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Curtis Blashill (center) and Lorin Savin (right), students at Portsmouth Middle School in North Portland, are involved in the Ben Franklin Middle School Project, which teaches about recycling. The project is among those administered by EnviroCorps, a program within President Clinton's AmeriCorps that is losing federal financing.



PAUL KITAGAKI JR./The Oregonian

Senators freeze out EnviroCorps

SPECIAL REPORT

Oregon will lose about 65 volunteers affiliated with the AmeriCorps program

By JOE FITZGIBBON

For The Oregonian

Eann Rains is passionate about AmeriCorps.

That's why a U.S. Department of Agriculture decision to cut money for EnviroCorps, an AmeriCorps program she has nurtured in Portland for two years, has her scrambling for answers.

"It's really going to hurt agencies and groups that we've worked out partnerships with," Rains said.

Rains is the director of EnviroCorps, an AmeriCorps program that focuses on environmental restoration projects, primarily along the Columbia Slough in North and Northeast Portland.

Since 1995, EnviroCorps members have restored streambanks, organized neighborhood cleanups and involved 40 nonprofit groups, schools and local businesses in environmental projects.

But recently, the group, along with dozens of similar programs, lost financial support after some members of Congress refused to release money for 1997 projects.

Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Christopher Bond, R-Mo., ranking members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, froze a \$20 million appropriation, arguing that the Agriculture Department should not direct federal service projects.

EnviroCorps received 85 percent of its grant money from the department to hire members and raised the other

15 percent locally.

"Senator Bond simply does not believe that money from one federal agency should go to another — in this instance, the Department of Agriculture," said Leanne Jerome, press secretary for Bond. "He supports the concept of community service but not funding it in this way."

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman argued that the department was one of the first agencies to use AmeriCorps volunteers. He said the mostly college-age workers improved or restored more than 400,000 acres of urban and rural lands and improved the lives of 1 million citizens.

Please turn to
ENVIROCORPS, Page C3

Republicans privatize for state

■ GOP lawmakers anticipate saving some institutions, but opponents

By J. TODD FOSTER

of The Oregonian staff

SALEM — Ten years after the word — privatization — first surfaced in the Legislature, Republicans are serious this session about letting a private company run a state prison.

They'll have to get past Democratic and union lobbyists who think incarcerating felons is serious business, too serious to trust to an organization with profit margin that might cause it to cut corners.

Oregon is in the first year of a decade-long program to build seven prisons for \$1 billion. The Department of Corrections estimates its 8,560 inmates will double to 17,750 by 2006.

State Rep. John Minnis, R-Wood Village, asks: Why not let a private company build and manage one of the new prisons to see whether it can do it more cheaply than the government?

"We've taken on the attitude that we're going to take on this prison expansion program ourselves," said Minnis, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Senate Majority Leader Gene Derflinger, R-Salem, said, "It's worth an experiment."

Hamby has to save on it

■ The Hillsboro state senator has saved Pacific, a mobile prison and employment

By J. TODD FOSTER

of The Oregonian staff

life

EnviroCorps: Volunteers help at-risk youth

■ Continued from Page C1

Lobbying efforts with the senators failed, however, forcing the elimination of a number of operations.

The cutoff will affect about 1,000 AmeriCorps workers and 300 sites nationally. In Oregon, about 65 positions won't be filled.

Program directors called the decision politically motivated.

"It's absurd since Congress had already approved the funding," said Joel Berg, administrator with the Corporation for National and Community Service in Washington, D.C. "It seems clear that to save the entire AmeriCorps programs, it was a compromise the administration made."

Some Republicans have criticized President Clinton's national service program since its inception in 1994.

Last year, opponents jumped on a General Accounting Office study that revealed the average cost of an AmeriCorps worker at \$26,654 a year.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., called the program bloated and wasteful, labeling it "coerced volunteerism."

Supporters countered that as much as \$9,000 of each member's expenses is raised from private, local and state agencies.

To save the program, AmeriCorps Director Harris Wofford told Congress that he would cut expenditures by about 40 percent, to \$15,000 for each worker, by 1999.

In September, Congress approved Clinton's request for \$402.5 million to finance operations through 1998.

For one year of service, each AmeriCorps participant earns a \$7,600 living allowance and an education award of \$4,725. Part-time members earn \$4,023 and an award of \$2,363.

After completing a year of service, members may use the college sti-

pend to continue their schooling or to repay college loans.

About 25,000 AmeriCorps members are working in 438 communities around the nation.

Steve Hoar, a Newberg resident, spent a year helping 3,000 tribal members on the Umatilla reservation upgrade their fresh-water system.

"I wanted to get some experience with city planning and use some of my talents to help others," said Hoar, who has a degree in civil engineering. "I think I touched the lives of hundreds of people because I know they touched mine."

Program organizers said that two to three candidates apply for every available position.

"I've got a woman in North Carolina who wants to join EnviroCorps and others waiting tables or taking temporary jobs waiting to get in," Rains said. "For the little stipend they receive, they're probably the best bargain around."

In fact, she estimated that EnviroCorp workers — doing jobs such as tree planting, downspout disconnec-

tions and habitat restoration — have saved the city about \$500,000.

In the metropolitan area, AmeriCorps volunteers mentor at-risk youth, teach English language classes for nonnative speakers, assist with weatherization projects for low-income residents, monitor drinking water in the Bull Run watershed and assist with dozens of environmental projects.

They have been placed in such varied organizations as Salmon Corps, I Have a Dream Foundation and Partnership to Stop Violence Against Women.

Barry Messer, a Portland State University professor who coordinates AmeriCorps workers with local schools, said the cuts could cost him 20 positions.

He compared volunteers' efforts to those of their Peace Corps counterparts.

"We know that they can make a difference in kids' attitudes about their environment," Messer said. "Here in Portland, we've also seen them doing outreach work with kids who might have an interest in college and helping them get on track."

For her part, Rains is scrambling to plug her candidates into other AmeriCorps programs.

"We're doing our best to match up people we wanted in our program back in September with the Northwest Service Academy," Rains said. "Instead of having two teams of about nine volunteers, the best we can come up with will be one."

Former volunteers call it the best experience of their lives.

"It opened my eyes to a world I would never have imagined," Richard Melo said. The two-year AmeriCorps volunteer battled flood waters, worked with disabled children and educated young people about the environment. "It's heartbreaking to meet people who want to work in this program and cannot."

and this week

This week are expected to be the Legislature. Just stop turning in draft leg-



new legislation. emerge later. Committees use.

— Steve Suo

ig Tuesday

in three Portland legislators on High School, 2735 N.E.

use Speaker Lynn Lundquist. Jo Ann Bowman and the event. questions. ion.

ss otherwise noted:

eral bills, including HB2369 (an- 3:30 a.m., Room HR A. Call 986-

140 (contractors), 8:30 a.m.,

) and HB2394 (workers' compen-

Van rolls on I-5; father, son die

A 4-year-old boy was ejected and crushed when his family's van rolled over Sunday afternoon on Interstate 5 near Roseburg.

Matthew Wallmann of Redmond, Wash., died at Columbia Douglas Hospital in Roseburg.

His father, Peter Wallmann, was pinned in the front passenger seat. He died at the hospital Sunday night.

Oregon State Police said the boy's mother, Denise Wallmann, 37, was driving south when the van drifted into the center median, possibly

when she fell asleep.

Investigators said the van rolled several times before landing on its wheels in the traffic lanes.

The mother and two other children, Elizabeth, 11, and Andy, 9, were treated for minor injuries.

The accident occurred at 12:30 p.m. four miles north of Roseburg.

Southbound lanes were closed for 14 hours.

Peter Wallmann was wearing a safety belt, but investigators could not say whether the others in the van were.

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Letters to the Editor, Fax: 294-4193
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The Oregonian

(Note: Please print in Wednesday's or Thursday's paper if possible)

16221 SW 104th Ave.
Tigard, OR 97224
503/231-6186 (W) or 620-0849 (H)
February 18, 1997

To the Editor:

I would like to let your readers know of a very recent development in the story of EnviroCorps ("Senators Freeze Out EnviroCorps" in the February 17th issue of The Oregonian). An agreement has just been reached that will allow EnviroCorps, formerly a USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps program, to become a branch of Northwest Service Academy, which sponsors three other AmeriCorps programs in Oregon, Washington, and Montana. This agreement, struck between East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (an EnviroCorps sponsor) and Educational Service District 112 in Vancouver (NWSA's parent organization), will enable us to field a team of nine members. The team will assist local community organizations and schools in developing and carrying out environmental education and restoration projects throughout the Portland area. Other USDA AmeriCorps programs in 43 states have not been as lucky, in spite of the USDA's best efforts to get Senate approval to fund them.

This community has been very supportive as we have struggled with the issue of EnviroCorps's future. We thank our sponsors (East Multnomah SWCD, Metro, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Portland State University) for their encouragement and their financial and in-kind support. Thanks, too, to the schools, neighborhood groups, watershed councils, conservation districts, and city departments (Portland and Gresham) who have included EnviroCorps in their project plans for this coming program year. Because of the strong reputation EnviroCorps has built over the past two years, the dedication of our partners to sound resource management, and the faith of a group of young people who were willing to wait until our funding issue was resolved, EnviroCorps has survived. It's a great feeling to finally be up and running!



Eann Rains
EnviroCorps Director



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

July 11, 1995

Rick Allen, Jay Toscano, CNCS
Tom Amontree, USDA

From: Joel Berg, USDA

Subject: NBC News Story on GAO AmeriCorps Report

The local NBC affiliate in Burlington, Vermont just visited our Anti-Hunger Team project manager in Vermont to obtain on-camera comment about a leaked GAO report that allegedly calculates the costs of two of our AmeriCorps projects in Vermont. It is likely that the affiliate is helping out on a network story.

Attached is one page from the leaked GAO report, with the headline "Site Visit Information." The chart includes costs for our Anti-Hunger and our Forest Service projects in Vermont, but not --- significantly enough --- for our Rural Development project, which has the lowest per-Member cost of the three. While it is too late in the day to produce exact budget numbers today for the Forest Service project, can clearly state that the overall \$43,157 cost per Member and the \$38,785 Federal cost per Member are both wildly exaggerated.

For the Anti-Hunger Corps, can now state with certainty that the GAO costs are way inflated:

	GAO Cost Claim	Actual Cost
Federal Spending	\$32,912	\$25,975
Overall Spending	\$43,865	\$34,571 *

* Even in our accounting of overall cost, we include state and local spending --- which probably should be included as a benefit and not a cost.

Additionally, the portion of the report leaked to us obviously ignores the attached cost-benefit analysis we previously provided to GAO.

Lastly, in any official response, you should quote the attached editorial on our Anti-Hunger program from the *Burlington Free Press*, which states that the goals of the Vermont anti-hunger program "replicate those of many Washington fiscal conservatives."



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

June 7, 1995

To: Carol Patey, GAO

From: Joel Berg, USDA *JB*

Subject: Cost/Benefit Analyses of Some USDA AmeriCorps Programs

We now have some limited cost/benefit analyses for USDA AmeriCorps programs that I hope you will consider including in your report.

The USDA Forest Service has just calculated that its 236 AmeriCorps Members serving on Public Lands Teams performed at least \$1.51 worth of service for each \$1.00 that the American taxpayer spent to support such service. Although it is difficult to blend cost benefits from different Forest Service regions around the country, the cost-benefit figures are based on an average of the combined cost savings of all recreation projects completed. These costs included all Federal spending, including the Member stipends and educational awards. The Forest Service AmeriCorps Public Lands crews completed recreation projects for 51% less than similar projects completed by force account (if completed by Federal employees), and 68% less than similar services completed by contracted services. For example, in one area it cost AmeriCorps \$64,185 to complete 53 miles of heavy trail maintenance. The same projects would have cost \$126,000 by force account, and \$212,000 if the services were contracted.

The Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council in Tennessee calculated that, in the first half year of the program, USDA AmeriCorps Members managed by the Council performed \$2.82 worth of service for each \$1.00 that the American taxpayer spent to support such service. In the first quarter of the program, the four USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Members, who are managed by the Council, performed approximately \$2.73 worth of service for each \$1.00 that the American taxpayer spent to support such service. As you can see from the attached chart the council prepared, if purchased on the "Open market," one service project performed by one Member would have cost an estimated \$23,975 while another service project performed by three Members would have cost an estimated, \$50,400, bringing the total value of the service performed to \$74,375. The cost of the AmeriCorps Members, pro-rated to the four months period in which they performed the projects, was \$27,272. According to the council's second quarter report, two Members, costing the Federal government \$11,579, performed \$26,629 worth of service.

Of course, these numbers do not add in the social and economic benefits of accrued by our society when AmeriCorps enables its Members to continue their educations, serve as role models, improve the economies of their local areas, leave welfare for work, volunteer in their communities after the end of their service year, and/or help decrease crime. As you may know, such additional benefits were recently outlined a report released by the Corporation for National Service.

I understand that your primary mandate is to report on the total costs of AmeriCorps, and not necessarily the benefits. However, it is clear that such cost/benefit information puts the costs to the Federal government in the proper context. If you have any questions about this information, please contact me at (202) 720-6350.

Saving funding, food

Respectful, 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.

Opinion

DRAFT

February 6, 1995

To: USDA AmeriCorps Members, Project Managers, and Facilitators
From: Director of National Service, USDA
Subject: **Recent Public Development Affecting AmeriCorps**

Many of you have asked for copies of the President's remarks about AmeriCorps in the State of the Union Address, as well as news articles discussing whether the program will be continued. Both are attached, as is a recent speech by Eli Segal, who oversees AmeriCorps on behalf of the President.

In addition, many of you have requested clarification about the kinds of activities AmeriCorps Members are allowed to engage in to generate political support for AmeriCorps. The following policy, based on advice given to USDA by the Office of General Counsel of the Corporation for National Service, will be added into the AmeriCorps USDA operations manual.

"AmeriCorps Members are free to contact Members of Congress and other elected officials to express their support of --- or opposition to --- AmeriCorps. The contact must be undertaken at his/her own initiative as a concerned private citizen and on his/her own time (not at the request of the AmeriCorps program or during AmeriCorps service hours). The AmeriCorps Member should be clear that s/he is speaking as a private citizen, but may reference the fact that s/he is part of AmeriCorps."

Moreover, as long as Members are not specifically "lobbying" by asking others to specifically support or oppose AmeriCorps, Members should feel free to explain the AmeriCorps philosophy and the details of their own projects to anyone --- including the media, elected officials, family members, project sponsors, friends, and community residents.

On a personal note, I look forward to meeting those of you I have not previously met as I travel to the USDA AmeriCorps sites throughout the nation. I know you are "getting things done" all across America as you promote community, responsibility, and opportunity. You should take great personal pride in the service you are performing, and never forget that you are making history every day as you build a new and exciting movement transforming the nation.

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1995

STATE OF THE UNION



BY RAY LUSTIG—THE WASHINGTON POST

National Service Corps

I'd like to talk about a couple of other issues we have to deal with. I want us to cut more spending, but I hope we won't cut government programs that help to prepare us for the new economy, promote responsibility, and are organized from the grass roots up, not by federal bureaucracies. The very best example of this is the national service corps, Americorps.

It passed with strong bipartisan support, and now there are 20,000 Americans, more than ever served in one year, in the Peace Corps [sic], working all over this country, helping people person-to-person in local, grass-roots volunteer groups, solving problems and in the process, earning some money for their education. This is citizenship at its best. It's good for the Americorps members, but it's good for the rest of us too. It's the essence of the New Covenant, and we shouldn't stop it.

All Americans, not only in the states most heavily affected but in every place in this country, are rightly disturbed by the large numbers of illegal aliens entering our country. The jobs they hold might otherwise be held by citizens or legal immigrants; the public service they use impose burdens on our taxpayers. That's why our administration has moved aggressively to secure our borders more by hiring a record number of new border guards, by deporting twice as many criminal aliens as every before, by cracking down on illegal hiring, by barring welfare benefits to illegal aliens. In the budget I will present

to you, we will try to do more to speed the deportation of illegal aliens who are arrested for crimes, to better identify illegal aliens in the workplace as recommended by the commission headed by former congresswoman Barbara Jordan. We are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws. It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit the kind of abuse of our immigration laws we have seen in recent years, and we must do more to stop it.

Lauding Successes

Cindy Perry teaches second-graders to read in Americorps in rural Kentucky. She gains when she gives. She's a mother of four. She says that her service inspired her to get her high school equivalency last year. She was married when she was a teenager. Stand up, Cindy. She was married when she was a teenager. She had four children, but she had time to serve other people, to get her high school equivalency, and she's going to use her Americorps money to go back to college.

Steven Bishop is the police chief of Kansas City. He's been a national leader. Stand up, Steve. He's been a national leader in using more police in community policing, and he's worked with Americorps to do it. And the crime rate in Kansas City has gone down as a result of what he did.

POLL: Backing for Clinton on Crime, Welfare and Taxes

Continued from A1
guaranteeing Mexican loans in an effort to stem the crisis that has forced a massive devaluation in the peso.

Indeed, the loan guarantees find little support from any point along the ideological or partisan spectrum: More than three-fourths of Democrats, independents and Republicans oppose the idea.

The Times Poll, supervised by John Brennan, surveyed 1,363 adults nationwide from Jan. 19 through Jan. 21. The results have a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Nothing is more intriguing in the polling than the tension between the public's broad ideological preferences, which generally lean toward the GOP, and their opinions on specific issues, which often bend toward positions held by Clinton and Democrats.

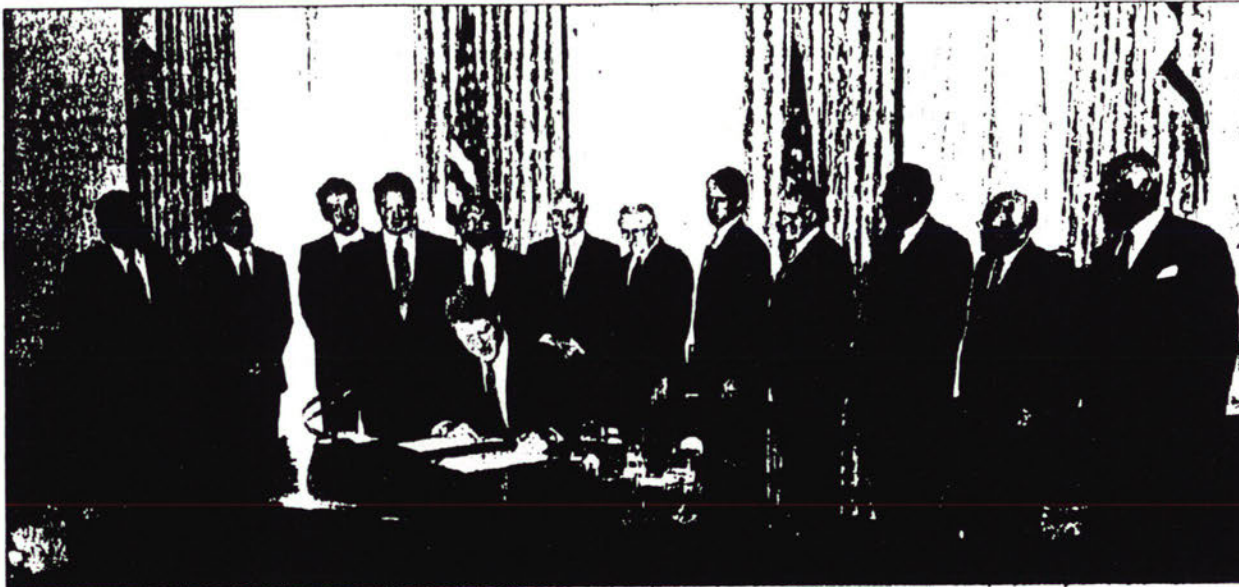
In a broad sense, the public emphatically endorses the Republican argument that government must be restrained. In the survey, nearly two-thirds said that they prefer a smaller government with fewer services, while just over 1 in 4 wants "a larger government with many services."

Likewise, the poll finds extensive support for the general idea of shifting power away from Washington: 70% of those polled said that state and local governments do the best job of spending tax dollars (just 12% endorsed the federal government).

And the poll makes clear that many Americans have invested their faith in the new Republican congressional majority. Almost twice as many of those polled said that they expect to be better off than worse off as a result of the GOP takeover (though the largest group, almost 2 in 5, said they expect no change in their condition). By a 35% to 31% count, those polled said that Republicans, rather than the President, have the best ideas for solving the country's problems. And most said that they want Clinton to compromise with the GOP rather than draw lines in the sand against Republican ideas.

Several Republican priorities drew substantial support in the survey: Almost 7 in 10 said that they like the GOP proposal to require three-fifths congressional approval for all tax increases; roughly the same number endorsed the line-item veto backed by both the GOP and Clinton; three-fourths backed the GOP-driven constitutional amendment to limit congressional terms to 12 years.

Two other ideas now on the edge of the GOP radar also show strength: roughly three-in-four



President Clinton on Monday signs law making Congress subject to the same federal laws governing workplace as the rest of the country.

wanted to ban all racial preferences in hiring decisions. House Majority Leader Dick Armey's proposed 17% flat tax draws 40% support (48% oppose it), a strong showing for an idea not familiar to many Americans.

But on an array of other specific choices, the public endorses positions held by the Democrats, according to the poll. Should Congress have to specify where it would cut the deficit before passing a balanced-budget amendment? Congressional Republicans say no, but 88% of those polled said yes. Should term limits apply retroactively to sitting members of Congress? Congressional Republicans generally say no, but, like the White House, three-fourths of those polled said yes.

Many House Republicans are mobilizing for an effort to repeal the ban on assault weapons approved as part of last year's anti-crime bill. But two-thirds of Americans, including three-fifths of both Republicans and conservatives, said that the ban should be maintained. Likewise, House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) has criticized Clinton's national service program, which lets young people earn college grants by performing community service. But more than 7 in 10 of those surveyed, including more than 60% of Republicans and conservatives, like it.

In tonight's State of the Union

Address, Clinton is likely to continue his effort to contrast his domestic proposals with the GOP plans. The poll tested attitudes toward those contrasting agendas by asking Americans to choose between the competing proposals in five distinct areas—but not identifying the alternatives as Clinton or Republican ideas.

In all but one instance, those surveyed backed the Clinton alternative by margins of 2-to-1 or greater. And in most cases that support was consistent across racial, income, gender and ideological lines.

On crime, 72% of those surveyed said that they support the provisions in last year's crime bill that funded prison construction, additional police officers and prevention programs; just 20% supported the idea, advanced by Senate Republicans, of shifting all the prevention money to pay for more prisons and police officers. More than 3 in 5 Republicans and conservatives—even 3 in 5 Republican men—preferred the existing approach.

On welfare, President Clinton has proposed requiring recipients to work after two years on the rolls but would provide public service jobs if none are available in the private sector. House Republicans want to let states cut off recipients after two years without guaranteeing them a job. By 66% to 29%, those surveyed preferred Clinton's

approach. A majority of both Republicans and conservatives preferred Clinton's policy.

To try to reduce out-of-wedlock births, House Republicans want to cut off all welfare benefits to girls under 18 who bear children out of wedlock; Clinton has proposed instead requiring the mothers to live at home as a condition of receiving aid. By 58% to 28%, those surveyed prefer Clinton's approach.

On taxes, 55% backed Clinton's proposal of a deduction for college tuition and a tax credit for families with children and incomes under \$75,000; 23% back the House GOP combination of a children's tax credit for families with incomes up to \$200,000 and reductions in capital-gains taxes. Americans in every income bracket, every spot on the ideological spectrum—Democrats, independents, Republicans, supporters of Ross Perot and President George Bush in 1992—prefer Clinton's approach.

Only on Social Security did the public prefer the House Republican blueprint, with a 49% to 43% plurality endorsing the contract's call to roll back Clinton's 1993 tax increase on upper-income seniors.

On the question of "unfunded mandates," there is a similar collision between abstract preference and specific application. With both chambers considering legislation to restrict the federal government's capacity to impose obligations on

the states, nearly two-thirds of those polled said that they want to limit unfunded mandates. But larger majorities support two specific mandates on the states: requiring local governments to meet federal clean water standards by building sewage treatment plants and mandating local school districts to provide special education facilities for mentally disabled students.

In several respects, the poll found the public mood improving in the wake of last fall's election. More than a third of Americans now say that the country is moving in the right direction, while 55% say that it is on the wrong track. Those are numbers hardly overflowing with optimism, but they constitute the most upbeat assessment of the nation's direction since last January.

Attitudes about the economy are brightening more unambiguously: Nearly half of those surveyed said that the country is not in a recession and just 11% said the country is suffering from a serious economic reversal. Those are the sunniest economic assessments of Clinton's presidency.

Good feelings about the economy appear to be lifting some of the gloom over the White House. In the survey, 51% said that they approve of Clinton's economic performance—up from 43% in November. On foreign policy, Americans remain divided over

Clinton's performance, with 46% of those polled approving and 44% disapproving. Clinton's overall performance won approval from 54%, while 40% disapproved. Those are his best showings since last spring. Since last fall, Clinton has registered his strongest gains among independents and moderates.

Those numbers compare favorably with the new Republican leadership. By a 41% to 28% count, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole also enjoys positive favorability ratings. But House Speaker Gingrich, who has been entangled in a series of ethical and policy disputes since election day, has quickly emerged as a polarizing and unpopular figure: Just 26% express favorable opinions toward Gingrich, compared with 39% unfavorable.

What Clinton, Dole and Gingrich—and their allies and adversaries in both parties—share is the continued weight of obdurate public skepticism. Trust in Congress and the government in Washington remains anemic, with four-in-five Americans expressing only some or very little. And the public remains divided on whether Clinton and the new GOP legislative majority are offering true reform—with just as many respondents saying each side is offering "business as usual" as believe they are working for "fundamental change" in government.

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IN TODAY'S PAPER
3 Sections, 30 Pages
Section A
World, Nation, Editorial
Section B
California, Business, Calendar, Life & Style
Section C
World Report

Pennies to Save Lives From the Trash Bin

I REALIZE that Newt Gingrich has a right to speak any words he wishes — after all, he's speaker of the House. But why is he so opposed to thinking before he speaks?

This week, for instance, he said the national service program, the one called the domestic peace corps, should be abolished completely because, in his opinion, "It is coerced voluntarism . . . It's gimmicky."

Well, a lot of people have seen this "gimmickry" and almost unanimously they are impressed. They say it works. They include me.

I've become familiar with City Year, one of the groups that inspired President Bill Clinton to create the federal service umbrella, known as AmeriCorps. Campaigning in Boston in 1992, he visited City Year and came away saying he wanted to use it as a model for a national program. A year later, after shepherding that model through Congress, he signed into law the National Service Trust Act of 1993.

Here's what it does. It puts 20,000 young volunteers to work all across the country in 350 nonprofit organizations, helping themselves and others. The three-year goal is to expand the volunteer force to 100,000.

The age group is 17 to 23. They come from every background — Ivy League graduates, inner-city youths seeking their General Equivalency Diploma so they can make it to college, high school graduates taking a year off to do some good and learn community leadership skills, former gang members, single mothers, whites, blacks, Latinos, Asians.

Does every young corps member turn into a winner? No, not every single one. But the success rate is very, very high.

City Year, the group I've seen, was founded in Boston about six years ago by two Harvard Law School graduates, Alan Khazai and Michael Brown. They began with about 50 young people. Now they have more than 300.

What they do is renovate old buildings, serve as teachers' aides and tutors in schools, fix up parks and playgrounds, provide assistance to the elderly, build food banks and soup kitchens in church basements, work with the homeless and conduct school workshops on violence prevention and on drug and AIDS awareness.

For the first three years of its existence, City

Year existed entirely on private funds. Corporations like Timberland and Reebok and many others became sponsors. The first federal funding became available in the Bush administration. Clinton's AmeriCorps added measurably to that and has made expansion possible.

City Year alone, by dispatching youths already trained, has opened programs in five other cities. Other groups, like Habitat and YouthBuild, are doing the same.

SYDNEY H. SCHANBERG

*I wish the speaker
would go
look at
these
young
people and see
what they do.*



An aide to Speaker Gingrich, explaining his boss' opposition, said "it is a program that spends a lot of money for few benefits. This is an employment program, not national service where work is voluntary." I wish the speaker would go look at these young people and see what they do. If he'll agree, I'll personally take him to Boston and have him meet them. I don't know if the experience will change his mind about funding the national program, but I'm willing to bet his spirits will be raised.

The federal spending now on AmeriCorps is about \$=00 million a year — hardly a burp in the national budget. Thousands of lives are being saved from the trash bin, thousands of young people are getting on-the-job street training in coping with serious social problems. The volunteers are getting a lot out of it — and so are we as a nation.

Since Gingrich objects to the spending, let us look at what the volunteers are paid. At City Year originally, they got about \$100 a week. If they stayed the full year, they received an additional \$5,000 for college or job training. Those who had already finished college received a smaller bonus.

Now under the AmeriCorps program, volunteers are expected to commit for two years, receiving \$7,500 as an annual living stipend and \$4,725 a year toward further education. Like every other taxpayer, I'm aware that a fair amount of government money gets wasted. But I've seen how this national service money is used. It's anything but a waste; it's a pure investment in the United States of America.

The reason I've seen how City Year works is that one of my daughters, Rebecca, is part of it. She graduated from Stanford in 1993 and is in her second year in the Boston program. The first year, she was a team member. Now she's a leader of a team.

Her team is as diverse as our nation has always been — Brooks Emanuel from Atlanta and Jenny Evert from Minnesota and José Cermeno from Dorchester out of Puerto Rico and Robert Hannaford from North Quincy and Sherwin McCollon from Lynn and Darrell Greene from Mattapan and Natalie Pierre of Trinidad and now Dorchester and Yessenia Alvarado from Chelsea via El Salvador and Len Swartz from Hull.

You'll find them most days at a school in Chelsea, one of those struggling communities that ring Boston. The school, housed in the tired Chelsea High School, is called Early Childhood Program, which runs from prekindergarten through the second grade. If you sit for just a few hours and observe the City Year team members working with these 3- to 8-year-old black and Latino and Vietnamese and Cambodian kids, you will learn many things, not least of which is how much these volunteers are needed.

I sincerely hope the House speaker will visit them.

