeriCorps Opens Doors, Eyes for Grad

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After that? "I'm hoping I'll get a clue in college," she joked. "I think I'll always work with the community in some way. . . . It really does feel good."

—DAVID E. BRADY

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



## Marvell receives Americorps Grant

Marvel, in partnership with the East Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, has received funding through the Rural Forestry Assistance (Rural Development) AmeriCorps Program.

The mission of the AmeriCorps Program is to engage a diverse group of Americans in working partnerships with communities to provide real and measurable services to meet environmental and human needs while building an ethic of service, responsibility, and citizenship.

The City of Marvell Enhancement Project is designed to improve the social, economic, and natural environment of the town.

"As part of the project, trash bins and planters will be installed as permanent fixtures in the downtown area. Accessible ramps will be built and the existing sidewalks will be made accessible. New culverts will be installed in residential areas where they are virtually nonexistent or non-serviceable," stated **Bart Washburn**, Assistant to the Mayor Clark Hall.

As part of the project, the East

Arkansas RC&D Council will begin revisions on an Area Plan. In the plan revisions, committees will be selected and public meeting held for each county in the district. The following concerns have been identified in Phillips County: soil conservation and land treatment; infrastructure; use, quality, and quantity in irrigation water; flood protection and drainage of agricultural and urban land; recreation and tourism; rural fire protection; and recycling and waste management.

The City of Marvell Enhancement Project will address waste management, infrastructure, flood protection and drainage concerns.

Besides the City of Marvell and the East Arkansas RC&D Council, additional partners include the **USDA Forest Service**, Phillips County Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Getting Things Done" is the motto of the AmeriCorps Program. With assistance from this grant and the partners involved, Marvell is doing just that.



March 30, 1995

# AmeriCorps Participants Meet in Holly Grove with Director Berg

AR

Eight AmeriCorps participants along with other officials met last Wednesday with U. S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps Director Joel Berg. The meeting was held in the Holly Grove City Hall.

Area AmeriCorps workers were joined by Berg, Allen Pigg of the U. S. Forestry Service in Georgia; Cedric Bradford, state conservationist with Natural Resources Conservation Service; Don Jernigan, publicist with USDA-NRCS; Monroe County Judge Tom Catlett; and Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler.

The Arkansas AmeriCorps participants have been working on rural development projects in eastern Arkansas. In Holly Grove, the work has focused on appraisals of homes located in the 100 year floodplain. At a fair market value, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is buying up the properties frequently flooded by the overflow waters of Dial Creek. Once the buy-out is completed, residents may relocate to a new, yet to be built, housing complex at the intersection of Highways 17 and 86. Some relocated residents will be allowed to build houses on two or three nearby areas. Property clearance from the floodplain will begin when other factors are in place. Individual home appraisals will move the relocation project along.

Lisa Cobb of the Eastern Arkansas RC and D Council has been instrumental in helping with appraisals. Audria Coleman, Renee Spurlock, and Jana Coleman have been involved surveying residents in the floodplain and offering practical assistance about relocation.

In addition to the work of the buyout, AmeriCorps is involved in many other projects. In Holly Grove, AmeriCorps workers have assisted local planning committees, worked with the city to

ment to bring the department up to standards, worked in bringing together local churches for community functions, and have worked towards securing funding for projects. Jana Coleman related that she had worked with Fargo for the city to install street lights and in securing regular garbage pickup.

In other areas, the work of AmeriCorps varies greatly. Debra Carmen of the Central Arkansas RC and D Council has been working with a pellet stove project which involves cooking with pellets made from compacted sawdust. She has also worked with finding markets for poultry litter, and installing dry hydrants in rural areas. Loyda Stith of Batesville has been working on recycling projects and educating land owners about the value of wetlands. Harrison Locke of Fargo has been working with marketing of alternative crops and supervising ASU students learning about vegetable crops. Vivian Jones of North Little Rock has been working with an adolescent development program targeted towards the African-American male.

Director Joel Berg commented that the various works of AmeriCorps model the "national service" priority of President Bill

Clinton. Berg stated that AmeriCorps is the way to change America through "local residents and empowering local communities to change themselves." Approximately 20,000 AmeriCorps workers are at work across the nation. The program provides for cost of living expenses and provides payment for higher education. Berg calls the program the "G. I. bill without the G. I." Berg commended the work of the AmeriCorps members present.

Following the meeting, the AmeriCorps members hosted a reception for all in attendance.



AR



**AMERICORPS MEETING IN HOLLY GROVE:** Eight AmeriCorps participants and other officials met in Holly Grove last Wednesday with U. S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps Director Joel Berg. Each of the participants told of specific areas of work in which they were involved. In some way, they have all been involved in the work at Holly Grove. AmeriCorps participants include from left: Vivian Jones of North Little Rock; Loyda Stith of Batesville; Audria Coleman of Holly Grove; Debra Carme of Little Rock; Joel Berg, AmeriCorps director of Washington, D.C.; Renee Spurlock of Holly Grove; Jana Coleman of Holly Grove; Lisa Cobb of Jonesboro; and Harrison Locke of Fargo.



# AmeriCorps Participants Meet in Holly Grove with Director Berg

The Brinkley Argus  
Brinkley, Arkansas

Sunday, April 2, 1995

Eight AmeriCorps participants along with other officials met last Wednesday with U. S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps Director Joel Berg. The meeting was held in the Holly Grove City Hall.

Area AmeriCorps workers were joined by Berg, Allen Pigg of the U. S. Forestry Service in Georgia; Cedric Bradford, state conservationist with Natural Resources Conservation Service; Don Jernigan, publicist with USDA-NRCS; Monroe County Judge Tom Catlett; and Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler.

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ment to bring the department up to standards, worked in bringing together local churches for community functions, and have worked towards securing funding for projects. Jana Coleman related that she had worked with Fargo for the city to install street lights and in securing regular garbage pickup.

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Following the meeting, the AmeriCorps members hosted a reception for all in attendance.



April 26, 1995

## In Marvell

# Volunteerism alive and well

Volunteerism—and the good such a concept can accomplish—is alive and well in Marvell and residents are inviting visitors to see what they have done.

If you happened to visit the small South Phillips County town

a couple of months ago, you would have found it in an unkempt condition—vacant lots high with weeds, trash on streets and in ditches, and a municipality suffering from “woe-begotten attitude.”

Not any more. A large step to-

ward recovering the city’s vitality, its vim and vigor, was made this week when dozens of volunteers, armed with lawn mowers, hedge cutters, rakes, hoes and buckets of soap and water fanned out in the various neighborhoods, determined to get their municipality back in shape.

It was “Clean-up, Paint Up, Fix-up Week” in Marvell—and volunteers clearly emphasized the “Clean-up” portion of the motto.

“It was a real community effort and I’m proud of each and every person that participated in the activities,” said Barbie Washburn, administrative assistant to Mayor Clark Hall, who spearheaded the effort. “There are still a lot of things to do—but the volunteers have made a great start.”

The most visible sign of clean-up work was on the city’s Main Street, where volunteers mounted ladders to wash all of the store windows.

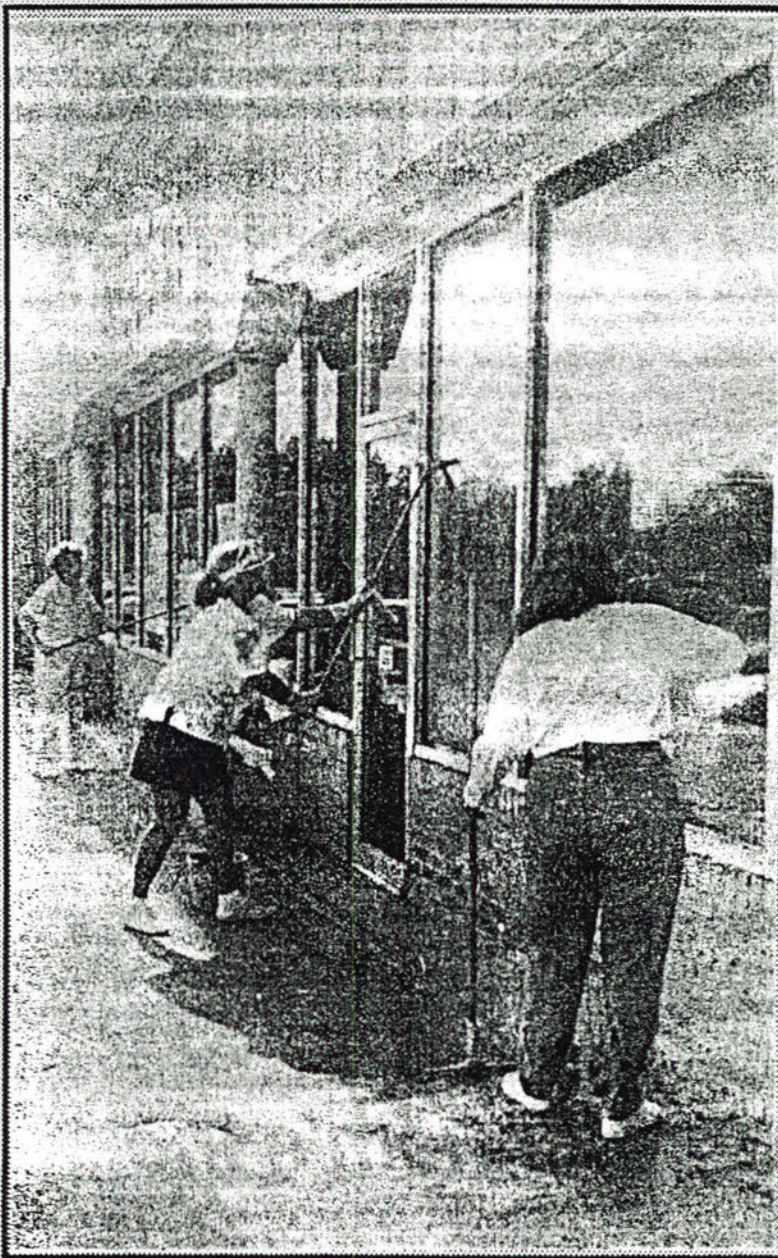
One store owner, seeing his and his neighbor’s windows being washed, brought out paint bucket and brush and put “paint-up” back in the motto—by painting the door of his business.

Even children did their part. Students in Mrs. Betsy Campbell’s grade school class swarmed over ditches near the school, clearing them of debris, limbs and other trash.

Other volunteers spruced up the yard of the Marvell Library, trimmed hedges, and unclogged drainage outlets.

A number of vacant lots were mowed, loads of fallen limbs and trash were hauled away and volunteers even washed and scrapped Main Street.

And, perhaps in an effort to remind them of what had been accomplished during the week, volunteers took special care in planting flowers at BGACDC Manor, at City Hall, and at the Police Station.



### **Window cleaners**

These ladies were among the dozen or so volunteers who took it on themselves this week to “Clean-up, Fix-up, Paint-up” Marvell. Here, they’re cleaning windows of downtown businesses, but they also planted flowers, picked up trash, and cleaned out ditches.



# METRO

## Central Los Angeles

**HUNGER CONFERENCE:** The question posed to a group of 500 high school students Wednesday morning resonated of John F. Kennedy's famed 1961 rallying

call to the American public.

"What are you going to do to make America make good on its promises?" asked Joel Berg, director of national service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Berg was the keynote speaker at an anti-hunger conference at the Wilshire United Methodist Church in the **Wilshire district**, sponsored by the Interfaith Hunger Council and Americorps, President Clinton's national service program.

The Youth Anti-Hunger Conference drew students from across Los Angeles, offering education about hunger and how they can make a difference by volunteering through programs like Americorps.

"[The conference] helps young people think they can do significant things in their community," said Carolyn Olney, associate director of the coalition.

After Berg's remarks, the youngsters split into groups for workshops. Americorps members in the community gardening program demonstrated how to grow plants such as Swiss chard and watermelon.

April Drayton, 16, who is a student at Crenshaw High, said she was especially moved by a discussion billed as "It Could Happen to You." April said she has considered running away in the past, and now knows that there are alternatives to "the streets," such as teen shelters.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SECTION

B

THURSDAY

MAY 2, 1996



## Soil Conservation Service Seeks Local Applicants for Jobs

A unique one-year educational opportunity, doubling as a resumé-friendly, high-profile work experience, is being offered by the Marin and Sonoma Branch of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), but interested appli-

cants will have to act fast.

The deadline for applications is August 5.

As a part of President Clinton's national service program, called AmeriCorps, five local conservationist positions have opened up, each offering a one-year stipend of \$12,000, plus an additional \$4,725 to assist in paying off of any student loans recently incurred or about to incur.

"AmeriCorps has been described as the domestic equivalent to the Peace Corps," said Richard King, District Conservationist at the Santa Rosa office of the Soil Conservation Service.

Working out of SCS' Santa Rosa and Petaluma offices, selected participants will assist with such projects as salmon and fisheries recovery and watershed renewal.

A major project for the Petaluma office is to assist local dairies in manure management to protect water sources from contamination and to help farmers determine the proper amounts of fertilization required to avoid contaminating the ground water.

"I see it as a potential win/win situation for folks who may be coming out of school and don't really have a

firm job opportunity right off the graduation track," said King. "It provides an opportunity to gain experience and contacts, as well as pay off some loans."

For more information or to receive an application, call Lisa Woo Shanks at 794-1242 or Richard King at 575-1409 or call the toll free national USDA AmeriCorps hotline at 1-800-880-4183.



PETALUMA ARGUS-COURIER, Petaluma CA, Tuesday, July 12, 1994

## Farm agency seeks participants

The Marin and Sonoma branch of the Soil Conservation Service is seeking North Bay residents who are interested in performing volunteer work in exchange for payments toward higher education.

The opportunity is the result of the agency being chosen to participate in AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program.

"The program will not only set up the doors to further education for local residents, it will give new life to the important and useful work that the Soil Conservation Service provides here in the North Bay," said Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Petaluma. "I encourage interested residents to take advantage of this educational opportunity."

SCS is seeking five participants to work out of the Petaluma and Santa Rosa field offices. They will assist with on-site technical assistance to land users and complete resource inventories for water

quality improvement, salmon and fisheries recovery, conservation and similar work. Applicants should have a background in agricultural engineering, soil conservation, range conservation or biology. They must be United States citizens, age 17 or older.

The year-long, full-time program will pay participants a stipend of \$12,000 and an educational award of \$4,725.

To apply or obtain more information, call Lisa Woo Shanks at 794-1242 or Richard King at 575-1409 or USDA AmeriCorps at 1-800-880-4183. Applications are due by Aug. 5



*Sonoma Marin Farm News*

**August 1994**

## **SCS Seeks Locals for Paid National Service Positions**

Representative Lynn Woolsey announced today that the Marin and Sonoma branch of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is seeking North Bay residents who are interested in performing volunteer work for SCS in exchange for payments towards higher education. The unique educational opportunity is the result of SCS being chosen to participate in AmeriCorps - President Clinton's national service program.

"This program will not only open the doors to further education for local residents, it will give new life to the important and useful work that the Soil Conservation Service provides here in the North Bay," said Woolsey, who played an instrumental role in shaping the national service program as a member of the House Education and Labor Committee. "I encourage interested residents to take advantage of this exciting educational opportunity."

SCS is seeking five participants to work out

of the Petaluma and Santa Rosa field offices. They will assist with onsite technical assistance to landowners and complete resource inventories for water quality improvement, salmon and fisheries recovery, conservation, and similar work. Applicants should have a background in Agricultural Engineering, Soil Conservation, Range Conservation, or Biology. They must be U.S. citizens age 19 or older. There is no maximum or minimum family income required to apply.

The year-long, full-time program will provide participants with a stipend of \$12,000, an educational award of \$4,725, health insurance and child care.

To apply or obtain more information, call Lisa Woo Shanks at (707) 794-1242 or Richard King at (707) 575-1409 or the toll-free national USDA AmeriCorps hot line at 1-800-880-4183. Applications will be accepted until August 5th. •



## Sonoma - Marin Farm News

### August 1994



Phyllis Hartley  
Executive Director

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The Farm Bureau Board of Directors voted to do a Resolution of Commendation for Charlie Barboni for his outstanding exhibits at the Marin County Fair this year. A copy of that Resolution is published in this newsletter. A copy was hand delivered to the Board of Supervisors and one mailed to the Parks, Open Space & Cultural Events Department.

We received a job announcement that may be of interest to young people. AMERICORPS has 5 positions available, 2 in Petaluma, 2 in Santa Rosa and 1 in Ukiah. The position earns a \$12,000 stipend for 1700 hours of service, \$4,725 education award, health insurance and child care. Term of employment is one year, full-time, Monday through Friday. You must be a U.S. citizen and age 17 or older. Professional disciplines needed: Soil Conservationist, Resource Conservationist, Range Conservationist, Biologist,

Agronomist, Geologist, Forestry, Environmental Studies, or Agricultural Engineer. Education and/or experience will be looked at. Good technical and communication skills needed.