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1995

C

M

E. J. Dionne Jr.

Back to Citizenship

House Speaker Newt Gingrich performed a huge service for President Clinton last week. No, this isn't about that book deal. It's about Gingrich's attack on Clinton's national service program. By forcing the president to defend national service, Gingrich has given him a chance to shift the political debate from a moldy contest over "more" or "less" government to one about prior questions: What should government do in the first place, and what obligations do democratic citizens have toward each other?

The service program is certainly worth defending in its own right, and the best arguments for it have been made over the years by conservatives. It's true, as conservatives have said, that bureaucratic charity is not the preferred solution to social problems. Far better to have citizens engaged in helping each other, person-to-person, and to do so through local, voluntarily established institutions.

One of the most useful pieces of work done by conservative intellectuals over the last two decades was a 1977 essay, "To Empower People," by sociologist Peter Berger and the Rev. Richard John Neuhaus. They argued that if government relentlessly took over all charitable functions, it would endanger soci-

ety's "mediating structures"—the institutions created by families, communities and churches—that nurture individual virtue and "mediate" between government and the individual. Government, they argued, should make strengthening these institutions a central goal.

That, roughly, is what the service program does. The volunteers for AmeriCorps, as the main service agency is called, do not work for a federal bureaucracy. They work for already established local institutions that are trying to solve problems: preventing crime, teaching literacy, immunizing kids against disease, helping the homebound elderly, curbing teen pregnancy. The main function of the program's Washington arm, the Corporation for National and Community Service, is to monitor the programs—not for their adherence to bureaucratic rules but simply to make sure they're doing broadly what they claim to be doing.

Why spend any federal money on this sort of thing? Because the voluntary sector needs strengthening, and because federal money spent supplementing voluntary activities has a big payoff. A lot of volunteer organizations are having trouble finding people. Many parents—both parents—necessarily spend so much time working and then raising

their kids that they don't have a lot of time left over. Eli Segal, who heads the service program, sees it as "an effective way of filling in the holes" in the voluntary sector and a recognition of "the chords that bind us together as a people."

This last point is why the broader argument raised by the service program is so important. The idea of democratic citizenship inherent in the program is the one idea capable of answering the problems of two other ideas that are gaining currency in American politics: radical individualism and extreme multiculturalism.

Both ideas start at reasonable places. Almost all of us are individualists in that we value autonomy and freedom. But radical individualism suggests that we are completely free agents, thus denying the reality that our freedom depends on preserving a community that is civil, just, tolerant and nurturing of the other values on which freedom depends. Apart from such a community, freedom withers.

Multiculturalists started out with the fair argument that too little attention was paid to the contributions, ideas and interests of groups other than affluent white males—women, African Americans, Hispanics, working class people

and others. But pushed to the extreme, multiculturalists argued that the only forms of solidarity that counted were those within these particular groups.

Those who value the idea of democratic citizenship argue, against the radical individualists, that preserving freedom is a cooperative enterprise that carries burdens of responsibility. We can't just walk away from social problems. Against extreme multiculturalism, advocates of democratic citizenship argue that our sense of solidarity needs to transcend all our particularisms. Whites need to vindicate the rights of blacks, blacks the rights of whites, men those of women and women those of men.

The Clinton administration has been obsessed with its failure to "communicate" its achievements to the American people. This is the wrong obsession. It implies that the American people are too dumb or too bamboozled by Republican propaganda to "understand" all that the president has been doing.

What the administration should worry about instead is that it is losing the political argument. Americans have surveyed what they see as a series of messes—crime, family breakup, stagnating living standards for many in the middle—and a majority has decided (tentatively) that the best way to deal

with all of them may be for government to do little more than throw the book at criminals. This is not the product of selfishness but a retreat from government that is seen as ineffective, intrusive in the wrong places and insufficiently concerned with nurturing civic responsibility.

There is a corresponding retreat into enclaves. Suburbanites, to pick one example, are tempted to give up on the inner cities, figuring they have enough problems of their own. Think of it as the suburban (or male or white) answer to multiculturalism.

Clinton and the Democrats won't win the argument unless they reverse these trends. One worthy way of doing so is to preach the rewards—and the obligations—of democratic citizenship. A government based on this idea does not pretend to have all the answers. Still less does it claim the right to replace the civic institutions of a free people with its own. But neither is it an indifferent government, because it recognizes that government either strengthens or saps the ability of citizens to live together, solve problems and accept their moral obligations to each other. In this telling, government is not some alien structure out there. It becomes the realm of us all.

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NATIONAL SERVICE

Americorps designed to complement armed forces

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As an active supporter of the Americorps national service program and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I strongly disagree with the Times-Union's recent editorial charging that Americorps damages military recruiting.

The armed forces offer far greater benefits than national service. Military salaries are much higher than the minimum wage allowance of Americorps members.

As was noted in the editorial, "college tuition of \$20,000 to \$30,000 can be earned for an Army hitch." Americorps' maximum education award for a year of service is \$4,725.

In fact, the Americorps award was set significantly lower than GI bill awards in recognition of the greater sacrifice made by those who serve in our armed forces. Moreover, under the national service law, veterans are encouraged to join Americorps and earn its benefits without diminishing those earned while in the military.

More than 2 million recruits currently serve in our armed forces. Americorps fields 20,000 members.



The program was designed so as not to impair military recruiting and to reflect the diversity of citizens seeking to serve our nation.

Americorps meets its much smaller need by drawing from a larger recruiting universe, including people of all ages, people with disabilities and many others who do not meet the requirements for military service.

Each year, Army recruiters turn

away more than 100,000 people who want to serve but fail the physical examination. For many of them, Americorps offers an opportunity to get things done for their country.

Americorps' commitment to work in partnership with our armed services has resulted in major programs that it operates with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and organizations such as the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

Americorps is designed to complement, not detract from, the great work of the armed forces. Protecting freedom at home and abroad, our men and women in uniform give all that a nation can ask of its citizens.

Inspired by that greater sacrifice, Americorps members work with communities to solve basic problems, get results and reap the opportunities of our free society.

DAVID C. JONES
Arlington, Va.

Bowling for Virtue

Kill the welfare state, but save national service

BY JOE KLEIN

WEEKS LATER, LIBERALS REMAIN MYSTIFIED BY NEWT Gingrich's inaugural speech to the House of Representatives. Why all the compassionate talk about the poor? (No Democrat could get away with that.) Has Gingrich changed his stripes? Has he moved to the center? Become a statesman? In a word: no. He's been talking this way for years, outraged by the violence, anarchy and despair in the slums—which he believes are largely caused by liberal programs. He wants to eliminate the "bureaucratic welfare state." He wants to replace it with... charity. He really means to do this. He proposes a "Wesleyan revival," in which virtuous Americans would feel morally reinvigorated, and give time and money to uplift the poor. "If every American spent three hours a month helping someone who needed it," he said last week, "a lot of these problems would disappear."

Gingrich, as always, offered a reading list: "The Tragedy of American Compassion," by Marvin Olasky, which chronicles an explosion of charitable giving in the late 19th century. He might easily have added Gertrude Himmelfarb's new book, "The De-Moralization of Society," which argues that Victorian attitudes toward charity—and poverty—were not only admirable but quite successful. Such views are easily mocked. Dickens trumps Himmelfarb. But one wonders what Dickens would have done with Joycelyn Elders, Donna Shalala and your local, insensate welfare office. Poverty seems more desperate, intractable and amoral now than it did a hundred years ago—when, as Himmelfarb shows, rates of pauperism, crime and illegitimacy were in steady, long-term decline. The old ways—a society-wide insistence on moral behavior and exemplary acts—may be the best way to lift the poor. But there is a problem: the Victorian charitable explosion occurred at a moment when living standards were soaring and when there were far fewer distractions. We don't seem to have the time, or the inclination, for altruism anymore.

Indeed, we seem to be moving in the opposite direction: the number of volunteers for groups like the Boy Scouts and Red Cross has plummeted in the last 20 years. PTA participation is way down. The fraternal orders are waning. Even bowling leagues are in decline—people prefer to bowl alone—Harvard professor Robert Putnam writes in an elegant article for the *Journal of Democracy*. Putnam attributes these phenomena to several factors: less time (women go to work now), increased mobility (people are less likely to put down social roots) and of course—television. Gingrich disagrees. He believes the aggrandizement of the bureaucracy has made families and communities less relevant. "People don't go to PTA meetings," he says, "because they don't like professional bureaucrats telling them how useless they are. When you emasculate citizens, you can't expect them to be very enthusiastic about participating."

But even if you empower citizens—as Gingrich might say—Putnam's other factors won't go away. This isn't the 19th century. And where's Wesley? If the welfare state is to be scrapped and privatized, civil society will need steroids. Gingrich wants a tax credit for charitable contributions. Fair enough. But more will be needed. No doubt, state and local governments can "nonprofitize" many services—that is, pay private charities to do things formerly done by bureaucrats. There is no reason social workers need to be public employees. But perhaps the most creative—indeed, virtuous—role government can play would be to provide charitable institutions with a steady stream of young, altruistic, energetic, exemplary (and cheap) workers. In fact, a government program recently has begun to do just that, and with great promise: national service.

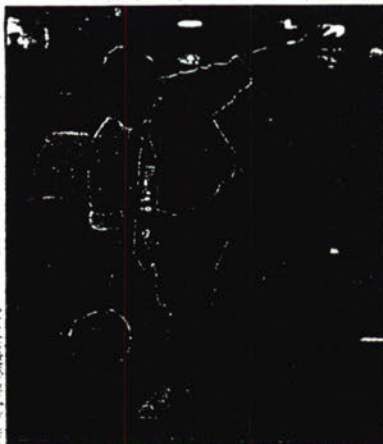
"Everyone talks about unfunded mandates—things Washington requires the states and cities to do," says Eli Siegal, the director of Americorps. "We're the exact opposite: a funded nonmandate." The states decide whether to participate, and which local programs to fund. There are now about 20,000 young people working (at minimum wage, while repaying \$4,725 in college loans per year of service) in 350 nonprofit programs nationally.

Last week, I called around to various private groups who've been using the volunteers, and their reports were uniformly enthusiastic. "They've come into the community and done far more than we asked or expected," says Dawn Taylor of the Storm-break Youth Shelter in State College, Pa. (which runs, among other things—Newt

should note—a group home for troubled teens). "Their job is to tutor the young people, but they're not content with that. They've helped with fund-raising telethons and lots of other programs," expanding the scope of charitable activities in the county. "They are so enthusiastic and energetic. And there are a lot more ways we'd like to use them, if we could." Unfortunately, she can't: Americorps volunteers can't supplant existing public employees, a regulation that Republicans should jettison if they

choose to continue this program. (There is no reason why national service shouldn't bite off great chunks of the civil service.)

But the Republicans may not continue it. "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service," Gingrich says. "It is coerced voluntarism... It's gimmickry." These are spurious, knee-jerk arguments. National service is induced—not coerced—voluntarism, just as his tax credit for charity would be. And, gimmickry? As if term limits and balanced-budget amendments weren't polyester legislative shortcuts. Programs that work are miracles, not gimmicks. There will be a fight over this. But expect the House Appropriations Committee to follow the speaker's lead and kill national service—which seems the political equivalent of drowning a puppy.



BELEAGUERED: No time for society? RAY F. HILLSTROM JR.

Conservatives seem to want Victorian charity, but who has the time?

10TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

January 30, 1995, Monday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: VIEWPOINTS; Jesse James; Pg. 11A

LENGTH: 749 words

HEADLINE: Hey, Newt, quit picking on Americorps

BYLINE: Jesse James

BODY:

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. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an Americorps member. And I'm going to get things done."

Twenty-three thousand energetic, mostly young people have taken that oath and are in fact getting things done in hundreds of communities across the country including Dallas. They are the members of President Clinton's national service program, Americorps.

The Americorps participants work full- or part-time at community agencies for minimum wage. They can work up to two years in one of four areas: education, environmental protection, public safety, or health and human services. In return, they receive \$ 4,725 annually to help offset college or vocational training costs.

Mr. Clinton introduced one Americorps member during his State of the Union address last week. A high school dropout who had gotten married and had four children, Cindy Perry has since received her high school equivalency certificate and will use her Americorps money for college.

In mentioning Ms. Perry, the president was sending the strongest possible message that his national service program not only will change communities for the better, it also will improve the lives of those who are lending a hand.

Mr. Clinton is touting the year-old program because House Speaker Newt Gingrich and other budget-conscious Republicans have targeted it. Mr. Gingrich, in a recent interview with Newsweek, put the administration on notice: I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service. It is coerced voluntarism. . . . It's gimmickry."

Nonsense. The members aren't coerced. Members come to the program primarily because they want to help their communities. If they didn't, they wouldn't work for minimum wage. And, excuse me, but \$ 4,725 didn't go too far toward getting a college degree the last time I checked.

Individuals voluntarily sign up for our armed forces and the Peace Corps because they want to serve. Our military personnel are paid for their

service, and rightly so. Peace Corps volunteers are paid a stipend as well. Americorps is no different. So what is the gimmick?

Still, Republicans like Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa are critical of the program because, he says, it seeks to federally bureaucratize voluntarism, thereby standing the concept on its head." In truth, only 100 people work for the Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the program.

Americorps is a model of decentralization. A third of the program's funding is doled out to several national nonprofit groups, while the remainder goes to state commissions. The states in turn award grants to local organizations, which recruit and hire the Americorps members. Locally, the Greater Dallas Community of Churches has hired 49 people to tutor, teach alternatives to violence, improve access to health care and reduce hunger.

The decentralized aspect of the program is what prompted 16 House Republicans to send a letter to their colleagues in 1993 asking them to support legislation establishing the program. The president's proposal is structured as a Republican would have structured it, and . . . it deserves broad Republican support," the letter said.

Mr. Grassley also claims the program is too expensive, arguing that the per-member cost is at least \$ 30,000. Yet the head of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Eli Segal, says the annual expense is actually less than \$ 20,000. That includes a \$ 7,200 living allowance, the \$ 4,725 scholarship and roughly \$ 7,000 in health care, child care and other administrative costs.

All told, Americorps is expected to cost \$ 1.5 billion during the next three years. Sure, that sounds high at first. But let's consider the benefits of the program like immunizing 104,000 Texas children, as 80 members did, or providing a second chance for kids who have been on drugs or dropped out of school. No other single program can buy as much for the money.

That is the kind of cost-benefit analysis Republicans ought to be doing. That is the kind of cost-benefit analysis that can get things done in this country.

Jesse James is an editorial writer and columnist for The Dallas Morning News.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: January 31, 1995

MEDIA ADVISORY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 23, 1995

CONTACT: J. TOSCANO
202-606-5000 ext 277

AmeriCorps National Service

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
★ SERVICE

CONGRESSIONAL PEACE CORPS ALUMNI & ELI SEGAL WELCOME AMERICORPS MEMBERS TO CAPITOL

Eli Segal, Assistant to the President and CEO of the Corporation for National Service (CNS), will be joined by a bipartisan group of U.S. Representatives who once served in the Peace Corps, to welcome four AmeriCorps Members and the Kansas City, MO Police Chief to the U.S. Capitol on the day of the President's State of the Union address. The five will be guests of the White House for the address.

"These members of Congress come from both sides of the aisles and all walks of life. What they share is a personal knowledge of how service builds character while it rebuilds communities," said Segal. "Likewise, these AmeriCorps Members come from all across our country. This 'domestic Peace Corps' has enabled them to give a hand to their communities, and get a hand paying for college. Taking responsibility and earning opportunity – that is what AmeriCorps is all about."

WHO: The Honorable Eli Segal, Assistant to the President and CNS CEO; Representatives Mike Ward (D-KY), Christopher Shays (R-CT), Tony P. Hall (D-OH), James T. Walsh (R-NY), and Sam Farr (D-CA).

They will be joined by Kansas City, MO Police Chief Steven C. Bishop; and AmeriCorps Members Laron Field from Kansas City, Missouri; Cindy Perry from Simpson County, Kentucky; Colin Yost, from Portland, Oregon, and Philip Wu, originally from Staten Island, New York, now living and working in Miami, Florida.

WHAT: News Conference

WHERE: House triangle, U.S. Capitol

WHEN: 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 24th, 1995

WHY: To introduce the AmeriCorps Members and Kansas City Police Chief who will be guests of the White House at the State of the Union address, and for Congressional Peace Corps alumni to comment on their support for AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps is the new national service program created with bipartisan support in 1993. Through AmeriCorps, Americans of all ages and backgrounds engage in educational, environmental, public safety, and human service and earn awards of nearly \$5000 per year to help pay for college or job training. To date, nearly 200,000 people have expressed an interest in service.

AmeriCorps is not a mandate for states, communities, or individuals: it is a voluntary partnership with 50 states and 450 community organizations around the country, including the Red Cross, Children's Health Fund, the YMCA, and the New York Police Department. AmeriCorps Members work as partners with teachers, pastors, and police officers who are already improving our communities.

1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000
Fax 202-606-4906

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

**Remarks of Eli J. Segal
"Strengthening the Partnership"
December 6, 1994**

Welcome everybody. A special welcome to the folks here with us for the first time, our State Commission chairs and the representatives of the new Governors.

I'd like to begin with a story . . .

A few weeks ago, I travelled to South Philadelphia to visit a tremendous YouthBuild program there. It's a real model for building up low-income housing in the streets, and building up lives in the community. On the walk over, an elderly man named [John] Ryan introduced himself as a ward committeeman who'd served in South Philly for thirty years. He knew my name, and he knew all about AmeriCorps. Because he had served in the Civilian Conservation Corps 60 years ago.

Mr. Ryan and I went to YouthBuild and met with four people in the program. I talked to the kids a little bit about their great work, which they seemed plenty eager to get back to. But then I introduced Mr. Ryan and when he started to talk about his experiences a half century earlier, the eyes of those AmeriCorps Members locked on to him, their bodes froze, and they connected like long-lost family. Together they talked about what service meant to them: contributing to their communities, taking responsibility for themselves, and doing their families proud. And When I casually asked Mr. Ryan whether he still had his CCC uniform, he paused, pulled out his wallet, and dug out his enrollment card from the Civilian Conservation Corps. The year was 1935.

I tell that story to help all of us see the forest through the trees: National service is special, and it unites people like nothing else. Service helps our communities become whole. And it helps each of us as individuals become whole as well.

But if Mr. Ryan speaks to our collective conscience, he also speaks for our collective doubt. This man brought memories from 1935 to forge a bond across four wars and eleven Presidents with people one-quarter his age. We have to ask ourselves: Will the young people serving today be able to stretch the ties that bind to the year 2055? And unlike the CCC that ended with World War II, will AmeriCorps grow as they do?

If our uncertainties are high, for me the hopes are higher still. We have a lot to be proud of in 1994. Not long ago, national service was just an inspiring promise of an obscure Governor from Arkansas. But with President Clinton's leadership, we have taken AmeriCorps from the poetry to the prose.

Today, there are 20,000 diverse AmeriCorps Members in the streets of America.

Today, there are 47 state commissions tapped into a powerful network of grass roots groups.

Today, 91 percent of the American people like the idea of AmeriCorps. More and more are seeing us succeed every day.

So we should be very proud. As I told the President a few days ago, we owe much of our success to the close partnership among the people in this room. But now is not the time to rest on our laurels. A successful start-up is a case study, not a success. The real test comes in roll out: to spread what works, correct what doesn't, and make AmeriCorps an integral part of American life.

The November elections only make this work more urgent. It's true that some in the new congressional majority just dismiss national service.

But there are many who strongly support AmeriCorps, and many more who like the idea, worry about the details and are waiting to see the results. And if we don't deliver--getting things done, building community, and encouraging responsibility, all in a cost-effective manner--if we don't do that, we can all go home. In fact, if we don't do that, we will all be sent home.

I used to ask people to imagine testifying before Senator Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas. Well, I won't ask you to imagine that any more. I'll ask you to prepare. She is a tough but fair Senator, yet a year ago, she said she feared AmeriCorps would become, quote, *"too costly and too bureaucratic."* We have got to allay her fears--every single day.

It will be a challenge. But we should welcome the challenge as an incentive to excellence. After all, our theme today is partnership, not partisanship. The partnerships in this room today can yield partnerships in Congress for years to come.

But in the very next year, we'll face two fundamental challenges. Let me focus on those.

The first is raising quality. Throughout this process, we've consciously focused on making AmeriCorps better rather than making it bigger. That's a political imperative, because Congress won't stand for a weak program. But quality is also a **moral** imperative, because Americans

deserve better than make-work assignments, bored participants, and wasted dollars. Americans deserve a program working block-by-block, neighborhood-by-neighborhood, truly changing America.

Let me name three things we mean by quality.

First: Getting things done. AmeriCorps has to be about doing real work, meeting serious needs, and demonstrating clear results. We have to show that this thing works--with higher test scores, lower crime rates, more kids who are immunized, fewer houses that are unsafe.

You'll hear a lot about getting things done today and tomorrow. For now, it means results. And it means a recruitment and retention plan which emphasizes both diversity and careful matching of skills and experience. And it means a strong fundraising plan which emphasizes community buy-ins.

Second: Quality means a compelling Member experience. Customer satisfaction is the term they use in business, and businesses with unhappy customers close up shop. Every Member should be able to recommend AmeriCorps to a friend.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DATE

REFERENCE SLIP

13-4-95

TO

Joel Berg

☐ ACTION☐ NOTE AND RETURN☐ APPROVAL☐ PER PHONE CALL☒ AS REQUESTED☐ RECOMMENDATION☐ FOR COMMENT☐ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF☐ FOR INFORMATION☐ RETURNED☐ INITIALS☐ SEE ME☐ NOTE AND FILE☐ YOUR SIGNATURE

REMARKS

Attached please
find the news
article you requested.
It was sent to on Dec 4
but was returned 2-20-96.
We are going to try to
again

FROM

Jim Sheehy, DC NRCS

Director

(Continued from page 1)

around here, I think, take for granted that the Dust Bowl is a thing of the past, but it is because we have conservation," he said.

"AmeriCorps can get things done that are critical," Berg said of the program's projects. "To have a crew spending a year doing this is unusual," but the program is tailored to the needs of each state and community, he explained.

Berg said that people of all political backgrounds support the program. "It's a common sense American view."

Berg said that AmeriCorps members are not replacing volunteers in the work that they do. "A year of this is back-breaking work and they get basically minimum wage. Most here (on the Woodward team) will use the educational benefits in some way."

The program provides financial or vocational

education after the team member's term of service.

LeRoy Tull, assistant state conservationist and director of the Oklahoma teams, visited with the Woodward team on Adams' land Wednesday, also. He said that last year the three western Oklahoma teams worked on 45 shelter/windbreaks totaling 20 miles in length. They planted 10,000 trees in the windbreaks and another 50,000 in Oklahoma communities in the areas where they were located.

Adams said that, although he was only four years old at the time, he can remember the building of the terraces for the windbreak on his land. "I remember seeing those guys with the shovels." He also remembered that a bridge built on another part of the property at the same time uncovered a safe stolen from Sharon.

Jim Shearheart of the Soil Conservation Service, director of the Woodward team, estimated that another two weeks of work will complete the project there and the team will concentrate its efforts on work in Buffalo after that.

Members of the Woodward team are Mike Clark, Mooreland; Justin Charboneau, Woodward; Tony Lovelace, Alva; Jeana Freeman, Woodward; and Sally Williamson, Gage.



AMERICORPS TEAM WORK: The Woodward AmeriCorps team watches as national director Joel Berg saws wood in a windbreak east of Sharon Wednesday afternoon. Berg visited the group at work restoring the tree shelter planted in the 1930s on land owned by Walter Adams. Team members are, from left, Tony Lovelace, Alva; Jeana Freeman, Woodward; Sally Williamson, Gage; Mike Clark, Mooreland; and Justin Charboneau, Woodward.

(Photo by Nancy Seher)

AmeriCorps Director Visits Area

By Nancy Seher
Staff Writer

Joel Berg is Director of National Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As chief of the AmeriCorps program, he is making his second tour of field teams during the program's second year in existence.

In the first year of the program, Berg visited AmeriCorps teams in 30 states. This year he is touring 45

states to see team members in action.

Last week Berg stopped in Kansas. Helping Woodward team members clear dead wood in a windbreak east of Sharon Wednesday, Berg was visiting his third team in Oklahoma since Monday. And tomorrow he will travel to Claremore to see a conservation education team.

All three teams in western Oklahoma work on revitalizing windbreaks planted during the

1930s by the Works Project Administration. Last year they received one of six awards for Outstanding AmeriCorps Environmental Project.

The Woodward team is clearing wood and brush in a half mile-long break on Walter Adams' land east of Sharon. They also work on a windbreak near Buffalo.

Berg connected AmeriCorps and conservation in general. "People

(See Director on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

to attempt to determine if Short could have been killed by one of the other escapees, one of whom escaped after being transferred to Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester and reportedly killed a man while he was free.

Wyscaver had no idea how long it would take to positively identify the remains.

[Houston Chronicle]

Let it grow, let it grow



Jam Alderson, left, and Bennie Billington spread grass seed while AmeriCorps Houston workers plant grass along Buffalo Bayou in

Sesquicentennial Park. The project is part of a plan to beautify areas along the bayou and control erosion.

Buster Dean / Chronicle

100%
PRESERVATION

A generation... who

My generation? You're kidding me, right? What I see of my generation is a quite a few enthusiastic young adults making America a better place to live by participating in the Americorps program. There are slackers in my age group, but unfortunately there are slackers in every age group.

18-24 is a difficult time in life. It is a time for new beginnings. For many a time to start breaking away from family to become more independent and start thinking of the dreaded adult world. Some think of college, some think about jobs, and still others think about starting families of their own.

The first two options crossed my mind a thousand times, the third I didn't want to cross my mind. I was becoming quite distraught with the thought of rising college tuition costs and how I really didn't have any applicable experience that would help me get a job that paid higher than minimum wage. Soon the thought of living with my parents for the rest of my life scared me like nothing else has. I ran, I didn't walk, down to the employment agency to find a job, any job.

And there it was, the Americorps brochure. I picked it up and began to read. As I read on I thought it was just a little too good to be true. Room and board is

provided for a small fee. A living stipend, health insurance, and an educational award for \$4,725 (once 1812 hours of service are completed) are part of the program, too. You have your choice of fields: environmental, public safety, human services, or education. I had always preferred the outdoor lifestyle to the every day hustle of city life, so the environmental division called my name.

"I'd rather wake up in the middle of nowhere than in any city on earth." - Steve McQueen

We are now in the third month of the first year of Americorps' existence. Much time and energy went into the planning stages. There were endless forms, proposals to write, loop holes to deal with, and trips back and forth to Washington D.C. to convince those government types that the Americorps program deserves as much funding as possible.

Everyone should realize what has been accomplished and what is done daily to keep Americorps running. Americorps doesn't only benefit those who are members; it benefits all people who will be affected by the projects.

The Rogue River Americorps began on November 1, 1994. If everything runs as planned, we will have completed the first program by early September of 1995.

There are many Americorps crews all over the United States doing various types of work to improve life as we know it, and "Get things done." Nationwide there are about 20,000 members, 32 of which are based in the Rogue River National Forest.

I really hadn't realized just how much the Rogue River National Forest Americorps has accomplished, as a whole, until now. I hope everyone else takes time to reflect and be proud of the things we are getting done. I look forward to every minute of every day to come in the next few months with Americorps.

Project Highlights

fisheries habitat

by Tim Dodge

Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife biologists face a major problem when trying to establish stable populations of warm water game fish in man-made reservoirs. High numbers of juvenile fish are eaten by the larger fish, mainly due to lack of cover and shelter to protect them from predators. One proven solution is to build protective structures for those fish. Various materials are used, ranging from old Christmas trees to brush cleared from timber stands. The structures act very much like a coral reef or dense weed bed, providing protection and corridors for the fish.

Americorps crews had the opportunity to help build new structures such as these, as well as to improve existing ones, to benefit largemouth bass and other warm water species in the Applegate Reservoir. The crews saw the projects through all stages: cutting manzanita to build the structures, hauling the bushes into the lakebed, drilling the holes for the cables, and securing the new structures on the lakebed. Working with the help of biologists, an estimated four thousand pieces of manzanita were placed, coating much of the upper Squaw arm of Applegate Lake with ideal habitat until they attain a size where they are not so heavily preyed upon.

Later, corps members will go back and check how well the structures are working by snorkeling in the area, or trying out their luck with a rod and reel. These structures could be a blessing or a curse for the fishermen at the reservoir. They can mean more fish to smart fishermen, or more objects to snag their line on.



Food banks' stock off, demand up

By Richard Wolf **A1**
USA TODAY 10/13/97

Donations are down, and demand is up at the nation's food banks this year, threatening their ability to help millions.

Second Harvest, a nonprofit charity that runs most of the nation's food banks, says demand has risen 15% in a year, while supplies are down 5% over two years.

The combination has caused some food pantries and soup kitchens to close, reduce their hours or ration supplies.

"Some of our food pantries are empty for the first time," says Lisa Carr of Catholic Charities USA.

The rising demand for food stems largely from cuts in the federal food stamp program. Last year's welfare reform law cut \$27 billion in projected spending over six years.

Nearly 500,000 able-bodied adults without children began losing food stamps in March. More than 900,000 legal immigrants who are not citizens lost food stamps in September.

At the same time, donations to Second Harvest continue to drop. That's largely because technological advances in the food industry mean less waste.

"Food banking lives on the dark side of the food industry. We get the mistakes," says Tina Osso, director of Shared Harvest Foodbank in Fairfield, Ohio. "Unfortunately, they're making less of them."

Some food banks are battling back, replacing lost dry goods with fresh produce and fish, staging more food drives and gleaning unpicked crops.

"It's right out of the Old Testament," says Dave Krepcho of Daily Bread Food Bank in Miami. "We literally get hundreds of volunteers, go out into a cornfield, and pick fresh corn."

Food banks running on empty

Volunteers forced to get 'very creative'

By Richard Wolf **A3**
USA TODAY 10/13/97

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. — The waiting room in the front of the Albemarle Manna Food Bank is more crowded than the warehouse out back.

In the front, hungry people such as David Davenport and his infant son, Dustin, shuffle in at 11 a.m. for plastic bags of groceries.

In the back, Bill Beck and other volunteers fill the bags from near-empty shelves with what passes for a day's rations: a can of Vienna sausages, two tiny plastic cups of apple sauce, pretzels, cookies, candy bars and a bottle of Gatorade.

"We haven't had soup in here for oh, gee, a month," Beck says. "We have to get creative, very creative."