Participants will be working field positions to provide onsite technical assistance to land users or completing resource inventories for water quality improvement, salmon and fisheries recovery, conservation, and similar work. Call 1-800-880-4183 for application. Return completed application to: Lisa Woo Shanks, Soil Conservation Service, 1301 Redwood Way, Suite 170, Petaluma, CA 94954 or call (707) 794-1242.

Good News, Marin County Farm Bureau voting members, the Sonoma County Grange Credit Union has received permission from the Department of Corporations to open up their field of membership to you. Watch for more information soon. ♦



**THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, SUNDAY, JULY 31, 1994**

**215 EMPLOYMENT  
OFFERS**

conservation workers

**AmeriCorps**

Natural Resources, Ag Engineering, Biology, or Environmental Studies college grads. Positions with AmeriCorps - President Clinton's National Service Program, in Petaluma, Santa Rosa & Ukiah, to improve watersheds through conservation practices.

\$12,000 for 1700 hours of service, plus \$4750 educational award, health ins. & child care. F/T, M-F. Must be US citizen. Call for AmeriCorps application & send w/resume due 8/3 to: US Dept. of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1301 Redwood Way, Ste. 170, Petaluma, CA 94954. (707)794-1242. EOE

**THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 1994**

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# NEWS FROM

## Congresswoman

# LYNN WOOLSEY

California, 6th District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
September 15, 1994

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Patrick Kowalczyk 202/225-5161

## LOCAL AMERICORPS MEMBERS START WORK

**GLEN ELLEN --** Representative Lynn Woolsey (D-Petaluma), who played an instrumental role in shaping AmeriCorps as a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, praised local AmeriCorps members who began performing community service this week in exchange for educational grants.

"Not only has AmeriCorps opened the door to higher education for Sonoma County residents, it has given new life to meaningful new programs in our communities that have been neglected for too long," said Woolsey.

Several AmeriCorps members working with the local branch of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) met with Woolsey today and toured a work site at the Atwood Ranch in Glen Ellen. The members will be working on a variety of water quality improvement projects throughout Sonoma County. Members meeting with Woolsey today included Nancy Scolari, Mike Jensen, Julie Maggi, and Colin Close.

"We'll get a lot of conservation work done in Sonoma County thanks to the AmeriCorps members who will be working with us," said Lisa Woo Shanks of the Soil Conservation Service in Petaluma.

15,000 Americans were sworn into the AmeriCorps on Monday in ceremonies across the nation. The year-long, full-time program will provide the local participants with a stipend of \$12,000 and an educational award of \$4725.

Woolsey also noted that a coalition of 18 non-profit agencies in Sonoma County, known as the Sonoma Project, will be bringing on 27 AmeriCorps members who will work in a variety of fields such as education, public safety, the environment, and health and human services.

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MON 11:02

STEARNS RANGER DISTRICT

FAX NO. 6063763734

P. 01

To Lou Wolterino

Publication: THE MCCREARY CO. RECORD, WHITLEY CITY, KY

Date: 9/13/94

U.S. Forest Service - Daniel Boone N.F. - Kentucky - Public Affairs Office



Photo by Paula Vann

U.S. Forest Service representatives and county officials met recently to review the AmeriCorps program awarded to McCreary County. Attending the courthouse meeting are, from left, Bonnie Mason, Acting Deputy Supervisor on the Daniel Boone National Forest; Bill Brumm, Assistant Ranger in the Stearns District of the Daniel Boone; Bruce Murphy, McCreary County Deputy Judge-Executive; and Michael Hayes, McCreary County Economic Development Council Director.

## President's national service initiative is beginning to shape up in McCreary

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of Americans to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants work for a year earning a stipend, and then receive an educational voucher worth \$4,725.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proud to play a key role in the AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps/USDA nationally has four project types: anti-hunger, public lands and the environment, rural development, and flood relief. The USDA agencies involved in AmeriCorps/USDA are the Agriculture Research Service, ASCS, FHA, Food and Nutrition Service, Forest Service, RDA, REA, and SCS.

There will be two AmeriCorps/USDA Forest Service participants working in McCreary County. Both of these participants will be working with McCreary County government offices. One will work with Mike Hayes as assistant eco-

nomic development council director, and will serve as executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. The second will work as the county engineer and will assist in the preparation of project proposals for funding requests for road, sewer and water projects.

Kick-off ceremonies for AmeriCorps were held in major cities across the country on Sept. 12, 1994. President Clinton swore in the AmeriCorps participants at the ceremonies in Nashville, Tenn., via audio linkup.

"I'm very pleased to be working with the U.S. Forest Service on the AmeriCorps program," commented McCreary County Deputy Judge/executive Bruce Murphy last week as Murphy, along with Hayes and Forest Service representatives Bonnie Mason, Acting Deputy Supervisor and Assistant Ranger Bill Brumm, Stearns District, of the Daniel Boone National Forest, reviewed the project pertaining to McCreary County.

"We feel like it will be very beneficial to the citizens of McCreary County."

Lou. OUR TWO PARTICIPANTS ARE  
IN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 05

~~Harold Rogers~~ HAROLD (HAR) ROGERS

... .. BRUMM



Rufus Williams

COPY FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION

OCT 7 1994

## Close-Up

ILLINOIS AGRI-NEWS  
Friday, September 30, 1994

B

## Ready to help



USDA AmeriCorps director Paula Jones shovels (above) mulch on a tree planted as part of activities surrounding the kickoff of volunteer projects in Madison and St. Clair counties. Thirty volunteers (left) comprising the first AmeriCorps class take the oath of service. They are committing themselves to 1,700 hours of community service over the next year.

## 30 take oath to become first AmeriCorps volunteers

Story and Photos  
By NAT WILLIAMS

**E**AST ST. LOUIS, Ill. — AmeriCorps, President Clinton's domestic version of the Peace Corps, is off and running in Illinois. And the U.S. Department of Agriculture is a big part of it.

Thirty volunteers were sworn in here recently during a kickoff ceremony held at State Community College. They were among 245 who applied to be in the first group.

In September 1993 Clinton signed into law the bill authorizing the enactment of a ci-

villian volunteer corps to make a difference in rural and metropolitan areas across the United States.

Paula Jones, who heads up the AmeriCorps program nationally for the Soil Conservation Service, told officials gathered here that they were witnessing a historic occasion.

"Here we are, only one year later, and the dream has become a reality," Jones said. "AmeriCorps has been a very special project for a lot of us. This is a very historical moment."

The 30 volunteers will comprise two teams working in St. Clair and Madison

counties. One team will consist of 10 workers who will help restore natural areas damaged by 1993 and 1994 flooding. The other 20 will work on projects in the East St. Louis/Metro areas renovating vacant and abandoned residential lots and planting vegetation to beautify the areas.

Some of the lots will become urban vegetable gardens and community parks, according to Don Wallace, project director. The East St. Louis program is being operated by USDA in conjunction with State Community College.

Johnson said that the real work will begin on Oct. 3.

very committed to their success," Jones said.

She added that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy is a strong supporter of AmeriCorps. Also backing the program is SCS chief Paul Johnson. Johnson and his wife are veteran Peace Corps volunteers.

AmeriCorps is designed to make a difference in three areas: anti-hunger, rural development, and public lands and environment, Jones explained. The program has the potential to impact those in rural as well as metropolitan areas.



## AmeriCorps begins projects in Erie County

By BOB BUYER  
News Staff Reporter

A resident of the Allegany Indian Reservation and four Erie County residents today will begin work in the East Aurora office of the Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District as AmeriCorps volunteers assigned to provide service to the nation.

All five are among the 800 sworn into service Monday by President Clinton, who appeared via a satellite hook-up in a cere-

mony. The five will work under the direction of John R. Whitney, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service's district conservationist.

Their task will be to assemble and make available for easy use by contractors and local government agencies information about the soils and other environmental conditions around Erie County.

"They also will assist in other conservation projects," Whitney said. "This is not a make work or a job training project. It's a program to provide service to local

communities. Our East Aurora based project is one of a half-dozen in New York, but the only arising from the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

The five, selected from 56 applicants, are:

Denise John, 37, Steamburg, currently a student at Haskell College in Kansas, a college for Native Americans.

Melissa Brice, 22, Williamsville, who holds a science degree from the state College of Environmental Science at Syracuse.

Lisa Matthies, 22, Alden, who has a degree in environmental geology from Alfred University.

Michael Gangemi, 25, Hamburg, who is completing studies at the University at Buffalo for a master's degree in geographical information systems.

Betsy Vazquez, 30, Lancaster, who has a degree in environmental science from Rutgers University.

The volunteers will be paid \$12,000 for work performed over 1,700 hours and on completion will receive a \$4,725 federal education voucher. The East Aurora AmeriCorps project is funded by the federal Corporation for National Conservation Service.

Another state backed AmeriCorps program has begun functioning in West Seneca, but its function is aimed at assisting a dozen young people.

PHOTOCOPY  
REPRODUCTION



Editorial  
DM Reg. 11/11/94

122

## AmeriCorps program is effective

After reading Senator Charles Grassley's essay, "Why AmeriCorps Program Is Flawed" (Nov. 4), I, as an AmeriCorps VISTA, would like to respond with why Grassley is flawed.

I called Grassley's office to discuss his essay and to invite him to spend a day with me and see what AmeriCorps VISTAs do. His receptionist said he only stops in his Des Moines office to say hi, but she promised to relay the message.

Grassley argues that AmeriCorps is too costly, inefficient and bureaucratic. He says that it is political, noting an AmeriCorps project in Los Angeles that rallied against a piece of legislation. He then brought his argument together by quoting some findings from Rolling Stone magazine.

I suggest Grassley do his homework a little better. How costly are the poverty, gangs, teen pregnancy, battered women and declining moral values in America? Apparently Grassley thinks my \$7,400 a year living allowance (I'm not allowed to have a job outside

AmeriCorps because I'm on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week), and my \$725 educational award are too much for the 40-50 hours a week I dedicate to eliminating these societal ills.

As for being inefficient, you can't quote Rolling Stone magazine's look at one project, in one state and think it is accurate and the norm.

And as for being bureaucratic, it is no more so than any other government job or program. The political rallying is disturbing. At orientation it was drilled into our heads that under no circumstances were we to be political as members of AmeriCorps. One project, located 10 states away, broke a rule. Why condemn the thousands of others that dedicate their lives so that others may live a little better?

The bottom line is this: I know, regardless of what Grassley thinks, that because of AmeriCorps, our country is a better place.

— Rachel E. Brandy,

2300 Fleur, Building I Apt. 213,  
Des Moines.

Unlike many other expensive, bureaucratic government programs, AmeriCorps will have an impact on many Iowa communities. For example, one of Iowa's AmeriCorps projects is a joint effort among 16 of Iowa's colleges and universities. Students will assist rural and urban areas by providing respite care for families with disabled children, after-school intervention programs and a mentor program for senior citizens and youth. Those programs are just a small part of what AmeriCorps will provide to Iowa communities.

Financial aid for college is becoming more of a loan system than grant funding.

College students are leaving higher education with more debt than any other generation. This program provides funding for college students as well as work on many needed community programs.

— Janet Lee,

3609 Peters Ave., Sioux City.



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The Washington Post

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# DISTRICT

## WEEKLY

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### *In the Fields, City Dwellers Farm for Neighbors*

#### Vegetables Raised by Homeless Sold at Prices the Poor Can Afford

By Pat Durkin  
Special to The Washington Post

**A** hilly field in a rural stretch of eastern Prince George's County might seem like an unlikely gathering place for homeless people from the District.

Yet every Wednesday and Saturday since early summer, a van has dropped off about a dozen shelter residents to work among the rows of lush tomato plants, tall corn, green beans and summer squash in Upper Marlboro.

"It helps my spirit. When I'm not looking for a job, I'm out here," said Leon Quenn, 26, hoe in hand one recent Saturday. Only weeks beforehand, Quenn, now a robust, clean-shaven regular on the van, had been plucked off a downtown street, too sick and dehydrated to walk.

But there's more going on in this four-acre field than the escape of a few men from a hard life on the pavement.

This is the production end of From the Ground Up, an

elaborate new enterprise aimed at helping the area's hungry get off the dole—and eat more nutritious food.

The harvest from this donated plot will wind up at four fresh produce stands set up by From the Ground Up, and the vegetables will be sold at discount prices in several poor neighborhoods in the District and Capitol Heights.

When okra was selling for \$2.99 a pound and yellow squash for 99 cents a pound at Safeway two weeks ago, the stands were selling both for 50 cents a pound.

The farm operation is run by volunteers who go to the Central Mission and Martin Luther King Jr. shelters asking for help and then work beside the recruits in the organic fields.

The stands are staffed by neighborhood residents, who make all the decisions about where the produce outlets are located, when they will be open and how much they will charge. The idea is eventually to turn the project into a self-sustaining fresh food business that will provide expanded outlets for local farmers; training in organic gardening for homeless people; and jobs, healthy food and a sense of purpose for some of the area's neediest residents.

Behind it all is a powerful alliance of church and relief

See PRODUCE, Page 5, Col. 1





PHOTOS BY DAYN

Rosalind Green, left, and Elaine Bush set up a vegetable stand in the Carver Terrace housing complex in Northeast. The produce is from a farm in Upper Marlboro that is tended by homeless people.



# Lower Prices for Vegetables Can Mean Better Diet for Poor

PRODUCE, From Page 1

groups, Georgetown University students and the Capital Area Community Food Bank, which formed a year ago in search of new ways to help the area's hungry.

High retail prices put fresh vegetables beyond the means of many low-income seniors and single parents. Food bank officials said that more than 18 percent of D.C. families with children under age 12 fall into this category. A diet low in the vitamins contained in fresh vegetables is considered a leading cause of anemia, frequent headaches, unwanted weight loss and colds.

"Most of us can't afford what Safeway charges for vegetables. Some of the people can't even afford the bus fare to get" to the supermarket, said Mary Brown, a produce stand clerk who lives in Carver Terrace, a sprawling low-income housing complex in Northeast.

"The key word is affordable," said Greg Sandor, the project's coordinator from the Capital Area Community Food Bank. With donated land and labor to grow the vegetables, the stands are able to charge at least 10 percent to 40 percent below market prices.

In general, Sandor and others looked to community group leaders to staff the stands. Brown, working with three other neighborhood women, decided to position her stand on a grassy patch near the bus stop, where Carver Terrace residents couldn't miss it. On opening day a few weeks ago, the women got up before dawn to set up the bright blue and white canopy, make signs, stack the corn and fill the display boxes with okra, string beans and tomatoes.

Not much happened until the noon bus arrived and discharged several dozen people. Several wandered over and realized what bargains lay before them, and business took off. In a matter of hours, the stand polished off \$150 in sales.

"Not bad for a start," Sandor said.

A man in a green uniform bought a box of string beans. A gray-haired woman reached for a bundle of

## FARM STAND LOCATIONS

### ■ Carver Terrace

1112 21st St. NE

Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday

### ■ Ward 8 Youth Stand

1008 Varney St. SE

Hours: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday

### ■ Edgewood Terrace

2432 Fourth St. NE

Hours: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday

### ■ Walker Mill Community

6974 Walker Mill Rd.

Capitol Heights

Hours: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday; 8 a.m. to 1

p.m. Saturday

okra. Two mothers pushing strollers bought squash and tomatoes.

Eldred Dacus, a painter, selected one of the fat watermelons spread out on the grass. "I'd pay twice this at the market," he said, a smile consuming his face.

From the Ground Up is the most complex project the food bank has taken on, said associate director Brian Smith. In the past, the group primarily has been involved in warehousing excess food for distribution to nonprofit groups that funnel it to the hungry.

"This goes way beyond nutrition," Smith said. "This is about getting back to the earth, environment, bringing together rich and poor."

The project has a few role models. Similar projects have sprung up in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Philadelphia; the most successful is a five-year-old program in Boston that recently purchased a 60-acre farm to supply its 15 produce stands.

The short history of From the Ground Up illustrates that a good idea will attract eager participants. Already it has drawn help and funding from businesses, student volunteers, the federal government and even conservation groups, who pulled together in time for a summer launch.

"Everybody loves the idea and wants to help. It's the most exciting thing I've ever done," Sandor said.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation lent the four-acre field, part of its experimental farm in Upper Marlboro, and the expertise of its master farmer. Citibank ran accounting classes for farm stand managers. Giant Food donated display boxes and grocery bags. Student volunteers from Georgetown University helped with a myriad of non-technical tasks.

The Department of Agriculture expedited the project's application to accept food stamps at the produce stands. "It's the kind of thing we encourage," said John Wingo, an official at the regional office in Alexandria.

The Maryland Food Committee supplied \$15,000 to pay field workers and farm stand helpers until the program becomes self-supporting. Homeless and low-income workers earn \$3.50 an hour for half of their hours. For the other half, they are paid in vegetables.

Countless other organizations and individuals have donated the money needed to buy tools, seed and organic fertilizers. Several downtown restaurants have inquired about buying leftovers and featuring the project's organically grown food on their menus. Several city eateries already have purchased potatoes from the project.

On days when the fieldwork is being done, almost anyone, from business executives to retired farmers who have heard about the project, is likely to show up to work alongside the homeless people. Frequently, more than 30 people work together in the hot sun, mulching, harvesting or hacking weeds.



James McKnight, pastor of Children of Light Christian Church in Landover, comes twice a week, on Wednesdays with his three young sons and on Saturdays with his church's youth group.

The lesson is community service, he said. "The boys need a role model, and I'm that."

Junior Freeman-Williams, a former farm worker from North Carolina turned hotel housekeeper, said that the work helps him reconnect with his lifestyle as a child and that he enjoys bringing city youngsters with him to the field.

"A little work in the field is much

better for them than playing in the street," said Freeman-Williams, who was homeless himself for a while eight months ago after he lost his job.

Perhaps the most popular time in the field is the 10 a.m. break. Everyone gathers around a picnic table under the trees to have a snack and talk about themselves. The life stories have included heartbreaking accounts of layoffs, drug addictions and life in the gutter.

"The land breaks down barriers," Sandor said. "Around this table, people who live in the city's war zones come alive for people from the suburbs."



Worker Wayne Williams, left, and Greg Sandor, project coordinator, pause at their labors.



## From the Ground Up

*continued from page 1*

"These guys, who don't know where their next meal is coming from, are out here volunteering because they want to give something back to the community. It gives them new access to the community and a chance to contribute. For some, it's the only positive thing they have in their lives. Lawyers would never ordinarily mingle with homeless men, but that's what happens here in the fields," said Muldin.

### Involving Entire Communities in Solutions to Hunger

On a hot summer morning, on the outskirts of Washington, community activist Mrs. Elaine Bush arranged rows of cucumbers between bags of green beans

## Healthy Changes in Low-Income Diets

Mrs. Bush said many of her original customers are senior citizens, but as the community became more aware of the farm stand and saw how reasonable the prices are, they "really came around." At her Langston/Carver community farm stand and others selling From the Ground Up produce, food stamps are accepted and customers are informed that "most of the food is locally grown, contains no chemicals, and is below super market prices."

After hearing about From the Ground Up through USDA officials, Mrs. Bush has really gotten behind it. She sees it as not only a source of affordable produce for low-income people but a way to bring communi-

ties together and show people the possibilities of getting involved.

Willie Hill is an example of what Mrs. Bush means. Hill, was recently laid-off and waiting for a call back to his job when he saw people working at the farm stand from his apartment window. He came out to investigate and has been involved as a volunteer for about a month and a half, making signs, unloading produce, and doing whatever else he can to help

Mrs. Bush not only sells low-cost produce, she dispenses a wealth of information about healthy eating. Customers receive literature on nutrition and health with every purchase.

"We want to change the eating habits of this community. We've got people dying of heart attacks and strokes at age 40 because they don't eat healthy foods, and mothers and babies who need to start eating them now. Now we've got healthy food right here that people can afford."

From the Ground Up has set off a chain reaction of community involvement reaching well beyond the fields of Prince Georges County. Bush has worked with

Carl Tyler of the National Association of Neighborhoods who wants to get more young people involved with From the Ground Up in different neighborhoods. They are interested in building a more permanent stand in the Langston/Carver community and have looked into farming unused lot down the street from the farm stand.

***"These guys, who don't know where their next meal is coming from, are volunteering because they want to give something back to the community."***

"If people like Mrs. Bush get the resources," said Tyler, "they'll change the community. That's the beauty of From the Ground Up, it gets people involved in creating their own initiatives."

One of the most striking aspects of From the Ground Up is the way that very different people and organizations have contributed to its success. When USDA learned about the program they expedited the process enabling the farm stands to accept food stamps. Now, according to Sandor, more people need to come forward so From the Ground Up can really grow, especially people with business and marketing skills.

"I wish we had 100 people like Mrs. Bush. She really knows how to involve people and the effort is more sustainable when it's managed locally," said Sandor.

### A Program to Grow Across the State

While the Maryland Food Committee's self-sufficiency grants program identifies grant recipients based on what they can do to alleviate hunger in Maryland, evaluation are also based on whether elements of their programs can be replicated in different areas of the state.

"From the Ground Up is an exciting program because it gets so many different people involved in creating their own solutions to hunger. It involves entire communities, literally from the ground up. And, best of all, it's a self-sustaining business that can be replicated all across the state," said Daphne Herling, self-sufficiency grants coordinator for the Maryland Food Committee. ■

*From the Ground Up is one of five programs funded by Maryland Food Committee self-sufficiency grants this year.*



*With support from volunteers like Willie Hill, From the Ground Up brings nutritious, low-cost produce to low-income urban neighborhoods.*

and containers of sliced watermelon while chatting with two senior citizens, Sammie Hairston and John A. Hall, Jr., regulars at her From the Ground Up farm stand. Hairston and Hall appreciate the fresh produce and low prices and the convenience. They can get fresh produce in the area, but only after a half-mile walk and two bus transfers, then a return trip laden with produce. For senior citizens during the height of summer, it's not only inconvenient, it's a potential health risk. Now they get nutritious produce right in their neighborhood.



# Maryland Food Committee MONITOR

Fall 1993



*A Maryland Food Committee self-sufficiency grant supports From the Ground Up, a community-based farming project that relies on support from diverse volunteer groups to alleviate hunger in several different ways.*

## Maryland Food Committee Funds Effort to Fight Hunger 'From the Ground Up'

**W**ith funding from a Maryland Food Committee self-sufficiency grant and land in Prince Georges County donated by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Capital Area Food Bank and a broad coalition of volunteers are helping to alleviate hunger in the Washington, DC-metro area.

From the Ground Up, a community-based farming project led by Greg Sandor and Lee Muldin of the Capital Area Food Bank, alleviates hunger in several different ways: by providing nutritious produce to participants in exchange for work in the fields and at neighborhood produce stands; by making low-cost produce available in neighborhoods where it otherwise would not be readily available; and by providing employment and practical business training for participants in this self-sustaining business.

Sandor credits Maryland Food Committee support for helping the program succeed so rapidly. "There's no question, we wouldn't be where we are today without the support of the Maryland Food Committee," he said.

On a typical day at the four-acre farm site a mix of field workers including individual volunteers from affluent suburbs, congregants from local churches and homeless men recruited from area shelters hoe, till, weed, water, and harvest a variety of produce. Volunteers from churches and other groups record their hours and their organizations are reimbursed with produce. Many of the churches will serve the produce their volunteers earn at their soup kitchens.

According to Muldin, who was himself living in a shelter when he volunteered to work on the project, the chance to volunteer means a great deal to the homeless men. Based on his leadership and commitment to From the Ground Up, Muldin has been named assistant director of the program. Since becoming involved with the program Muldin has moved out of the shelter and in January he will begin studying agronomy at the University of Maryland.

*continued on page 4*



Genetic



# Rekindling the Spirit of Democracy



## COVER STORY

A moment at the inaugural ceremony as Clinton inducts the first AmeriCorps recruits.

By John Pacis  
Staff Reporter

and  
College News Service

The new National Program for Youths, dubbed AmeriCorps, goes into effect with the induction of its first recruits, and the concept of the new program gives rise to Cal Poly's commitment to community service.

"Change" was the underlying theme in President Bill Clinton's campaign for presidency. In his 1992 campaign, he recognized the necessity for reform in higher education and in the area of community service. He also recognized the impact of budget cuts in higher education. During the 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton challenged "young Americans to a season of service," saying he would guarantee every American "who wants a college education the means to obtain one." In an effort to bring resolution to both demands—dire urgency for community service and budget-affected education with soaring tuition—President Clinton introduced his National Program for Youths.

According to the *LA Times*, "the program, dubbed AmeriCorps, was approved by Congress last year to allow youths to earn college tuition or to pay off tuition loans by performing community service." Congress has approved \$360 million to finance the initiative and to pay 20,000 Americans in their efforts to devote their time to communi-

ty service. AmeriCorps participants will be paid minimum wage, health care benefits, child care and an educational awards of up to \$4725 per year and up to two years to finance higher education or to pay back existing student loans.

Like the Peace Corps of the 1960s, AmeriCorps, (which focuses on domestic service) will allow recruits to concentrate their service in the areas of education, public safety, human needs, and the environment. AmeriCorps has priorities in community service in these areas: education, working in schools with high concentrations of low-income students; public safety, improving services available for victims of crime and strengthening innovative criminal justice programs such as neighborhood courts and community restitution; human needs, helping people who are homeless by providing shelter, support, assisting in moving into permanent housing, and related services; environment, eliminating environmental risks through education, testing and cleanup. However, the duties of the new recruits are not limited to only these services.

On September 12, 1994, the inaugural ceremony was telecast throughout the nation via satellite. Clinton inducted his first recruits into AmeriCorps.

"Service is never a simple act, it's about sacrifice for others and about accomplishment for ourselves, about reaching out, one person to another, about all our choices gathered together as a country to reach across all our divides. It's about you and me and all of us together—who we are as individuals and what we are as a nation."

Service is a spark to rekindle the spirit of democracy in an age of uncertainty."

**"Service is  
never a  
simple act,  
it's about  
sacrifice. . .**

Just recently, Cal Poly Pomona was awarded a grant from the newly formed AmeriCorps. Cal Poly Pomona was selected as one of California's premier programs," said Gail Di Sabatino, the university's director of student life. "Our students will work on projects that will help meet the needs of local communities." The Cal Poly program, dubbed PolyCorps, is an extension of AmeriCorps that will be providing surrounding communities the necessary services from Cal Poly students.

PolyCorps will allow young people to perform community service in return for an educational award at the conclusion of their service period. Students commit to 900 hours of service over a two-year period. In return they will receive a minimum wage, living allowance, and at the end of their service a \$2633 education award. The first recruits in PolyCorps will be inducted in January.

Please see: **AMERICORPS A3**

## AMERICORPS: Clinton's Plan for the Future continued from A1

PolyCorps has three components that will concentrate on crime prevention, community re-development, and the Human Corps Volunteer Center.

A conflict mediation component will address the issue of crime prevention by work with at-risk youth and providing them with skills, resources and activities to help redirect their tendencies to use violence and other anti-social actions. Workshops, a

media campaign, and computer multi-media programs will be developed by the AmeriCorps members who will also serve as mentors to community youth.

A second component involves community redevelopment and will seek to improve low-income neighborhoods through rehabilitation and construction of affordable housing. Members will be placed in several organizations in Los Angeles and Orange Counties engaged in neighborhood clean up days, fund-raisers, assist with child care, job training, and other on-going programs.

The final component is the Human Corps Volunteer Center. The center will encourage volunteerism throughout the community. Cal Poly Pomona students, faculty and staff will be placed with established agencies and community projects. AmeriCorps members will be assigned to coordinate campus volunteering in one of the areas of national priority—public safety, education, human needs, and environment.

If you're interested in PolyCorps or for more information, you can call the Office of Student Life at x2841.

*This team in the Cal Poly Pomona Polyfest on October 11th*

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



# The Washington Post

## Youth Service Corps Officials Prepare For Recruiting Blitz

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1993

By Mary Jordan  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former inner-city gangsters and Stanford University honor students are among those expected to sign up in the new year for one of President Clinton's new programs: youths performing community service to pay for college tuition.

In January, radio and television advertisements are to begin telling thousands of students how they can enroll in AmeriCorps and get paid for work ranging from comforting AIDS patients to tutoring preschoolers.

In interviews last week with AmeriCorps leaders, details of one of Clinton's most visible campaign promises emerged for the first time. All 20,000 of the students to be selected next year will earn an \$8,000 wage (roughly \$4.25 an hour), plus health and child care benefits. If they successfully complete the 12-month program, the youths also will get \$4,725 in college or vocational school tuition or loan forgiveness. The government will write a check to the school of their choice.

Program officials expect a blizzard of applications from students, even though the compensation will be considerably lower than proposals floated during Clinton's campaign.

The first step is next month's media campaign, which will include spots on MTV, an effort that program officials hope will help make AmeriCorps as well known as the Peace Corps. In April and May, nonprofit service groups such as Teach for America, which brings recent college graduates into needy elementary school classrooms, will be selected to participate.

The winning service groups will then pick the students who will work for them. Some students will go to work next summer, with the big kickoff in September.

"One of our objectives is to create a national ethic of service," said Eli Segal, president of the Corporation for National and Community Service that oversees AmeriCorps.

Congress approved \$300 million for national service in 1994. The White House hopes funding will escalate, and that likely will depend on whether the program's initial reviews are good.

According to Clinton, youths who "look like America" will be selected. Most are expected to be between the ages of 17 and 25. Some will get involved in environmental work, others in public safety, education or health programs.

In addition to AmeriCorps, two smaller service programs are part of the national service corporation. One is the Civilian Community Corps (CCC),

modeled after the popular 1930s program that gave people jobs on public works projects, such as planting trees and fixing parks.

The CCC will involve 800 students, and all will be housed on military bases. Former military personnel will work as instructors. Youths participating in this program do not have to have a high school degree and will be selected as early as February.

"The focus will be on civilian needs," said CCC director Donald Scott. Students will work at "creating green space in parks, tree-planting projects and erosion control," among other projects, Scott said.

The other part of the service corporation is VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) formed in 1964 and located a few blocks from the White House at 1100 Vermont Ave. NW. VISTA's 3,400 volunteers will earn the same as AmeriCorps students, and will do much the same kind of community work.

By the end of this month, a toll-free hot line (1-800-94-ACORPS) will begin giving potential applicants basic information about the AmeriCorps program and help link students to specific programs in particular cities.

Each Cabinet-level agency also will be eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funds.

All states have or will set up a community service commission to help select and monitor the AmeriCorps programs. The commissions also will help distribute the federal funds. About \$11 million in federal money has been set aside for the state commissions, and they are expected to get some local funding too.

The national office will cost an additional \$14 million a year to operate. How it fares in its first year is considered crucial for the eventual success of AmeriCorps.

Some critics of the program say they worry it will not attract middle- and upper-class students because the pay is so low. Others are concerned about just the opposite, that only well-off students will be able to join. And many are waiting to see if worthwhile work will get done.



# Los Angeles Times

Friday June 3 1994

## Rappers, TV, Ads Are Enlisted to Sell Service Program

White House has launched huge campaign to get young people interested in the new AmeriCorps effort.

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—A beaming President Clinton, flanked by young people, is shown striding across the White House South Lawn. Everyone is clapping.

"AmeriCorps—Coming Soon To Communities Everywhere," says the advertisement, which White House officials hope will be as effective at getting participants for national service as Smokey Bear has been at reducing forest fires.

AmeriCorps is the President's signature domestic "peace corps" program. Starting in September, it will send young Americans into communities to "get things done"—like immunizing infants, tutoring teen-agers and making schools and neighborhoods safe.

In return, workers—expected to number 20,000 the first year—will receive a low wage, health benefits and stipends of \$4,725 for each year of service that they can use for education or training.

Even though 60,000 people have called to inquire about signing up for the program, Eli Segal, the President's national service czar, says he is a little nervous.

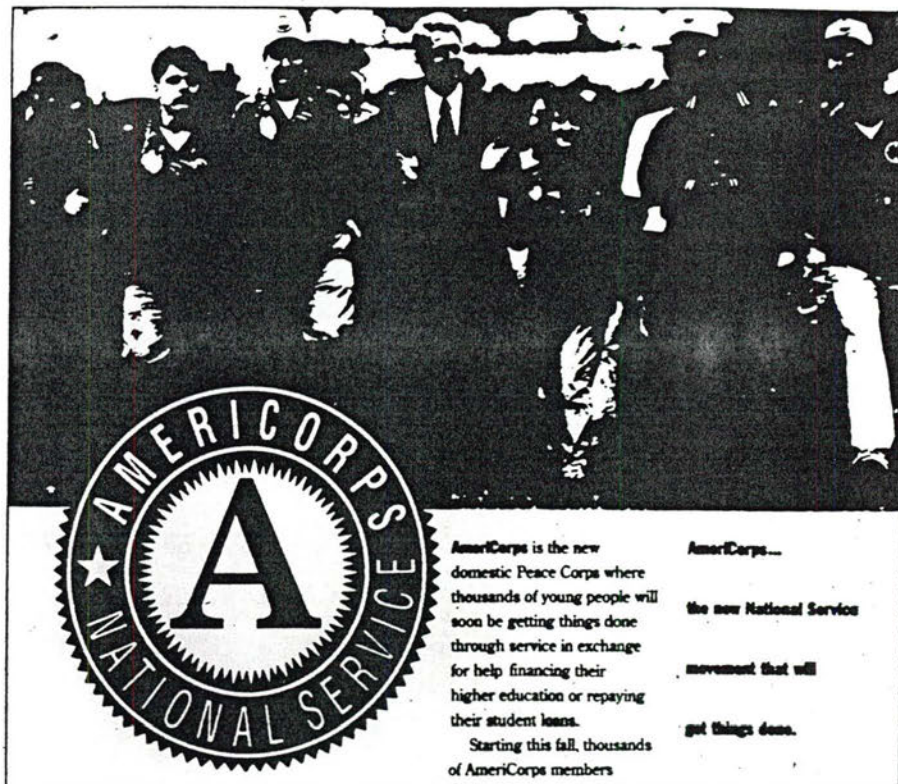
"If we throw a party and no one comes, then we haven't thrown a party," he said.