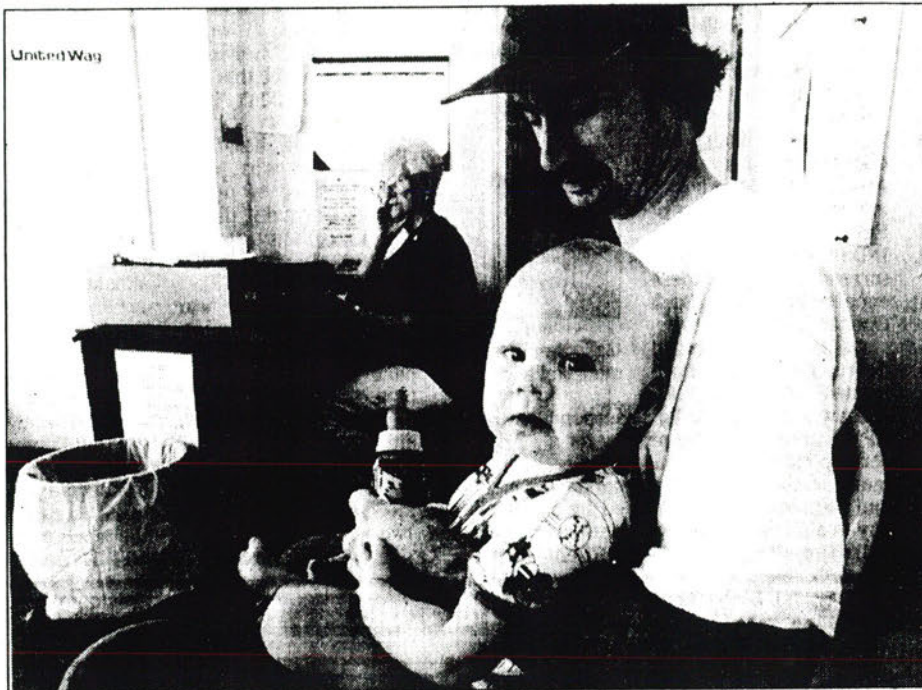
The laws of supply and demand have not been kind this year to the nation's food banks. The nonprofit banks, numbering about 200, rely mainly on more than \$1 billion worth of surplus groceries a year from the food industry.

The banks distribute the food to 50,000 agencies serving the hungry.

But with supplies down and demand up, the food banks have provided the pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters with less and less nutritious food.

Those agencies, in turn, have reduced what they provide to the nation's most vulnerable citizens.

There are plenty of vulnerable citizens in Elizabeth City and the 15 counties in north-



Going hungry: David Davenport, 29, and his son, Dustin, wait for groceries at Albemarle Manna Food Bank in Elizabeth City, N.C. "Most times, I eat one time a day now," Davenport says.

eastern North Carolina served by the Albemarle food bank. One in five people here lives below the federal poverty line, about \$15,000 a year for a family of four.

The food bank is typical of those across the country. It serves 76 agencies, up from 63 last year. In the past three months it has received 209,000 pounds of food and distributed 263,000, including what it already had in the warehouse. Much of its warehouse is empty. Too many of the remaining boxes contain sugary cereals and snack foods.

The food pantry out front gave out 1,581 bags of food this summer, up from 1,245 last year. Last week it was out of milk, canned fruit, tuna fish

and baked beans, and it was down to its last can of Spam.

Migrant workers no longer are served; lunch bags are given out only Tuesdays and Thursdays.

As a result, about 20 hungry souls head for the soup kitchen at Tabernacle of Faith Church on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"They get mad with me," says the Rev. Oliver Robinson. "I don't have enough food to give them."

At the end of the food chain are folks such as Davenport. The 29-year-old husband and father worked for 12 years at a garden center before injuring his back and losing his job. Unable to make ends meet on his wife's part-time salary, he has

applied for food stamps.

"Most times, I eat one time a day now," he says.

Nina White, 47, does the same thing. She lost \$120 in monthly food stamps this summer as a result of federal cuts.

White is allowed to visit the food pantry once a week for a three-day supply. "I run out in between, but I just do the best I can," she says.

The cuts in the federal food stamp program have caused demand for free food to swell nationwide.

The number of clients has grown 38% in Harrisburg, Pa.; 37% in Newport News, Va.; 20% in Springfield, Mo.; and 10% in Detroit and Nashville.

New technologies in the food industry have cut waste and

overstocking, making it more difficult for Second Harvest's national network of 185 banks to keep shelves full. Supplies are down 15% in Cleveland and 10% in Tulsa. In Oregon, 12 pantries have closed, nine have reduced hours and 27 have further rationed customers.

The combination of less welfare and less waste has left food banks and pantries to forage for food wherever they can find it.

► Albemarle gets deer from area hunters, peanuts and potatoes from local farmers, and squash and carrots from a prison garden. It takes tuna from North Carolina's Outer Banks after it has been tested by the New England Aquarium. It pays to have food shipped from food banks as far as Maryland and Pennsylvania.

► Montana's food pantries tried to get dead cattle, but the federal government blocked the program. They tried to get wild game and buffalo, but that effort has become a political hot potato. In the meantime, customers are getting angry, and some pantries have increased security.

► The Maryland Food Bank in Baltimore is trucking in frozen salmon from the Pacific Northwest and gleaning sweet potatoes from area farms. In addition, director Bill Ewing says, "We have a food drive going on almost every waking moment of the day."

► The Middle Georgia Community Food Bank in Macon is trying to raise money to set up a traveling cannery for gleaned produce. For now, supplies are down 20%, and the biggest local donor is Frito-Lay. Says the Rev. Mason Davis of Macon Baptist Association Pantry, "You can't live off potato chips and crackers."

► Supply and demand, 1A

the east Bay Window

Section B East Bay Newspapers September 4-5, 1996

EXHIBIT B

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From Dust to Dinner



Brian (above) is absolutely giddy over the fresh corn he's about to cook up at Lucy's Hearth, a Middletown refuge for abused women and their families. Looming large as one of the gleaning program's biggest contributors is farmer Stephen DeCastro (top right).



Federal program turns once wasted crops into meals for the needy

By Scott Pickering

Think of them as modern-day Robin Hoods — with a few, subtle differences.

"They" are Americorps workers, young adults who earn money for college by doing manual labor on behalf of the federal government.

What they do — there are three in Rhode Island — is travel around the state, taking from the "rich" and bringing gifts to the "poor." The rich in this case are the produce-rich, the farmers whose fields are teeming with acres of vegetables, much of it unusable for the consumer market.

The poor are literally the poor, those who depend upon homeless shelters, soup kitchens and social service refuges to regularly provide meals, sustenance, sanity and life.

These Americorps workers (again, there are three of them in Rhode Island) drive from farm to farm and gather up baskets, bushels and armfuls of leftover produce — produce that is too small, too big or slightly bruised and cannot be sold in the market. They take corn and potatoes, squash and zucchini, tomatoes and beans.

By the truckload, they drive the baskets, bushels and armfuls to area shelters and to soup kitchens.

From there, the food is given to the needy. It is sliced up, buttered, put in the oven or on the grill, served on plates or devoured by hand, often within a one-day period. Thus, in less than 24 hours, the food usually goes from vine and field to plate and stomach — a shorter turnover than the majority of supermarkets can offer.

The operation, given the national title "Summer of Gleaning," has been taking place all this summer throughout Rhode Island. This is the first time it has taken place in this state, so there have been some

rough spots. Establishing a regular schedule with farmers has been difficult; convincing farmers of their group's good intentions sometimes more difficult.

But the operation has begun to work, and the results are measured in tons: 30,000 tons of produce, picked from local farms and given to local shelters.

"It's been very successful," said Patricia Seites, program coordinator with the US Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency.

Ms Seites has overseen the project, but a majority of the work and daily organization is done by the three Americorps workers. All three of them — Christine Lavalley of Lincoln, a senior at St Anselm's College in New Hampshire; Stephanie Magnan of Woonsocket, a recent

See **PRODUCE**, page 2

INSIDE

Pack a grade A school lunch

Cooks Corner

6



With a howl and yelp, we pause for pets

8

PHOTOCOPY
BY [illegible]

Gleaning program saved 30,000 tons of produce

► **PRODUCE**, from page 1

Syracuse University graduate; and Armin Graf of West Greenwich, a recent University of Rhode Island graduate — have adapted to a chaotic schedule that has them darting around the state, essentially at the beck and call of the farmers.

"We really opened ourselves up to the farmers to call us whenever they want," said Ms Lavallee, who this week went back to school in New Hampshire.

The Americorps team has no other choice than to come when called; they risk losing the produce to the farmer's plow or to other natural scavengers if they do not.

In the East Bay, one farm has called more often and been a more consistent contributor than any other. DeCastro Farm, located off East Main Road in Portsmouth, has regularly opened a portion of its fields to the Americorps team. The team has "gleaned" — gathered from the fields — loads of zucchini, mountains of squash and piles of cabbage from the DeCastro farm.

"The DeCastros have just been tremendous supporters," said Ms Lavallee.

However, the DeCastros have not been the only contributors. The Americorps team has gathered food from farmer Edward Jerome in Tiverton, the Carvalho potato farm in Portsmouth and from Coll Walker in Little Compton.

Why have the farmers been so willing to give away their produce? Stephen DeCastro answers that with a "why not?"

"We don't have to do anything," said Mr DeCastro. "I don't have to do one thing."

The DeCastros, and other farmers, are benefiting because areas of their fields are cleared for free. And the crop the farmers are giving up is crop they have already given up on anyway.

The Americorps team is typically invited into a field after it has already been picked through by the farmers. All the food considered acceptable for the market has already been removed, and the remaining crops are considered "seconds," or second quality.

However, everyone connected with the operation will defend the integrity of second-quality produce. Second quality, they say, means the food has small blemishes that would keep the average consumer from buying it.

"It's still edible, but we can't put it out," said Mr DeCastro.

The zucchini may be too big, the corn a little too small. The squash may be too square, or the cucumber a little bruised on one end. For whatever reason, the vegetable will not sell in the average supermarket or farmstand, where consumers endlessly pore through their vegetables, squeezing them, shaking them and finally selecting the brightest, shiniest and most perfectly shaped of the bunch.



Americorps workers Stephanie Magnan, Armin Graf and Christine Lavallee (from left to right), with project director Patricia Seites (right), gather squash from a DeCastro Farm field.

"This is very good stuff. Sometimes it's got little, brown spots on the outside, but there's nothing wrong on the inside," said Ms Lavallee.

"I wouldn't want to give to somebody what I wouldn't use myself," Ms Lavallee continued. "95 percent of this is perfectly good produce."

Perfect or not, the food is glorious to Jane Martin. Ms Martin is chef and food service manager for the Martin Luther King Center in Newport, which serves free hot

breakfasts five days a week and distributes food through a food pantry and other charitable organizations.

"This is good food," said Ms Martin, echoing what was said by the others. And it's fresh food.

"We don't usually get fresh food," she said. Naturally, the vast majority of typical donated foods are canned goods and perishable items. Fresh produce is like gold.

"This is picked that morning and it's brought right here," Ms Martin said. "Having something fresh really makes a difference."

What would happen to the food if it were not gleaned by the Americorps team? Nothing. Typically, the food is trashed — plowed under and chopped up as fodder for the next growing season.

So giving away the food is no burden on the farmers. The Americorps team is saving what would be destroyed anyway; and what they save is only a portion of the discarded produce that is out there. The teams takes as much as it can, gives to the shelters as

much as the shelters can distribute, and still tons of edible food is chopped up and returned to the soil.

"If we rescued 30 tons, that's probably only a fraction of what every year goes to waste," said Ms Lavallee.

Another local recipient of the program is Lucy's Hearth, a Middletown shelter for battered women and their families. Betty Wright, director of Lucy's Hearth, said the fresh food has been a blessing, especially in lean times. She added that many other benefactors regularly contribute to the shelter, but the Americorps program has been a new and welcomed addition this summer.

The women who find shelter at Lucy's Hearth take turns cooking the evening meals for everyone. Ms Wright said the new produce has been a big part of another charitable donation — free weekly lessons by Lisa Kenyon, who teaches the women new and different ways to cook the food. The fresh food and the fresh ideas have gone hand in hand.

Givers also receive

Just as the homeless and hungry have benefited from the program, so too have the givers.

The Americorps workers do not receive a salary, but at the end of the summer they are given a stipend of about \$2,400, to be used for college tuition or to repay college loans. The Americorps program itself is a President Bill Clinton project that was initially cut from this year's budget, but was later reinstated.

Aside from the financial benefits of the program (which they earn for working 40-hour weeks), the Americorps workers also say they take a measure of satisfaction in their duties.

"It's nice, because we see people directly receiving our produce," said Ms Lavallee.

For their part, the farmers also benefit. After giving away their produce, they are given a written receipt by the Americorps team, documenting exactly how much food was donated. A stack of charitable receipts should be helpful come tax time.

But, of course, tax breaks are not all they get.

"What they're doing with the produce is a good thing," said Mr DeCastro. "If there's something I can do to help someone, I'll do it."

He and many others already have.

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QUINCY HERALD WHIG
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APRIL 28, 1995

Team maps rural part of county

Starr McDaniles and Darlene Ivarson attract some attention as they drive slowly through rural Adams County townships and study each building.

People ask if they're out looking for mushrooms or if they're lost and need help.

Sometimes the situation is reversed. "We get flagged down and asked for directions," Ivarson said.

Whether they can answer the question or not, they're working to make sure people get to the right place in emergency situations.

McDaniles and Ivarson are part of a five-member AmeriCorps team "mapping" each building and its address throughout Adams County. They're taking the first steps toward an enhanced 911 system that automatically supplies an address for the emergency site.

The crews first mapped existing addresses for homes and buildings in the county's 13 incorporated villages and some townships.

"It lays the groundwork to assign addresses to everybody in the county," said Mark Warren with Klingner & Associates. "All addresses will be street-style addresses like in Quincy."

"It's tedious and time-consuming. It requires a great deal of concentration," said crew member Bob Gillespy. "After a while my vision blurred from marking little houses on the map and looking ahead, then going back to check stuff."

Omaha World-Herald

Living

Tuesday, September 27, 1994 Page 27

FAMILY & FRIENDS



CLEANUP CREW: Omahan Chad Helmke and Dianna Waters of Lincoln scoop glass in a parking lot at Omaha's Zorinsky Lake. They are in their second week in the AmeriCorps environmental program.

RHONDA STANSBERRY/THE WORLD-HERALD

Serving Their Country

Youths Earn, Learn in AmeriCorps National Service Program

BY RHONDA STANSBERRY
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Omahan Chad Helmke has staked out a future in natural resources. And to gain experience, he is turning to AmeriCorps.

Helmke, 21, looked for work with the U.S. Park Service but was unsuccessful. He said he considers himself lucky, though, to have worked for the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and now AmeriCorps.

Volunteers in the new national service program receive fieldwork experience in addition to a living stipend, personal health-care benefits and, upon completion of 1,812 hours of work, a \$4,725 educational award. The award may be applied to student loans or college tuition.

AmeriCorps was launched earlier this month by the Clinton administration. Nationwide, the domestic service corps expects to enroll 20,000 people in programs geared toward education, public safety,

human needs and the environment.

Helmke will be one of 20 people on Nebraska's AmeriCorps-USDA environmental team. Craig Derickson, project director of Team USDA, said five-member teams will work in the Omaha area as well as three others—Lincoln, Norfolk and Tecumseh.

Also under the AmeriCorps umbrella is the Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service, which will employ 23 people to work with youngsters between ages 10 and 15 in schools throughout the state.

Those who wish to apply may contact one of nine community action agencies, the Office of Dispute Resolution in Lincoln or one of six mediation centers throughout the state, said Fayette Carpenter, interim director.

The community service commission focuses on youths, Ms. Carpenter said, but "there will be no upper age limit" for the volunteers.

"They must be at least 17 and cannot have dropped out of high school. They also must have a high school

diploma or agree to earn a high school equivalency degree," she said. "And there are no income guidelines. This is not a poverty program. It applies to everyone."

In addition, AmeriCorps has absorbed VISTA, a well-established anti-poverty program.

Seventy-five volunteers will be hired for the three Nebraska programs, AmeriCorps spokesmen said. Iowa will have 158 positions, said Jody Heuberger, state program coordinator.

Helmke, a part-time student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in natural resources, said he wasted no time applying when he heard about the program.

AmeriCorps programs are in various stages of readiness, project directors said. Marilyn Anderson, the Omaha AmeriCorps project supervisor and Helmke's immediate supervisor, said she had one more position to fill as late as last week.

Helmke said he believes his 10- to 12-month AmeriCorps stint "will be a great resume builder and

Please turn to Page 31, Col. 1

WILSON
PRESERVATION

AmeriCorps Summer Gleaning Projects

California (Rural Development) will use six Members in Watsonville and King County to provide fresh produce to over 5,500 people.

Contact: Toni Symonds (916) 668-2025

Connecticut (Rural Development/FSA) will conduct a joint project using four Members that will serve at least 100 needy families and enhance the relationship between local farmers and community food banks. The Connecticut project will focus on the Hartford and New Haven areas.

Contact: Richard Burke (RD) (413) 253-4319
Vincent Majchiers (FSA/CT) (860) 285-8483

District of Columbia/Northern Virginia (Food and Consumer Service), under the leadership of the Congressional Hunger Center (CHC), will implement a gleaning and perishable food rescue program in Washington, D.C. and the Northern Virginia area to provide meals and fresh produce to residents of the District (through the D.C. Central Kitchen) and Arlington (through the Arlington Food Assistance Center). This project will utilize three Members, who will work as an adjunct to the District of Columbia's existing USDA/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team.

Contact: Joshua Yates (CHC) (202) 547-7022

Georgia (Rural Development) will provide 2 Members to work closely with the Atlanta Community Food Bank in accomplishing the first-ever food rescue project associated with the Olympic Games. This project anticipates providing approximately 25,000 meals to city distribution centers every day during the event.

Contact: Donnie Thomas (RD) (706) 546-2171

Illinois (FSA) will, with the addition of only two new AmeriCorps Members, expand its gleaning project in Mason County to include most of Southern Illinois, resulting in a program that will provide the local soup kitchens and food banks, which serve a total of more than 8,500 people daily, with an additional 5 tons of produce.

Contact: Rod Atterberry (309) 543-2852

Indiana (Rural Development) will focus on providing nutritious foods to 10 new "Kids' Cafes" (that serve low-income and homeless children), spearheaded by the efforts of six AmeriCorps Members who will coordinate both food rescue and farm gleaning efforts in rural and urban areas. Terre Haute and Indianapolis are the main focus areas for the Indiana project.

Contact: Kelly Barmann or (317) 290-3104
Sharon Zapata

Iowa (FSA) will use three Members in the Model City area of Des Moines (A HUD Enterprise Community) to establish a gleaning and food rescue program that will also emphasize nutrition education and neighborhood gardens.

Contact: Kevin Fitzpatrick (515) 386-3138

Kentucky (Rural Development) will focus on the Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone in Eastern Kentucky, where six Members will glean and distribute excess crops to at least 100 local families, who will also be provided with training to improve the nutritional value of their meals through the addition of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Contact: Louis Elliott

(502) 633-0891

Maryland (FSA) will use four Members, in partnership with the 3,000-volunteer Washington Area Gleaning Network, to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to needy families in the Baltimore area.

Contact: Jim Voss

(410) 381-4550

John Ciekot (Member Issues)

(410) 366-8533

George Roche (Volunteers)

(301) 879-1484

Michigan (FSA) will use six Members, two of whom will be stationed in Detroit to coordinate an urban perishable food rescue effort as well as distribute some fresh produce to local food banks. Another four Members will work in the East Lansing area to recover fresh fruits and vegetables from farms after the mechanical harvesting is completed, provide these foods to the local food distribution center (run by the Red Cross), and take an active part in educating the recipients about the proper preparation and storage of the foods they receive.

Contact: Sandi Ramos

(517) 337-6660, ext.1212

Mississippi (Rural Development) will, through the joint efforts of four new AmeriCorps Members and the newest USDA AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Project, work to provide fresh foods, poultry, and nutrition education to 425 families in the Mississippi Delta Empowerment Zone and nearby counties.

Contact: Bettye Oliver

(601) 965-5460

Missouri (FSA) will sponsor a 5-Member farm gleaning project near Kansas City, MO, that will serve nearly 400 poor, primarily elderly individuals this summer.

Contact: Cindy White

(816) 776-5861

New Jersey (Extension Service) will use five Members, in partnership with the Bonner Foundation and many other partners, to provide fresh produce to the southern New Jersey food bank network (Atlantic, Cumberland, Burlington, and Camden Counties) and over 100 families, with a secondary goal of effectively reducing crop waste.

Contact: Joni Elliott

(609) 292-8897

New Mexico (Rural Development and FSA) will actually operate two separate projects, one in the Albuquerque area and one in the Four Corners area of the state, with four Members each, and will serve a total of more than 200 soup kitchens, 800 individuals, and over 75 Native American families on the Navajo reservation.

Contact: Lloyd Wilhelm (FSA/Four Corners) (505) 334-3090

John Thomas (RD/Albuquerque) (505) 761-4960

New York (FSA) will use six Members in a five-county area around the state capital of Albany, in partnership with the Albany Service Corps, to provide fresh produce to 20,000 low-income individuals per month in the targeted Capital Region. Activities include maintenance of a large community garden, rescuing produce from local farmers and farmers' markets, and training the staff, volunteers and clients of local food pantries and soup kitchens on the preparation and use of the fresh foods obtained through this project.

Contact: Marc Smith (FSA) (315) 477-6304
Paul Winkeller (518) 434-2677
(Albany Service Corps)

Oregon (Rural Development) will, with six new Members, build on existing efforts by the Oregon Food Bank (Portland/Eugene area) to develop linkages between rural and urban populations, and to serve an additional 100 needy families during the summer months.

Contact: Bruce Kohler (503) 465-6850

Pennsylvania (Rural Development) will use five Members to organize volunteers to serve 200 needy people per day, through the local food banks serving Uniontown/Fayette County, using perishable foods that are rescued from area restaurants and cafeterias.

Contact: Lee Patterson (412) 482-4888

Rhode Island (FSA) will use three Members to serve needy families in the area by enhancing the relationship between local farmers and community food banks, as well as by providing extensive education to the local food bank operators about proper food storage, handling, and preparation techniques. Rhode Island's efforts are centered primarily around Providence.

Contact: Patricia Seites (FSA/RI) (401) 828-8232

Texas (Rural Development) will use five Members to help provide fresh food to 100 families living in the Colonias area inside and near the Rio Grande Empowerment Zone.

Contact: Lorraine Clements (817) 774-1304

Washington (Extension Service) will, with six Members, effectively double the amount of food gleaned from farms in Pierce and Yakima Counties this summer, thus dramatically increasing the number of families that will benefit from these efforts; an innovative partnership with the local cannery will provide job training opportunities for low-income recipients as well as preserved foods that can be distributed during the winter months.

Contact: Dr. Steven Garrett (206) 591-7180

USDA Contacts: Joel Berg, Director of National Service (202) 720-5746
Donna Hines, FCS Anti-Hunger Coordinator (202) 690-0693

NEWS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Communications News Room 460-A
Washington, DC 20250-1300
Internet: News @usda.gov Phone: 202-720-9035
World Wide Web Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0426.96

Joel Berg (202) 720-5746
Amy Hudson (404) 875-8352

170 TONS OF FOOD RECOVERED AT OLYMPICS BY USDA AMERICORPS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7, 1996--The total amount of food recovered from Summer Olympic venues--in a project coordinated by USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps members--has risen to 170 tons of perishable food. The amount of food rescued from the various vendors and venues increased substantially after closing ceremonies for the Games.

The food collected will provide an estimated 226,000 meals, according to the Atlanta Community Food Bank, which, along with the Congressional Hunger Center, served as a prime partner with USDA AmeriCorps on this initiative.

"It is clear that the USDA AmeriCorps effort to recover food from the Olympic Games has been an incredible success. The Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Congressional Hunger Center, and the AmeriCorps members all deserve gold medals in food recovery," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

"This AmeriCorps project is part of a national initiative by USDA to coordinate and promote public and private gleaning and food recovery efforts," Glickman said. "Every year millions of pounds of nutritious, uneaten food are thrown away. It is my highest personal priority to find ways to get this food to the hungry--before it finds its way to the dumpster."

Three of the AmeriCorps members engaged in the project are part of the Department's special 12-week AmeriCorps "Summer of Gleaning" program currently underway in 20 states. Other AmeriCorps members from the Congressional Hunger Center are assisting in the project.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages 25,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

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NOTE: USDA news releases and media advisories are available on the Internet. Access the USDA Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usda.gov>

NEWS

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World Wide Web Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0441.96

Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623
Joel Berg (202) 720-5746

GLICKMAN ANNOUNCES "NATIONAL WEEK OF FOOD RECOVERY" AND EFFORTS AT NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTIONS DURING SACRAMENTO VISIT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14, 1996--During a visit to a food recovery program based in Sacramento, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced today that USDA AmeriCorps members will be recovering food at the Republican and Democratic national political conventions. In addition, USDA AmeriCorps will be organizing a "National Week of Food Recovery" with events next week in over ten states.

Secretary Glickman joined with USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps members who traveled to the California Emergency Foodlink today from other AmeriCorps sites in California in order to help sort and package food. The Secretary also toured the facility to learn about how the organization collects and distributes recovered food statewide.

"Recovering excess food that would normally be discarded is one of my top personal priorities," Glickman said. "The California Emergency Foodlink is an impressive public/private partnership that clearly demonstrates the great potential to expand food recovery efforts throughout the nation."

Glickman announced that, at the Republican National Convention in San Diego, USDA AmeriCorps members sponsored by the Southern California Interfaith Hunger Coalition are currently working with Love's Gift, a San Diego food recovery agency, the American Culinary Federation, and San Diego homeless shelters to collect excess food from restaurants, events, cafeterias, and other convention-related sources and to distribute that food to area residents in need.

At the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Glickman announced, USDA AmeriCorps members sponsored by the Milwaukee Community Service Corps will be working with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and the American Culinary Institute to recover convention-related food.

"It is heartening that USDA AmeriCorps members will be collecting food from both national political conventions for distribution to hungry people in the San Diego and Chicago areas. Hunger does not divide itself by political party, and neither do ways to alleviate hunger. Both AmeriCorps and the USDA food recovery initiative demonstrate that Americans of all backgrounds -- regardless of political belief -- can band together to help tackle some of the nation's most pressing problems through innovative means," said Glickman.

"It is my hope that the 'National Week of Food Recovery' -- August 19 through 25 -- will focus attention not only on what has already been accomplished by the food recovery movement, but on just how much still needs to be done by the nation as a whole. Virtually every American can volunteer time or take some other action to help recover food," said Glickman.

-more-

Both the food recovery effort at the national conventions and the "National Week of Food Recovery" events are being coordinated by AmeriCorps members in the USDA "Summer of Gleaning" program, which is currently underway in 20 states. The program has utilized members in the AmeriCorps national service program to work with numerous locally based anti-hunger groups, youth service corps, food banks, and food recovery organizations throughout the nation.

The "Summer of Gleaning" program played a lead role in recovering over 174 tons of food from venues associated with the Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. Nationally, the USDA AmeriCorps members have recovered over 1,100 tons of food this summer, which will provide about three-quarters of a million meals.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program, passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages over 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of approximately 1,000 members: an anti-hunger team, a public lands and environment team, and a rural development team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to "get things done," while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

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NOTE: USDA news releases and media advisories are available on the Internet. Access the USDA Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usda.gov>

Yakima Herald-Republic

Friday, August 9, 1996

50 cents

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Glean machine

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON



(Staff photos by Kirk Hirota)

Hao Nguyen, front, Sen In, left, and Nicole Vignec, right, were among the AmeriCorps workers gleaning potatoes Wednesday at Bouchey Farms in Toppenish. Ten thousand pounds of produce are being gleaned weekly for area food banks.

AmeriCorps workers, volunteers supplying food banks with 10,000 pounds of food weekly

By JOYE REDFIELD
Of the Herald-Republic

Since late June, volunteers and AmeriCorps workers have gleaned some 10,000 pounds of food each week to benefit local food banks.

In a pilot project sponsored by the Washington State University Cooperative Extension office of Pierce County, fresh and canned foods are filling the shelves of area food banks during this time of harvest.

"Yakima is where the food comes from, so it seemed like a natural place to go," said Maite Marino, AmeriCorps summer gleaning coordinator.

The Pierce County extension service has sponsored a successful gleaning program in the Puyallup Valley for the past six years. This is the first year it has been tried in the Yakima Valley.

So far, donations of cherries, potatoes, carrots, cucumbers and other produce have been supplementing the summer supplies of more than 10 area food banks.

"Ninety percent of the food stays in the community," Marino said. "Some goes to Tacoma."

"It's been great," said Pauline Hunter of the Salvation Army Food Bank. "We don't usually get too many fresh vegetables and things. ... Our clients that come in do appreciate it."

The Salvation Army, which is the largest food bank in the re-



AmeriCorps worker Greg Baldwin, right, helps distribute boxes of gleaned green peppers, cucumbers and tomatoes to area food banks.

gion, serves 50 families a day during the summer, Hunter said. That number swells to 150 families a day after the apple harvest, she added. (Food bank hours are 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is located at Sixth and Yakima avenues.)

Some of the produce, such as cherries and carrots, has been canned at a professional cannery in Kent and will be distributed later in the year by the Emergency Food Network, Marino

said. Local food banks are expected to receive some of those canned goods during the winter months when supplies are usually depleted, she said.

Marino said she is hoping to find an orchardist or storage house willing to donate surplus apples to the canning effort before this year's crop is harvested.

"We need a considerable amount to make it worth it," Marino said. "We can make applesauce ... and bring it back to

the food banks here."

Farms providing produce so far this summer include Inaba Produce Farms of Wapato, Rasmussen and Sons of Granger, and Bouchey Farms of Toppenish.

Volunteers gleaning in the fields include food bank clients, many recruited through public service announcements on Spanish-language radio station KDNA in Granger, Marino said.

The six paid members of AmeriCorps receive minimum wage and a \$1,000 college scholarship at summer's end. They have gained experience gleaning and packing, and working at the cannery, food banks and other food sites, Marino said.

This week, youth groups staying at the Campbell Farm in Wapato will join the gleaning effort as a community service.

"There's plenty of food out there," Marino said, adding that it's finding transportation, packing boxes, storage and other resources that keep her busy.