To make sure that does not happen, the Corporation for National Service, the independent agency Segal heads, has begun a sales campaign.

The first step was coming up with a logo, and that meant the "30-something" agency officials had to design a logo cool enough to appeal to those in their teens and 20s.

The corporation chose a design featuring a letter "A" swimming in a gold sun, encircled with the words: "AmeriCorps National Service" in blue block print.

After emblazoning the logo on T-shirts, badges, patches and bumper



President Clinton figures prominently in many of the new AmeriCorps ads.

stickers, it was time to take the campaign on the road to college campuses.

To promote the visits, the corporation enlisted rap artist LL Cool J. In a public-service announcement recorded for college radio stations, he urges students: "Find out how you can be one of the 20,000 young people committed to rebuilding our communities. AmeriCorps, the new national service movement that will get things done."

Then Administration officials, accompanied by rock or rap groups, hit the campuses of UCLA, Harvard University, the University of Minnesota and Morehouse College in Atlanta last month. Smaller events announcing AmeriCorps took place at 50 other campuses.

Segal also gave his pitch to national magazines from Elle to Rolling Stone to Money, hoping they would help launch national service by running articles in their September editions.

Negotiations are under way with Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide to have the advertising agency design public-service announcements for radio and TV. Popular bands are being asked to talk up the program at concerts through the summer.

And the Administration is trying to set up partnerships between local TV stations and AmeriCorps projects in their

area, so they can keep viewers informed of what workers are accomplishing.

This emphasis on accomplishment is important because for the program to expand—or continue to exist after the first few years—Segal will have to be able to show Congress that it is having a real impact.

Segal said he has some concern that the campaign will create such demand that many interested young people will be turned away from the program. On the other hand, he said, he does enjoy entertaining the thought that his "product" could end up being as popular as the "Cabbage Patch Kids" doll craze.

Advertising campaigns for federal programs serve dual goals. One is to stimulate people to do what the government wants. The other is to sell the impression to the public that the government is doing what it promised.

For that reason, it is perhaps more than coincidence that Clinton figures so largely in the public-service ads being distributed to magazines and newspapers across the country.

"We always start with the assumption that this would not happen if Bill Clinton was not the President of the United States," Segal said. "What is unique about this is that the President of the United States is so committed to it."



# USA TODAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1993

## Launching national service policy

By Dennis Kelly  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — They aren't officially taking applications yet for President Clinton's national service plan — but they're already getting thousands of letters of interest.

The people running the Corporation for National and Community Service — just a few blocks from the White House — say that's an indication of high interest the program has generated. But it also leaves them nervous about expectations the program has created.

"There are moments of real anxiety about all that is expected. We feel a real need to get this done quickly," says Eli Segal, president of the corporation, the newly christened umbrella group overseeing Clinton's national service plan and a host of existing community service agencies. "We've got to go back to Congress and ask for appropriations (again) next year. The fear is how much needs to be done and how much we need the local communities to buy into this."

But the vision for Clinton's national service program is certainly heady stuff.

Administrators see young



SEGAL: Feels pressure to get service program working soon

workers fixing up dilapidated homes or escorting the elderly to grocery stores in crime-infested neighborhoods. They see college students working in Head Start and early childhood education programs, all the time earning money that will help pay their college bill.

Those daydreams have been there ever since Clinton touted national service as one way to help young people earn money for college.

But the daydreaming has stopped, and the program is

now gearing up the process of making it work.

Regulations for the program will be published in January. Local and national groups then will compete for grants beginning in the spring and learn who gets funded between May and August. By the end of 1994, the Clinton administration expects to have 20,000 working in community service jobs and earning awards of \$4,725 per year in the program toward a college education or vocational training.

The \$1.5 billion program intends to have 100,000 participants over three years.

The part of the national and community service corporation devoted to Clinton's plan is called AmeriCorps. Anyone 17 or over will be able to earn the \$4,725 award toward college or vocational training by working with the non-profit groups that are awarded grants in the application process, or by working with one of two existing service agencies, the Civilian Community Corps or Volunteers in Service to America, better known as VISTA.

Those hired get a \$7,400 per year stipend — about minimum wage — plus health care and child care if needed, along

with the education award.

Programs that qualify will have to meet the educational, human, environmental or public safety needs of their communities. What those are will be up to commissions forming in each state — a "bottom-up" approach that Segal says will let communities decide what kinds of service are in their best interest.

Still, Shirley Sagawa, nominated as managing director of the corporation, says the corporation will help provide the program a "national identity." That will include a common oath taken by participants, a logo, as well as training and monitoring of program quality. The corporation even plans to hire some investigative-journalist types as "circuit riders" to help ensure programs are delivering on promises.

She says the program will also work hard to ensure that program participants "look like America." That's meant to allay concerns that AmeriCorps would be dominated either by low-income groups forced into national service as the only way to pay for college or by students from high-income families getting subsidies from the federal government.

## How to get information

People who think they'd like to apply for one of the 20,000 national service slots available next year can get information now, but applications won't be officially taken for a while.

To get information on AmeriCorps, call the Corporation for National and Community Service at 202-606-5000 and then, if you have a touch-tone phone, dial 4 at the list of menu options. You can leave your name and address and you'll be sent a brochure.

This month, the corporation will announce a toll-free 800 number. Then in May and August when 300 to 400 non-profit groups are selected to offer the national service jobs, the toll-free number will get you to an operator who can tell you about programs in your area. Local and national agencies that win grants will do the hiring.

Those interested also can write the corporation at 1100 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20515, Attn: AmeriCorps.



# Hunger Task Force turns 20

## Group has grown strong but hopes it won't always be needed

By AMY RINARD  
Sentinel staff writer

In marking its 20th anniversary, the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee is reaffirming its commitment to go out of business.

For 20 years the organization has been a key force in organizing and leading the community's response to help those in need of food.

But task force officials continue to hold out the hope that one day no one in the community will have to worry about going hungry and their work will no longer be necessary.

"I have to hold that as a long-term vision," said Michele Goldstein, Hunger Task Force executive director.

"Certainly in 1974 no one thought Hunger Task Force would be here today and be doing what we do today at the level we do it."

The task force had its origins in a group called Central City Churches for School Breakfast Program organized in the late 1960s by a coalition of church people determined to see Milwaukee Public Schools start school breakfast programs.

Two of the prime movers behind that group were the Rev. Joseph Ellwanger of Cross Lutheran Church and his wife, Joyce.

Many central city churches, including Cross Lutheran, already had food pantries to offer emergency food assistance to those in need.

But church officials realized the problem was a chronic one for many families and that many children were going to school hungry, Mrs. Ellwanger said.

The church group organized its



Goldstein

Ellwanger

own breakfast program for schoolchildren funded by donations and fund-raising activities like Hunger Hikes.

Eventually three Milwaukee public schools agreed to launch experimental school breakfast programs and later, after more federal funds became available for the program, 16 schools began to offer breakfast programs.

"At the time we were really advocating with the School Board to expand the school breakfast program, Central City Churches for School Breakfast became the Hunger Task Force," Mrs. Ellwanger said.

The year was 1974 and the fledgling task force, with headquarters at Cross Lutheran, had a small staff that included a young community advocate named Barbara Notestein, who would later be elected to the State Assembly.

"From the beginning the Hunger Task Force had a strong advocacy arm," said Mrs. Ellwanger, who lauds Notestein for her skill at community organizing and advocacy.

The task force organized an Emergency Food Pantry Network that began with about 35 neighborhood food pantries. That number grew quickly to 50, then 75.

The task force launched communitywide food drives to help supply the pantries with enough food to meet a demand for emergency food assistance that did not stop growing.

"During the early '80s, with the recession and cuts in social programs, lots of pantries saw enormous increases in demand," Goldstein said.

"By 1985 we had donated warehouse space and we already were running major food drives."

Today, from its offices and warehouse at 811 E. Vienna Ave., the task force distributes 3 million pounds of food a year and spends about \$750,000 buying food to keep up with an ever-growing demand for its services.

"The needs of people are greater now. Poverty is much more severe than it was 10 years ago," Goldstein said. "More and more families need pantries on an ongoing basis. It's a chronic need."

Today the task force depends on funding from food drives and fund-raising events sponsored by corporations and church and community groups.

The task force also sells holiday cards as a way to raise money, and this year expanded its line of cards to include Mother's Day and Father's Day cards featuring drawings by Milwaukee Sentinel cartoonist Stuart Carlson.

In addition to its emergency food assistance work, the advocacy work of the task force continues and Goldstein believes it will become more and more important as federal funds for food programs shrink.

"Our goal for the future is to promote services that allow families to meet their food needs the same way we do," she said.

The task force continues to urge full funding of federal food

programs such as the Women, Infants and Children and food stamp programs and to work to see that many people who are eligible and need such programs participate in them.

"Our goal is to help reduce the need for emergency food resources," Goldstein said.

Ironically, the task force has come full circle in one aspect of its advocacy work. This year the organization is again working with MPS to increase student participation in school breakfast programs.

"It's where we started, but here we are 20 years later and there's still work to be done," Goldstein said.

So, the task force does not plan to celebrate its anniversary in the traditional sense.

But it is marking its 20th year with a public education campaign that includes bus signs and a striking anniversary poster that shows a cake plate with 20 lighted candles above it but no cake in between.

The task force also is working on a curriculum for schools to educate young people about hunger and poverty and to get them thinking about what they can do to help.

The closest thing to a birthday party planned is an event June 5 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Miller Pavilion at O'Donnell Park. The program, called Sundae in the Park, will honor the thousands of people, businesses and organizations that have supported Hunger Task Force for the last 20 years.

"We can't celebrate our anniversary the way other people celebrate, but we can celebrate this community's capacity to meet a need and to thank people," Goldstein said.

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WESTERN KANSAS WORLD

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## AmeriCorps to Help Kansans

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"Renovating windbreaks and repairing flood-damaged areas will bring AmeriCorps members to Kansas," said Jim Habiger, state conservationist for the U.S.D.A., Soil Conservation Service in Kansas.

AmeriCorps is the new national service program signed into law by President Clinton, September 1993. This will establish a "domestic Peace Corps," involving thousands of Young Americans who will work in AmeriCorps's projects to perform critical service in urban and rural communities nationwide. Participants will receive a stipend plus a scholarship towards their education or a reduction in their school loans.

"Kansas has been approved as a finalist for three pilot projects," Habiger said. In the initial phase of this service program, USDA will have 42 different projects in 32 states.

"One of the projects will be renovating windbreaks in western Kansas and that needs to be done," said Habiger. According to the SCS 1992 National Resource Inventory, 43 percent of the windbreaks in Kansas are over 40 years old and 49 percent are in fair to poor condition. Two AmeriCorps teams will work in Scott, Greeley, Gove, Logan and Sheridan counties on this project under the leadership of the SCS and local conservation districts.

The two other projects will focus on the Emergency Watershed Program, administered by SCS. EWP provided assistance to flood-damaged areas following the Flood of '93 and continues to help with flood-recovery efforts. In one area AmeriCorps members will work at state and federal lakes.

Pre-Publicity

In another area AmeriCorps members will design and lay out animal and Ag-waste systems, map riparian and wetland areas and enter map information for watershed areas into the computer.

According to Habiger, Kansas will have jobs for AmeriCorps participants interested in getting work experience or internships in their field of study, such as biology, forestry or natural resources. Or, there will be work for those who need a job and can provide the labor it takes to do it, such as renovating a windbreak or lake cleanup.

AmeriCorps members are expected to begin working on these projects this fall, said Habiger.

American citizens or legal residents 17 years of age or older interested in serving in the AmeriCorps may call 1-800-880-4183 to receive a packet of information and an application.





Seinfeld

**JERRY SEINFELD** has one thing to say to all the stupid people out there: Don't call him "smart." "That's a stupid person's term for intelligent," the television comedian says in September's Esquire magazine. "Who would say that but a jerk, a stupid person?" That doesn't stop Seinfeld from naming the smartest imaginary superhero. "Well, that has to be Batman," he concludes.

A porcelain statuemaker is suing **JERMAINE JACKSON**, claiming he and a defunct organization owe \$12,000 for trophies made for the television special "Jackson Family Honors," lawyers said Wednesday. The lawsuit says Jackson and Jackson Communications Inc. made a \$6,250 deposit for two diamond-studded trophies but never paid the \$12,000 balance to Boehm Studios.

## Delta program to offer scholarships for work

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking recruits for the Americorps national service project, which will run in the Mississippi Delta beginning in September.

Americorps is President Clinton's national-service initiative that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing services to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs.

Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend of at least \$12,000, then receive an educational award worth \$4,725.

The 10 participants in the Mississippi Delta program will be involved with projects that emphasize leadership training, recycling wood waste, community economic development assis-

tance and timber-bridge technology transfer.

Participants will be mostly college graduates and professional school graduates whose expertise will be matched with needs of rural communities. Applications will be accepted until Friday.

To apply for the program or obtain more information, call the toll-free national USDA Americorps hotline at 1-800-880-4183.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, a former Mississippi congressman, said Americorps "is grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility and opportunity. It is good for the participants, who benefit from their increased ability to attend college or vocational school, good for communities, which benefit from their service, and good for the country, which benefits from a renewed civic spirit."

## Police/Fire

The following complaints were filed with the Greenwood Police Department Wednesday or today:

Lillie Jackson, 604 Cypress Ave., reported that her son was leaving the McLaurin Street

larized his house taking a television set and a microwave.

Ruby Moore, 201 Moore St., reported that someone stole the radio and speakers from her car while it was parked at the corner of George and Johnson

lion, a leopard, a kudu, an impala and two gazelles. Fordice, in remarks to The said

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# State programs gear up to use

Saturday, August 20, 1994

## Clinton's AmeriCorps

■ New service corps to aid in mediation aimed at stopping youth violence.

By Alison Watkins  
Medill News Service

WASHINGTON — President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps 34 ago and President Clinton is following his example with AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps.

The program will recruit people to engage in community service projects in return for repayment of educational loans or debts or to provide savings for their education. It will begin nationwide on Sept. 12.

By the end of 1994, 20,000 people will be participating in 300 programs

across the country, sponsored by state-level commissions, according to the Corporation for National Service, which administers the national program. Some projects will be sponsored by federal agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture. Both types of programs will be offered in Nebraska.

One Nebraska program will be aimed at helping youths solve problems through mediation.

Concern in Nebraska about youth violence prompted the state to focus on how to prevent trouble, said Kathleen Severens, director of the Nebraska Office of Conflict Resolution. Her office tries to give youths problem-solving skills to resolve difficulties without resorting to violence.

They began mediating in seven or eight schools this year and hope to

work with more. Mediation centers in Lincoln, Walthill, Beatrice, Scottsbluff and Omaha serve multi-county regions.

AmeriCorps members will go through many hours of training, Severens said. About half of the volunteers will work primarily with mediation centers and schools, first as assistants to a mediation trainer, then helping design programs for schools and recruiting students.

The Office of Conflict Resolution, along with two other organizations, will choose 23 AmeriCorps participants. The program is "looking for people who are particularly interested in developing their mediation skills and working with youth," Severens said.

She is a former Peace Corps volunteer with a lot of expectations for the

### program.

"I have deep and strong notions about the important role that public service plays in our professional and personal lives. I want very much for this to be an important experience for these volunteers .... I want them to come away with a strong feeling of what their role is in our community and the service we can give to one another," she said.

Those who are interested in applying should contact Laurie Benson, 521 So. 14th St., Suite 3, Lincoln, NE 68508. The phone number is 471-3741.

Agriculture and rural development projects will also be on the AmeriCorps agenda.

The Soil Conservation Service will coordinate about 15 AmeriCorps members in Nebraska.

The purpose of the program is to

"build on grass roots efforts to solve problems that are facing communities across the nation and in Nebraska," said Craig Derickson, Nebraska AmeriCorps project director with SCS.

During the initial stage of the program, according to Derickson, participants will work in communities in the eastern part of the state like Lincoln, Beatrice, Wahoo, Omaha, Norfolk and Tecumseh that were severely affected by last summer's floods.

The specific projects that participants will work on have not been determined yet. But Derickson suggested that AmeriCorps members could work with local communities to help protect sources of water that were affected by last summer's floods, write environmental educa-

tional materials, or help farm families reduce water pollution risks.

All AmeriCorps participants will receive a living allowance and health benefits. People under the USDA program must work 1,812 hours in a nine to 12-month period to receive a \$4,725 voucher for education expenses.

College students are not the only people eligible. There are a limited number of positions open to rural development specialists, Derickson said.

The USDA projects are slated to start in the beginning of September, so people who are interested should contact the USDA Soil Conservation Service, AmeriCorps project director, Room 343, Federal Building, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508-3866.



## Clinton's AmeriCorps plan to recruit 14 in Michigan

EAST LANSING — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will start recruiting in September for the AmeriCorps national service project it will run in Michigan.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows young people to earn college or vocational scholarships while performing critical services. Participants in the program will work for a year, earning at least \$12,000, and then receive an educational award worth \$4,725.

The 14 participants in the Michigan program will work one-on-one with farm families to as-

sess farmsteads for potential pollution problems. Those farm families will be directed to sources of technical and financial assistance to correct the problems, said Alan Herceg of Traverse City, Michigan's AmeriCorps manager.

One position is planned for an area covering portions of Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie counties.

Person 17 or older are eligible to apply for the program. To apply, or to learn more, call Herceg at 848-8811 or the national AmeriCorps hotline at (800) 880-4183.

TRAVERSE CITY RECORD-EAGLE  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1994 38

*Example of News release issued by  
11 of Michigan Congressmen.*

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*Michelle,  
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# USDA to run AmeriCorps National Service Program

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy has announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will run 42 different AmeriCorps projects that are designed to fight hunger and improve nutrition, preserve national forests and improve community environmental quality, promote rural development and increase rural water delivery, and boost ongoing flood-relief efforts in the Midwest.

The USDA program, funded in part by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), will be the largest single federal agency component of the President's national service initiative.

"President Clinton has made it clear to members of his Cabinet that national service is one of his top priorities, and I am especially pleased that USDA will be playing a key role in the AmeriCorps program," said Espy. "The USDA projects will fulfill the President's vision that national service bring together citizens of varied backgrounds to perform services vital to their communities."

Espy announced that beginning this September, USDA will place 1,200 AmeriCorps national service participants throughout urban and rural America. The participants in these projects will be placed in 32 states, representing every region of the country.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of

Americans to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend of at least \$7,500, and then receive an educational voucher worth \$4,725.

Americans 17 years of age or older may apply for the USDA programs by calling 1-800-880-4183.

"Grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility, and opportunity, national service makes sense because it meets multiple ends," Espy said. "It is good for the participants who benefit from their increased ability to attend college or vocational school, good for the communities which benefit from their service and good for the country which benefits from a renewed civic spirit. Moreover, the program is good for USDA because it gives us new ways to boost our mission areas of fighting hunger, protecting the environment and rebuilding rural America."

CNCS is an independent federal corporation created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Its purpose is to administer national service programs and provide funding on a competitive basis for national service programs that address the nation's education, human, public safety and environmental needs.

Under provisions that are unique to that Act, federal agen-

cies are empowered to compete against each other in a competitive grant process to obtain funds from CNCS. The White House announced that, as a result of the first year of this process, CNCS had awarded USDA 1,200 AmeriCorps slots and \$2.6 million in operating funds. Funds for the Department's program will also be provided from existing USDA programs and from non-profit organizations that serve as partners at individual sites.

The USDA AmeriCorps projects reflect a new emphasis on cooperation among USDA agencies. USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Food and Nutrition Service, Forest Service, Rural Development Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, and Soil Conservation Service will play significant roles in managing this program.

The Anti-Hunger projects will be at five sites -- two rural and three urban -- with high levels of hunger and poverty. The projects will work to reduce the number of citizens suffering from hunger and improve the nutritional content of family diets. This program has been designed, and is to run, as a unique partnership between USDA, youth service corps and local anti-hunger groups.

The environmental projects will occur at 32 rural and urban sites in 21 states.



# U.S. mobilizes a youth corps

## 7,000 students to be hired by Sept.

6297AT  
SUN STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON - Last summer Congress gave President Clinton \$300 million for his new "AmeriCorps," a domestic Peace Corps that trades college tuition for community service. This summer he must start proving it will work.

Eli Segal, the national service czar, said Monday that 57 groups have been awarded money to get ready to hire 7,000 students as of September. A year from now, 20,000 minimum-wage workers are expected to be at work in education, public safety, health and environmental cleanup.

They'll do a range of work, from cleaning up the shoreline of Galveston Bay to providing clean tap water for Indian reservations to installing energy-efficient lighting in Oregon schools.

The idea is that high school graduates who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents between the ages of 17 and about 25 will work for \$4.25 an hour, or an average of about \$8,000 for a year of work, with 80 percent of their salaries coming from the federal government.

After 12 months of work, at least 1,700 hours, they'll also get \$4,725 for college tuition or to help pay off a college loan. They're eligible to earn two years' worth of tuition. The

average student of a four-year institution graduates with a debt of \$6,500, Segal said.

Recruiters have been out on college campuses touting the program, and national ads will run this summer urging anyone interested to call (800) 94-ACORPS.

Of the list of projects announced by Segal, 15 Cabinet departments won grants to employ students, and 47 states and the District of Columbia will get the help of students either through public or private groups.

Nevada is one of three states not involved in this first wave of national service grants. It should learn by July 15 whether it is awarded funds to hire 65 young people to perform projects involving the environment, education and health care, said Tracy Cotton, UNLV's assistant director of academic advancement.

Examples of the projects announced Monday:

■ The Department of Health and Human Services will hire 70 students to work with the disabled in Alabama.

■ The Environmental Protection Agency will hire 15 students in Alabama to conduct solid waste education programs in Indian villages.

■ In Arkansas, 145 students will be hired to help low-income



CLINTON: AmeriCorps jobs.

residents find affordable housing, to tutor children and to improve state parks, and 67 will "promote economic development and boost sustainable agriculture and respond to disasters."

■ California will have at least 1,046 work slots, ranging from performing radon testing to teaching junior high school students to opening child-care centers to building awareness about multiple sclerosis.

If the first year of the program works well, Congress has provided \$500 million for 1995 and \$700 million in 1996. By then, Segal said 100,000 students would have been involved. Then Congress would have to reauthorize it.

*Much better than this  
Don't copy*



# Kansans to join Americorps

By MIKE HALL  
The Capital-Journal

**A** number of northeast Kansans will be sworn in as Americorps members this morning by President Clinton in a nationwide televised ceremony.

Americorps has been described as a domestic Peace Corps. People between the ages of 16 and 25 have been selected to do work projects in communities and rural areas of the United States.

Barney-Allis Plaza in Kansas City will be one of a number of sites around the country hooked up by television to the White House for the swearing-in ceremony.

Among those taking the oath will be members of an Americorps program sponsored by the Topeka Youth project. Director Darryln Johnson said Friday he expects most of the 30 participants in Topeka's program to attend the Kansas City event.

He said the Topeka program actually will involve several projects. Some participants will participate for 11 months in a program to work with local not-for-profit organizations in revitalizing low-income areas. Others will serve for shorter periods of time. One team will work in three Head Start Centers. Another

team will tutor students in three elementary schools where more than 60 percent of the students are on free or reduced cost lunch programs.

Another team will work in three community policing substations doing such things as researching solutions to neighborhood problems and providing training to young people in impulse resolution and anger management.

Johnson said local participants represent the diversity of the community not only in racial and gender terms, but even in education. There are young people working toward GED degrees as well as high school students, college students and even college graduates.

The Kickapoo Nation in Horton also is sponsoring a program for 25 participants called the Kickapoo Youth Conservation Corps. They will do work to improve wildlife habitats, provide flood relief, build roads, revitalize cultural traditions with elders and provide training in agriculture and ranching.

The statewide Americorps-VISTA program will sponsor 33 young people. James Byrnes, director of that program, said these workers will be distributed throughout the state working in such areas as employment training, literacy, housing assistance, health education and neighborhood revitalization.

Topeka

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12 Sep. 1994

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THE UNION LEADER, Manchester, NH - Tuesday - September 13, 1994

## U.S. Forest Service Seeks AmeriCorps Recruits

**LACONIA** — The U.S. Forest Service announced yesterday it will begin recruiting for the AmeriCorps program.

As part of a year-long national service program for young people to earn college or vocational scholarships, 32 AmeriCorps members will work on trail construction and maintenance, fish and wildlife monitoring, environmental education, interpretation, facility construction, community service and more on the White Mountain National Forest.

Participants will begin in January, 1995, and earn a \$7,600 living allowance. At the completion of 1,700 hours of service, participants will also receive a \$4,725 educational award good for costs of vocation-

al or academic training.

"This is an exciting chance for the White Mountain National Forest to get a whole lot of meaningful work done on trails, in public information and safety and in other areas as well," said Rick Cables, White Mountain National Forest Supervisor. "Just as important, it is a positive way for young people to earn money for college or vocational training while they contribute to their communities. The possibilities seem endless."

Those interested in the White Mountain AmeriCorps Program should contact Rebecca Oreskes, White Mountain National Forest, 33 Kancamagus Highway, Conway, N.H. 03818 or call 447-5448.

## NH's First AmeriCorps Volunteers Are Sworn in for Domestic Projects

By **DONN TIBBETTS**  
State House Bureau Chief

**CONCORD** — The first score of New Hampshire AmeriCorps volunteers were sworn in yesterday by the state's first lady, Heather Merrill, in a ceremony attended by U.S. Rep. Dick Swett and held on the State House Plaza.

Volunteers were told that their efforts in the next year will follow in the footsteps of former New Hampshire governors Hugh Gallen and John King in the old Civilian Conservation Corps and those of the current state Deputy Attorney General Dana Bisbee, who served in the Peace Corps.

A total of about 140 Granite Staters, ages 17 and older, are being recruited for AmeriCorps, which is President Clinton's domestic version of the Peace Corps. They must demonstrate a willingness to improve the lives of others and an interest in learning new skills.

Corps members agreeing to a full-time, one-year commitment receive a stipend and a post-service benefit of \$4,725 a year which can be used to pay college tuition or education loans.

Aldedge Turgeon yesterday recalled his service in the White Mountains with the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1939, and how people today still use the many facilities built by the CCC.

Bisbee told of his service 20 years ago with the Peace Corps in Gabon, Central Africa.

There are 20 AmeriCorps-N.H. volunteer positions open for a Monadnock State Park project unit in Jaffrey, and 32 positions for a unit based in White Mountain National Forest in Gilead, Maine.

Another 16 positions will work under a Public Service Compact in Bedford, with volunteers being placed at various college campuses to develop learning projects to meet needs of local communities. The emphasis will be on education partnerships and having campuses link with K-12 schools to develop mentoring and tutoring programs.

Another 30 volunteers will work with the state Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Assistance Program, based in Concord.

Prospective volunteers for any of the assignments can get full details at 800-772-7001.



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The Buffalo News/Tuesday, September 13, 1994

**Service program recruits sworn in**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Surrounded by hundreds of youths on the front steps of the White House, President Clinton swore in the first recruits to his national service program Monday and urged all young Americans to join the cause.

AmeriCorps is a \$360 million program paying 20,000 Americans minimum wage to work in education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety. They also get free health care and a \$4,725 educational voucher for one year of work.

The White House had planned to give the oath of service to 15,000 recruits simultaneously. But Monday morning's plane crash at the White House prompted Clinton to move the event from the South Lawn to the front steps.

PHOTO COPY  
SEP 13 1994



Medford Mail Tribune  
Tuesday, 8/30/94

## Cheerfully non-Utopian volunteers

In the midst of the political fighting of the past few weeks, a program that actually passed Congress with important bipartisan support has been almost forgotten. It is President Clinton's national service program, which will be formally kicked off on Sept. 12.

National service was one of President Clinton's favorite programs during the 1992 campaign. His original idea was rather grand. Modeled after the old GI bill, the program would

### EDITORIAL

have helped anyone go to college who was willing to volunteer for two years of service to the country.

The idea was that government could help people while also fostering individual and social responsibility.

Only 20,000 young Americans will be involved in the new AmeriCorps program this year, and the grants will be less generous than originally envisioned. Scaling the program back was part of the price Clinton had to pay for Republican support.

SOME HAVE TAKEN this as a "typical Clinton compromise," getting the form of a program but not anything close to the real thing. The truth, we think, lies elsewhere. The Republicans who supported the plan but sought to scale it back did so on the sound theory that a new program of this sort should be tested on a more modest scale. And Eli Segal, the president of the Corporation for National Service, likes to note that the 20,000 volunteers in the new AmeriCorps program is expected to sign up amount to

**Volunteers will go to work for existing neighborhood and governmental entities, mostly with proven records.**

about 4,000 more people than the Peace Corps enrolled at its height.

So much social programming is built around a false dichotomy that has either the government solving problems or the people — usually volunteers — solving the problems themselves. But it is one of the premier tasks of government to strengthen rather than weaken the healthy impulse of citizens to take on problems themselves.

THE OTHER potential advantage of the program is that it does not seek to impose the federal government's own theories about community action on neighborhoods. Rather, volunteers will go to work for existing neighborhood and governmental entities, mostly with proven records. The programs will fall into four broad areas: education, crime prevention, the environment and social programs helping young mothers, the homebound elderly, the homeless and residents of public housing projects.

Segal says he wants programs to be judged by very practical measures: the number of crack houses closed, block associations created, kids immunized, urban gardens planted, escorts for the elderly provided, fences in housing projects fixed. "Getting things done" is the new program's cheerfully non-Utopian slogan.

— The Washington Post

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



8/27/94 - Curry County P.107

Head.

## Work-for-school program begins in SW Oregon

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it has begun recruitment for the AmeriCorps national service project that the Department will run in southwest Oregon in September.

AmeriCorps is President Bill Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs.

Participants in this program will work for a year earning a stipend of \$12,000 and then receive an educational award worth \$4,725.

Any citizen age 17 or older is eligible to apply for the program. There is no maximum or minimum family income required to apply.

Applications will be accepted until Aug. 5.

For information phone the Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development Department in Grants Pass at (503) 476-5906.

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| Dept.                                    | Phone #                 |                |
| Fax # <i>955-9574</i>                    | Fax # <i>247-2718</i>   |                |

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## BRIEFLY

### Southwestern Oregon crew sought for project

**GRANTS PASS** — A national service project is recruiting participants for a one-year program that provides young people scholarship money for college or vocational training.

AmeriCorps, an organization founded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under President Clinton's national service initiative, is seeking applicants for its southwestern Oregon project, which begins in September.

Five people will be needed to work in rural communities on development and improvement projects.

Participants will receive a stipend of \$12,000 and an educational award worth \$4,725.

Applicants must be at least 17 years old and should meet the following qualifications:

■ Must be a college graduate, professional school graduate or current college or technical school student.

■ Want to work on natural and human resources for rural communities.

■ Have good writing and speaking skills.

■ Should be able to run group discussions and help settle differences of opinion.

For application information, call 476-5906 or the AmeriCorps national toll-free line at (800) 880-4183.

The Oregon Rural Development  
AmeriCorps National Service Program is  
recruiting through August 5, 1994 for:

### AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPANTS

Participant will perform duties, including facilitating public involvement in the development of project development, grant writing and researching funding for rural development activities.

- College graduate or successfully enrolled in a college or technical college.
- Community service oriented with desire to work to improve natural and human resources in a rural setting.
- Demonstrated skill in written and oral communication.
- Demonstrated ability to facilitate group discussion and mediate differences of opinion.

Participants working on a full-time basis for a year will receive a living allowance of \$12,000 and then receive an educational award worth \$4,725.

For referral form contact:

**USDA**

**Soil Conservation Service**

**503-476-5906**

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*



Post-it Fax Note 7671

|         |                |            |   |
|---------|----------------|------------|---|
| Date    | 7/28/94        | # of Pages | 1 |
| To      | Marken Daniels |            |   |
| From    | Marc Prevost   |            |   |
| Co/Dept | R.C. & D       |            |   |
| Ca      | EUCOG          |            |   |
| Phone # | 666-6674       |            |   |
| Fax #   | 955-9574       |            |   |

The Mail Tribune, Friday, July 22, 1994

3A

## Service applications available

Applications for the AmeriCorps national service program in southwestern Oregon will be accepted until Aug. 5.