Gleaned and donated foods are brought to the Wapato food bank for centralized distribution. In addition to local food banks, collaborators include Cascade Blue Mountain Food Share and the Emergency Food Network in Tacoma.

Marino said organizers hope the project, funded for one year, eventually can be passed on and coordinated locally. For more information, call Marino at (509) 961-0552.

The Baltimore Times

Vol. 10 No. 43

July 22-28, 1996

Complimentary



These volunteers, of the Baltimore Area Gleaning Network have just "gleaned" a farm of fresh vegetables to be donated to local food banks, pantries and shelters. (Photo by John Ciekot).

'There's enough food for everyone'

by Ginger Williams

On July 12, approximately 1-1/2 tons of freshly-picked corn were distributed to residents of Baltimore's Somerset and Latrobe Housing communities. The corn was distributed by members of the Baltimore Area Gleaning Network, an AmeriCorps "Summer of Gleaning" program based at Civic Works. The Washington Area Gleaning Network (WAGN) and Civic Works were represented by staff during the distribution.

The corn was picked on Friday morning on a farm in Chestertown, Md., by volunteers and transported to Baltimore by WAGN staff.

"There's no reason why anyone in America should be hungry. More than enough food is planted and grown by every farmer to feed everyone in this country," says Gloria Luster, a team leader with Baltimore Area Gleaning Network (BAGNET).

This program, under the auspices of CivicWorks, and housed in a third-floor office at the Clifton Park Mansion, is federally-mandated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). It is run by Ms. Luster, Brian Richards, Amy Steele and Colleen Devine. Veronica McCall

makes up the support staff.

The Gleaning Team is invited to Maryland/Pa. area farms, to pick leftover - fresh - vegetables and fruits to be given to needy residents, church food banks and pantries and the Maryland Food Bank (Food Committee).

The Baltimore program is fairly new (since June), but there are more than 15 Networks in cities all over the country, including WAGN, which is about eight years old.

Depending almost entirely on volunteers to run the program, BAGNET travels to surrounding farms about once a week and brings back fresh fruits and vegetables. Participants in the program run the gamut - from the very young to the elderly. No one is excluded.

But a shortage of funds cannot guarantee transportation to the farms by BAGNET and the call has gone out from the organization, for volunteers to furnish transportation and donate office time and money. Ms. Luster calls this a perfect opportunity for church and neighborhood groups to take a scenic trip and do something for their communities, as well.

The trips can start as early as 6 a.m. and are usually over around 1 or 2 p.m.

This is the first summer for the Baltimore initiative, and it will run through September 30. "Beyond that," Ms. Luster says, "we don't know if the program will be picked up next year or not."

Two office members, Amy (Steele) and Brian (Richards) have never picked crops before. But, according to Brian, "It's good work. It's hard work, but it's good work. I have never felt like this about any experience."

Luster echoes this with, "It's a spiritual experience; not necessarily religious, but it's definitely spiritual. And, it's open to anyone - agnostic, atheist, black, white, male, female, young or old."

There is also, according to Luster, scriptural reference to gleaning. "It's a very old tradition. Farmers have always planted more than they (or their family) needed. What was left after harvesting, gleaners came along to collect it. The farm not only sustained its owner, it also sustained other families.

Continued on page 7



■ Laden with fresh vegetables, promoters of the AmeriCorps Gleaning program leave the Pincroft Farm off Watchaug Road in Somers. From left, they

Kathy Hanley / Special to The Courant
are volunteer Aileen Martin of Amherst, Mass., Joel Berg and Tim Carter of the USDA, and David Carey of the Hartford County Farm Service Agency.

A bounty for the poor from Somers fields

By DON STACOM
Courant Correspondent

SOMERS — The laborers picking squash along rows at a Watchaug Road field Wednesday looked pretty much like an average farm work crew, but they were part of something completely different.

The result of their labor won't be sold at supermarkets or roadside stands — it will be given to tens of thousands of needy Connecticut people through soup kitchens and food pantries.

"These are vegetables that were go-

ing to go to waste," Vincent Majchier, state director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, said as he looked across acres of orange squash near the Watchaug Road airstrip. "Maybe they're a little too big or small for the supermarkets, or they've lost a little color — but they're perfect to eat."

The AmeriCorps Gleaning project puts volunteers into fields where farmers have already pulled the choicest vegetables and fruit. Rather than leaving the remnants to rot or be tilled back into the ground, more than a dozen

state farmers this summer have allowed AmeriCorps volunteers to walk their fields and take the best of what's left.

The food is boxed and then trucked to either Foodshare or the Connecticut Food Bank, two nonprofit agencies that distribute food to social service agencies across the state.

The program — which is duplicated in 19 other states — is part of the Clinton administration's AmeriCorps effort, described by advocates as a domestic Peace Corps. As Congress debates whether to cut funding for Amer-

iCorps, state and federal officials came to town Wednesday to tout the results.

"I can't believe the volume of produce these agencies in Connecticut use," Majchier said. "They're talking about feeding 100,000 people a day — and 43,000 of them are children. And before this, they just didn't get fresh produce."

Four AmeriCorps volunteers and a half-dozen Alternative Incarceration Program convicts pulled thousands of pounds of slightly imperfect squash

■ SOMERS

A bounty for poor left in farmers' fields

Continued from Page B1

and zucchini from the fields, packed it into boxes and loaded it onto a rented truck.

"This has been such a success, we have to continue it with winter squash, pumpkins, apples — even if we have to bring a truck up here ourselves. We're talking about getting sweet corn that costs \$3 or \$4 a dozen in the stores — poverty-stricken families just can't afford to buy it," Majchier said.

University of Massachusetts junior Aileen Martin has spent the summer learning about produce — right from the sometimes dusty, sometimes muddy fields.

"I don't think I want to pick squash for the rest of my life, but I've learned an awful lot," said Martin, an AmeriCorps volunteer who will receive roughly \$1,000 toward tuition for her summer's work. "I wanted to do something productive this summer, something to help other people — not just work in a mall somewhere."

Gloria McAdam, Foodshare's director, noted that some of the produce being picked along the Connecticut River valley will go to needy people in those same towns. Food pantries operate in Enfield and Somers, and some of the vegetables that were gathered Wednesday will end up there, she said.

mission-sponsored and controlled activity," Selectmen Richard Jackson wrote to commissioners earlier this month.

This summer, the recreation commission endorsed the idea of a Somers teen center and established a subcommittee to work with the teen organizers. But at a recent meeting, some commissioners questioned whether they want to accept the responsibilities.

Judy Mehl, the mother of one of the organizers, said teenagers expect to meet soon with the recreation subcommittee to work out any unresolved details. The teens want to avoid a conflict with a church-sponsored dance in early September and the Four Town Fair in mid-September, so they don't plan to open the center until late September at the earliest, she said.

Please see A bounty, Page B2



Times Union/STEPHEN WEAVER

ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER Joseph Lochridge and Suzanne Lecourt, members of the Albany Service Corps, tend the Harvest for the Hungry garden on the State Office Campus in Albany Monday.

Community gardeners hope to harvest bounty for hungry

■ Albany Service Corps' gleaning program aims to stock food pantries with fresh produce

BY CAILIN BROWN
Staff writer

Albany

The beating sun prompted an afternoon sprinkling Monday at the Harvest for the Hungry community garden, where food is grown entirely for the poor.

Beside the sprouting carrots, lettuce, kale and beets, government leaders and community-based organizations introduced a gleaning program that is expected to collect surplus food this year for a population increasingly in need of food-pantry help.

The "AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning" program will be coordinated through the Albany Service Corps, which has received a \$20,000 federal grant for the program. The project will link the rural farming community with the urban poor to direct food that might otherwise go to waste.

"These four to six corps members will gather 10 tons of food (for) the emergency food system. That's significant," said Paul Winkler, executive director of the Albany Service Corps. He estimated the corps workers will spend 2,000 hours over 12 weeks creating a system for volunteers to collect food from farmers and gardeners. Once surplus food is collected from six counties, it will be distributed through food pantries and soup kitchens to about 20,000 low-income families in Albany, Troy and Schenectady.

Efforts by assorted local agencies have been fragmented and not sufficiently coordinated, Winkler said.

Behind Winkler, members of the Albany Service Corps and AmeriCorps were busy watering, weeding and thinning the community garden at the State Office Campus where produce is grown for local food pantries and soup kitchens.

Albany is one of only 20 sites nationwide to which the U.S. Department of Agriculture has

allocated gleaning-program grant money.

"With one out of nine people on food stamps, the department is finding ways to facilitate partnerships between those who have food and those who don't," said Donna Hines, an anti-hunger coordinator with the USDA and AmeriCorps. She said she would like to see "food rescue" programs become as common as bottle recycling programs.

For Debbie Catozzi, associate director of the Hunger Action Network of New York State, the gleaning program might make possible an idea that has mostly been hit-or-miss.

"We've been working for a long time to try and get a gleaning project growing," she said. Once an infrastructure is built, farmers can get involved, volunteers can be trained and users of gleaned food can be educated about the value of fresh produce, she said.

The coordination effort involves identifying farmers who are willing to give away their surplus, then lining up storage for large quantities of fresh food at pantries that generally have minimal capacity.

Efforts to assist the emergency food system will help groups like the Food Pantries of the Capital District, which has had a hard time collecting donations, according to executive director Dawn Primeau.

She asked 100 local businesses to consider collecting for pantries this spring and received only five responses.

"We rely on the state offices, but many of them are doing drives for their own employees because people are being laid off and displaced," Primeau said. "We're always thinking of new ways to raise food, and gleaning is a traditional, historical way of feeding poor people."

The Focus Interfaith food pantry is receptive to the idea because the pantry usually lacks fresh produce, according to director Tom McPheeters.

"We never seem to be able to get enough fresh produce," McPheeters said. He plans to have pantry staff educated in the uses of fresh produce so that they can pass the knowledge on to pantry clients. "A lot of education needs to be done."

NEWS IN BRIEF



NEW YORK STATE

Silver allows Assembly vote on covering chiropractic care

ALBANY — The Legislature's most powerful Democrat on Monday threw his support behind legislation to require health insurers to pay for chiropractic service in New York.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's decision to allow a vote means the legislation is virtually certain to pass and be sent to Gov. George Pataki for approval or rejection. The state Senate has already passed the bill.

The effort has been a crusade for chiropractors and their patients. They claim it is unfair that they are not treated the same as doctors who take care of back pain.

Businesses, however, predicted the

bill would dramatically increase the cost of offering health insurance for their employees. The state's Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans estimated their annual chiropractic costs alone would increase from \$6.5 million to \$103 million.

Silver decided on Monday to allow the vote because the bill had broad-based support among Assembly members, spokeswoman Patricia Lynch said.

Earlier Monday, Pataki would not tip his hand on where he stood on the bill.

"We're waiting to see what happens with the Legislature," he said.

Courthouse workers deal reached

ALBANY — The state and a bargaining unit representing about 4,000

raise on April 1, 1997; and a 3 percent or minimum \$700 raise effective Oct. 1,

Service Corps granted funding

By KAREN ROACH
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — Four local residents will help recover surplus food from around the region to supply food pantries over the next few months as part of a federal program called the Summer of Gleaning.

The program, part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps national service initiative, has awarded the Albany Service Corps a grant of \$22,500 to pay for the four workers for the summer.

The workers will be deployed around a six-county area at farms, restaurants and other institutions to gather extra food that could otherwise go to waste.

In return, the workers will get a weekly stipend of approximately \$170, and if they stick with the program, they will earn a \$1,000 education award at the end of the summer.

Gleaning program aids food pantries

"In these days of dwindling resources, and dwindling commitments from state and federal agencies, we have to be creative," said Mayor Jerry Jennings, in helping to announce the grant. "This is an honor for us to be chosen."

Albany's program was the only one in New York, and one of only 20 around the country to be chosen for grants under the Summer of Gleaning program, according to Paul Winkler, director of the Albany Service Corps.

The idea of gleaning is based upon the practice in biblical times, where farmers would leave the edges of their fields unharvested so the poor could gather food there.

In the book of Leviticus, God commands Moses to leave the gleanings of the harvest for the "poor and the sojourner."

In more recent times, the practice is catching on across the country and in this area.

The Hunger Action Network of New York, a statewide anti-hunger group, encourages gardeners to plant an extra row of vegetables and donate the proceeds to a food pantry.

Also, the Regional Farm & Food Project, formed this year, serves as a clearinghouse for volunteers interested in helping pick surplus fruits or vegetables, and a contact for farmers who have extra food to give.

Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about that organization can write for more information to 27 Elm St., Albany, N.Y. 12202.

One of the major problems with the idea of gleaning, is that when a farmer offers a field, volunteers and vehicles must mobilize quickly. The Ameri-

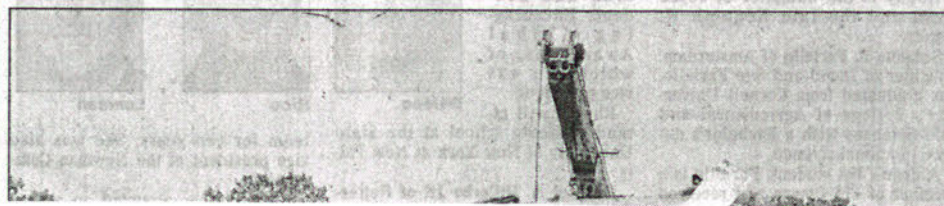
Corps program will provide a steady team of people ready to gather the available food, program leaders said.

Winkler estimates the team of gleaners could result in another 10 tons of food being distributed to food pantries in the area.

He said the program will help feed the 20,000 low-income people each month who depend on food pantries in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Greene and Columbia counties.

Marc Smith, the state executive director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, which is administering the program, said the program will not only help feed the hungry, but will provide a learning experience for the AmeriCorps workers.

"We're pleased to be a part of it," Smith said. "I think we've got a system that can help, and we're looking forward to this."



Senate recess assailed

USA TODAY
JUNE 25, 1996

Kentucky

Monticello — Students participating in the federal AmeriCorps Food Rescue program gathered 1,000 pounds of fresh cabbage for the poor. In the process they earned scholarship money.

THE COURIER JOURNAL
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
JUNE 25, 1996

Americorps crew saves fresh vegetables for the needy

Associated Press

MONTICELLO, Ky. — A morning's "gleaning" yesterday will mean fresh cabbages for people in need and some lettuce, of sorts, for six college students.

The students descended on a Wayne County field to gather about 1,000 pounds of cabbage that would otherwise have been left to rot because it didn't meet commercial standards. In the process, they earned scholarship money through the federal Americorps program.

Dan Radford, of Monticello, said it was the best of both worlds.

"I want to help the needy," said Radford, 23, a junior food-science major at the University of Kentucky. "And, of course, the scholarship helps out. My money is getting kind of tight."

Americorps is a national program that offers scholarship money and stipends to students in exchange for community work. Monday's effort was part of Americorps' "Summer of Gleaning and Food Rescue" program.

Gleaning means picking up what's left after a field has been harvested. In this case, farmer Larry McKinley donated cabbages that were either too small or too moldy to sell. The mold is simply cut away after gleaning.

"It would sit there and rot if somebody didn't come and get them," said team leader Damont Drake, 37, of Corbin, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

He recently helped distribute gleaned tomatoes to about 300 fam-

ilies in Whitley County. Drake and his team were working through the Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone, which is receiving millions in federal aid to develop the rural region.

Most of the food will go to charities in a 15-county area. Margaret Robinson, food coordinator at God's Food Pantry in Somerset, said her families gets mostly canned vegetables.

"I think that's just wonderful that we're going to get fresh vegetables ...," Robinson said.

the Redmond SPOKESMAN

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

REDMOND, OREGON

AmeriCorps to participate in gleaning

Oregon will be one of 17 states where AmeriCorps members will participate in gleaning and food rescue activities this summer as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ongoing commitment to gleaning and food rescue.

The project will assist low-income families and the Oregon Food Bank Network in developing programs to recover surplus produce and processed foods.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that allows young Americans of all backgrounds to serve their communities in exchange for educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training or student loans.

Any citizen or permanent U.S. resident interested in working for the program in Oregon may apply.

Information/applications: call Bruce Kohler at 1-541-465-6850.

CT Begins "Summer Of Gleaning" With AmeriCorps Program FSA To Administer Project

By Patricia Green

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap the corners of your field, and do not glean the fallen ears of your crop...you must leave them for the poor and the stranger." — Leviticus

WINDSOR, CT—On April 4, 1996 the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved AmeriCorps' "Summer of Gleaning" program for Connecticut and Rhode Island, and 15 other states across the country. AmeriCorps members will glean and rescue food to be distributed to the hungry of the states in partnership with local non-profit organizations and community groups. Farm Service Agency personnel have been charged with the administration of the program.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, (passed with bipartisan support from Congress) that allows Americans to serve their communities in exchange for educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training or to pay back existing student loans. In addition, each AmeriCorps member receives a \$2,242 living allowance for the 12 week program. A \$1,000 educational award is given upon completion of their 480 hours of service.

Vincent R. Majchier, FSA State Executive Director spearheaded the project in Connecticut, urging Richard Burke, USDA Rural Development Coordinator to write the grant proposal and develop a budget despite the short (one day) window of opportunity they had before application deadline.

According to Burke, it was Majchier's encouragement and enthusiasm that pushed everyone to action, and six short weeks later the program was underway.

At the swearing in ceremony for the four Connecticut AmeriCorps members: Aileen Martin of Amherst, MA; Shane Brown and Daniel Beauvois of Windsor, CT; and, Thomas Rhodes of Hartford, CT, Burke said there has been a lot of work done on the program to this point

but noted there still is a lot of work to do.

Burke acknowledged the people from the state's two main food distribution centers: Connecticut Food Bank in East Haven and Food Share, based in Windsor, stating their help was invaluable in the quest to distribute the produce gathered from the program to the people.

Nancy Bergley of the Connecticut Food Bank expressed her excitement about the program and thanked the AmeriCorps volunteers for devoting their summer to the project.

She said 1995 statistics showed 102,000 children in Connecticut were hungry or at the risk of going hungry, and stated that for some of these children, the only full meal they received was at school. Therefore, she concluded, this program comes at an important time.

Executive Director of the Windsor based Food Share, Gloria McAdams agreed with Bergley, noting the concept of gleaning as old as time. She stated the most important reason for the gleaning project is because of the need by the children, and stated that over 10% of the nation's population relies on soup kitchens and food pantries to have enough food to eat. "It only makes sense that children who don't get enough to eat or the right things to eat aren't going to grow or develop properly," McAdams said.

State Executive Director Majchier, expressed his excitement about the program, that will aim its gleaning efforts at collection of produce from the fields after mechanized harvesting and the appropriation of surplus and seconds produce from large commercial growers. The later, of seconds produce is the most sought after commodity.

"As a vegetable grower myself, I know that when you pick produce, no matter how good a farmer you are, there are always some that have a blemish or crack on them," Majchier said. "This is where we come in with the gleaning program and are able to partake in this beautiful farm produce that we can get to the people of the state."



Clare Dellrooc, left, and Christine Sikule were among several children volunteering their time on Wednesday to help pick vegetables for the needy.

They were among some 20 gleaners at the Roger Barber farm in Middleburgh. BRUCE SQUIERS Gazette Photographer

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Capital Region youths pick over harvested fields for food pantries

By LES HENDRIX
Gazette Reporter

MIDDLEBURGH — Seven-year-old Sarah Araldi got out of cleaning on Wednesday by taking up gleaning.

Sarah and 12 other members of the Seven Mountaineers 4-H Club of Westerlo spent the morning harvesting leftovers from the fields at the Roger Barber farm south of Middleburgh.

"I would just be watching a movie or cleaning my room" if not working with the 4-H club, said Sarah.

The 4-H kids and four college-age members of the federal AmeriCorps volunteer program scavenged about 3,000 pounds of cucumbers, squash and other vegetables, estimated Tom Della Rocco, Albany County director for the federal Farm Service Agency.

The food reached Capital Region food pantries Wednesday night and some may even have been distributed to the needy in time for last night's supper, Della Rocco said.

Farm operator Jim Barber said harvesting crews had been through the fields several times. Getting the last of the edible foods when a field is past its peak is no longer economical, he said.

Wednesday's trip was the first for the 4-H club, and members had mixed thoughts on whether they would glean again.

Sal Spinnato, an 8-year-old who raises chickens and sells the eggs, said he might return.

Sarah's big brother, 8-year-old Gregory Araldi, said he'd glean again. He enjoyed eating watermelon during his visit.

Micah Kuhar, 11, admitted he'd rather do something else, however.

Della Rocco said he's not had any farmers turn him down as he lines up local projects for the national "Summer of Gleaning."

The Farm Service Agency, Albany Service Corps and Capital Gleaning Network are sponsoring one of 20 gleaning operations throughout the nation.

Project volunteers are gleaning fields in seven area counties to help feed about 21,500 needy Capital Region people.

Besides 4-H groups, volunteers have come from St. John the Baptist Church in Schenectady and the Schenectady Jewish Community Center.

If gleaning is an unfamiliar word, don't feel alone. "We had to ask what it was," said Kathy Spinnato, the 4-H project leader.

Over the years, gleaning has taken root in communities across the nation.

The practice has spread to include the gleaning of unsold items from supermarkets and restaurants.

Regionally, gleaning got its start in Franklin County six years ago and has now spread to nearly every county in the region, with efforts underway to develop gleaning programs in counties that have not already started one.

Gleaners in Franklin County last year kept about 2½ million pounds of food from ending up in compost or in the garbage.

The food was distributed to seven northern New York counties, New York City and two regional food banks.

THE THUMB FARM NEWS
APRIL 29, 1996

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Detroit and Lansing areas as site for its AmeriCorps summer gleaning program

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced the Detroit and Lansing, Michigan areas, will be two of a number of sites in 17 states where AmeriCorps members will participate in gleaning and food rescue activities this summer.

"Every day, a significant amount of wholesome, nutritious food in this country goes to waste — sometimes in the field because it does not meet market specifications, sometimes in cafeterias and restaurants because too much is prepared," Glickman said. "There are many innovative local programs that are rescuing both

prepared, perishable foods and surplus field crops from area farmers and providing meals to those who might otherwise go without."

Six new AmeriCorps members will serve in the Detroit and Lansing area for 12 weeks during the summer to help with the coordination and gleaning of crops from local producer's fields. The gleaning effort will concentrate on manually harvesting fruits and vegetables after the producer has completed their mechanical harvesting.

GLEANNING page 6

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GLEANNING

From page 3

In addition, on April 2 USDA established a toll free hotline (1-800-GLEAN-IT) to provide up-to-date information about local and national gleaning and food rescue efforts. The hotline will help put potential food donors into contact with local food distribution programs and provide guidance to individuals interested in initiating programs in their communities.

"I believe it is a natural partnership to utilize AmeriCorps members for gleaning and food rescue activities," Glickman said. "AmeriCorps is a highly effective program that gets things done while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and encouraging personal responsibility. Gleaning and food rescue are important ways to engage these volunteers to use available re-

sources to reduce hunger in America."

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that allows Americans of all backgrounds to serve their communities in exchange for educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training, or to pay back existing students loans. USDA sponsors rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger projects that engage up to 1,350 of the 25,000 members in the overall AmeriCorps program.

Any citizen or permanent resident of the United States age 17 or older can apply for the summer gleaning program. Anyone interested can call (517) 337-6659 or 1-800-880-4183 for more information and for an application.



ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER Joseph Lochridge and Suzanne Lecourt, members of the Albany Service Corps, tend the Harvest for the Hungry garden on the State Office Campus in Albany Monday. Times Union/STEPHEN WEAVER

Community gardeners hope to harvest bounty for hungry

■ Albany Service Corps' gleaning program aims to stock food pantries with fresh produce

BY CAULIN BROWN
Staff writer

Albany

The beating sun prompted an afternoon sprinkling Monday at the Harvest for the Hungry community garden, where food is grown entirely for the poor.

Beside the sprouting carrots, lettuce, kale and beets, government leaders and community-based organizations introduced a gleaning program that is expected to collect surplus food this year for a population increasingly in need of food-pantry help.

The "AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning" program will be coordinated through the Albany Service Corps, which has received a \$20,000 federal grant for the program. The project will link the rural farming community with the urban poor to direct food that might otherwise go to waste.

"These four to six corps members will gather 10 tons of food (for) the emergency food system. That's significant," said Paul Winkler, executive director of the Albany Service Corps. He estimated the corps workers will spend 2,000 hours over 12 weeks creating a system for volunteers to collect food from farmers and gardeners. Once surplus food is collected from six counties, it will be distributed through food pantries and soup kitchens to about 20,000 low-income families in Albany, Troy and Schenectady.

Efforts by assorted local agencies have been fragmented and not sufficiently coordinated, Winkler said.

Behind Winkler, members of the Albany Service Corps and AmeriCorps were busy watering, weeding and thinning the community garden at the State Office Campus where produce is grown for local food pantries and soup kitchens.

Albany is one of only 20 sites nationwide to which the U.S. Department of Agriculture has

allocated gleaning-program grant money.

"With one out of nine people on food stamps, the department is finding ways to facilitate partnerships between those who have food and those who don't," said Donna Hines, an anti-hunger coordinator with the USDA and AmeriCorps. She said she would like to see "food rescue" programs become as common as bottle recycling programs.

For Debbie Catozzi, associate director of the Hunger Action Network of New York State, the gleaning program might make possible an idea that has mostly been hit-or-miss.

"We've been working for a long time to try and get a gleaning project growing," she said. Once an infrastructure is built, farmers can get involved, volunteers can be trained and users of gleaned food can be educated about the value of fresh produce, she said.

The coordination effort involves identifying farmers who are willing to give away their surplus, then lining up storage for large quantities of fresh food at pantries that generally have minimal capacity.

Efforts to assist the emergency food system will help groups like the Food Pantries of the Capital District, which has had a hard time collecting donations, according to executive director Dawn Primeau.

She asked 100 local businesses to consider collecting for pantries this spring and received only five responses.

"We rely on the state offices, but many of them are doing drives for their own employees because people are being laid off and displaced," Primeau said. "We're always thinking of new ways to raise food, and gleaning is a traditional, historical way of feeding poor people."

The Focus Interfaith food pantry is receptive to the idea because the pantry usually lacks fresh produce, according to director Tom McPheeters.

"We never seem to be able to get enough fresh produce," McPheeters said. He plans to have pantry staff educated in the uses of fresh produce so that they can pass the knowledge on to pantry clients. "A lot of education needs to be done."

TIMES UNION

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

ALBANY, NEW YORK

More than 250 AmeriCorps workers will help out in state

■ The program benefits both the community and the volunteers.

By Steve Walton
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

7-11-94
Hundreds of people will begin work in Mississippi this fall, fighting hunger, teaching students, enhancing habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker and more.

"We're darn proud to get the help," said Don Bolinger, spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service in Jackson.

The Forest Service will get 20 of the

TODAY'S EXTRA

more than 250 workers for work in the Bienville National Forest through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Public Lands and Environment Team, one of five AmeriCorps programs guaranteed funding for next year in Mississippi.

The others are Teach for America, Delta Service Corps, USDA Rural Development Team and the USDA Anti-Hunger Team.

The five programs are among 58 the

TO APPLY

Contact the Mississippi Commission on National and Community Service at 982-6779 to apply to work or to apply for a grant.

White House in June announced will operate in almost every state starting in September.

More programs with another 200 to 250 jobs may be available for the state,

but funding for them has not been finalized, said Marsha Meeks Kelly, executive director of the Mississippi Commission on National and Community Service, which oversees the program.

President Clinton formed the AmeriCorps program last September, adding new community service programs to existing ones, such as Volunteers in Service to America.

AmeriCorps workers, age 17 and up, get a living stipend of up to \$7,500 and an educational benefit of \$4,725 to use for college and vocational school.

See SERVICE, 5A

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 Mays, 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," Mays said. She said a Meals-on-Wheels program now serves 300-400 people, but could expand.

Clint Floyd of Forest, district ranger for the Blenville 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 Blenville National Forest.

Around the turn of the century, enough old pine trees were in the state to have up to 30,000 colonies in

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 in-

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 Shockaloe 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.

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.

Delta areas score with jobs from national service plan

By James W. Brosnan
The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration Monday assigned 7,000 national service slots to needy areas, including 301 to the Mississippi-Arkansas-Louisiana Delta, but not one to Memphis or West Tennessee.

However, that could change this fall, when the next round of awards to promote national service are announced. The Tennessee Commission on National Community Service today is submitting the maximum eight applications for the fall awards, including two from Memphis.

The Center for Drug-Free Schools also is seeking 20 full-time and 20 part-time slots, primarily for Rhodes College students to mentor elementary and middle-school students and operate after-school arts and sports programs.

"We're sure to be shouting from the rooftops if it comes through," said Bette Garner, a school psychologist at the center.

The Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention Center in Memphis, working with several other local agencies, is seeking 10 full-time and 20 part-time

slots for graduate students to counsel families. That would double the size of the program, said Barbara King, executive director of the center.

Clinton's national service program, called AmeriCorps, is designed to attract mostly college-age students to work a year for a minimum-wage salary of at least \$7,500 and then after a year's tour, a voucher worth \$4,725 to spend on college or other educational program. The 7,000 slots announced Monday were for national or multi-state programs operated by federal agencies or not-for-profit groups. Another 13,000 will be awarded through a competition between the states.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, a former Mississippi congressman, gathered more than 1,200 of the slots for various rural programs and a fourth of those went to the Delta.

About half the Delta slots, 145, continue a pilot program known as the Delta Service Corps in Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana that Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) got authorized two years ago. The Corps members, who range in age from the 20s to the 80s, work throughout the Delta at Head Start centers, health clinics and housing sites, said Clarence Lovelady, director of the division of community

services in the Mississippi Department of Education.

Also in Mississippi:

■ Fifteen AmeriCorps members will work in Sunflower and Humphreys counties to help poor families take advantage of government food programs and tax advantages for lower-income people.

■ Four will help the poor in Clarksdale obtain routine health care before they get sick.

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In Arkansas five AmeriCorps members were assigned to Forrest City, Osceola, Hope, Pine Bluff, and Fort Smith as part of a 10-state effort by the Associations of Farm Worker Opportunity Programs to teach safe use of pesticides.

Memphis didn't get a cut of any of the national or agency programs partly because anti-hunger teams were assigned only to the Delta area and to Los Angeles, Washington, Los Angeles, Milwaukee and Vermont. Also, the Justice Department assigned its members to seven of the 21 Weed-and-Seed anti-drug programs. Memphis doesn't have a Weed-and-Seed program yet.

'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

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. 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.

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.

Volunteers sought for AmeriCorps

*President's program encourages
young to do community service*

By BOB BUYER
News Staff Reporter

President Clinton's AmeriCorps program to encourage young people to do community service and obtain advanced education has opened an office just outside East Aurora and is recruiting volunteers.

The office at 50 Commerce Way is inviting applications through mid-August.

"We are recruiting five people now," said John Whitney of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District.

"Applicants have to be over 17 and may even be adults with professional skills and no longer in search of more education. Our work begins Sept. 19," Whitney said.

Under the AmeriCorps program, volunteers work 1,700 hours in assigned rural development or conservation jobs. In return, they receive \$12,000 a year and qualify for up to \$4,725 in college tuition payments or loan forgiveness.

The program, administered by U.S. Agriculture Department subunits, has funded 556 separate projects in its first year.

The East Aurora operation, one of five in New York, has an initial budget of \$85,000.

"Our program is analogous to a domestic Peace Corps program," Whitney said.

"It's not a job training program, although some skills, like using our computerized equipment, will be involved. AmeriCorps is a program to encourage people, especially college students, to dedicate 1,700 hours to domestic community service."

The East Aurora AmeriCorps unit will assemble information for the Geographic Information System, a computerized map system. The project will gather maps and information about soil, ground water, stream flow and landscape, making them readily accessible and understandable.

"Once that's done, the maps can be printed on any scale, overlaid on other maps along with data on water quality in ways that are difficult to do by paper," Whitney said.

The system will help local planners and developers as well as promote long-term community planning and environmental protection.

"The ... work will pull together easily accessible information that people sometimes overlook about local resources in the frequent clashes between community development and environmental protection interests," Whitney said.

As examples, he mentioned projects such as locating a gravel mine, a manufacturing plant, a housing subdivision and a shopping mall.

Whitney said Eden has become the first Erie County municipality to develop the technology. In a private contract, it has acquired the needed computer hardware and software to make it work.

Eden Supervisor Sue Bissonette said the town has a contract for less than \$9,000 with Intelgis Corp. of the Town of Tonawanda to assemble the information.

"We're already using it as much as we can," she said. "If we had (this) in the past, we would not have run into one subdivision flooding mess."

New York, New York

100-100000
100-100000

MEMPHIS, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1994

SOCIAL APPEAL

Delta areas score with jobs from national service plan

By James W. Brosnan
The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

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The Burlington Free Press

6/12/94

VOLUNTEERISM

Clinton sends corps of 85 to fight hunger in Vt.

By Nancy Bazilchuk
Free Press Staff Writer

President Clinton's national youth service corps program is coming to Vermont in the fall — 85 strong.

In this first year of Clinton's service program, 40 of the volunteers will serve with the newly formed Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, officials with Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt, said Friday. Vermont was slated to get 20 volunteers under the plan, but Leahy was able to increase the state's share by 65, Leahy staffers said.

Clinton's AmeriCorps is a two-year program designed to help young adults earn money toward a college education through work in service programs.

The volunteers' goal will be to increase participation in federal food programs and to expand the services offered under the programs, state officials said.

"Having 65 full-time participants is going to have a tremendous impact on local needs, particularly in the hunger area," said Kathie Blair, executive director of the Vermont Commission on National and Community Service. "Having this program be funded really gives us a leg up and allows us to get the most out of our hunger programs."

See CORPS, 2B

The Burlington Free Press

6/18/94

CORPS: 85 on the way

Continued from Page 1B

Volunteers will work with the federal Head Start Program, in day care centers, food shelves and schools.

Twenty-five other volunteers will work for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, the non-profit, state-affiliated service corps that will put 250 young adults to work outdoors building hiking trails and improving recreation and wildlife areas.

"It is a major, major deal for the Youth Corps," said Thomas Hark, executive director of the corps. Twenty of the 25 will work

in a nine-month partnership with the Green Mountain National Forest on conservation projects and also will be trained to lead Youth Corps teams. This will fill the corps' need for leaders and allow the corps to add 200 more members next summer, Hark said.

"One of the critical things for us is finding good leaders," he said. "This year we had 1,000 kids apply but the critical factor is leaders."

The remaining 20 will be assigned to different projects around the state.

S.A.—The Post and Courier, Tuesday, June 21, 1994

Charleston, SC

S.C. to get workers from AmeriCorps program

Associated Press

South Carolina will get more than 100 AmeriCorps national service workers in September to work on community-based projects.

The projects include after-school programs, home building, rural development, environmental testing and peer counseling. U.S. Sen. Fritz Hollings, D-S.C., said Monday.

AmeriCorps members spend one year in youth service and leadership training. The program is similar to a domestic Peace Corps. It stems from the National and Community Service Trust Act President Clinton signed last fall.

The South Carolina projects include:

■ City Year program, Columbia: 58 youths would work for a year in

Richland and Lexington counties. Projects include after-school programs, home building, and construction of nature trails.

■ Rural Development, statewide: 37 college and professional school graduates to work on rural development programs under supervision of the state offices of the U.S. Agriculture Department. The group also will conduct environmental studies.

■ Youth Volunteer Corps of America, Anderson, Laurens and Spartanburg counties: Nine youths will work on education and public safety programs.

■ National Multiple Sclerosis Society, statewide: Nine members will recruit people to help home-bound people with multiple sclerosis.

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.

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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.

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"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.

N.J. watersheds to get 20 helpers

By JOAN GALLER
Staff Writer

One year after President Clinton visited Rutgers University to unveil a national service program — offering America's students a paycheck and scholarship for performing community services — the project is off and running.

Twenty young New Jerseyans will be selected this summer to serve one-year stints on restoration projects involving three major watersheds: the Raritan River, Arthur Kill, and the Musconetcong.

Actual work should start sometime this fall after the students are selected and trained, with Union County getting half or more of the workers to help restore the 130-acre Arthur Kill Watershed, said Carlos Henning, deputy state conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Henning was present yesterday when Rep. Frank J. Pallone Jr. announced the Garden State's share in the national service initiative to restore watersheds during a news conference in Piscataway's Johnson Park.

Pallone spoke with his back to the Raritan River, into which much of the 1,100-acre Raritan River watershed flows from portions of Middlesex and Monmouth counties, his 8th Congressional District, and from Somerset County.

"President Clinton has made national service a high priority, and I would like to see this initiative continue," said Pallone, a Democrat.

"Here in the Raritan River Valley, as well as along the Bayshore, we certainly need some restoration work done," he said. "This is an area with great potential for recreation and scenic beauty."

Pallone's announcement was timed to coincide with similar announcements in Washington, D.C., and across the nation, including one from the office of Rep. Robert Menendez, a Democrat whose 13th Congressional District includes portions of Union and Middlesex counties. Menendez worked with Union County officials to ensure the Arthur Kill Watershed's inclusion in the project.

"This program is a great deal for New Jersey," Menendez said. "It

delivers on the president's promise of a National Service and brings the results home — right here, for all of us to see and enjoy."

Menendez credited Reps. Donald M. Payne and Bob Franks for supporting restoration of the Arthur Kill watershed, which drains 19 of Union County's 21 municipalities via the Elizabeth and Rahway rivers, Monmouth Creek and Pilke Creek, and parts of northern Middlesex County.

The Musconetcong Watershed accommodates Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties.

The New Jersey watershed projects are part of a nationwide program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will ultimately place 1,300 AmeriCorps national service participants throughout urban and rural America, Menendez said.

The USDA program will be the largest single federal agency component of the national service initiative and among the first to be funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

New Jersey currently has 120 students involved in various community service projects created during the past year under AmeriCorps, which was established by the National Service Trust Act. By 1996, the state's national service corps is expected to reach 300 to 400.

The 20 students needed for New Jersey's watershed restoration action teams will be recruited from areas where unemployment exceeds the U.S. average, now at 6.8 percent, and those participants who lack high school diplomas will have an opportunity to enroll in the state's vocational-training high schools two-year accelerated diploma program, Pallone said.

Each will be paid a stipend of at least \$7,500 for performing 1,700 hours of work, or 40-hour weeks for nine months, during the course of one year. They also will receive a \$4,725 voucher payable after the work is completed directly to their personal college costs or past college debt.

Those who opt to work part time can fulfill the work requirement by splitting the work time, performing 900 hours each year for two years, said Janice Reid, USDA soil conservationist for New Jersey.

Once trained, the teams will



FRANK J. PALLONE JR.
Announced state's share

reach out to communities impacted by the watersheds to inventory, assess, and implement planned activities, she said.

Their work will include soil erosion abatement, improvement of water quality and habitat, creation of buffer areas of grass and trees, restoration of wetlands, and streambank stabilization, and community cleanup projects.

Some students will handle technical aspects, while others will engage in physical labor, she said, on public and private lands.

Henning credited Union County with advancing its own agenda last year by submitting a proposal that the state USDA office later incorporated in its federal application.

"We took the proposals from where there was a demonstrated interest, where they were ready, willing, and able," he explained.

Henning said his office initially requested 36 student participants for the New Jersey project, with 30 to be assigned to Union County to meet its demonstrated need for restoration of the Arthur Kill Watershed.

Now that the number approved is short of that goal, Henning said, he expects Union County will still get half or more of the planned manpower and funding to handle the necessary work.

The Raritan River and Musconetcong watersheds were included, Henning added, based on the state USDA office's knowledge of need and ongoing work.

To apply for the USDA watershed programs, call toll-free (800) 880-4183.

Staff Writer Kathleen Hopkins contributed to this report.

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Delta areas score with jobs from national service plan

By James W. Brosnan
The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration Monday assigned 7,000 national service slots to needy areas, including 301 to the Mississippi-Arkansas-Louisiana Delta, but not one to Memphis or West Tennessee.

However, that could change this fall, when the next round of awards to promote national service are announced. The Tennessee Commission on National Community Service today is submitting the maximum eight applications for the fall awards, including two from Memphis.

The Center for Drug-Free Schools also is seeking 20 full-time and 20 part-time slots, primarily for Rhodes College students to mentor elementary and middle-school students and operate after-school arts and sports programs.

"We're sure to be shouting from the rooftops if it comes through," said Bette Garner, a school psychologist at the center.

The Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention Center in Memphis, working with several other local agencies, is seeking 10 full-time and 20 part-time

slots for graduate students to counsel families. That would double the size of the program, said Barbara King, executive director of the center.

Clinton's national service program, called AmeriCorps, is designed to attract mostly college-age students to work a year for a minimum-wage salary of at least \$7,500 and then after a year's tour, a voucher worth \$4,725 to spend on college or other educational program. The 7,000 slots announced Monday were for national or multi-state programs operated by federal agencies or not-for-profit groups. Another 13,000 will be awarded through a competition between the states.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, a former Mississippi congressman, garnered more than 1,200 of the slots for various rural programs and a fourth of those went to the Delta.

About half the Delta slots, 145, continue a pilot program known as the Delta Service Corps in Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana that Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) got authorized two years ago. The Corps members, who range in age from the 20s to the 80s, work throughout the Delta at Head Start centers, health clinics and housing sites, said Clarence Lovelady, director of the division of community

services in the Mississippi Department of Education.

Also in Mississippi:

■ Fifteen AmeriCorps members will work in Sunflower and Humphreys counties to help poor families take advantage of government food programs and tax advantages for lower-income people.

■ Four will help the poor in Clarksdale obtain routine health care before they get sick.

■ Twenty out of Jackson to improve the habitat and facilities along the Shockaloe Trail to increase awareness of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker.

In Arkansas five AmeriCorps members were assigned to Forrest City, Osceola, Hope, Pine Bluff, and Fort Smith as part of a 10-state effort by the Associations of Farm Worker Opportunity Programs to teach safe use of pesticides.

Memphis didn't get a cut of any of the national or agency programs partly because anti-hunger teams were assigned only to the Delta area and to Los Angeles, Washington, Los Angeles, Milwaukee and Vermont. Also, the Justice Department assigned its members to seven of the 21 Weed-and-Seed anti-drug programs. Memphis doesn't have a Weed-and-Seed program yet.

AmeriCorps project will benefit Darby Creek

More help is on the way to keep Darby Creek pristine.

The creek's watershed has been chosen as one of 42 AmeriCorps projects administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

AmeriCorps is the national service plan that lets participants earn college or vocational school scholarships while working for the country.

Six people will be hired through the program to work on the Darby Creek project, said Lawrence Clark, state conservationist for Ohio's Soil Conservation Service.

"This will help accelerate the efforts here with the Nature Conservancy," Clark said.

"The students earn a small stipend and credits for college, and it helps us get conservation on the land. With tight budgets, it's been difficult to afford the staff we need to do all of the conservation work that needs to be done."

Four of the employees will work with rural and urban landowners, said Wes Beery, agricultural coordinator for the Nature Conservancy in Columbus. They'll train to develop whole farm plans, design filter strips near the creek and work in urban areas to monitor where storm water is going, he said.

Another worker will plant trees in the riparian buffer strip area, which is the land next to the creek. The sixth will become the "river keeper," and will "provide another set of eyes on the creek" to report if trash is dumped, trees are cut or development gets too close, Beery said.

Intentions are to hire the six by Aug. 20 and have them on board by early September, Clark said.

Participants will earn at least \$7,500 and an educational voucher worth \$4,725.

FARM TO MARKET

Those interested in the program can call 800-880-4183 for more information.

HALL HONOREES

The Ohio Agricultural Council last week announced the four 1994 inductees into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame:

■ Bob Evans, of sausage fame, is being recognized for a variety of contributions to agriculture throughout his career. He practices conservation efforts on his Rio Grande Farm, and he has worked to develop year-round grazing in Ohio.

Evans helped secure funding for the Ohio Belle Valley Bull Test facility and helped begin the American Quarter Horse Congress, which takes place in Columbus every fall.

■ Robert Gottesman, of Cleveland, is being recognized for his contributions to the Ohio wine industry. He's credited with preserving the grape and wine industry in the state through his purchase of the Meiers, Long, Mon Amio and Marley wineries in the 1970s.

Gottesman was instrumental in getting the state's grape producers to experiment with new varieties to produce better wines. He also helped create the Ohio Grape Industries Program, which



SUZANNE STEEL

eight other states have used as a model.

■ William Richards is former chief of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and a farmer in Circleville, Ohio. He is considered a pioneer in crop residue management and stopped plowing his ground in the late '50s, earning him the unofficial title "Grandfather of Conservation Tillage," by the agricultural media.

He founded the Ohio Top Farmers organization, a purchasing and marketing cooperative. As chief of the SCS, Richards worked on soil erosion control, wetlands protection and water management.

■ Dean Simeral, now of Leesburg, Fla., served as legislative representative for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation for more than 35 years. In that capacity, Simeral worked on legislative and regulatory issues that would affect the rural electric cooperatives, the Farm Credit System, Countrymark and Landmark, milk cooperatives, and feed and grain industry organizations.

Simeral worked on the appropriations and budget needs of Ohio State University Extension, College of Agriculture and Agricultural Research and Development Center, and for the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

He also worked on legislation so that farmland is taxed at an agricultural use value and worked to establish agricultural districts to protect farmers from such things as nuisance suits.

The four will be honored at the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame Breakfast Aug. 12 during the Ohio State Fair. Tickets are available from farm organizations and Tom McNutt at 876-4636.

Suzanne Steel is agribusiness reporter for The Dispatch.

The New York Times

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NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1994

In America

by B. HERBERT

A Season Of Service

Think of it as an antidote to cynicism, a rejection of the rampant selfishness that may have somehow become fashionable in the 1980's. Think of it as a return to the can-do spirit of the 50's and 60's, when large numbers of Americans believed it was possible to find remedies for violence and injustice, for poverty and ignorance, for the buffoonery and corruption of politicians, and for the wholesale degradation of the environment.

I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service, said Bill Clinton in his inaugural address. "There is so much to be done — enough, indeed, for millions of others who are still young in spirit to give of themselves in service, too."

On Sept. 12, amid elaborate ceremonies planned for the South Lawn of the White House, the President's national service program will get fully under way. It's called AmeriCorps

and it's described as a domestic version of the Peace Corps. Its scope is less than I would have wished, but more than we've come to expect from a sociopolitical environment that over the past decade and a half has been poisoned by greed, a collapse of ideals and contempt for the old-fashioned notion of brotherhood.

In that environment, we were free to choose between the national values espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and those currently embraced by Representative Newt Gingrich. We opted for Mr. Gingrich's.

The President's national service program is a modest step in Dr. King's direction.

Under the program, several thousand young Americans from all kinds of backgrounds will offer their services to organizations working on problems related to education, public safety, social services and the environment. For a two-year commitment, the participants will be paid \$7,500 a year and will receive a credit of \$9,450 (\$4,725 a year) that can be used for college or graduate school expenses.

The program will reach into urban, suburban and rural America. Parts of it have already started. Young men and women are helping to restore wildlife habitats, conducting childhood immunization programs, escorting children and the elderly through dangerous inner-city neighborhoods, counseling drug abusers, providing preventive health services and improving neglected playgrounds, parks and wetlands.

Tiffany Tidwell, an honors graduate from the University of Kansas, is teaching French at a public school in the Mississippi Delta. Leo Negron, who grew up in a tough neighborhood in Chicago, is teaching construction skills to teen-agers. Laura Sullivan, who grew up in a wealthy suburb in Massachusetts, has joined a program in Baltimore that provides assistance to poor women who want to start their own businesses.

"We have a lot of domestic problems that need creative answers," Ms. Sullivan said. "And I wanted to get to know the neighborhoods in the inner cities, rather than just living in the ivory tower of a college community."

She referred to friends who are serving in the military and said: "They are defending us internationally. I feel strongly that there should be a force of young people that are kind of defending us domestically."

Besides providing assistance to many worthwhile organizations, AmeriCorps is a way for young people to see a variety of fellow Americans up close and personal, the way they really are, without the distorting filter of the boob tube. It's a way to get beyond the stereotypes of situation comedy and the local news.

"Whenever possible," said Eli Segal, chief chaperone for this noble effort, "we want youngsters from different geographic areas, from different races and ethnic groups and from different economic backgrounds to pitch in and work together."

Mr. Segal, an assistant to the President, is the chief executive of the Corporation for National Service. He expects to have 20,000 AmeriCorps enlistees spread out across the country by the end of the year. "And if it works," he said, "we could have 100,000 by the end of 1996."

I have always believed that national service should be compulsory. Every American should serve two years in some military or civilian capacity. There should be more to patriotism than singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at a ball game, or rooting (from the comfort of our living rooms) for the American team to win a nationally televised war.

AmeriCorps is a start. □

Patriotism rolls
up its sleeves
for AmeriCorps.

A Domestic Peace Corps With a '90s Twist

Earlier this summer the national press focused on Bill Clinton's attack on conservative talk show impresario Rush Limbaugh instead of focusing on Tim Hager, who introduced the president at a St. Louis event that day. It's a shame; Tim Hager may be a more interesting story.

The 18-year-old St. Louis native is one of the first AmeriCorps volunteers, the about-to-be-launched domestic sequel to the Peace Corps. His AmeriCorps efforts to help stem violence in his neighborhood have special meaning. Tim Hager



Politics & People

By Albert R. Hunt

was brutally beaten by thugs four years ago, leaving such permanent damage that he had to abandon his lifelong dream of service in the Marine Corps. But AmeriCorps is a special opportunity for special kids like Tim.

On Sept. 12 the Clinton administration will formally launch AmeriCorps, a three-year, \$1.5 billion program that eventually aims to put 100,000 young men and women to work in community service in four areas: education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety. This national service program was a major Clinton campaign promise.

The volunteers—there will be 20,000 the first year—will receive minimum-wage pay amounting to about \$7,500 a year and free health care. For one year of work they will get a \$4,725 educational voucher that can be used for college, vocational education, or to pay off a college loan.

The head of the American service corps is Eli Segal, a 51-year-old former political activist, successful businessman and long-time Clinton confidant. He seems ideally suited for the task. He has

successfully started up three businesses, providing him a distinctive view of the challenges awaiting him.

"We must view ourselves less as a grant maker and more as an investment banker; we hope to be very involved in these programs." He promises to set tough, business-like standards. "We don't believe we are going to solve the problems of crime, illiteracy or the environment, but we can make a difference. Any program that doesn't make a difference, where we can't say we have improved the situation, doesn't deserve to keep funding."

Mr. Segal loves the idea of tapping into idealism, of AmeriCorps being a sequel to the Peace Corps or Civilian Conservation Corps. But he also believes its mission is to instill a sense of personal responsibility in its participants. The educational value he believes is critical. The average debt of a graduate of a public university or college is \$6,500. AmeriCorps volunteers could serve up to two years, meaning lots of kids could go to college or use the vouchers to pay off an educational debt.

Unlike the Peace Corps or CCC, however, AmeriCorps seeks to build on existing programs—there are thousands of effective grass-roots organizations around America—and the existing propensity for young students to engage in volunteer work; one study shows that almost 70% of college students now do more than three hours of volunteer work a week.

About two-thirds of the program will be funneled through the bipartisan AmeriCorps commissions established in the states. Final approval of any program and participants will be made by the National Service Corp., but many of the ideas and much of the energy will bubble up from localities.

"This really promises to be a grass-roots effort building on an infrastructure already there," says Vanessa Kirsch, the founder and executive director of Public

Allies, a Washington-based program that enlists young people to work in nonprofit and local governmental activities. "They really seem to be looking for people who are going to get down and dirty in the streets."

AmeriCorps projects on the drawing boards include:

- Teaching underprivileged kids how to read.
- Working with clerics to get youths out of gangs.
- Teaming up with retired IBM executives to teach inner-city children how to use computers.
- Cleaning up the shorelines of Galveston Bay.
- Working with the Navajo Indian nation on projects like providing clean tap water.
- Helping rebuild hurricane-devastated homes in south Florida in tandem with Habitat for Humanity.

There are more than a few critics who worry that the program will evolve into costly political pork, or that it will be a feel-good, "goo-goo sop" to liberals. Some even ask why should the government "pay" volunteers.

If Tim Hager is the prototype of AmeriCorps volunteers, these concerns are groundless. Despite his earlier injury, he joined the Marine Corps last year but eventually had to leave when the degenerative arthritis in his hips worsened. He was devastated, but soon discovered AmeriCorps, offering a chance not only for public service but also to return to his old neighborhood and work at reducing the sort of crime that afflicted him.

"It was awful when I had to leave the Marines. But now I feel like I'm



Eli Segal

serving my country, maybe even in a more direct manner," he says. Without the AmeriCorps job and aid he doubts that he would be able to go to college. This is one reason the national service concept is much more appealing than George Bush's 1,000 Points of Light, which would have encouraged volunteerism more as noblesse oblige for more affluent kids than as a program to enlist and help working-class kids like Mr. Hager.

As for worries about political pork, Mr. Segal continually hammers home the point that these projects have got to make tangible contributions to the communities as well as to the participants. The model is a demonstration project last summer. Some 80 young men and women were sent to Texas to publicize the childhood immunization program and locate children who needed inoculations. The result: There were 104,889 immunizations in southern Texas. "For every \$1 we spent on this, the return was \$5.65," Mr. Segal brags, based on a study by his organization and the Centers for Disease Control.

No one is better able to assess the opportunities and problems facing AmeriCorps than the remarkable R. Sargent Shriver, who started the Peace Corps more than 33 years ago. Mr. Shriver sees a lot more difficulties with this program because of the diversity of existing efforts and the greater political problems with a domestically based initiative than a foreign-based one. But the opportunities today are plentiful: "In 1960 Jack Kennedy aroused a sort of idealism and self-sacrifice; something suddenly began to happen. Today that is more the norm. This is one of the most heartening developments of the last part of the 20th century."

Eli Segal has the potential to become the Sargent Shriver of this decade. That would be an achievement.

ON POLITICS

Domestic Peace Corps getting ready to serve

WASHINGTON

Several weeks ago, President Clinton made the kind of news he can do without by criticizing ultraconservative radio and television talk show host Rush Limbaugh and his ilk for "a constant, unremitting drumbeat of negativism and cynicism" that clearly had gotten under his skin. That night on television and in the next day's newspapers, Clinton's gripe overshadowed all else he had done that day.

In the news and political business, it's called "stepping on your own story." The president aired his complaint in a phone interview from Air Force One as it flew to St. Louis, where he was headed to mark the beginning of a "Summer of Service" by 7,000 young volunteers in pilot projects of his new national service program. The idea was to spotlight the program, which is especially close to Clinton's heart. Instead, it got swallowed up in the ensuing airwaves flak between him and electronic America's biggest loudmouth.

Determined to give the whole national service effort a proper send-off as the first anniversary of the signing of the national service act approaches, Clinton and all or most of his Cabinet members will take part in a more elaborate kickoff next month, fanning out around the country to herald the full-scale beginning of what has been popularly called the "domestic Peace Corps."

The idea of young Americans doing various kinds of public service as a means of earning money for college — a stipend of \$4,725 for a year's work totaling 1,700 hours, plus the minimum hourly wage — was easily candidate Clinton's biggest cheer line in his speeches during the 1992 campaign, especially on college campuses. At the end of his first year in office, he singled out passage of the program and enactment of the Brady gun control bill as the accomplishments that pleased him most.

But while the national service program, now called "AmeriCorps," has generated considerable enthusiasm among prospective participants — 80,000 young Americans have called its toll-free number with inquiries — it has not approached the reception afforded John F. Kennedy's overseas Peace Corps, established in 1961, although it is already larger.

When the program is officially launched on Sept. 12, there will be 20,000 enlistees working in communities around the country, according



JACK & JULES
GERMOND & WITCOVER

administrator of the Clinton presidential campaign. That compares with 6,500 today in the Peace Corps and 15,500 in its highest year.

One reason the program has not ignited public excitement the way the Peace Corps did in 1961, Segal suggests, is that the Peace Corps began in an era marked by much stronger patriotic — and anti-Communist — feelings, and was seen in those terms. Today, he says, the new effort is starting "after three decades of failed social programs" and in the wake of such events as the Vietnam war and the Watergate scandal that diminished public confidence in government generally.

Although some Senate Republicans first filibustered the idea, it eventually won bipartisan backing. Wide public support, Segal says, must await "a demonstrable measure of success."

The recruits — all signed on locally by community coalitions that have been awarded federal operating funds — will be undertaking such tasks as community policing, public safety, dispute resolution, environmental cleanup and teaching assistance. Pilot projects are under way now in a "Summer of Safety" by the first 7,000 enlistees in AmeriCorps.

In St. Louis, for example, senior escort services help the elderly walk through high-crime neighborhoods as they go about their lives. Also, dangerous alleyways have been fenced off to discourage muggings and drug dealings.

"There's a panache to the Peace Corps," Segal says respectfully. "Hopefully there will be a panache for AmeriCorps," but of a different sort. The Peace Corps attracted college graduates of middle- and upper-class backgrounds. The new national service corps reaches out to high school graduates and even dropouts, many of whom could not afford to go to college without earnings from it. On them rests Clinton's hope of achieving at home what JFK did for

The Evening Sun

Baltimore, Friday, August 12, 1994

VIEWPOINTS

AmeriCorps deserves attention



**MORTON
KONDRACKE**

On Oct. 14, 1960, a Brandeis freshman named Eli Segal read about a speech that Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy had given the day before at the University of Michigan with lines similar to the inaugural theme, "Ask not what your country can do for you."

"I remember thinking, 'He is talking exactly about me,'" says Mr. Segal, and it got Mr. Segal started on a road that led from work with poor children and battered women during college and law school to top roles in the 1968 Eugene McCarthy campaign and the 1972 George McGovern campaign, where he hired Bill Clinton, and eventually to the post of chief of staff of Mr. Clinton's 1992 campaign.

When Mr. Clinton won the presidency, Mr. Segal was offered various jobs in the White House but planned to return to his magazine business in Massachusetts until Mr. Clinton offered him the job of heading up the new national service program.

He took it, believing that the soon-to-be launched AmeriCorps could be for the Clinton presidency what the Peace Corps was for JFK's; it could inspire 'generation X' young people to service in the way that JFK's words inspired Mr. Segal and so many others in their parents' generation.

The enactment of legislation setting up the National Service Corporation has been one of Mr. Clinton's major accomplishments, even though it has received nowhere near the publicity of the North American Free Trade Agreement or the president's economic program.

Last summer, as a pilot, the national service program put 80 college and pre-college students to work in Texas, spreading the word about childhood inoculations administered in Texas went up by 1,000.

This summer, as another pilot, 7,000 young people will be working in 90 projects in 70 cities as part of the "Summer of Safety" program, working with police departments and community groups to organize neighborhood anti-crime patrols, make parks safe and escort seniors and children in high-crime areas.

The full AmeriCorps program is scheduled to be launched Sept. 12 and put 20,000 young people to work by the end of its first year doing community service on public safety, education, the environment and "human needs."

In its top year of activity, 1966, the Peace Corps had 15,500 volunteers overseas; today, that number is down to 6,500. AmeriCorps is scheduled to expand to 100,000 volunteers two years from now, assuming Congress appropriates the necessary funds.

Mr. Segal says that, despite widespread stereotypes to the contrary, generation X already is more motivated toward volunteer service than Baby Boomers were. He cites a UCLA survey of 220,000 college freshmen showing that 68 percent reported doing at least three hours per week of volunteer work during the past year, and 10 percent reported doing more than six hours every week.

Mr. Segal says the survey justifies Mr. Clinton's line, repeated often during commencement speeches, that "the myth about the cynicism and self-centeredness of generation X is a big bunch of bull."

Where cynicism seemingly does prevail is in the media.

In the nine months since Mr. Clinton signed the National Service Act into law, the president has referred to the program no fewer than 70 times while producing practically no coverage in major newspapers or on television, according to Mr. Segal.

Even given the media's penchant for concentrating on bad news, AmeriCorps is a story of idealism deserving attention.

Volunteers will receive the minimum wage while they work, plus health insurance, and will get an education allowance of \$4,725 for each year of service, up to a maximum of two years.

Mr. Segal hopes that, unlike the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps will not be dominated by middle-class whites but will be made up of all ethnic groups and social classes. That is the record of the Texas project, in which 60 percent of the volunteers were members of racial minorities.

Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps just might succeed.

Morton Kondracke's column is distributed by the United Feature Syndicate.