The program, part of President Clinton's national service project, allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational-school scholarships while performing work to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs.

Participants work for a year, earning a stipend of \$12,000, and then receive an edu-

cational voucher worth \$4,725.

The five participants in the southwestern Oregon program will work with rural communities, providing assistance related to natural-resource enhancement, and economic and community development. The work begins in September.

Any American citizen 17 years or older is eligible to apply for the program. For more information, call 478-5906, or, toll free, (800) 880-4183.

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FACTURERS



Thursday, July 14, 1994

# Service program begins recruiting for local projects

## Regional focus will be on watershed improvement

By Barbara Hahn  
of the Daily Courier

Locals will be able to help their communities as well as help pay for their education through the new AmeriCorps National Service Program.

The program is part of President Clinton's national service initiative that puts young people to work in local communities, helping to solve problems within those communities.

Recruitment for the Southwest Oregon program is now under way, says Marlene Daniels, secretary for the Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development program in Grants Pass, which is overseeing the local project.

"We have already gotten inquiries from people who have been waiting for this to start," Daniels says.

Five people will be hired for the local program, with two to be stationed in Douglas County, one each in Curry and Coos counties while one will serve the Josephine and Jackson county areas, Daniels said.

"They'll be facilitating community involvement in the various areas," Daniels says.

Locally, the emphasis will be on watershed improvement while projects in other counties will include enhancing natural resources, or aiding economic and community-development projects to improve livability in the area.

"This will be a real boon for the counties once we get people in," she said.

In exchange for one-year of service, participants receive a stipend as well as an educational award.

In the Southwest Oregon rural development project, the five participants will earn a stipend of \$12,000 — that's about \$5.75 an hour — along with a \$4,725 educational award that can be used for college tuition or to pay off student loans.

"This is not a high-paying job, but look at the experience they're gaining," Daniels says.

Additionally, the workers will be federal employees and receive health benefits."

Though the program is open to anyone age 17 and older, the local project is seeking applicants with specific qualifications.

Those applying should be a college graduate, professional school grad or enrolled in college. Also, they should be community-service oriented and want to work to improve natural and human resources in a rural setting.

"We have already gotten inquiries from people who have been waiting for this to start."

**Marlene Daniels,**  
of the local program

Specific skills include having demonstrated abilities in written and oral communication and the ability to facilitate group discussion and mediate differences in opinion.

To apply, call the office at 476-5906.

They'll be sent an application package to be returned to the local office by Aug. 5. Workers will be hired and be on the job by the end of September.

"We got to select from applicants from all over the country, but would tend to lean toward those from here," Daniels said.

Though the individuals will be hired for a one-year stint, the program is ongoing, she added.

On a national level, different projects are planned according to the needs of the communities the participants will serve, and locals also can apply for those programs.

To learn about AmeriCorps programs, call 1-800-880-4183.



FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1994 DAILY COURIER, Grants Pass, Oregon

## National service aids S. Oregon counties

President Clinton's domestic version of the Peace Corps will show up in Josephine and Jackson counties in September.

The neighboring counties will share one AmeriCorps volunteer, said Curry County Commissioner Terry Hanscam.

AmeriCorps is Clinton's '90s twist on the Peace Corps started by President Kennedy in the '60s. But while the Peace Corps focuses overseas, this new national service program concentrates on helping communities at home.

Volunteers will spend one year in the program, receiving about minimum wage for the work and health benefits. After a year, volunteers will get \$4,725 to pay off a student loan or further their education, said Robin Sutherland, director of the Oregon office of the Corporation for National Service. The corporation oversees AmeriCorps.

The Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development Council, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, recently received word five AmeriCorps spots were approved, Hanscam said. Curry and Coos counties will have one person each. Douglas County will have two.

The volunteer in Josephine and Jackson counties will work with watershed councils, according to current plans.

For information, call 476-5906 or 1-800-826-4865.



East St. Louis Journal-October 12, 1994

## Americorp seeking sites for spruce-up

By Mike Viola  
Staff writer

Weed-infested lots throughout East St. Louis and neighboring communities will be receiving a facelift from participants in a new work program.

Organizers of the AmeriCorps Project are asking members of the community to let them know of lots that can be transformed from eyesores to bright spots in the community.

"We are looking to create urban gardens, clean up playgrounds and add mini-parks in the community," said Arthur Johnson, speaking for the local AmeriCorps Project.

The garden park project is a joint effort between AmeriCorps and Make East St. Louis Beautiful. While the project concentrates in East St. Louis, vacant lots can also be transformed in neighboring communities through AmeriCorps.

Anyone with suggestions on a site that could be turned into a community garden or mini-park should call Rufus Williams or Don Wallace at 583-2519.

AmeriCorps was formed in East St. Louis this summer as a domestic form of the Peace Corps. It is being administered (See GARDEN, Page 4A)

### Garden

(Continued from Page 1A)  
through State Community College.

Participants in the year-long program are paid \$147 per week and receive up to \$4,275 at the end of the year to advance their education.

Over the next year, AmeriCorps participants are expected to accomplish the following goals:

- To restore 20 neglected or abandoned lots in residential settings to state and federal standards.

- To clean up and beautify vacant acreage at State Community College and to renovate the greenhouse at East St. Louis Senior High School.

- To restore athletic fields, several floral gardens, a lagoon, a stream channel and renovate a greenhouse in the East St. Louis Park District.

AmeriCorps workers also will be involved in clean-up work from last year's flood along the Mississippi River throughout the Metro East.



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Rufus Williams

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INFORMATION

OCT 7 1994

## Close-Up

ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE  
Friday, September 30, 1994

B

# Ready to help



USDA AmeriCorps director Paula Jones shovels (above) mulch on a tree planted as part of activities surrounding the kickoff of volunteer projects in Madison and St. Clair counties. Thirty volunteers (left) comprising the first AmeriCorps class take the oath of service. They are committing themselves to 1,700 hours of community service over the next year.

## 30 take oath to become first AmeriCorps volunteers

Story and Photos  
By NAT WILLIAMS

**E**AST ST. LOUIS, Ill. — AmeriCorps, President Clinton's domestic version of the Peace Corps, is off and running in Illinois. And the U.S. Department of Agriculture is a big part of it.

Thirty volunteers were sworn in here recently during a kickoff ceremony held at State Community College. They were among 245 who applied to be in the first group.

In September 1993 Clinton signed into law the bill authorizing the enactment of a ci-

villian volunteer corps to make a difference in rural and metropolitan areas across the United States.

Paula Jones, who heads up the AmeriCorps program nationally for the Soil Conservation Service, told officials gathered here that they were witnessing a historic occasion.

"Here we are, only one year later, and the dream has become a reality," Jones said. "AmeriCorps has been a very special project for a lot of us. This is a very historical moment."

The 30 volunteers will comprise two teams working in St. Clair and Madison

counties. One team will consist of 30 workers who will help restore natural areas damaged by 1993 and 1994 flooding. The other 20 will work on projects in the East St. Louis/Metro areas renovating vacant and abandoned residential lots and planting vegetation to beautify the areas.

Some of the lots will become urban vegetable gardens and community parks, according to Don Wallace, project director. The East St. Louis program is being operated by USDA in conjunction with State Community College.

Johnson said that the real work will begin on Oct. 3.

very committed to their success," Jones said.

She added that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mize Espy is a strong supporter of AmeriCorps. Also backing the program is SCS chief Paul Johnson. Johnson and his wife are veteran Peace Corps volunteers.

AmeriCorps is designed to make a difference in three areas: anti-hunger, rural development, and public lands and environment, Jones explained. The program has the potential to impact those in rural as well as metropolitan areas.



*To Gloria*

PAGE TEN

THE BELZONI BANNER

OCTOBER 12, 1994



Pictured are 12 staff members of the Anti-Hunger Corps. Front row, seated: (l. to r.) Project Coordinator Sarah Hood; Team Leader Evelyn Bankhead; First row, from left, Evica Butler, Shanika Gardner, Debra Ray, Hazel Rush, Marcus Hood and Carlton Hall; Second row, from left, Charles Morgan, Carolyn Tart, Toussaint Griffin, and Rico Harrington.

## AMERICORPS®

GETTING THINGS DONE™

### ANTI-HUNGER CORPS

On September 12, 1994, a new national service program was launched by the President - Americorps. As a result of the National Community Service Trust Act signed into law in September, 1993, Americorps will encourage and reward persons from different backgrounds for service. In the tradition of service projects like the Peace Corps, Americorps has a fourfold mission: 1. Getting things done, 2. strengthening communities, 3. encouraging responsibility, and 4.

expanding opportunity.

Americorps programs meet critical needs in four areas: Education, Public Safety, Environmental Needs, and Human Needs. Participants serve 9-12 months, receive training, skills, and knowledge to perform project tasks, and become eligible to receive an educational award after successfully completing service. Participants without a high school diploma are assisted to receive the GED.

An Americorps program funded to serve Humphreys-Sunflower Counties is the USDA Anti-Hunger Corps, located at 202 N. Hayden Street, Belzoni, MS. The Anti-Hunger Corps seeks to help low-income families reach self-sufficiency and benefit from existing anti-hunger programs such as food pantries, summer feeding sites, food stamps, etc.

The USDA Anti-Hunger Corps staff attended a two-day training workshop September 27-28, 1994, sponsored by the MS Commission for National and Community Service. A highlight of the workshop was the luncheon keynote address of First Lady Pat Fordice, an advocate of volunteerism.

As projects get underway, members of the USDA Anti-Hunger Corps will be visiting your communities soon. For more information about this Americorps program, contact Sarah Hood at 247-4727.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



the Americorps program Wednesday at the Corral Shelter at Kanopolis Lake.

# Americorps program kicked off Wednesday at Kanopolis

By CHARLA GATZ

Outdoors Editor

KANOPOLIS LAKE — The Civilian Conservation Corps program of more than 50 years ago has been dusted off and renamed Americorps but conceptually it is based on essentially the same premise — sweat equity.

The Americorps program, a modern day version of the CCC, was officially kicked off Wednesday at the Corral Shelter.

Doing the honors was Jim Meisenheimer, regional facilitator for the United States Department of Agriculture Americorps program in Kansas.

Among those attending were Larry Miles, project director from the Soil Conservation Service in Salina; Robert Barbee, section leader for public lands for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in Pratt; Rick Martin, Kanopolis State Park manager; Mike Nyhoff, Glen Elder State Park manager; Virgil Bougher, Ellsworth County SCS district conservationist; and Art Kohls, a member of the Ellsworth County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Executive Committee.

The 12 designated Americorps workers also were present.

The Americorps slogan is "Getting things done." The program is rooted in community service and involvement, and promotes personal responsibility, according to Meisenheimer.

"It's a way to give something back to the community," he said.

It is commonly thought that democracy protects citizens, Meisenheimer said, but citizens should also protect democracy.

"Americorps is not a volunteer program or a jobs program," he stressed. "It is a service program."

After contributing 1,700 hours of labor the workers will receive a \$4,725 educational award. The award is

not available in cash form but may be used to pay tuition at an institution of higher education or to pay off student loans.

Eight more workers are being sought to become involved in the program. Four groups of five workers each will work in wildlife areas at Wildlife and Parks state lakes at Kanopolis, Glen Elder, Milford and Webster.

Each worker will receive a basic living stipend of \$7,660 each for living expenses during the period of time he is participating in the Americorps program.

Their basic duties will involve restoration of flood damaged areas that were hard hit by the 1993 flood, Meisenheimer said. They will remove flood debris, re-vegetate with native grass, develop wildlife habitat, repair trails and recreation facilities of all types.

All park users will benefit, said Meisenheimer.

A facelift of the trail system is planned at Kanopolis Lake, according to Martin.

"We're going to try and get it ready for the next recreation season and I think this is going to give us the perfect opportunity to do that," Martin said.

When asked why she applied for the program one female worker said she had a great interest in wildlife and in the state parks, and she wished to continue her education. A second female said the educational award also attracted her.

"Our lake got hardest hit by the flood," she added. "Maybe we can get it looking good again."

One male worker who has done seasonal work at Milford said, "Now it's time for us to help and get something done around here."

Besides, he said, if a student leaves college for a year to work he does not

reap the benefits of an additional \$7,660 toward school expenses.

Herb Queen of Grainfield, a CCC alumnus, also addressed those gathered. CCC was a federal program implemented from 1933-42 for unemployed 18- to 25-year-old boys.

"Anybody who hasn't lived in the '30s can't understand how it was," Queen said. "There was a lot of work to be done and no money to do it."

The boys labored on various projects. They built such things as shelter houses at state lakes and community buildings.

"We cleaned up Scott City State Lake," Queen said. "We helped rebuild the dam where it was washed out and we designed the spillway."

The boys were required to pass physical exams and resided in camps under army rule. Clothing and housing were provided and medical expenses were covered.

They received \$30 per month — they were allowed to keep \$5 while the other \$25 was sent home to their parents. Those who were natural leaders emerged and were promoted to section leader. They received \$36 a month, \$6 of which they were allowed to keep.

Queen was discharged when he hit his 25th birthday.

"I had gained enough experience I could go into civil service," he said.

He spent the next 30 years working for SCS as an engineering technician.

Gordon Swan and Nanci Ridge McPherson County Extension safety extension agents, provided the CPR and first aid classes for the Americorps workers, Meisenheimer said.

"They've done a great job," he said.

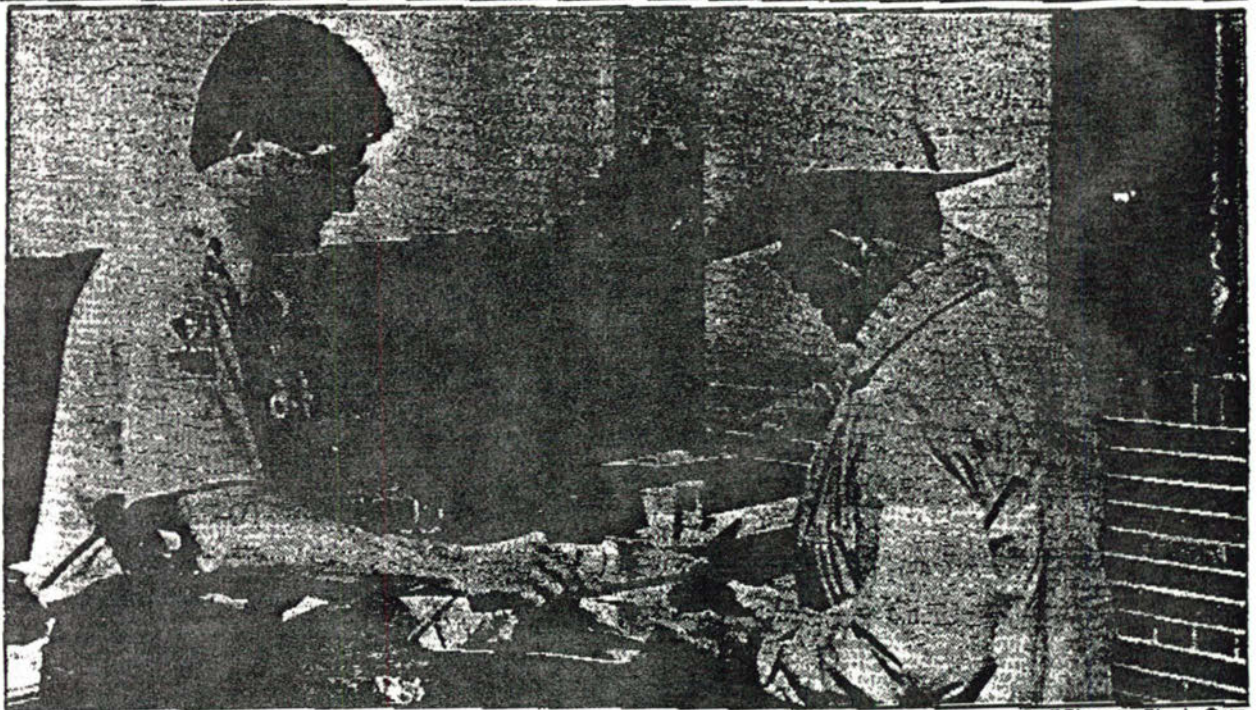
To apply for the program call 800-880-4183 or contact a local SC office.

## Outdoor briefs

## Sportsman's lake report



## Outdoors



Staff Photo by Charla Gatz

Rick Martin of Lindsborg, left, Kanopolis State Park manager, serves a buffalo burger to



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## AmeriCorps projects set to combat hunger in U.S.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will administer 42 different AmeriCorps projects this year.

Ohio's Darby Creek Watershed is one of the 42 AmeriCorps projects selected for funding this year.

The programs are designed to fight hunger and improve nutrition, preserve national forests and improve community environmental quality, promote rural development and increase rural water delivery, and boost ongoing flood-relief efforts in the Midwest.

"President Clinton has made it clear to members of his Cabinet that national service is one of his top priorities, and I am especially pleased that USDA will be playing a key role in the AmeriCorps program," Espy said.

"The USDA projects will fulfill the President's vision that national service brings together citizens of varied backgrounds to perform services vital to their communities."

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of Americans to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs.

Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend of at least \$7,500, and then receive an educational voucher worth \$4,725.

The Darby Creek proposal puts participants at field level involvement on both public and private lands. This is the real job area, Espy said. As watershed management projects become more accepted, the experience these participants obtain will be of real value and give them a chance to be more accepted in the private sector.

Participants will be involved in carrying out components of the USDA Darby Creek Hydrologic Unit Proposal and The Nature Conservancy's Darby Bioserve plan.

Six positions are needed to work exclusively in the Darby Watershed. These include two individuals to work on field maps and inventories for Big and Little Darby Creek.

Two people will assist soil and water experts to do survey and design work in both rural and urbanizing areas. One person will assist with the Tree Resource Establishment and Enhancement Service Turn Key program and work with vendors in establishing riparian corridor buffer strips.

One individual will assist the Darby Creek Ohio Department of Natural Resource's Scenic River Coordinator at the field level in coordination with the Ohio Youth Conservation Corps.

Americans 17 years of age or older may apply for the USDA programs by calling 1-800-880-4183.



WEATHERFORD DAILY NEWS

WEATHERFORD, OK  
DAILY & SUNDAY 5,000

THURSDAY  
AUG 18 1994

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# Americorps aimed at youth, conservation

629797 FRONT PAGE

Leaders of natural resource agencies signed an agreement this month to cooperate on AmeriCorps, a national service program that will employ youth and help conserve natural resources in Oklahoma.

The participants will work in western Oklahoma for approximately one year, beginning in September.

Applications must be submitted by Friday. For more information, contact LeRoy Tull at 742-1207, Amy Sanders at 742-1246 or 742-1007 (TDD), or the toll-free national USDA AmeriCorps hot line at (800) 880-4183.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national

service initiative that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing service to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation will implement the AmeriCorps program in Oklahoma.

"Through this program we can offer our

young people an opportunity to earn an education, and we can provide protection for our soil, water, air, animal and plant resources," said Bobbye Jack Jones, SCS state conservationist for Oklahoma.

"Following the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, conservationists planted the bare land with trees, forming miles of living windbreaks," Jones said.

"Those windbreaks have protected the soil from wind, acted as snow fences along highways, provided habitat for wildlife, protected crops, and added beauty to the landscape."



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# Chicago Tribune

Monday, January 3, 1994

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## **Voice of the people**

### **A positive program for the city's kids**

CHICAGO—In the first two weeks of December, organizers and corps members of City Year, a Boston-based national service program, met with community organizers and city personnel, boys and girls clubs, business leaders, politicians and ethnic and civic organizations across Chicago.

Their message was straightforward but unassuming: "We want to come here if you will have us. We think we can help you make a difference." The response was understandably enthusiastic. Chicagoans are hungry for programs that work and we think City Year has real potential for Chicago. Mayor Daley and Gov. Edgar should voice their support for City Year and encourage corporate leaders to invest in the work force of their future.

City Year employs teens and young adults from all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds to perform one year of community service for which they are paid \$100 a week and \$5,000 upon completion. It currently employs 300 kids a year and the mix is demographically representative. Organizers stress that employing kids with family incomes above \$60,000—those with an inside track on future leadership and policy-making—is just as crucial to City Year's goals of effecting lasting change.

Under a fairly rigid discipline structure that enforces a code of conduct stressing personal and civic responsibility, kids learn the value of community and in the process discover their own personal worth and the power to change their own lives and make a difference in others. By City Year's accounts, 85 percent of the kids

stay with the program and those that graduate have a powerful tool on their resume.

Organizers say that many Boston-based corporations who support the pilot program give priority to hiring City Year graduates.

The Boston program has expanded into four other cities. Chicago, the largest of any proposed City Year site thus far, represents the most significant challenge. Although funded in part by the federal government under the National Service Act, City Year relies primarily on private dollars.

City Year is not a panacea for the complex issues confronting our cities and our youth, nor is it a replacement for strong family and institutional structures that define healthy communities. But it is an important step toward giving many kids something that they crave, need and may not get elsewhere: support, discipline, positive role models and exposure to life beyond their often insular worlds.

We welcome City Year kids—our own kids—as teachers' aides in schools, in homeless shelters feeding the hungry, helping the mentally and physically challenged, building parks and playgrounds, cleaning up neighborhoods and working with and for community. We need to show them that they are necessary and prized partners in crafting the vision of what Chicago can be.

**Ross Harano**  
PRESIDENT

**Jeryl Levin**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ILLINOIS ETHNIC COALITION



# The Columbus Dispatch

Wednesday, September 8, 1993

## City to get youth corps project next summer

*Plan detailed to central Ohio students*

By Brent LaLonde  
Dispatch Staff Reporter

A youth corps that plans to begin providing community service in Columbus next summer received a warm reception yesterday from central Ohio high school students.

Organizers of City Year — a Boston-based youth corps that is to expand into six cities next year — presented the facts of the program to about 90 high school students at an assembly at the Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center.

After learning that City Year members work on community projects and receive a salary of \$100 a week and an additional grant at the end of the program, Rea Woods said the corps has potential to succeed in Columbus.

"It's interesting. I've never heard of anything like this before," said Rea, a senior at Bexley High School. "I wasn't enthused about community service when I came here today, but they managed to make it seem very interesting."

She said she would be interested in working with the corps when it begins a three-month summer program in June.

If all goes well, a nine-month program will begin in September 1995.

"It's a lot of work, and it's kind of overwhelming," said Lena Welch, a junior at Bishop Watterson High School. "A lot of it sounded good. I think some special people my age would volunteer."

"I think it can work because there's a lot of energy with today's youth, and if you get them together and organized, a lot of amazing things can be done."

Alan Khazei, who helped found the program in Boston in 1988, said he expects to receive about 200 applications for an estimated 50 corps jobs in Columbus next summer.

Those who are accepted will spend the summer working on various service projects, which in Boston have included cleaning vacant lots, working in homeless shelters, renovating homes and working as teachers' aides in elementary classrooms.

Each participant will receive a grant of about \$2,000 to use for college tuition or job training.

"What I've seen is that young people get a 'life education,'" Khazei said. "They learn things you can't learn in books and you can't learn in school."

City Year is designed for people 17 to 23 to spend either three months or nine months working on community service projects and learning about life with others

from different backgrounds, Khazei said.

"Students have a junior year and a senior year in a high school," he said. "I challenge (the students) to take a 'city year' where the city becomes their classroom."

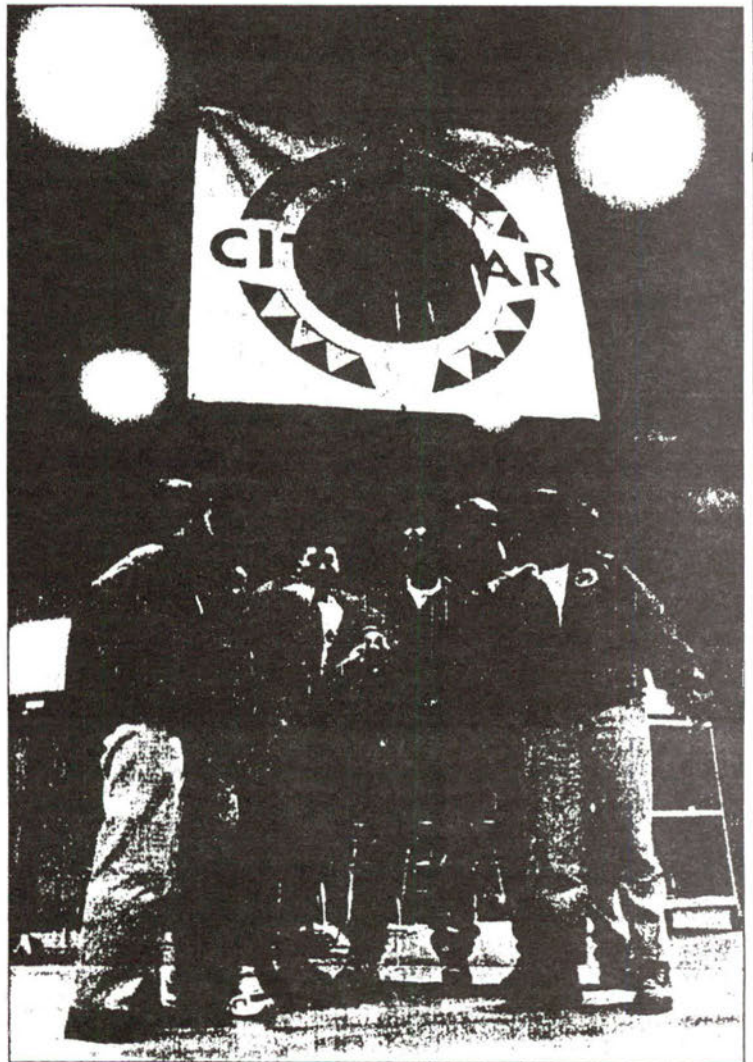
Persuading Columbus-area corporations to help pay for the program is one of the challenges facing organizers, Khazei said.

"Fund raising is always a challenge. For this to work, it has to be locally funded," he said. "There is no money for it if it isn't funded."

"It won't work if local corporations, foundations and citizens don't invest, and not only with their money, but with their time, too."



Khazei



Jeff Hinckley/Dispatch

Members of City Year youth corps perform at Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center for about 90 students. The corps will have a summer program in Columbus next year.



## AmeriCorps State groups winners of federal grants

By JO SANDIN  
of The Journal staff

Building food pantries, feeding the homeless, planting urban gardens, coordinating park cleanups, finding ways to fight urban violence in Milwaukee, and restoring wetlands throughout Wisconsin will engage the energies of the first wave of AmeriCorps volunteers here.

Wisconsin organizations directing those projects were among 58 groups named Monday as winners of the first \$47 million in federal grants from President Clinton's program that allows young Americans to exchange service for college grants.

Grants announced in Washington on Monday by Eli Segal, chief executive of the Corporation for National Service, will pay for about 7,000 corps members who will begin work in September. By the end of the year, up to 20,000 Americans are expected to be engaged in as many as 200 AmeriCorps projects.

Workers will be paid \$7,500 a year, plus health insurance. At the end of two years of service, volunteers will receive \$9,450 (\$4,725 for each year) for college tuition or to repay a college loan.

The Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Community Service Corps won what appears to be the largest grant specifically for use in Wisconsin. AmeriCorps will pay for \$675,000 of the \$900,000 project, which will be overseen by the US Department of Agriculture.

The two agencies will recruit 40 young adults to implement anti-hunger activities ranging from renovating and building food pantries to doing nutrition outreach.

The goal is to increase by 10% the number of people served by the Summer Food Service Program, according to officials of the two agencies.

Here are the other Wisconsin programs to win funding:

■ One AmeriCorps volunteer at the YMCA will participate in the Y's Earth Service Corps Fellowship program, coordinating school-based community service clubs and running such projects as park cleanups, urban gardens and environmental education programs in and after school.

■ Milwaukee will be one of 10 cities to be visited by AmeriCorps volunteers working with the Congress of National Black Churches in studying successful strategies to combat urban violence.

Sullivan Robinson, director of development for the Congress, said volunteers would be involved in a planning study to "test the feasibility of putting into operation a church-based program in conflict resolution. We want to pull together the best of the methods [to fight crime and violence] and replicate those elsewhere."

■ The US Department of Agriculture Public Lands and Environment Team will assign 151 AmeriCorps volunteers to work on flood-control projects in Wisconsin and eight other Midwestern states.

To apply for one of the 40 AmeriCorps positions with Milwaukee's anti-hunger program, call Michele Golstein (414) 962-3111 or Tony Perez (414) 276-6272. To be put on the national list of potential volunteers, call (800) 880-4183.

To get on the mailing list for the state program, call (608) 266-8569. The national number for AmeriCorps information is (800) 94A-CORPS.



## Service

From 1A

"I hadn't planned on going to graduate school right away, but I probably will now, since the money will be there," said Gloria Drake, 22, a Jackson State University senior who will be an AmeriCorps leader.

"I didn't know about the pay or stipend when they asked me to fill out an application," Drake said. "I just thought it would be a privilege, it would be neat, to be a part of that."

Drake will work with AmeriCorps through the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps, which will oversee the USDA Public Lands and Environment Team and the USDA Anti-Hunger Team.

"We're in the process of recruiting now," said Alfred Martin, executive director of the Youth Service Corps.

"If you're looking for a job just to get paid, this is not for you," Martin said. "If you're interested in the environment, the community around you, then this might be for you."

Martin said he has been in contact with several Delta-based organizations, letting them know people will be available to help.

He said the 15 workers will be combing neighborhoods to identify people in need and ensure they know what services are available.

"The agencies are going to know the nooks and crannies of their neighborhoods, but the agencies are often understaffed," Martin said. "Our goal is to get the word out, sign up the people."

"We have the need," said Barbara Lays, social service worker with Humphreys County Union for Progress in Belzoni. "We have 13,000 people on food stamps in this county, plus we have a lot of elderly."

"They're in need because they're on a supplemental fixed income," Lays said. She said a Meals-on-Wheels program now serves 300-400 people, but could expand.

Clint Floyd of Forest, district manager for the Bienville National Forest, said the 20 people working there will clean and improve a horse trail and a walking trail and clear away brush that hampers movement of the endangered red cockaded woodpecker.

Mississippi is home to about 200 red cockaded woodpecker colonies, which generally range from one to four birds, said Bob Glasgow, biologist with the U.S. Forest Service in Jackson. He said about half of those are in the Bienville National Forest.

Around the turn of the century, rough old pine trees were in the state to have up to 30,000 colonies in one state, although that number is uncertain, he said.

"They're talking about having a

## WHAT'S OFFERED

### AmeriCorps National Service Programs in Mississippi

■ **Teach for America:** Begun in 1989, this national teachers corps has put 2,300 teachers into inner-city and rural areas. Mississippi's Delta will get some of the 1,000 members who will be spread over 13 states and in Washington.

■ **Delta Service Corps:** Covering 45 Mississippi counties and parts of Louisiana and Arkansas, 145 volunteers in each state will work with community organizations on local needs. Examples include improving children's literacy, helping the elderly remain independent, and improving state parks. This will be the program's third year.

■ **USDA Rural Development Team:** In the Delta region of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, 67 members will work on economic and environmental projects, including improving livestock waste treatment in 13 southwest Mississippi counties and producing environmental educational materials for teachers.

■ **USDA Public Lands and Environment Team:** This team of 20 members will work in the Bienville National Forest improving the Scenic Pine Trail and Shocksloe Trail and enhancing Red-Cockaded Woodpecker habitat.

■ **USDA Anti-Hunger Team:** Run in partnership with the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps and local anti-hunger groups, 15 members will go to Humphreys and Sunflower counties. They'll help increase the number of senior citizens receiving meals and increase school-based summer food service programs.

mixture of persons — city and local, male and female, minority and non-minority," Floyd said. "I'm expecting some good things will come out of it."

"Teach for America is a bit different than other teams, because it is a professional corps whose college-graduate members will teach in the Delta with local school boards providing the pay," said Elizabeth Lach, a spokeswoman for Teach for America.

The number of Teach for America workers for Mississippi isn't known yet, but their past work has been appreciated.

"It's definitely been an asset to the district," said Booker Anderson, assistant superintendent of the Hollandale School District in Washington County.

"Even though they don't stay but for a year or two, it gives us time to find people in key areas, for example, math and foreign languages," he said. "And these kids get some good teaching experience."

Clarence Lovelady, director of community services in the state Department of Education, said the Delta Service Corps' 145 members will work in numerous areas such as driving health center outreach vans, tutoring students and helping Habitat for Humanity in Jackson and Coahoma County.

He said it's the program's third year, and it attracts people from inside and outside the state. "We always have many, many more applications from potential corps mem-

bers than we can fill," Lovelady said.

Fred Singleton, 39, of Jackson, said the Delta Service Corps has given him a purpose. A game warden who had to go on disability from an on-the-job injury, Singleton said he started drifting until a woman he met gave him an application.

"It's been a wonderful experience ever since then. I've learned a lot, I've done a lot for myself," he said. "Delta Service Corps has really opened up a new pathway for me."