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1994

Launching AmeriCorps

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 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 a sense of individual and social responsibility. Compared with that original plan, which theoretically envisioned a volunteer corps numbering in the hundreds of thousands, the one that actually passed Congress is far more modest. 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 Mr. 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 the new AmeriCorps program is expected to sign up amount to about 4,000

more people than the Peace Corps enrolled at its height. The program, moreover, is scheduled to grow substantially in coming years.

If it works, AmeriCorps has the potential for doing something unusual: proving that the federal government can strengthen local institutions that are using practical means and the energies of citizens to solve neighborhood problems. 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.

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MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1993

SERVING COMMUNITIES IN WALKERDIA, WASHINGTON,
OZAUKEE AND MILWAUKEE COUNTIES SINCE 1915

Economic development grants provide strong leverage for new opportunities

SPRING AND SUMMER GRANTS

At its March and June meetings, the Milwaukee Foundation awarded approximately \$1,180,000 in grants to area organizations. The following organizations received grants of \$5,000 or more.

Milwaukee Community Service Corps, \$13,000 to increase the number of young adult Corps members providing direct client services at community-based organizations and non-profits in Milwaukee.

"Job training and job development traditionally are viewed as public sector responsibilities," explained Marks. "We've found, though, that private funds can be very helpful in trying new approaches and new programs."



Nicholas Pannos

Dwight Jones graduated from the Milwaukee Community Service Corps to a masonry apprentice position. The Community Service Corps, launched with a Milwaukee Foundation grant, provides education and work training for up to 120 jobless young adults each year.

"Two-fers"

Some projects combine job training with community service

Several Milwaukee Foundation grants have supported projects that do double duty—training for employment while providing valuable community services. Some examples:

- **Milwaukee Community Service Corps:** Aimed at young adults without job skills, the program combines classroom education and work on community service projects for 120 participants annually. Corps members have provided 150,000 hours of community

service helping in child care centers, fixing up dilapidated homes and cleaning vacant lots.

- **Right Alternative Family Center:** Begun as a self-help group of welfare mothers, its multi-faceted program today includes a day care center staffed by former welfare recipients. Deborah Darden, Right Alternative's founder, will receive Alverno College's Telesis Award in November for the organization's success in mobiliz-

ing welfare recipients to help themselves.

- **Esperanza Unida:** Based on Milwaukee's near south side, the organization's Family Day Care Training Program trains Hispanic women to operate state-licensed in-home day care centers. Esperanza's other training programs—auto repair, auto body and asbestos removal—all market their services to the community.

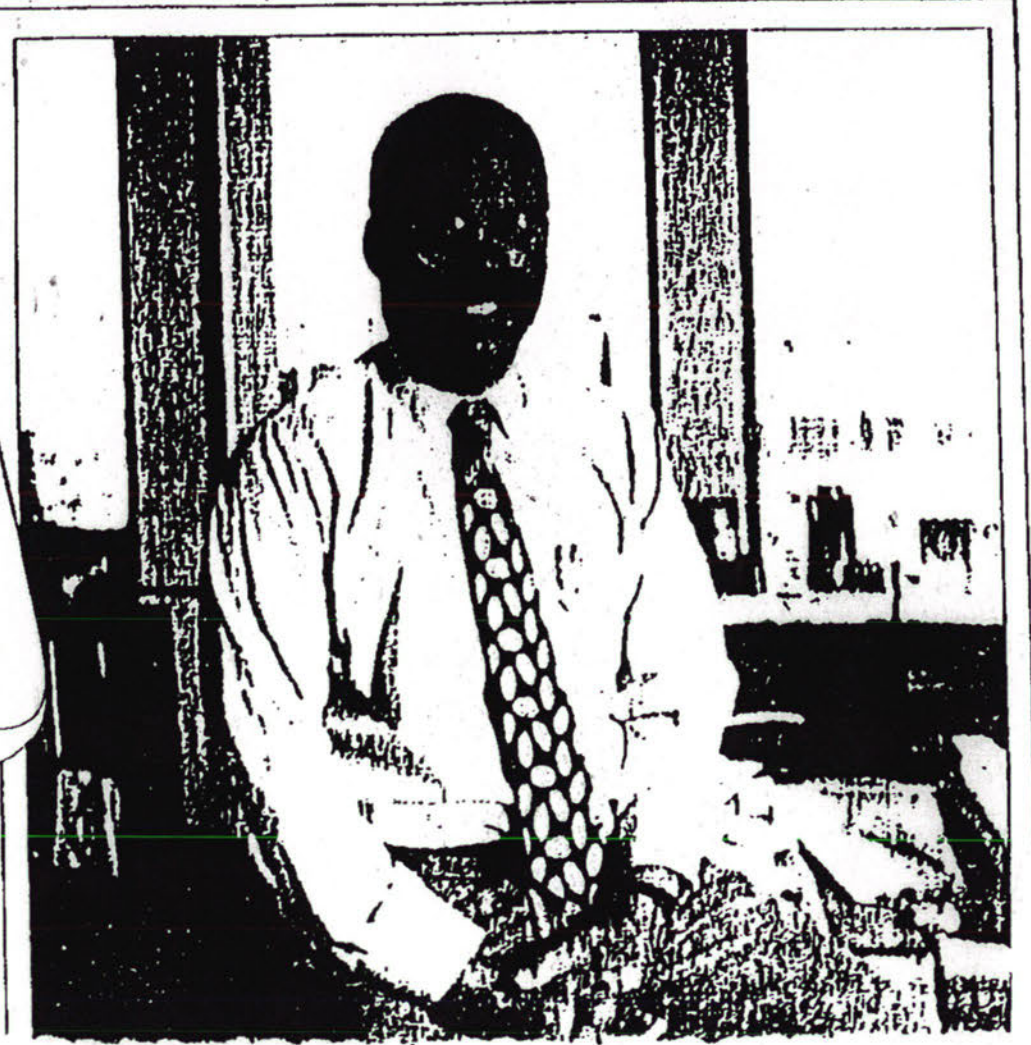
Careers

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL Monday, March 8, 1993

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HUNGER TASK FORCE

**A
survival
kit for
the '90s**



Chicago Sun-Times

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 \$4,725 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

6/21/94

Max Fay

N.J. watersheds to get 20 helpers

By JOAN GALLER
Staff Writer

One year after President Clinton visited Rutgers University to unveil a national service program — offering America's students a paycheck and scholarship for performing community services — the project is off and running.

Twenty young New Jerseyans will be selected this summer to serve one-year stints on restoration projects involving three major watersheds: the Raritan River, Arthur Kill, and the Musconetcong.

Actual work should start sometime this fall after the students are selected and trained, with Union County getting half or more of the workers to help restore the 130-acre Arthur Kill Watershed, said Carlos Henning, deputy state conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Henning was present yesterday when Rep. Frank J. Pallone Jr. announced the Garden State's share in the national service initiative to restore watersheds during a news conference in Piscataway's Johnson Park.

Pallone spoke with his back to the Raritan River, into which much of the 1,100-acre Raritan River watershed flows from portions of Middlesex and Monmouth counties, his 6th Congressional District, and from Somerset County.

"President Clinton has made national service a high priority, and I would like to see this initiative continue," said Pallone, a Democrat.

"Here in the Raritan River Valley, as well as along the Bayshore, we certainly need some restoration work done," he said. "This is an area with great potential for recreation and scenic beauty."

Pallone's announcement was timed to coincide with similar announcements in Washington, D.C., and across the nation, including one from the office of Rep. Robert Menendez, a Democrat whose 13th Congressional District includes portions of Union and Middlesex counties. Menendez worked with Union County officials to ensure the Arthur Kill Watershed's inclusion in the project.

"This program is a great deal for New Jersey," Menendez said. "It

delivers on the president's promise of a National Service and brings the results home — right here, for all of us to see and enjoy."

Menendez credited Reps. Donald M. Payne and Bob Franks for supporting restoration of the Arthur Kill watershed, which drains 19 of Union County's 21 municipalities via the Elizabeth and Rahway rivers, Morses Creek and Pipe Creek, and parts of northern Middlesex County.

The Musconetcong Watershed accommodates Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties.

The New Jersey watershed projects are part of a nationwide program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will ultimately place 1,800 AmeriCorps national service participants throughout urban and rural America, Menendez said.

The USDA program will be the largest single federal agency component of the national service initiative and among the first to be funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

New Jersey currently has 120 students involved in various community service projects created during the past year under AmeriCorps, which was established by the National Service Trust Act. By 1995, the state's national service corps is expected to reach 300 to 400.

The 20 students needed for New Jersey's watershed restoration action teams will be recruited from areas where unemployment exceeds the U.S. average, now at 6.8 percent, and those participants who lack high school diplomas will have an opportunity to enroll in the state's vocational-training high schools two-year accelerated diploma program, Pallone said.

Each will be paid a stipend of at least \$7,500 for performing 1,700 hours of work, or 40-hour weeks for nine months, during the course of one year. They also will receive a \$4,725 voucher payable after the work is completed directly to their personal college costs or past college debt.

Those who opt to work part time can fulfill the work requirement by splitting the work time, performing 900 hours each year for two years, said Janice Reid, USDA soil conservationist for New Jersey.

Once trained, the teams will

NEWS TRIBUNE

reach out to communities impacted by the watersheds to inventory, assess, and implement planned activities, she said.

Their work will include soil erosion abatement, improvement of water quality and habitat, creation of buffer areas of grass and trees, restoration of wetlands, and streambank stabilization, and community cleanup projects.

Some students will handle technical aspects, while others will engage in physical labor, she said, on public and private lands.

Henning credited Union County with advancing its own agenda last year by submitting a proposal that the state USDA office later incorporated in its federal application.

"We took the proposals from where there was a demonstrable interest, where they were ready willing, and able," he explained.

Henning said his office initially requested 86 student participants for the New Jersey project, with 36 to be assigned to Union County to meet its demonstrated need for restoration of the Arthur Kill Watershed.

Now that the number approved is short of that goal, Henning said he expects Union County will still get half or more of the planned manpower and funding to handle the necessary work.

The Raritan River and Musconetcong watersheds were included, Henning added, based on the state USDA office's knowledge of need and ongoing work.

To apply for the USDA watershed programs, call toll-free (800) 850-4183.

Staff Writer Kathleen Hopkins contributed to this report.

The New York Times

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NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1994

In America

BOB HERBERT

A Season Of Service

Think of it as an antidote to cynicism, a rejection of the rampant selfishness that managed somehow to become fashionable in the 1980's. Think of it as a return to the can-do spirit of the 50's and 60's, when large numbers of Americans believed it was possible to find remedies for violence and injustice, for poverty and ignorance, for the buffoonery and corruption of politicians, and for the wholesale degradation of the environment.

"I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service," said Bill Clinton in his inaugural address. "There is so much to be done — enough, indeed, for millions of others who are still young in spirit to give of themselves in service, too."

On Sept. 12, amid elaborate ceremonies planned for the South Lawn of the White House, the President's national service program will get fully under way. It's called AmeriCorps

Patriotism rolls
up its sleeves
for AmeriCorps.

and it's described as a domestic version of the Peace Corps. Its scope is less than I would have wished, but more than we've come to expect from a sociopolitical environment that over the past decade and a half has been poisoned by greed, a collapse of ideals and contempt for the old-fashioned notion of brotherhood.

In that environment, we were free to choose between the national values espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and those currently embraced by Representative Newt Gingrich. We opted for Mr. Gingrich's.

The President's national service program is a modest step in Dr. King's direction.

Under the program, several thousand young Americans from all kinds of backgrounds will offer their services to organizations working on problems related to education, public safety, social services and the environment. For a two-year commitment, the participants will be paid \$7,500 a year and will receive a credit of \$9,450 (\$4,725 a year) that can be used for college or graduate school expenses.

The program will reach into urban, suburban and rural America. Parts of it have already started. Young men and women are helping to restore wildlife habitats, conducting childhood immunization programs, escorting children and the elderly through dangerous inner-city neighborhoods, counseling drug abusers, providing preventive health services and improving neglected playgrounds, parks and wetlands.

Tiffany Tidwell, an honors graduate from the University of Kansas, is teaching French at a public school in the Mississippi Delta. Leo Negrón, who grew up in a tough neighborhood in Chicago, is teaching construction skills to teen-agers. Laura Sullivan, who grew up in a wealthy suburb in Massachusetts, has joined a program in Baltimore that provides assistance to poor women who want to start their own businesses.

"We have a lot of domestic problems that need creative answers," Ms. Sullivan said. "And I wanted to get to know the neighborhoods in the inner cities, rather than just living in the ivory tower of a college community."

She referred to friends who are serving in the military and said: "They are defending us internationally. I feel strongly that there should be a force of young people that are kind of defending us domestically."

Besides providing assistance to many worthwhile organizations, AmeriCorps is a way for young people to see a variety of fellow Americans up close and personal, the way they really are, without the distorting filter of the boob tube. It's a way to get beyond the stereotypes of situation comedy and the local news.

"Whenever possible," said Eli Segal, chief chaperone for this noble effort, "we want youngsters from different geographic areas, from different races and ethnic groups and from different economic backgrounds to pitch in and work together."

Mr. Segal, an assistant to the President, is the chief executive of the Corporation for National Service. He expects to have 20,000 AmeriCorps enlistees spread out across the country by the end of the year. "And if it works," he said, "we could have 100,000 by the end of 1996."

I have always believed that national service should be compulsory. Every American should serve two years in some military or civilian capacity. There should be more to patriotism than singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at a ball game, or rooting (from the comfort of our living rooms) for the American team to win a nationally televised war.

AmeriCorps is a start. □

W. Post
Editorial
8/27 A20

Launching AmeriCorps

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1st Wave of Service Corps Starts S. Side Duty Today

By Basil Talbott

Sun-Times Washington Bureau

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Americorps' recruits sweep into the city

By Ray Quatanilla
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 30 program participants will clean up and plant upwards of 20,000 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.

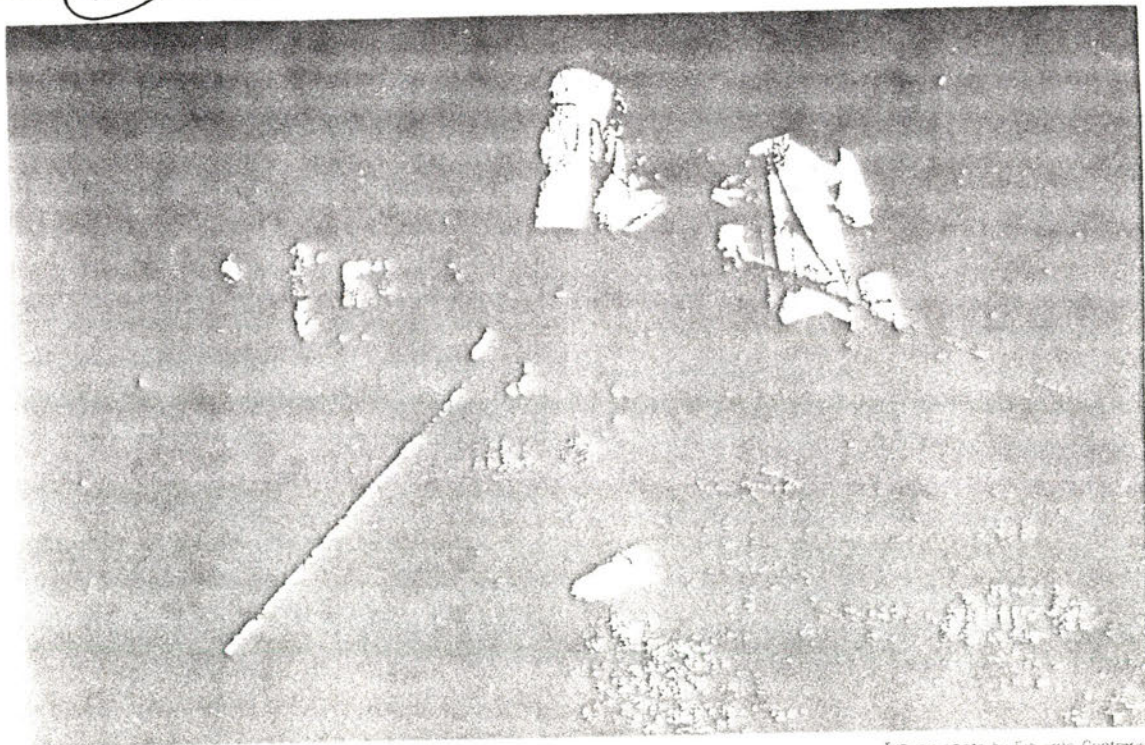
The president pushed for passage of his crime bill and an assault weapons ban while touring the Robert Taylor Homes earlier this month. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros even spent a few nights at the Taylor project to see what was needed to improve life in public housing.

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 Tameel 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 9600 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 2,700 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.

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■ 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

10/12/94

*Shirley
Morgan
Krista White
Audrey Morgan
Krista White*

Working Together

AmeriCorps To Spruce Up Urban And Rural Areas

By Margaret Gillerman
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Krista White, 22, a college student from East St. Louis, and Audrey Morgan, 36, a homemaker and mother of two from Granite City, have found they share a lot in common: a concern for the environment, a willingness to serve their community and participation in the newest government service corps in America.

The new friends are two of 30 AmeriCorps workers taking part in a project sponsored in the Metro East by the United States Department of Agriculture.

This week, White, Morgan and the others in the USDA project are training at State Community College in East St. Louis.

Soon, they'll be out cleaning up inner city parks and shoring up rural creeks. The project is intended to "improve, reclaim, restore and beautify land in urban as well as rural areas," according to a project description.

About 20 of the participants will work in neighborhoods and parks in East St. Louis and Lovejoy. They'll clean vacant residential lots and replant them, fix greenhouses at East St. Louis Senior High School and Jones Park, and restore athletic fields, several flower gardens and a lagoon and stream channel in the park.

The other 10 will trudge through streams and rebuild banks to clean up

See CLEANUP, Page 12

■ **AmeriCorps project to boost two Belleville neighborhoods** 12

RECEIVED
LIBRARY

Cleanup

From page one

after last year's flood and prevent future flooding at sites around St. Clair and Madison counties. The floods wreaked much damage to Metro East streams, and many emergency repairs — such as clearing out

Harding Ditch — are needed.

AmeriCorps — President Bill Clinton's new national service program — helps people earn college or vocational scholarships or repay educational loans while they rebuild

communities.

White, a junior at Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville, got involved in AmeriCorps when a friend told her about the opportunity.

White has a 3-year old son at home. This gives her some money to build for their future.

"I'm concerned about the environment, and I thought it would be a good thing to learn to garden and to help the community," White said. And she had one more reason for signing up: "I care about East St. Louis. I've lived here all my life."

Morgan has volunteered as a gardening expert for the University of Illinois extension service and worked in the demonstration garden for the Collinsville Park District. She thinks a career in landscape architecture might be just what she wants — and AmeriCorps will give her the opportunity to pursue her dream.

Morgan got interested when she heard AmeriCorps would "pay my child care, give me education benefits and I get to do service for the community. That hooked me in."

She's excited about creating a new, clean habitat for fish by working in the streams.

And what she likes best is that "this is something good, something positive" for the community.

Nationwide, some 20,000 people are in the first AmeriCorps group, and about 1,200 of them are in Department of Agriculture projects. Illinois has the largest USDA project of any state, said Rod Atterberry, who is state facilitator for the USDA

AmeriCorps projects.

"We want to make this a model for the nation," said Don Wallace, who is State Community College's coordinator for the program.

The AmeriCorps participants will work closely with neighborhood organizations in East St. Louis and Lovejoy.

"People from all walks of life, who had a range of experience and educational backgrounds, were interested in becoming a part of what we're doing," Wallace said.

Rufus Williams, who's the co-coor-

tion that were once taught to workers of the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps.

"We're dusting off the ancient techniques of the CCC," he said. Creeks will be fixed with willow posts and strengthened with cedar revetments.

The plan is to restore creeks in the bluffs so they won't flood; this will prevent dirt spills and silt build-up in the streams below in the flood plain.

At their training sessions at State Community College this week, the AmeriCorps team workers wore gray shirts with black and red trim and the proud slogan: "AmeriCorps: Getting Things Done."

William LeRoy, 28, of East St. Louis, said the education benefits would let him finish college. At the same time, AmeriCorps contributions "will give the city of East St. Louis a better image."

James Pace, 39, of East St. Louis, says the project should "benefit the community for years and years to come." At the same time, Pace, who's the father of two, plans to pay off his education loans.

Others interviewed shared the same spirit of wanting to contribute to their community. Joel Anderson, 21, wants to help East St. Louis. Michael Smith, 47, sees this as a chance to combine his yard work skills and love of outdoors with community service.

For more information, call Rufus Williams at (618)234-1484 or the toll-free national USDA AmeriCorps hotline at 1-800-880-4183.

Others interviewed shared the same spirit of wanting to contribute to their community.

inator for the AmeriCorps teams in East St. Louis, said about 250 people applied for the 30 spots. Williams works for the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

"We had so many excellent candidates to select from," he said. The East St. Louis Horticulture Council helped make the decision.

At a kickoff ceremony in September, guests came to East St. Louis from as far away as Washington.

As part of the training, John F. Harryman, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, is teaching the techniques of conserva-

NOVEMBER 9, 1994

THE BELZONI BANNER

INNER

NOVEMBER 3, 1994

AMERICORPS® TO HOST NUTRITIONAL WORKSHOP

The USDA Americorps Anti-Hunger Team will host a workshop on nutrition and food safety on Wednesday, November 16, 1994, at 11:30 a.m. at the Neighborhood Facility Building located at 501 N. Hayden St., Belzoni, MS. The purpose of this session is to share information with residents about the importance of preparing healthy, well-balanced meals, and following the doctor's order on prescribed menus for specific health conditions. The public is invited to attend this important event. For more information call (601) 247-1305.



Guaranty Bank & Trust Co. employees Shirley Chisolm (seated) and Sheila Outlaw took advantage of the free blood sugar pressure checks given at the bank for Diabetes Month.



Mid Delta Home Health Dietitian Katherine Davis (right) counsels Saran Hood on nutritional information and blood sugar levels, while one of Mrs. Hood's Corp members has his blood pressure checked by Goldie Bedford, LPN. Left background, Joan Mullen, LPN finishes her shift at the health

HEALTH FAIR AT GUARANTY BANK

Over 100 people participated in health fair at Guaranty Bank Trust Co., on Thursday, November 3. In recognition of Diabetes Month (November), nurses and registered dietitian with Mid-Delta Home Health provided free blood pressure and blood sugar checks the bank.

Ten local corp members of the new USDA Anti-Hunger Corp Community Service organization came as a group (with Crew Leader Evelyn Bankhead and project coordinator Sarah Hood) to participate in the health fair and obtain health-related information.

Katherine Davis, Certified Diabetes Educator and Registered Dietitian with Mid-Delta Home Health talked with participants about the symptoms of Diabetes, and provided nutrition counseling and information to those who experience problems with high blood sugar, etc.

For those interested in learning more about Diabetes, you are invited to attend the Humphreys County Diabetes Support Group. Cooking for the Holidays is the scheduled program for the November Diabetes Support Group meeting. The meeting will be held from 6-7 p.m. on Monday, November 21, 1994 at the Humphreys County Neighborhood Facility Building at 501 Hayden St., in Belzoni.

Katherine Davis will lead the meeting and answer any questions you may have. Mid-Delta sponsors the support group as a way to provide an informal setting for people with Diabetes to obtain information on a variety of topics such as foot care, controlling blood sugar, nutrition, and helpful hints on maintaining healthy diets.

Publication	City	State	Date	Submitted By
Wisconsin State Journal	Madison	WI	06/22/94	Madison Field Off

Milwaukee chosen for anti-hunger program

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee is one of five national sites selected to take part in an anti-hunger program that is part of President Clinton's new national AmeriCorps service initiative.

2 The program, 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.

Program participants will earn

college or vocational scholarships or vouchers to repay college loans.

The Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Community Service Corps. will collaborate on Milwaukee County's anti-hunger program, U.S. Rep. Thomas M. Barrett, D-Wisconsin, said.

The project will recruit 40 area young adults, 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, AmeriCorps participants will earn \$4.75 per hour. Upon completion of service, they will receive a \$4,725 scholarship.

The task force feeds more than 39,000 people each month, including more than 25,000 children.

Noted
Americorps file
ATD

TUESDAY
June 21, 1994

PISCATAWAY

Team effort on river

Environmental activism boosted

By LAUREL VAN LEE
Home News Correspondent

PISCATAWAY — The banks of the old Raritan may see a youthful burst of energy and a cleaner environment due to a national watershed-protection program announced yesterday by Rep. Frank Pallone at Johnson Park.

The plan combines two ideas with growing constituencies: that young people should serve their communities and that communities can best protect their environments by protecting watersheds. A watershed is the area of land that drains into a body of water.

With a muddy Raritan and a busy Route 18 in the background, Pallone, D-6th Dist., said he was very excited about the formation of the 20-member New Jersey Watershed Restoration Action Team because of his concern for water-quality protection and wetland restoration. This program will address those issues as well as give team members environmental and civic lessons. The team will work on environmental cleanup and restoration projects in the 1,100-square-mile Raritan River watershed.

Three New Jersey watersheds — the Raritan, the Arthur Kill and the Muskenetcong — are part of the program, headed by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It's a big job and officials would like to increase the team to 36 members, recruit additional volunteers and cooperate

Home News

WATER

■ Continued from page B1

Henning, deputy soil conservationist and watershed project manager.

Team recruitment will begin immediately, and the first projects are scheduled for as early as September. For a nine-month work year, team members will receive at least a \$7,500 stipend and tuition voucher worth \$4,725. Child care is available. Applicants must be at least 17 years old. The team's 30-40 hour week will include between eight and 16 hours of education and training, while the remainder will be hands-on environmental restoration projects.

Projects are likely to include river stabilizing banks, planting trees, cleaning up litter, testing water quality, establishing buffer areas, restoring wetlands and producing community outreach and education programs, said state conservationist Cecil Curtin.

The actual projects will be determined by watershed communities which want to work with the Action Team. SCS officials estimate there is enough work to last 10 years, but the initial proposal is for three years. Funding figures were not available yesterday, even to the SCS, said Curtin. His office had requested \$2.4 million over three years. Education will be provided by SCS staff, members of the environmental community and the

New Jersey Academy for Community Service and Service Learning, housed at Rutgers.

Pallone said it was fitting to announce the program in Piscataway, the site chosen last year by President Bill Clinton to announce his plans for a national service corps. Clinton visited Rutgers University's Louis Brown Athletic Center to talk about the corps and to highlight the university's own community service program. The national service corps is similar in spirit, if not size, to the Civilian and Youth Conservation Corps of the 1930s.

In addition to on-the-job education and experience, Clinton's initiative calls for college tuition credit.

The watershed management approach to environmental protection is gaining popularity as people realize the ecological importance of "nonpoint" source, or people source, pollution, said David Peiffer, executive director of the Upper Raritan Watershed Association. Whatever happens in the watershed impacts the river, he said.

"It starts in the air as rain that washes through the air pollution," said Peiffer. The rain then collects whatever is on the ground, including litter, soil and chemicals, and pours some of it into the river.

Peiffer estimated that 60 percent of all water pollution is created this way now that industrial discharge pipes, the notorious "point" sources, have largely been regulated and cleaned up.

The Times-Independent, Thursday, September 15, 1994-A3

Americorps offering openings in the Four Corners area

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is launching the Americorps program in Utah this month by offering opportunities to about 40 college graduates to gain work experience and tuition reimbursement while helping develop rural areas of the Four Corners region. Americorps is President Bill Clinton's new national service initiative that establishes a "domestic Peace Corps."

Job opportunities are available in Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona in the disciplines of education, information, small-scale agriculture development, natural resources inventory and determining industry potential.

Americorps is seeking college graduates with an interest in rural development. To request an application and learn about Americorps in the Four Corners region, call 1-800-784-1445. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 30.

Participants will earn a stipend of \$12,000 for working 1,800 hours during a 10- to 12-month period. They will also receive health insurance and reimbursement for child care, if necessary. Upon completion of the 1,800 hours, an education voucher of \$4,725 will be awarded. The voucher may be used to repay

student loans and/or be applied toward tuition for an advanced degree.

The Four Corners initiative will focus on economic development and environmental conservation. Specifically, Americorps members will be conducting an analysis of the potential for natural resource based, value-added industries in the region; conducting research into the role of natural resource based industries in local economies; and assisting limited resource farmers in developing a database of regional demographics and assisting with tourism industry management.

Thursday, September 15, 1994—Sun Advocate, Price, Utah 5

USDA to launch national service program in state

Team USDA will launch the Americorps program in Utah this month by offering opportunities to about 40 college graduates to gain work experience and tuition reimbursement while helping develop rural areas of the Four Corners region.

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According to Kresha Eastman, Utah's Americorps project manager, the Four Corners initiative will focus on economic development and environmental conservation.

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Eastman is a resource conservation and development coordinator for the United States Soil Conservation Service in Price.

More than 250 AmeriCorps workers will help out in state

■ The program benefits both the community and the volunteers.

By Steve Walton
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

7-11-94
Hundreds of people will begin work in Mississippi this fall, fighting hunger, teaching students, enhancing habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker and more.

"We're darn proud to get the help," said Don Bolinger, spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service in Jackson.

The Forest Service will get 20 of the

TODAY'S EXTRA

more than 250 workers for work in the Bienville National Forest through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Public Lands and Environment Team, one of five AmeriCorps programs guaranteed funding for next year in Mississippi.

The others are Teach for America, Delta Service Corps, USDA Rural Development Team and the USDA Anti-Hunger Team.

The five programs are among 58 the

TO APPLY

Contact the Mississippi Commission on National and Community Service at 982-8779 to apply to work or to apply for a grant.

White House in June announced will operate in almost every state starting in September.

More programs with another 200 to 250 jobs may be available for the state,

but funding for them has not been finalized, said Marsha Meeks Kelly, executive director of the Mississippi Commission on National and Community Service, which oversees the program.

President Clinton formed the AmeriCorps program last September, adding new community service programs to existing ones, such as Volunteers in Service to America.

AmeriCorps workers, age 17 and up, get a living stipend of up to \$7,500 and an educational benefit of \$4,725 to use for college and vocational school.

See SERVICE, 5A

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-



■ **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 project will benefit Darby Creek

More help is on the way to keep Darby Creek pristine.

The creek's watershed has been chosen as one of 42 AmeriCorps projects administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

AmeriCorps is the national service plan that lets participants earn college or vocational school scholarships while working for the country.