Singleton sets up group activities at Daybreak, 441 W. Pascagoula St., Jackson's only daytime homeless shelter. With three years of college at Delta State University in Cleveland, Singleton now hopes to finish school at Jackson State University.

Among the things he learned at the Delta Service Corps training, Singleton said, was the similarity of races. "Before then, you know, sometimes you think white people don't care," he said. "There I learned, for the first time in my life, I was wrong."

Kelly, with the Mississippi Commission on National and Community Service, said individuals and communities benefit from this work.

"It's like the Peace Corps, a domestic Peace Corps. You're going into a community to help them solve their problems," she said. "Truly, we're giving people who want to impact their communities the means to do it."

## RTC rec shows n

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's new report shows that the Resolution Trust Corp. has not turned around and quieted the market for huge profits, a review of the 1980s "in a manner that minimizes loss."

But an Associated Press report, agency documents and a California study shows that RTC has lost 50 percent of the properties it inherited in the 1980s.

The RTC blames the poor results on its former strategy of selling bulk packages and the recent real estate values in many areas.

"We've always said real estate takes the biggest hit on," RTC spokesman said. "It's the toughest market to sell."

But while the RTC says it is a market value, those who buy agency often did not, the AP report states found. For example,

■ Sold 17.5 acres in Arizona from Charles Keating's Lincoln National Bank. The same day, Frank, resold the parcel to another Frank's one-day profit was \$1.5 million.

■ Rejected a \$9.6 million bid for a complex in San Ysidro, Calif., San Diego real estate broker Ed

## Defense

From 1A

ate a new school in Cleveland known as Delta Valley University formerly Delta State.

"A condemned person should be able to speak. It's crazy not to," Frankie Stephens Lawler, 70, Rosedale, president of the Cleveland Chapter of the NAACP, said. "That is a good American tradition. And the same is true of Mississippi Valley State."

The role of a women's college faded over time, College B Commissioner of Higher Education Ray Cleere has testified. Cleere said some board members have not at trial that the mission of the college would be best carried out through private college. They said a new school of The W and Mississippi State cut costs and end some program.

The board's plan to shut down the college between universities Cleere's testimony about MUVing its focus is motivating all donations, supporters say.

Lawler led a successful drive

Victor Lexington

Miciccin



Clinton program

# State groups among first to get grants

*Youths seeking college grants  
will volunteer for organizations*

By JO SANDIN  
of The Journal staff

Wisconsin organizations fighting urban violence and hunger are among 58 groups named Monday as winners of the first federal grants from AmeriCorps, President Clinton's program for young Americans exchanging volunteer service for college grants.

US Department of Agriculture attempts to restore Wisconsin wetlands and a YMCA initiative to develop environmental service projects also were among the first to win funding.

All projects are expected to begin in September. Eventually, AmeriCorps volunteers are expected to operate 200 service projects throughout the nation.

The Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee and the YMCA were the only organizations named specifically in a news release from Eli Segal, chief executive officer of the Corporation for National Service, which oversees AmeriCorps.

According to the news release, AmeriCorps will provide extra help for the Hunger Task Force in renovating, constructing, and operating food pantries here. The goal is to increase by 10% the number of people served by the Summer Food Service Program, the news release said.

One AmeriCorps volunteer at the YMCA will participate in the Y's Earth Service Corps Fellowship program coordinating school-based community service clubs running such projects as park cleanups, urban gardens and environmental education programs in and after school.

According to the release, an unnamed Milwaukee congregation affiliated with the Congress of National Black Churches will develop a program in which young volunteers instruct people on how to protect themselves and their property from crime and violence.

Under supervision of the USDA's Public Lands and Environment Team, AmeriCorps volunteers will conduct such flood control and water quality projects as identifying and restoring wetlands, inspecting river systems to prepare damage assessment plans and improving animal waste disposal systems to reduce ground water pollution.



# U.S. anti-hunger effort slated here

## Members of Clinton's AmeriCorps will take part in program

By MARY BETH MURPHY  
Sentinel staff writer

Milwaukee is one of five national sites selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to participate in an anti-hunger and nutritional program under President Clinton's new national service initiative, AmeriCorps. It was announced Monday.

Two other service projects addressing concerns in Milwaukee and another USDA project aimed at regions of the state damaged by flooding were among 58 programs nationwide to win funding.

Referred to as a "domestic Peace Corps," Clinton's national service initiative, to be launched in September, will involve 7,000 AmeriCorps members working in urban and rural communities in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

In return for their service, initiative participants will earn college or vocational scholarships or vouchers to pay back college loans.

The anti-hunger program for



Goldstein

Barrett

Milwaukee County is a collaborative effort between the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Community Service Corps, Rep. Thomas M. Barrett (D-Milwaukee) announced at the task force offices, 811 E. Vienna Ave.

The project will recruit 40 local young people — ages 18 to 23 — to work for a year in community outreach for anti-hunger programs, renovate and construct food pantries, establish additional farmers markets and community

gardens and increase the capacity of emergency food programs.

In return for their service, the AmeriCorps participants will earn \$4.75 per hour. Upon completion of service, they will receive an educational scholarship worth \$4,725.

"This is a program that's going to give young people an opportunity to contribute something back to the people in Milwaukee. More importantly, it's also going to deal with the hunger problems and the nutritional problems that we face in our community," Barrett said at a news conference.

Milwaukee was chosen for this first wave of initiative grants due to the strong track record of the Hunger Task Force and MCSC, Barrett said.

The task force feeds more than 39,000 people each month. More than 25,000 of them are children.

"We're very excited about this project because it's truly going to just increase the capacity of this community to address a very crit-

ical need," said Michele Goldstein, Hunger Task Force executive director. "For us, it represents the best of what needs to happen in a community."

Among other projects:

■ The Milwaukee Metropolitan YMCA will recruit one young person to organize high school students to form YMCA Earth Service Corps Clubs to work with the environment.

■ The Congress of National Black Churches will use its grant to design programs to reduce violence in 10 target cities, including Milwaukee.

■ USDA Soil Conservation Service and Agriculture Stabilization Service will have 151 people assigned to nine Midwest flood states, including Wisconsin.

The majority of people working in Wisconsin will be local recruits who will work with the state's cooperative extension service.

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S. A. T.  
Issue/Date 6-27-94 Page(s) 5A File Hunger Task Force of M. W.



# chance to answer call for service

**Volunteers** at least 17 years old can apply to work for a variety of projects and earn money for college tuition.

By **KAREN HSU**

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Wanted: College students who need money and want to make a difference in the community.

The federal government will pay volunteers \$4,725 a year in tuition for up to two years in exchange for community service around the nation.

In September 1993, President Clinton signed legislation for AmeriCorps, a program that pays tuition money for public service. The program, a cross between Franklin Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps

and John F. Kennedy's Peace Corps, will begin this September.

Students at least 17 years old can apply to work for a variety of projects sponsored by the "domestic Peace Corps."

On Monday, AmeriCorps awarded two national service grants in Iowa.

The Des Moines "I Have A Dream" program, a dropout prevention program, was awarded \$700,000, and the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Program was awarded \$1.2 million to train migrant and seasonal farm workers in pesticide safety in the Midwest flood states, including Iowa. The association also will work to improve farm workers' access to health, education and support services.

## Adopted Class

The "I Have A Dream" program adopted a Moulton Elementary School fifth-grade class in 1990.



**Paul Johnson**

"An opportunity"

AmeriCorps members will be tutors and mentors to the students, who are now ninth graders in the Des Moines area. Each student in the class will receive \$1,700 for education at a post-secondary school upon high school graduation.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will have two projects in Iowa. The pilot Rural Development Team is assigned to flood relief, economic development and environmental protection projects, while the Public Lands and Environment Team will focus on flood relief work.

Paul Johnson, chief of the Soil Conservation Service in Washington, D.C., said his agency has asked for 570 volunteers across the nation.

"AmeriCorps is an opportunity for young people to serve a year of service, get their feet on the ground and learn new skills," said Johnson, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa. "We feel very strongly the program will benefit not only those who are served but those who are serving."

## Expenses Subsidy

Johnson said the Soil Conservation Service will provide a living expenses subsidy of \$7,600 a year for non-college graduates and \$12,000 for college graduates, in addition to the tuition credit.

Participants in programs not administered by the conservation service will receive at least \$7,400 for living expenses, plus health-care and child-care benefits. The tuition awards in all of the programs will be paid to the school or lender, and must be used within seven years after service is completed.

AmeriCorps participants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and have at least a high school diploma or agree to earn one. Graduate students also are eligible.

Call 1-800-94-ACORPS for an application. AmeriCorps hopes to have up to 20,000 volunteers by September.

# passes no stream n

By **PERRY BEEM**

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission approved a rule on streamlining Monday, possibly ending among farmers who saw the proposal as an affront to their rights.

The rule adds a section to allow farmers to streamline if they can show that the rule will have a negative effect on the public. The original version would have allowed the work only for or to save a building.

The new version also allows an appeal process already in place. It makes it clear that the rule does not apply to streams or rivers designated as protected, and that protected streams do not need to be fenced.

The Iowa Farm Bureau supported the new version. It will go into effect in August. The Legislative Rules Committee rejects it at its August meeting. In a recent session, members of the committee said they support the rule, which was revised after public hearings around the state.

However, Iowa Department of Natural Resources lawyer Murphy said the state still must prevent streamlining on protected stretches. Action in 1993 added 131 stream miles to the 115 already protected.

Allan Stokes, chief of the Iowa Department of Environmental Protection, said the new rule is more of an explanation of farmers' right to appeal permit denials than it is a change in their ability to streamline. Farmers can appeal to administrative law judges, the Environmental Protection Commission and to district courts.

In cases where streamlining is allowed, the landowner must be required to make up for it by another segment of its stream, or by planting grass along creeks to reduce runoff, officials have said.

The Iowa Natural Resources Commission originally asked for a reduction in the number of stream miles. Biologists say that drainage ditches and stream banks have dried up wetlands and harmed wildlife.

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Des Moines Register  
6/20/94

## 'DOMESTIC PEACE CORPS'

# Clinton volunteer program hits Iowa

**Students** at least 17 years old can apply to work for a variety of projects and earn money for college tuition.

By **KAREN HSU**  
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The 58 AmeriCorps program winners nationwide represent one-third of the programs that will be operating by the end of the year. The remaining two-thirds will be selected through a competitive process on a state-by-state basis.

The article feels that the program is primarily for poor people



# 1st Wave of Service Corps Starts S. Side Duty Today

By Basil Talbott

Sun-Times Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Wearing gray uniforms with starbursts, the first Chicago contingent of AmeriCorps—the new domestic Peace Corps—will invade a field of weeds today on the South Side.

They are in the advance guard of 20,000 Americans to be enrolled by fall in President Clinton's initiative to engage people in public service and help them with their education.

Eli Segal, assistant to the president for national and community service, launched the program officially at a White House briefing Monday.

AmeriCorps differs from the smaller and well-established Peace Corps, Segal said, because it will be assembled from a variety of programs proposed and run by nonprofit organizations and federal agencies and not operated by a single Washington-based agency.

A good example of the way it will work is found in the 50 recruits who start weed training today under a summer program devised by the U.S. Agriculture Department, the Chicago High School for Agricultural Science and the Chicago Housing Authority. After training at a garden at 111th and Hale, the recruits will spend eight weeks at the Ida B. Wells public

housing project.

Teams of 11 people each will recondition a field at Madden Park across from Wells and then move into the CHA low-rises, painting, planting and pruning trees, putting in walks, building berms, and covering areas with grass.

"It's a massive job but we want to make it an attractive place," said Barbara Valerious, principal of the high school, who is doing the training for her group.

The program drew recruits from different races and income levels—a mix of people from all over the metropolitan area. Each recruit earns a little more than the minimum wage, and any corps member who finishes the program also gets a \$1,000 education credit to be used for college, vocational training or to repay a student loan.

"The ethic is different from other job programs," said Joel Berg, who oversees Agriculture Department collaboration with AmeriCorps. "The work performed will mostly benefit the disadvantaged, but the people in the program will not solely be the disadvantaged."

Full-year programs start in September. About 20 members, including some from the Ida B. Wells summer program, will be enrolled for a year. Each will receive \$7,500 for a year of

service and, if they finish, an additional \$1,725 education grant.

In the first year, AmeriCorps will operate in 47 states with \$31 million dispersed to nonprofit organizations and \$16 million to federal agencies. Most organizations are still interviewing applicants for the yearlong programs.

Other Chicago area programs include:

■ Fifty-five recruits enrolled by City Year, a Boston-based organization, who will start each day doing precision calisthenics at 8:15 a.m. in the Daley Center plaza before spreading out across the city in teams of 11 for a variety of activities. Included will be volunteer work at elementary schools, senior citizen homes, parks and low-income neighborhoods.

■ One person working out of the High Ridge YMCA, organizing the city's first Earth Service Corps in East Rogers Park. The staffer will organize teenagers to plant trees, clean up graffiti, and develop trash recycling programs.

■ Seven full-time and nine part-time recruits working with the I Have a Dream Foundation. The recruits will work with the 350 students already in the foundation program aimed at helping disadvantaged youngsters get a college education.

**“The work performed will mostly benefit the disadvantaged, but the people in the program will not solely be the disadvantaged.”**

—Joel Berg of the U.S. Agriculture Department



# CHEROKEE

## MESSENGER & REPUBLICAN



Vol. 94 No. 09 (2 Sections) Cherokee, (Alfalfa County) Oklahoma Feb. 16, 1995 35¢

## AmeriCorps working in county



AMERICORPS workers saw through a tree trunk at the Dean Campbell farm near Jet. Notice the protective gear worn by Charl Marshall of Clinton, on the right. Robert Martin of Broken Bow, on the left, wore the same except he didn't don the jacket for the camera.

### *Making \$4.23 an hour plus \$4,700 scholarship bonus*

By CAROL ANGLE

In President Clinton's State of the Union message, he said AmeriCorps has many more participants than the Peace Corps ever did but most Americans don't know what it is.

In Alfalfa County, it is the whine of chainsaws at work in a grove of old trees. It is young people working for scholarship money.

AmeriCorps is the new national service program, a domestic Peace Corps. Participants are paid \$4.23 an hour for 1,712 hours of work (10 months) and earn a bonus of \$4,700 in scholarship money. They can be in the program for two years; that is, if Congress continues the program for a second year.

For the last few weeks, an AmeriCorps unit has been working through the Oklahoma Soil Conservation Service on shelterbelts in the Jet

area. The crew is completing three conservation projects for Dean Campbell and Kyle Campbell.

Anthony Lovelace of Alva supervises a crew of three men and four women. Lovelace is a graduate of Northwestern Oklahoma State University and has a master's in agriculture education.

Robert Dotson of the Natural Resources office (former SCS) in Cherokee said he and a state forester located the sites, then the forester wrote the windbreak restoration plan and forest stewardship plan.

At the Campbell shelterbelt one mile north and one mile west of Jet, the crew is rejuvenating an old stand of three rows of trees which had been planted to prevent wind erosion of the sandy soil. The north row of mulberry trees

See WORKING Page 3



c



# Farm\*A\*Syst program to aid testing drinking water

How safe is your drinking water? If you're like most rural homeowners, farmers or ranchers, you're concerned about protecting your own drinking water. Did you know that your farmstead, depending on your management, can be a major source of groundwater contamination? This means that your family, livestock and neighbors could be at risk.

How can you find out if there is a danger or if you have a problem? Glad you asked! Currently there is only one major program available to assist private well owners in protecting groundwater. The Farm\*A\*Syst program uses easy, step-by-step worksheets that rank each farmstead activity or structure that could cause groundwater contamination.

After going through the easy worksheets, you will use these rankings and the additional informational brochures to develop an overall action for protecting your drinking water. Farm\*A\*Syst is a confidential assessment that you can use on your own, or by talking with local experts. You decide what to do with the results of your assessment of your farmstead and keep your action plan in your private records. It's like having a detailed environmental assessment of your farmstead and rural residence at little or no cost and best of all, you are in control because the intent of this program is educational.

Today Louisiana is playing an important part in the Farm\*A\*Syst program by being a pilot study program state for the University of Wisconsin. Louisiana is the very first state to help conduct a cost/benefit analysis of Farm\*A\*Syst. With the combined efforts of AmeriCorps members assigned to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana can be a pioneer in this progressive program.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bipartisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans. The majority

organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environmental Team, and a Rural Development Team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

If you would like to participate or find out more about the Farm\*A\*Syst program, please contact your local district conservationist. In Union Parish, please contact Jerry Shows in our Farmerville Natural Resources Conservation Service field office, at (318)368-8021 or call Steve Nipper in Monroe at (318)387-8683.

THE GAZETTE-Farmerville, La., Thurs., December 14, 1995

*Gazette*  
*Farmerville, La.*  
*Thurs. Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 1995*