Six people will be hired through the program to work on the Darby Creek project, said Lawrence Clark, state conservationist for Ohio's Soil Conservation Service.

"This will help accelerate the efforts here with the Nature Conservancy," Clark said.

"The students earn a small stipend and credits for college, and it helps us get conservation on the land. With tight budgets, it's been difficult to afford the staff we need to do all of the conservation work that needs to be done."

Four of the employees will work with rural and urban landowners, said Wes Beery, agricultural coordinator for the Nature Conservancy in Columbus. They'll train to develop whole farm plans, design filter strips near the creek and work in urban areas to monitor where storm water is going, he said.

Another worker will plant trees in the riparian buffer strip area, which is the land next to the creek. The sixth will become the "river keeper" and will "provide another set of eyes on the creek" to report if trash is dumped, trees are cut or development gets too close, Beery said.

Interviews are to hire the six by Aug. 20 and have them on board by early September, Clark said.

Participants will earn at least \$7,500 and an educational voucher worth \$1,725.

FARM TO MARKET

Those interested in the program can call 800-850-1183 for more information.

HALL HONOREES

The Ohio Agricultural Council last week announced the four 1994 inductees into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Bob Evans, of sausage fame, is being recognized for a variety of contributions to agriculture throughout his career. He practices conservation efforts on his Rio Grande Farm, and he has worked to develop year-round grazing in Ohio.

Evans helped secure funding for the Ohio Belle Valley Bull Test facility and helped begin the American Quarter Horse Congress, which takes place in Columbus every fall.

Robert Gottesman, of Cleveland, is being recognized for his contributions to the Ohio wine industry. He is credited with preserving the grape and wine industry in the state through his purchase of the Myers, Long, Mon Amie and Mantey wineries in the 1970s.

Gottesman was instrumental in getting the state's grape producers to experiment with new varieties to produce better wines. He also helped create the Ohio Grape Industries Program, which



SUZANNE STEEL

eight other states have used as a model.

William Richards is former chief of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and a farmer in Circleville, Ohio. He is considered a pioneer in crop residue management and stopped plowing his ground in the late '50s, earning him the unofficial title "Grandfather of Conservation Tillage" by the agricultural media.

He founded the Ohio Top Farmers organization, a purchasing and marketing cooperative. As chief of the SCS, Richards worked on soil erosion control, wetlands protection and water management.

Dean Simeral, now of Leesburg, Fla., served as legislative representative for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation for more than 35 years. In that capacity, Simeral worked on legislative and regulatory issues that would affect the rural electric cooperatives, the Farm Credit System, Countrymark and Landmark, milk cooperatives, and feed and grain industry organizations.

Simeral worked on the appropriations and budget needs of Ohio State University Extension, College of Agriculture and Agricultural Research and Development Center, and for the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

He also worked on legislation so that farmland is taxed at an agricultural use value and worked to establish agricultural districts to protect farmers from such things as nuisance suits.

The four will be honored at the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame Breakfast Aug. 12 during the Ohio State Fair. Tickets are available from farm organizations and Tom McNutt at 876-4636.

Suzanne Steel is agribusiness reporter for The Dispatch.

N.J. watersheds to get 20 helpers

By JOAN GALLER

Staff Writer

One year after President Clinton visited Rutgers University to unveil a national service program — offering America's students a paycheck and scholarship for performing community services — the project is off and running.

Twenty young New Jerseyans will be selected this summer to serve one-year stints on restoration projects involving three major watersheds: the Raritan River, Arthur Kill, and the Musconetcong.

Actual work should start sometime this fall after the students are selected and trained, with Union County getting half or more of the workers to help restore the 130-acre Arthur Kill Watershed, said Carlos Henning, deputy state conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Henning was present yesterday when Rep. Frank J. Pallone Jr. announced the Garden State's share in the national service initiative to restore watersheds during a news conference in Piscataway's Johnson Park.

Pallone spoke with his back to the Raritan River, into which much of the 1,100-acre Raritan River watershed flows from portions of Middlesex and Monmouth counties, his 8th Congressional District, and from Somerset County.

"President Clinton has made national service a high priority, and I would like to see this initiative continue," said Pallone, a Democrat.

"Here in the Raritan River Valley, as well as along the Bayshore, we certainly need some restoration work done," he said. "This is an area with great potential for recreation and scenic beauty."

Pallone's announcement was timed to coincide with similar announcements in Washington, D.C., and across the nation, including one from the office of Rep. Robert Menendez, a Democrat whose 13th Congressional District includes portions of Union and Middlesex counties. Menendez worked with Union County officials to ensure the Arthur Kill Watershed's inclusion in the project.

"This program is a great deal for New Jersey," Menendez said. "It

delivers on the president's promise of a National Service and brings the results home — right here, for all of us to see and enjoy."

Menendez credited Reps. Donald M. Payne and Bob Franks for supporting restoration of the Arthur Kill watershed, which drains 19 of Union County's 21 municipalities via the Elizabeth and Rahway rivers, Monas Creek and Pike Creek, and parts of northern Middlesex County.

The Musconetcong Watershed accommodates Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties.

The New Jersey watershed projects are part of a nationwide program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will ultimately place 1,800 AmeriCorps national service participants throughout urban and rural America, Menendez said.

The USDA program will be the largest single federal agency component of the national service initiative and among the first to be funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

New Jersey currently has 120 students involved in various community service projects created during the past year under AmeriCorps, which was established by the National Service Trust Act. By 1995, the state's national service corps is expected to reach 300 to 400.

The 20 students needed for New Jersey's watershed restoration action teams will be recruited from areas where unemployment exceeds the U.S. average, now at 6.8 percent, and those participants who lack high school diplomas will have an opportunity to enroll in the state's vocational-training high schools two-year accelerated diploma program, Pallone said.

Each will be paid a stipend of at least \$7,500 for performing 1,700 hours of work, or 40-hour weeks for nine months, during the course of one year. They also will receive a \$4,725 voucher payable after the work is completed directly to their personal college costs or past college debt.

Those who opt to work part time can fulfill the work requirement by splitting the work time, performing 900 hours each year for two years, said Janice Reid, USDA soil conservationist for New Jersey.

Once trained, the teams will

NEWS TRIBUNE

reach out to communities impacted by the watersheds to inventory, assess, and implement planned activities, she said.

Their work will include soil erosion abatement, improvement of water quality and habitat, creation of buffer areas of grass and trees, restoration of wetlands, and streambank stabilization, and community cleanup projects.

Some students will handle technical aspects, while others will engage in physical labor, she said, on public and private lands.

Henning credited Union County with advancing its own agenda last year by submitting a proposal that the state USDA office later incorporated in its federal application.

"We took the proposals from where there was a demonstrated interest, where they were ready willing, and able," he explained.

Henning said his office initially requested 36 student participants for the New Jersey project, with 34 to be assigned to Union County to meet its demonstrated need for restoration of the Arthur Kill Watershed.

Now that the number approved is short of that goal, Henning said he expects Union County will still get half or more of the planned manpower and funding to handle the necessary work.

The Raritan River and Musconetcong watersheds were included, Henning added, based on the state USDA office's knowledge of need and ongoing work.

To apply for the USDA watershed programs, call toll-free (800) 880-4183.

Staff Writer Kathleen Hopkins contributed to this report.

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.

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—Joel Berg of the U.S. Agriculture Department

Service corps recruits dig in to help neighborhoods, themselves

By Ray Quintanilla
LEADING STAFF WRITER

Holding a shovelful of dirt, with manicured designer fingernails studded with rhinestones, Carrie Potts on Tuesday began working toward her goal of becoming an accountant.

"It starts right here, like this, digging and shoveling. But you know, when I'm into my career, I'll be making the money for me and my son," said Potts, 20, a single parent with a 7-month-old baby.

For the summer, Potts will be earning \$147 a week with the promise of an additional \$1,000 for college under a 10-week model of President Clinton's Americorps, a national service program billed as a domestic Peace Corps. Americorps won't officially start and accept its one-year recruits until fall.

Potts was among 50 summer recruits, whose ages range from 16 to 22, who cleaned up a South Side neighborhood flower garden Tuesday at Homewood and Monterey Avenues. Nearly half of the Summer of Safety participants come from poor backgrounds.

"It's not exactly the kind of work I would want to do all the time, but it's better than hanging out," said Potts, who plans to attend Northeastern Illinois University in the fall.

The Chicago High School for Agricultural Science, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Chicago Housing Authority shaped



Some of the 50 summer recruits working for an urban service corps clean up a South Side neighborhood flower garden Tuesday.

Tribune photo by John Dzekan

the local plan and devised duties for the recruits.

It started with some weed pulling, but before it's over, the recruits will fight illegal activity in one of Chicago's neighborhoods.

"These kids are very eager to help people, and I know they will

get a lot out of it," said Karen Cole, 35, an Agriculture Department employee who supervises the workers.

Gardening is light work compared to the task the recruits will face in two weeks: cleaning up the Ida B. Wells housing development

and helping the South Side area's residents form a neighborhood watch program.

"I'm not afraid. I've heard all the horror stories, and no matter how you see it, these are people who need help," said Quinn Leonard,

17, a Beverly resident and a graduate of St. Ignatius College Preparatory School. "I'm here to try and help them out."

Joel Berg, national service director for the Agriculture Department, said Chicago and CHA po-

lice will increase their presence to ensure the recruits are safe between the work hours of 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"If you want to make a difference, you've got to go into areas of high crime," Berg said. "We've taken precautions, but no one can guarantee 100 percent safety for them."

But the combination of improving neighborhoods, steady summer employment, and the bonus for college or vocational school training was enough to keep the recruits from entertaining thoughts of leaving the program.

Some recruits said they'll spend time trying to get Wells residents involved with improving their area.

"It's their neighborhood. The big part will fall on the residents, and I'll help out," said Barbara Wilson, 18, who was raised at the Cabrin Green development and now lives a few blocks away with her mother.

"Maybe some day the place can be a wonderful place to live," Wilson, a premed student at Western Illinois University, said of Wells. "We'll work together."

Potts, who was raised at Wells and still lives there, said she'll introduce her work friends to some neighborhood friends. "Everything's going to be fine. I'll talk to some friends of mine and get them to help us, so everyone works together," she said. "We'll have fun."

Delta areas score with jobs from national service plan

By James W. Brosnan
The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration Monday assigned 7,000 national service slots to needy areas, including 301 to the Mississippi-Arkansas-Louisiana Delta, but not one to Memphis or West Tennessee.

However, that could change this fall, when the next round of awards to promote national service are announced. The Tennessee Commission on National Community Service today is submitting the maximum eight applications for the fall awards, including two from Memphis.

The Center for Drug-Free Schools also is seeking 20 full-time and 20 part-time slots, primarily for Rhodes College students to mentor elementary and middle-school students and operate after-school arts and sports programs.

"We're sure to be shouting from the rooftops if it comes through," said Bette Garner, a school psychologist at the center.

The Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention Center in Memphis, working with several other local agencies, is seeking 10 full-time and 20 part-time

slots for graduate students to counsel families. That would double the size of the program, said Barbara King, executive director of the center.

Clinton's national service program, called AmeriCorps, is designed to attract mostly college-age students to work a year for a minimum-wage salary of at least \$7,500 and then after a year's tour, a voucher worth \$4,725 to spend on college or other educational program. The 7,000 slots announced Monday were for national or multi-state programs operated by federal agencies or not-for-profit groups. Another 13,000 will be awarded through a competition between the states.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, a former Mississippi congressman, gathered more than 1,200 of the slots for various rural programs and a fourth of those went to the Delta.

About half the Delta slots, 145, continue a pilot program known as the Delta Service Corps in Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana that Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) got authorized two years ago. The Corps members, who range in age from the 20s to the 80s, work throughout the Delta at Head Start centers, health clinics and housing sites, said Clarence Lovelady, director of the division of community

services in the Mississippi Department of Education.

Also in Mississippi:

■ Fifteen AmeriCorps members will work in Sunflower and Humphreys counties to help poor families take advantage of government food programs and tax advantages for lower-income people.

■ Four will help the poor in Clarksdale obtain routine health care before they get sick.

■ Twenty out of Jackson to improve the habitat and facilities along the Shockaloe Trail to increase awareness of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker.

In Arkansas five AmeriCorps members were assigned to Forrest City, Osceola, Hope, Pine Bluff, and Fort Smith as part of a 10-state effort by the Associations of Farm Worker Opportunity Programs to teach safe use of pesticides.

Memphis didn't get a cut of any of the national or agency programs partly because anti-hunger teams were assigned only to the Delta area and to Los Angeles, Washington, Los Angeles, Milwaukee and Vermont. Also, the Justice Department assigned its members to seven of the 21 Weed-and-Seed anti-drug programs. Memphis doesn't have a Weed-and-Seed program yet.

Conservation corps seeks applicants

Three people applied Wednesday at an Annandale job fair to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service to help with watersheds in nine New Jersey counties.

The Soil Conservation Service is accepting applications to fill 30 full-time AmeriCorps positions within three watershed areas in Union, Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex, Warren, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset counties, said Demitrice Boozer, human resources manager for the Soil Conservation Service.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing service to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs.

The Watershed Restoration Action

Teams in New Jersey will focus on helping local communities make assessments of their watersheds, Boozer said.

"The glitch seems to be that we are only accepting applications for full-time employment," Boozer said. Applicants must be at least 17 years old and must live within one of the affected counties, she said.

Applications are due Aug. 19.

Participants are required to work 40 hours a week starting Sept. 19. After completing the one-year program requirements, including a total of 1,700 hours of service, participants will qualify for a \$4,725 educational award.

Participants will also earn a living stipend of \$7,500 for one year of service.

For an application or for more information, call Demitrice Boozer at (908) 246-1171.

— Julie Nash

The Star-Ledger

TUESDAY

August 2, 1994

Soil Conservation Service readies job fair in Annandale

By MEAGHAN BUCHAN

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service will hold a job fair at the Hunterdon County Library in Annandale tomorrow for people interested in employment in the AmeriCorps National Service Program.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative. It 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 Soil Conservation Service is recruiting participants to serve on watershed restoration teams in the Arthur Kill, Raritan River and Musconetcong River watersheds beginning on or about Sept. 19.

A representative of the service will be available from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the job fair to answer questions.

Soil project includes scholarships

By MEAGHAN BUCHAN

The Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has begun recruiting for the AmeriCorps national service project in three New Jersey watershed areas.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service plan to address the country's educational, health, public safety and environmental needs.

"The program is the perfect match between government, community, and student needs," said Irene Lieberman of the Soil Conservation Service. "It's a three-way partnership."

Three nationwide AmeriCorps teams—an anti-hunger, nutrition and empowerment team; a rural development team, and a public lands and environment team—will engage nearly 1,700 participants in 34 pilot projects in 27 states.

Starting this fall, public lands and environment teams will be established in the Arthur Kill, Raritan River and Musconetcong River watersheds to spearhead restoration action.

While earning a stipend for their work and an educational award valued at \$4,725 a year, citizens age 17 and older will help local communities evaluate and address the concerns about natural resources of the communities in the three watersheds.

Watershed management involves projects to reduce pollution, storm-water damage and soil erosion.

AmeriCorps' watershed work projects will include tree planting, stream-bank stabilization, buffer establishment, wetlands restoration, and community cleanup projects.

"AmeriCorps is grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility, and opportunity," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy. "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 renewed civic spirit."

For application information, call Demitrice Boozer at (908) 246-1171, extension 168. The deadline is Aug. 19.

PISCATAWAY

Team effort on river

Environmental activism boosted

By LAUREL VAN LEER
Home News correspondent

PISCATAWAY — The banks of the old Raritan may see a youthful burst of energy and a cleaner environment due to a national watershed-protection program announced yesterday by Rep. Frank Pallone at Johnson Park.

The plan combines two ideas with growing constituencies: that young people should serve their communities and that communities can best protect their environments by protecting watersheds. A watershed is the area of land that drains into a body of water.

With a muddy Raritan and a busy Route 18 in the background, Pallone, D-6th Dist., said he was very excited about the formation of the 20-member New Jersey Watershed Restoration Action Team because of his concern for water-quality protection and wetland restoration. This program will address those issues as well as give team members environmental and civic lessons. The team will work on environmental-clean-up and restoration projects in the 1,100-square-mile Raritan River watershed.

Three New Jersey watersheds — the Raritan, the Arthur Kill and the Muskenetcong — are part of the program, headed by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It's a big job and officials would like to increase the team to 36 members, recruit additional volunteers and cooperate with other groups, said Carlos

WATER

■ Continued from page B1

Henning, deputy soil conservationist and watershed project manager.

Team recruitment will begin immediately, and the first projects are scheduled for as early as September. For a nine-month work year, team members will receive at least a \$7,500 stipend and tuition voucher worth \$4,725. Child care is available. Applicants must be at least 17 years old. The team's 30-40 hour week will include between eight and 16 hours of education and training, while the remainder will be hands-on environmental restoration projects.

Projects are likely to include river stabilizing banks, planting trees, cleaning up litter, testing water quality, establishing buffer areas, restoring wetlands and producing community outreach and education programs, said state conservationist Cecil Currin.

The actual projects will be determined by watershed communities which want to work with the Action Team. SCS officials estimate there is enough work to last 20 years, but the initial proposal is for three years. Funding figures were not available yesterday, even to the SCS, said Currin. His office had requested \$2.4 million over three years. Education will be provided by SCS staff, members of the environmental community and the

New Jersey Academy for Community Service and Service Learning, housed at Rutgers.

Pallone said it was fitting to announce the program in Piscataway, the site chosen last year by President Bill Clinton to announce his plans for a national service corps. Clinton visited Rutgers University's Louis Brown Athletic Center to talk about the corps and to highlight the university's own community service program. The national service corps is similar in spirit, if not size, to the Civilian and Youth Conservation Corps of the 1930s.

In addition to on-the-job education and experience, Clinton's initiative calls for college tuition credit.

The watershed management approach to environmental protection is gaining popularity as people realize the ecological importance of "nonpoint" source, or people source, pollution, said David Peiffer, executive director of the Upper Raritan Watershed Association. Whatever happens in the watershed impacts the river, he said.

"It starts in the air as rain that washes through the air pollution," said Peiffer. The rain then collects whatever is on the ground, including litter, soil and chemicals, and pours some of it into the river.

Peiffer estimated that 60 percent of all water pollution is created this way now that industrial discharge pipes, the notorious "point" sources, have largely been regulated and cleaned up.

■ See WATER, page B6

N.J. watersheds to get 20 helpers

By JOAN GALLER
Staff Writer

One year after President Clinton visited Rutgers University to unveil a national service program — offering America's students a paycheck and scholarship for performing community services — the project is off and running.

Twenty young New Jerseyans will be selected this summer to serve one-year stints on restoration projects involving three major watersheds: the Raritan River, Arthur Kill, and the Musconetcong.

Actual work should start sometime this fall after the students are selected and trained, with Union County getting half or more of the workers to help restore the 130-acre Arthur Kill Watershed, said Carlos Henning, deputy state conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Henning was present yesterday when Rep. Frank J. Pallone Jr. announced the Garden State's share in the national service initiative to restore watersheds during a news conference in Piscataway's Johnson Park.

Pallone spoke with his back to the Raritan River, into which much of the 1,100-acre Raritan River watershed flows from portions of Middlesex and Monmouth counties, his 6th Congressional District, and from Somerset County.

"President Clinton has made national service a high priority, and I would like to see this initiative continue," said Pallone, a Democrat.

"Here in the Raritan River Valley, as well as along the Bayshore, we certainly need some restoration work done," he said. "This is an area with great potential for recreation and scenic beauty."

Pallone's announcement was timed to coincide with similar announcements in Washington, D.C., and across the nation, including one from the office of Rep. Robert Menendez, a Democrat whose 13th Congressional District includes portions of Union and Middlesex counties. Menendez worked with Union County officials to ensure the Arthur Kill Watershed's inclusion in the project.

"This program is a great deal for New Jersey," Menendez said. "It

delivers on the president's promise of a National Service and brings the results home — right here, for all of us to see and enjoy."

Menendez credited Reps. Donald M. Payne and Bob Franks for supporting restoration of the Arthur Kill watershed, which drains 19 of Union County's 21 municipalities via the Elizabeth and Rahway rivers, Morses Creek and Piles Creek, and parts of northern Middlesex County.

The Musconetcong Watershed accommodates Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties.

The New Jersey watershed projects are part of a nationwide program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will ultimately place 1,200 AmeriCorps national service participants throughout urban and rural America, Menendez said.

The USDA program will be the largest single federal agency component of the national service initiative and among the first to be funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

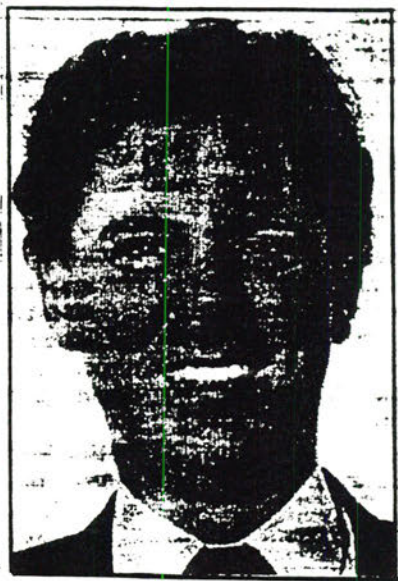
New Jersey currently has 120 students involved in various community service projects created during the past year under AmeriCorps, which was established by the National Service Trust Act. By 1995, the state's national service corps is expected to reach 300 to 400.

The 20 students needed for New Jersey's watershed restoration action teams will be recruited from areas where unemployment exceeds the U.S. average, now at 6.8 percent, and those participants who lack high school diplomas will have an opportunity to enroll in the state's vocational-training high schools two-year accelerated diploma program, Pallone said.

Each will be paid a stipend of at least \$7,500 for performing 1,700 hours of work, or 40-hour weeks for nine months, during the course of one year. They also will receive a \$4,725 voucher payable after the work is completed directly to their personal college costs or past college debt.

Those who opt to work part time can fulfill the work requirement by splitting the work time, performing 900 hours each year for two years, said Janice Reid, USDA soil conservationist for New Jersey.

Once trained, the teams will



FRANK J. PALLONE JR.

Announced state's share

reach out to communities impacted by the watersheds to inventory, assess, and implement planned activities, she said.

Their work will include soil erosion abatement, improvement of water quality and habitat, creation of buffer areas of grass and trees, restoration of wetlands, and streambank stabilization, and community cleanup projects.

Some students will handle technical aspects, while others will engage in physical labor, she said, on public and private lands.

Henning credited Union County with advancing its own agenda last year by submitting a proposal that the state USDA office later incorporated in its federal application.

"We took the proposals from where there was a demonstrated interest, where they were ready, willing, and able," he explained.

Henning said his office initially requested 36 student participants for the New Jersey project, with 30 to be assigned to Union County to meet its demonstrated need for restoration of the Arthur Kill Watershed.

Now that the number approved is short of that goal, Henning said, he expects Union County will still get half or more of the planned manpower and funding to handle the necessary work.

The Raritan River and Musconetcong watersheds were included, Henning added, based on the state USDA office's knowledge of need and ongoing work.

To apply for the USDA watershed programs, call toll-free: (800) 880-4183.

Staff Writer Kathleen Hopkins contributed to this report.

3 Jersey sites tapped for start of youth service

By JONATHAN JAFFE,
ROBERT E. MISSECK
and ANGELA STEWART

Clinton administration officials yesterday announced that Newark, Middlesex County and Union County have been selected as project sites for the first wave of programs under the President's national youth service plan.

The President introduced the program to the nation during an address in March 1993 on the Busch campus of Rutgers University in Piscataway. Under the program, which begins this fall, thousands of young people will perform volunteer service in urban and rural communities nationwide.

In exchange for one or two years of service, young people will receive money to finance their higher education or repay college loans.

AmeriCorps is the name of the national service program signed into law last September by Clinton. It has been described as a "domestic Peace Corps."

Newark served as the site of a pilot AmeriCorps project last summer. The program, Summer of Service, involved 200 volunteers who helped clean an area around the Douglass Harrison housing development.

Reacting to yesterday's announcement about Newark's inclusion in the first wave of official programs,

National effort to get under way in Newark, Middlesex and Union

Mayor Sharpe James said the city was honored to be part of an effort that is an offshoot of a program that has historically "demonstrated the best in volunteer service."

The four elements of the city's program are the Green Corps, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society-Bridge to Independence and the YMCA Earth Service Corps Fellowship.

Under Green Corps, volunteers will be involved in such efforts as the weatherization of homes for low-income families, educational outreach on lead poisoning and converting vacant lots into community gardens.

The EPA program will involve volunteers in partnership with the federal agency and the Youth Conservation Corps to help reduce and remedy the critical environmental and health hazards in Newark.

Under the multiple sclerosis program, volunteers will provide living assistance to victims of the disease, federal officials said. And under the YMCA Earth Service Corps Fellowship, volunteers will work on projects

like park cleanups and urban gardening.

In Middlesex County, participants will earn credits for colleges or vocational schools by working to restore the watersheds on the Raritan River, the Arthur Kill and the Musconetcong River. Combined, the waterways stretch through eight counties in New Jersey.

Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6th Dist.) announced the federal river restoration project at the Raritan River in Piscataway. He said 20 people are needed for the two-year program, which will be administered through the New Jersey Soil Conservation Service in Franklin Township, an agency of the U.S. Agriculture Department.

The workers will plant trees, establish buffers, restore wetlands, stabilize stream banks and develop community cleanup projects, Pallone said. "The whole idea behind this project is to preserve wetlands," he said. "We want to create a buffer zone between development and the natural habitat."

Union County manager Ann Baran said AmeriCorps will respond to multiple county needs, providing inno-

vative educational programs for youngsters at the vocational-technical schools and Union County College.

In addition, the program will provide an educational-service model that "could be expanded with state or foundation monies to other county services, such as the Senior Citizen Community Corps," she said.

Baran thanked Reps. Robert Franks (R-7th Dist.), Donald Payne (D-10th Dist.) and Robert Menendez (D-13th Dist.) for "their leadership and support" in helping the county become a designated site.

She said implementation of the Union project will also be in cooperation with the U.S. Agriculture Department and the state Soil Conservation Service.

"The startup is planned for early September, and our county parks system and educational institutions will be working closely with the Soil Conservation Service to ensure that the residents of Union County are the direct beneficiaries of this innovative project," she said.

The programs were among 58 announced at the White House that will involve 7,000 AmeriCorps members, located in hundreds of urban and rural communities in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

Officials hope to have 200 AmeriCorps programs operating by the end of the year.

File

The Providence Journal

Rhode Island

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1993



Journal-Bulletin/WILLIAM K. DABY

Ready to roll

Fifty-five young people of City Year Rhode Island kick off a year of full-time community service with a calisthenics workout on the State House steps yesterday. The state's new "urban peace corps," composed of 17- to 23-year-olds, will tackle the problems of pollution, illiteracy and graffiti. City Year is made possible by a partnership of community organizations, private companies and foundations.

San Jose Mercury News

Serving Northern California Since 1851

Thursday, January 27, 1994

Goals for the city: jobs, safety and education

Mayor Susan Hammer delivered the annual State of the City speech Wednesday night. The following is an edited transcript:

MY FELLOW residents of San Jose: I stand before you this evening to report that the state of the city is one of determination:

- Determination to keep San Jose a strong and livable city.

- Determination to sustain San Jose as a city that works to meet the needs of its people.

- Determination to act forcefully to weather the storms we see raging around us.

We begin 1994 recognizing that these are difficult times for cities across the country.

It's San Jose's response to the challenges that sets us apart from the rest.

How are we different from New York and Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles?

In San Jose, we've never yielded our belief that we can shape our own destiny. We hold that belief because we're a city that doesn't fear change and because we're a citizenry willing to hold firm to tough priorities.

At City Hall, constructive change is becoming our standard of performance.

In the past, the city's procedures were seen as an obstacle to job creation.

Now, in our permitting process, what used to take four to six weeks now can take as little as one day. What used to take 13 forms now takes one form.

In the past, cities sometimes saw kids in trouble and argued, "That's a problem for the schools." Now, we offer the San Jose BEST program, which distributes millions of dollars to help youth avoid gangs and drugs.

In the past, cities sometimes

failed to coordinate the war on crime. Now, in San Jose, every agency in the city and county work together to mount a unified strategy against criminal gangs.

Embracing change has produced major results.

We have a city that's more attractive to business. Last year, our local economy benefited from major investments drawn to San Jose: Cisco Systems with 1,400 jobs, Sony Corporation with 700 jobs, and the Flat Panel Display Consortium, which promises to bring an entirely new high-growth industry to Silicon Valley.

We have a city that's creating new partnerships with our schools. Last year, we began an innovative computer education program to ensure that San Jose's high school students will be second to none in mastering 21st-century technology.

We have a city that proved it can fight crime with firmness and creativity. Last year, our Rock Springs neighborhood was dominated by gangs and drugs. We demanded an injunction to stop known gang members from congregating there. The result was a 74 percent drop in drug related crime and a 59 percent drop in other crime.

To generate these results, change must be focused and consistent. Since becoming mayor, I've stressed three basic priorities:

- Jobs.
- Youth and schools.
- Public safety.

This year we will move forward again in all three areas.

For 1994, public safety must be our highest priority.

We must re-emphasize our commitment to keep San Jose among the safest major cities in the United States.

I propose a specific agenda to advance that goal.

First, we need more police.

Over the last three years, de-

spite budget shortfalls, San Jose added 90 police officers to our force.

I'm again advocating that we hire 45 more police officers — to patrol our streets and schoolyards as part of our community policing program.

To increase the safety of our neighborhoods we must do more to protect ourselves. I'm calling for the creation of an Office of Neighborhood Pride and Security in city government. The office will provide training for neighborhood organizations on how to work together, how to keep one another informed, and how to carry their needs to City Hall.

And, when neighborhoods talk, City Hall will listen.

“It's San Jose's response to the challenges that sets us apart from the rest.”

I'm recommending that \$500,000 be made available for small grants to organized neighborhoods.

Then, if a neighborhood tells us that what it really needs is two more streetlights on a dark block, we can respond quickly — without waiting for a new budget cycle.

San Jose must also pay special attention to kids and seniors.

The Office of Neighborhood Pride and Security will design programs to help children and seniors protect themselves, programs such as home safety inspections, senior to senior counseling, and parent and child safety classes.

In recent years, we've seen too many guns on our school campuses.

Today, I'm calling for a hotline

and reward program to keep guns out of schools.

Students in San Jose, if you report a gun, your call will be kept confidential, and the police will respond. If a gun is found you'll make your school safer, and you'll receive a \$50 reward.

And if you're caught with a gun, you'll be arrested, and you'll be prosecuted aggressively.

Another measure I am proposing to help young people avoid trouble and stay out of danger is a Youth Protection Ordinance for San Jose. The ordinance will be designed to keep kids under 17 off the streets at night — between 11:30 p.m. and 5 a.m.

There will be numerous legitimate exceptions — like coming

Following discussions with the city manager, I'm proposing that we spend over \$2 million on equipment maintenance, rehabilitation of fire stations and other fire department projects.

In our other priority areas, we'll be as forceful — and creative — as we are with public safety.

One of the major factors in California's long economic slump has been the loss of defense-related jobs.

I want to create a program to assist the conversion of defense industries to ventures which improve the environment.

This year, I'll propose an economic development strategy to the state treasurer for the issuance of Defense Conversion/Green Industry bonds.

Our objective is to generate funds that will help California businesses beat their swords into light-rail cars, recycling plants and pollution prevention equipment — and create badly needed employment opportunities.

We appreciate the value of small businesses as job generators.

Accordingly, I'm calling for the creation of a new small-business incubator program for San Jose.

We also need more job opportunities for our young people.

Last month, I directed the city to match \$250,000 in federal job training funds so we could target job opportunities for kids who need them the most.

Today, I'm recommending that we allocate another \$400,000 to expand our support of job training.

Youth and schools are our third city priority.

Earlier, I mentioned our computer education program in San Jose's high schools. Our goal is to make computer technology as much a part of the classroom as chalk and blackboards.

Every school, with the help of a

corporate sponsor, has developed a four-year technology plan. This summer, 450 teachers will complete a special training program. By September, 25 percent of our high school classrooms will become 21st-century learning centers — with a teacher's computer workstation and two to four student workstations in place.

We'll continue to look for additional business support for this program, including specific assistance from Joint Venture: Silicon Valley. The city will do its part by allocating another half-million dollars in seed money for the coming year.

You may have heard of a program called City Year. It's the model used by President Clinton for his proposed National Service Corp.

City Year emphasizes teamwork and self-discipline while engaging youth in community service ranging from park improvements to sprucing up old houses and working in classrooms.

I'm pleased to announce that in 1994, City Year is coming to San Jose.

Finally, kids need a chance for safe and healthy recreation. San Jose should greatly expand the programs available at its five teen centers.

These are my priorities for San Jose.

My friends, we must ask much of ourselves during these difficult times in California because our hopes for the future are far reaching.

Envision the city we are striving to become:

Families safe from crime and fear. Vibrant neighborhoods. High quality jobs. A city that values diversity. Clean Air. Clean Water. A city in partnership with business. A cultural center. Opportunity for our kids.

That's our direction. That's the San Jose we want. I ask for your help in taking us there.

WEST SOUND

SUN ■ SERVING WEST SOUND ■ TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1994

Corps' members begin 12 month trail project

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d to build
project has 38 members, ages 18 to 20.
Nationwide there are 20,000 workers.
The Olympia Peninsula group will
spend the next nine to 12 months
doing public works for the federal
Forest Service and Jefferson and Clallam counties.

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project has 18 members, ages 18 to 21. Nationwide there are 20,000 workers. The Olympic Peninsula group will spend the next nine to 12 months doing public works for the federal Forest Service and Jefferson and Clallam counties.

"There's a huge amount of work the Forest Service would not be able to accomplish without this," said Dave Johnson, Forest Service project manager.

During the coming year, workers will put in 1,700 hours of service in exchange for a \$7,600 stipend and a \$4,725 educational grant. Some of the workers are attending at a high school, diploma or trade school, others are working toward graduate school.

Marya Belenchak, who lived in Seattle before she joined AmeriCorps, has a college degree and will use her educational grant to pay off her college loans.

But, with workers earning about \$4.30 an hour, AmeriCorps is not primarily a jobs program. "It's to make a difference to the community, but it's

ny announced it will swap land with Jefferson county to accommodate the trail. Lon Waltering, AmeriCorps acting national Forest Service coordinator, said the Forest Service and counties will receive substantial public works benefits from AmeriCorps. But character-building, he said, is the real focus of the program.

"I don't know how you're going to quantify the impact on individuals' lives," he said. "There's going to be a big payoff, but you can't put numbers on it."

2-THE COURIER-INDEX, Thurs. January 5, 1995

McKinney is named Americorps coordinator

Eugene McKinney of Forresty, has been named Americorps volunteer coordinator for the Eastern Arkansas Empowerment Zone Initiative, according to Shir-Tucker, who directs the Amercorps program throughout the rural Economic and Community development program, formerly known as Home Administration Rural Development Administration state office in Little Rock. McKinney, an Amercorps participant will

identify resources that are currently available and can be used to implement specific strategies. McKinney, who will be based at Arkansas Land & Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) in Fargo and will assist ALFDC and East Central Agency Economic Development Corporation (ECACDC) and other zone communities in implementing and enhancing all phases of their application's strategic plan. ALFDC and ECACDC were 2 of

12 from Arkansas that submitted application as Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities to the U.S. Department of Agriculture earlier this year.

An announcement is expected to be made after December 1 on six urban and three rural designated Empowerment Zones across the U.S. selected by the Department of Agriculture. There were 227 applications submitted for the EZ/EC designations.

McKinney will primarily con-

tinue the work that was begun earlier this year in developing and implementing strategies that appears in applications. Everyone in the four county area will be impacted by implementation of the strategic plan, Tucker said. "The enthusiasm and hard work shown during the application process was remarkable.

People living in Monroe, Lee, Cross, and St. Francis counties participated in town meetings, discussions and other networking

opportunities to formulate a strategic plan for the Eastern Arkansas initiative Empowerment Zone Initiative. One of McKinney's primary responsibilities will be to provide assistance to the applicants of the EZ/EC to implement the strategic plan.

Problems and solutions identified in the strategic plan. McKinney will assist with including creating literacy programs, shelters, mentor programs, promoting. See "Americorps" on Page 3...

Americorps

Continued from Page 2

construction and rehabilitation of streets, drainage, water and sewer systems, counseling program, health care reform, job creation, and housing needs.

McKinney met with the Eastern Arkansas Initiative executive committee at Arkansas Land & Farm Development Corporation's site recently to discuss the plan and to formally introduce himself. "From what I've seen, he's the person we are looking for to keep the ball rolling," said Brinkley's Mayor John Deen, Jr. "His outgoing personality and knowledge of this plan really impressed me,"

Deen said. McKinney has also scheduled a follow up meeting at 6 p.m., November 29 at Wheatley, Civic Center for everyone interested in helping to implement the plan. Citizens of other initiatives are invited to share their strategic plan during the meeting.

Communities participating in the Eastern Arkansas plan include: Fargo, Brinkley, Wynne, Moro, Caldwell, Colt, Hughes, Madison, Palestine, Wheatley, Widener.

McKinney graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Agricultural Economics last spring.

By JEFF MAY
Courier-News Staff Writer

A Bernardsville lawyer accused of molesting two teen-aged boys at a Morris County swim club was charged Monday with new counts involving six more alleged victims.

David Palmer, 54, a longtime chairman of the Bernardsville GOP organization, faces 14 additional charges, including aggravated criminal sexual contact, criminal sexual contact and endangering the welfare



Palmer

recreation club that Palmer partly owns, the prosecutor's office said. At

Morris County Prosecutor's Office said.

All of the new charges involve incidents that allegedly occurred between June 1990 and July 1994 at Cook's Lake, a Denville swimming and

ages of 14 and 17.

Palmer was arrested on the earlier charges July 3. A 15-year-old Somerset County boy told police that he had been shown a pornographic video the previous day at the lawyer's summer cabin, one of the few homes on the shore of the private lake. Denville detectives learned that Palmer had also arranged alleged encounters with an 18-year-old Morris County boy at the lake between May 1990 and September 1992, when the latter was still a minor.

aggravated criminal sexual contact and two counts of welfare of a child, leased on \$50,000 bail. At times came forward four months, the prosecutor said.

"It was a similar to Lois Ferguson, a Somerset County prosecutor's office new round of charges."

Palmer made a bail Monday in state Superior Court in Morristown, at which

FRONT PAGE MONDAY OCT 24, 1994

An 'asset' to the environment



Courier-News photo by David Bergeland

Donna Symanchek, left, builds a stone deflector in Peters Brook in Somerville during the kickoff for the USDA Soil Conservation Service Americorps Watershed Teams. The deflectors narrow the channel of the stream to deepen the water, which will increase the velocity and oxygenate the water to help promote different kinds of wildlife.

League endorses Lautenberg; but is conservation a key issue?

By PAT POLITANO
Courier-News Staff Writer

On Earth Day of April 1993, months before they even knew who would run against U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, the League of Conservation Voters endorsed the Democratic incumbent.

"Lautenberg is the kind of asset you know you want to keep," said

SENATE '94:

THE ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT

Tonight's debate

■ ABC stations in New York City

election as they did five or six years ago.

In 1989, state polls showed the environment to be the most important or second-most important issue to voters. Environmental matters topped the list of one in five voters consistently that year, according to polling conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

This year, the Eagleton Institute's data shows the environment barely

SOMERVILLE — bills at the Somerset prompted officials to reorganizing the jail's operation under county control. The topic has been on the agenda for years in the county, some real consideration weeks, Freeholder McConnell said Monday.

Somerset County \$616,846.65 in overtime for jail employees through this year, in addition to regular earnings. Good, according to records in the finance department. McConnell said he would try to put the subject on the work session agenda for discussion before the Freeholders.

"Now is the time to see where we go from here," he said. "We get into the '95 budget."

Large overtime was paid at the jail, and all posts must be filled in sick or in other ways.

"There isn't a jail that doesn't have a problem," Sheriff Robert

And overtime has been paid since 1992, the year the jail opened its new jail, which also added 20

Ove cos to s priv

By KRISTEN ALLO
Courier-News Staff

Presidential program debuts at Peters Brook

By **TODD VENEZIA**

MESSINGER-GAZETTE

SOMERVILLE — One of President Clinton's pet projects is getting its feet wet here in the Peters Brook today.

The AmeriCorps, a group started by the president to help give training to people and improve conditions around the country, will begin work to help fish in the brook at 10 a.m. today.

It is the group's first project in the Somerset County area and one of its first projects anywhere since the national program started at the beginning of September.

"This is the program that

Clinton talked about in his inaugural address and they're going to start their work here in Somerville," said Frank Quinn, borough recreation director. "It's wonderful. We're very excited."

Two teams with a total of six members from AmeriCorps will work to deepen the brook to foster the growth of fish.

The corps, along with several other conservation groups, will be placing 20 tons of 18-inch triangular stones in the brook. The stones are meant to speed the water flow, which is expected to make the brook deeper and more amenable to fish.

By controlling the water flow

with stones, the government hopes to create pools and shoals that can be used by fish as habitats.

Mr. Quinn said today's work will be done in the Culver Street Area. He added that he is happy to have the help of the group after an effort to place stones in the brook earlier this year failed.

The effort follows improvement of the stream bank at the brook earlier this year by planting grasses there.

Mr. Quinn said he hopes the group will participate in two or three more projects in the coming months.

AmeriCorps members, many of whom are college students, do the

work for a small stipend and will receive a \$4,725 "educational award" when they finish the program.

In addition to the corps, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District and North Jersey Resource and Conservation Development group will aid the stone-laying effort.

Alliance hires project coordinator

SOMERVILLE — Somerset Alliance for the Future (SAF) has hired Annandale resident Susan Howard Schwartz as project coordinator and community liaison for both SAF and RiseWise of Raritan Valley, the SAF's transportation management association.

She will assist with program project development, communications and public relations.

09-26-94 11:17AM FROM ONF (QUILCENE)

P02

Ranger
District

15,000 AmeriCorps volunteers to begin domestic tours of duty

A6 The News Tribune, Monday, September 12, 1994

Volunteers

Continued from A1

By Angie Cannon
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON - When a meat-packing plant closed in Philadelphia, Thelma Bea, 59, was out of work, but not out of energy. Today, she is one of President Clinton's AmeriCorps volunteers, helping the families of people with AIDS.

So is Ian Stewart, 23, who was wrapped up in history classes and a part-time job while in college. "I did a lot of talking, but not much action," he says. Today, he's hammering nails in South Miami homes for families uprooted by Hurricane Andrew.

This morning, amid great fanfare, Clinton will formally launch AmeriCorps, his new national service initiative, swearing in about 15,000 volunteers on the South Lawn and via satellite in cities across the country.

Sunday, the president met a group of volunteers in Maryland and told them:

"Every one of you represents the oldest and best of America's traditions. This country really got started by a bunch of volunteers."

By the end of the year, about 20,000 AmeriCorps participants will be working in nearly 400 education, anti-crime, environment and social service programs nationally.

In Detroit, for example, they'll fix up dilapidated commercial strips and draw up marketing strategies for struggling businesses. In St. Paul, Minn., they'll create a child-care center in a housing project.

In San Jose, Calif., they'll plant community gardens, warn about lead poisoning and insulate water heaters and windows. In Charlotte, N.C., they'll tutor inner-city teen parents in math, science, reading and sex education.

"We're going to be saving babies in South Texas and raising reading scores in Seattle," said Eli Segal, president of the Corporation for National Service. "We're going to be walking the New York Police Department beat in Brooklyn and patrolling Balboa Park in San Diego."

In return for a one- or two-year commitment, participants will be paid \$7,500 a year. They'll

tricks.

"We're not going to solve the problems that took decades to create," Segal said. "We're going to make mistakes - all start-ups do. We're going to fall short of some of our objectives - all bold initiatives do. But AmeriCorps is going to make a difference."

"It's not for rich kids or poor kids or kids that have a 4.0 grade point. The makeup of the people who will serve will be very broad ..."

Eli Segal
of the Corporation
for National Service

Segal insisted that national service is not a jobs program, as some on Capitol Hill have suggested.

"It's not for rich kids or poor kids or kids that have a 4.0 grade point," Segal said. "The makeup of the people who will serve will be very broad - from those who are high school dropouts, who are studying for their GED, to people who have their medical degrees."

The AmeriCorps program is greatly scaled back from Clinton's original plan. During the 1992 campaign, he envisioned a program numbering in the hundreds of thousands that would "guarantee every American who wants a college education the means to obtain one."

That popular promise left the impression the program would be widely available, just as the GI Bill was for military veterans.

But to win Congressional support, Clinton had to scale back the numbers and the amount of the grants. If Congress approves all the mon-

Volunteers to restore Swan Creek

By Linda Woo
The News Tribune

A \$205,000 grant from the federal AmeriCorps program has been awarded to clean and restore Tacoma's Swan Creek.

The money will be used to hire 11

people for 11-month positions.

Swan Creek Park covers about 300 acres and is bounded by Pioneer Way on the north, Waller Road on the east, East

64th Street on the south and Roosevelt Avenue on the west.

Ten crew members and a supervisor will restore and preserve the creek as a cold water fishery. They also will repair and construct trails.

Workers will plant trees, build log weirs and put in structures to prevent erosion. The jobs will begin in October and end in August 1995.

Applicants must be at least 17 and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. Applications for supervisor must be made by Sept. 20; deadline for crew member applications is Sept. 23.

Available during the program will be monthly stipends of \$650, medical coverage and child care allowances, if needed. Those completing the program will get a \$4,725 scholarship to pay for higher education or to repay student loans.

"The whole focus is to make natural resources improvements at Swan Creek and also to encourage 10 young people to pursue a career in natural resources," Metropolitan Park District planner Lori Flemm said.

Park planners will take a field trip through the park today for prospec-

receive health care and child care when needed. They also will receive an award of \$9,450 (\$4,725 a year) to help pay for college or to repay student loans.

This year's federal budget includes \$360 million for the program, which will be operated at local levels by newly organized volunteer groups, long-established service organizations, youth corps, municipalities, universities, schools, American Indian tribes and police dis-

Please see Volunteers, back page.

ey, the three-year, \$1.6 billion program aims to eventually fund 100,000 volunteers - a small fraction of the more than 15 million college students.

Still, Segal says the 20,000 volunteers expected in this first year will be about 4,000 more people than were in the Peace Corps at its height. Today, the Peace Corps has about 6,500 volunteers.

And helping out at home appealed to Miami's Stewart: "I considered the Peace Corps, but I was most interested in serving within the country."

(Gannett News Service contributed to this report.)

ive participants. Those wishing to make the hike should meet at 9 a.m. at the park's entrance off Pioneer Way, just west of Waller Road.

Application workshops will be at noon today and from 5 to 7 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Eastside Neighborhood Center, 1720 E. 44th St.

Applications are available at:

■ The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, 4702 S. 19th St., Tacoma, WA 98405.

■ Eastside Neighborhood Center, 120 E. 44th St., Tacoma, WA 98404.

■ The Puyallup Tribal Personnel Office, 2002 E. 28th St., Tacoma, WA 98404.

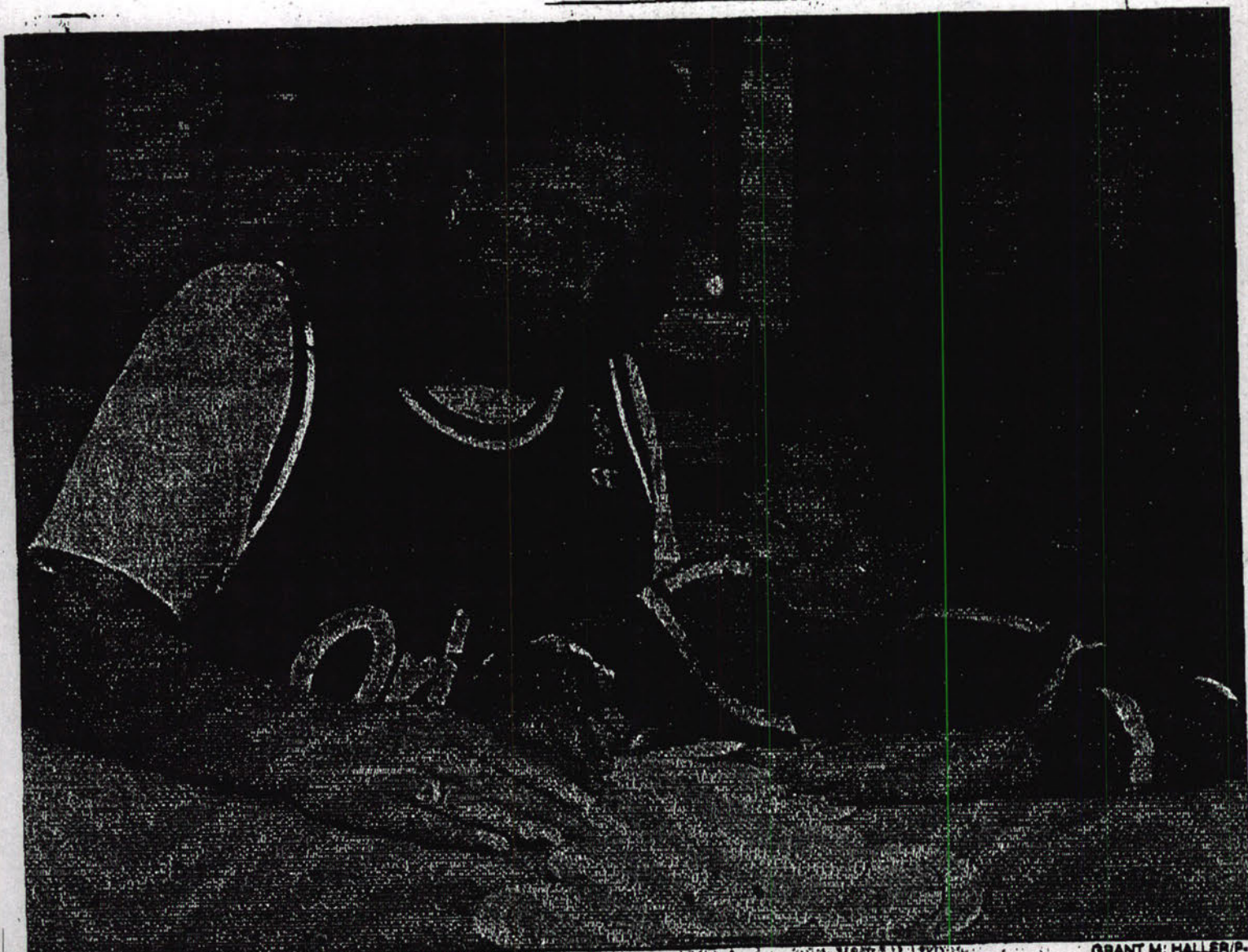
09-28-94 08:52AM FROM ONF (QUILCENE)

P02

From: Dave Johnson
Quilcene Ranger District

Local / Region

Wednesday
September 27, 1994
Seattle Post-Intelligencer



GRANT M. HALLER/P-I

AmeriCorps volunteer Elsa Marie Estes helps kindergartner David Anthony color a mouse puppet as part of her commitment to serve.

AmeriCorps pays with smiles

National service program means more than money

receive minimum-wage pay, a living allowance, medical benefits and a \$4,725 educational stipend after a year's service

By Tonya Y. Manafee
P. Reporter

Hundreds of them have signed up, volunteering their time in urban and rural community programs that focus on health and human needs, education, the environment and public safety.

Their only reward for the year or two of service will be a small living allowance and stipend for vocational school, college or to pay off student loans.

Yet most say they didn't join AmeriCorps for that. Instead, they are working to earn smiles.

"Money is always appealing, but I love to do community service and work with kids," said Julia Sanders, 23, an AmeriCorps member working locally with the Youth Volunteer Corps of America. "I wouldn't want to work at a job where I'm not happy."

"We decided to do this together and be poor together," said her friend, Lal-Lani Ovalles, also working with the Youth Volunteer Corps. "I've had people ask me why I'm doing this instead of going into the corporate world, but those people are more concerned with material things."

The two, both recent graduates of the University of Washington, met in a class in April.

They are among more than 700 men and women statewide who are the first to join AmeriCorps, a national service project started by President Clinton and approved by Congress a year ago. Participants must be 18 or older and pass an application process to be accepted.

It has been billed by many as the domestic Peace Corps.

Clinton swore in members from around the state and across the country by satellite earlier this month. They will

in one of the nearly 400 programs nationwide.

Beth Bakeman, 29, plans to use her stipend earned through the King County Literacy Coalition to pay off student loans.

"Although I'm excited about the work, the award will cover no more than a quarter of my debt," she said.

Bakeman wants to run an adult literacy program eventually.

The state has been awarded more than \$4 million for AmeriCorps programs. A total of \$360 million was distributed nationwide.

The number of AmeriCorps volunteers in the state is one of the largest in the nation, second only to California among Western states, said Don Stewart, Western-states spokesman for the federally

See SERVICE, Page B3

Service: An appeal to the homeless

From Page B1

financed Corporation for National Service, which manages AmeriCorps.

"These jobs are going to be cutting-edge because they address the issues we read in headlines every day," said the Rev. David Bloom, associate director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle. "Plus, it's an empowerment for nonprofit groups (because) it'll enhance work capacity."

He said his organization hopes to place 15 applicants by October. They will work with University District homeless youths and in after-school and mentoring programs.

Seattle City Councilwoman Sue Donaldson wants to use the program to help the homeless Capitol Hill youths who in the past few weeks have staged demonstrations regarding their plight.

Donaldson challenged the youths attending a City Council

Public Safety Committee hearing Sept. 15 to sign up with AmeriCorps. The youths were at the meeting to protest what they described as police brutality and to ask for jobs and a place to live.

She said that because some expressed interest, she set up a meeting with John Miller, an AmeriCorps regional office recruiter.

None of the youths showed up, so Donaldson personally walked up and down Broadway Avenue, a major thoroughfare in the neighborhood, passing out applications and leaving some with area merchants.

"A lot of the kids come from pretty troubled backgrounds; they haven't had easy lives," said Donaldson, who is chairwoman of the state Commission on National Community Service. "Homeless kids are saying, 'We don't have options,' and we're saying, 'Here's an option — a great option.' If we could get one homeless kid, it will

be a great success."

Although nearly 40 applications were taken by the youths, none were returned as of yesterday afternoon.

Nationwide, AmeriCorps has enrolled almost 20,000 members so far.

To continue operating, program administrators must prove to Congress that the program has had an effect. If they can do that, the White House plans to spend \$1.5 billion over three years for 100,000 workers.

Mrs. Anderson said the team and cooperating groups, working in eight counties, have proposed these projects, with many more to follow:

- Building fences on the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Thurston County so the tribe can expand its buffalo herd and get more meat to feed tribal members.

- Removing stumps and trash at the Heron Haven wetlands near 117th Street and West Maple Road.

- Working on a recreational trail near Immanuel Hospital.

- Spreading wood chips and doing mulching at Chalco Hills Recreation Area.

- Creating community gardens in Omaha.

- Assisting with cultural programs at Henry Doorly Zoo and the Emmy Gifford Theater.

- Helping keep sediment and pollutants out of Wehrspann Lake, lengthening its life.

- Planting trees at the Boyer Chute wildlife-recreation area east of Fort Calhoun.

- Measuring groundwater levels with SCS personnel.

- Landscaping at a new fire station.

- Identifying native prairies statewide.

- Seeding wildlife areas to increase their value as habitat.

- Distributing leaflets to farmers about the need to cap abandoned wells.

- Labeling trees in the Chalco Hills arboretum.

- Recycling Christmas trees.

- Team members plan to work with people throughout the service area — from scouts to prisoners on work release.

- Mrs. Anderson's team has three members and will add a fourth soon.

- People interested in working with the Omaha AmeriCorps may contact Mrs. Anderson at 896-0121 or write her at the SCS office, 8901 S. 154th St., Omaha 68138.

Other teams will work out of Lincoln, Tecumseh and Norfolk.



Local AmeriCorps members from L-R: Julie Maggi, Colin Close, Nancy Scolari and Mike Jensen.

Four Local AmeriCorps Members

What does Bill Clinton's community service program look like on a local level? Four AmeriCorps members with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) will work on a variety of pollution reduction projects in Marin and Sonoma counties.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative composed of diverse groups of Americans who will begin performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for a \$12,000 stipend and a \$4,725 educational voucher.

In the Petaluma SCS field office, Nancy Scolari and Mike Jensen will work with landowners in Marin and southern Sonoma counties. Their goal is to improve water quality and riparian habitat through management measures on dairies, livestock operations, and vineyards.

Nancy Scolari - a native of the Salinas Valley, Nancy was raised in a predominantly agricultural area in which her family previously owned a dairy. Nancy is concurrently attending Sonoma State University studying Environmental Technology with a concentration in water quality. She hopes to continue her education in the area of soil science once the AmeriCorps program is completed.

Mike Jensen - of Penngrrove, a Sonoma County native for 25 years, will be working for the Soil Conservation Service field office in

Petaluma. Mike is a recent graduate from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Landscape Architecture. He is excited to be working in the agricultural community where he was involved in a local 4-H program.

In the Santa Rosa Field Office, Julie Maggi and Colin Close will be assisting individual landowners with reducing stream pollution from animal waste and erosion problems.

They will also help landowners who want to form small watershed enhancement groups to restore and improve salmon and steelhead habitat.

Colin Close - is a long-time Sonoma County resident. She received her bachelor's degree from Sonoma State University where she studied the environmental issues facing landowners. She realizes the tremendous contribution the agricultural industry makes to Sonoma County's economic and cultural well-being.

Julie Maggi - a Sonoma County resident, recently graduated from SSU with a bachelor's degree in geology. She was raised in the Santa Rosa area on the small farm her family owns. "Though I've lived in New York, I frequently visited my family in Sonoma County and was saddened by the continued loss of our agricultural land and open space. It's the primary reason I left New York to pursue a natural science degree." *

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.

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.

Oregon AmeriCorps recruits sworn in by governor

■ Chester Tias, of the Umatilla Tribe, will work on the Salmon Corps restoring salmon habitat in the Columbia River basin

By WADE NKRUMAH
of The Oregonian staff

Amid testimonials of hope and shape-up tips from Portland State University's volleyball team, Chester Tias thought about how his involvement in AmeriCorps would help his people, the Umatilla Tribe.

He was upbeat as golden-shaded leaves fell softly in the area where he and others had gathered in the tree-lined South Park Blocks at Portland State University to be sworn in as AmeriCorps recruits. The cool early morning air and rain-threatening clouds failed to dampen his enthusiasm.

Tias, 22, traveled from the Umatilla Reservation just east of Pendleton to be among the 180 Oregonians sworn in Monday by Gov. Barbara Roberts as

members of AmeriCorps, President Clinton's \$1.1 billion national service initiative.

Tias will work on the Salmon Corps as part of Oregon's AmeriCorps force, which within a year will have about 400 people in Oregon involved in 15 programs.

The 72-member Salmon Corps mostly will be made up of members of the Nez Perce, Sho-Ban, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakama nations. They will be restoring salmon habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

"It's a part of our tradition," Tias said. "I chose it to help restore salmon mainly for our community, because we have a lot of problems with it."

The three-year AmeriCorps program

Please turn to
AMERICORPS, Page B5



DOUG BEGHTEL/The Oregonian

AmeriCorps troops work on a garden in North-east Portland almost immediately after being sworn in Monday. Loading bricks for the garden are (clockwise, left to right) Susan "Chris" Christensen, Milna Arellano, and Cynthia Smith. The project is a joint venture of AmeriCorps and Portland Parks and Recreation.

will employ upwards of 20,000 people nationwide in 400 programs that will include 1,000 community-based projects aimed at strengthening America's urban and rural core.

Tias and his AmeriCorps peers are at least 17 years old and have a high school diploma or GED, the general education development certificate. In return for a one- to two-year commitment of full-time service, AmeriCorps workers will receive financial assistance to help cover college education or vocational training costs, or to pay student loans.

That, too, was one of the lures for Tias and others like Sylvester Luckett, of North Portland.

"There's a lot of opportunity in it," Luckett said, "like the \$5,000 for school. I'm going to need that."

Luckett, 20, said the AmeriCorps experience also would give him the chance to "teach and be taught and meet new people."

"And to focus on my future," he added.

First, though, the group of Oregonians sworn in Monday spent half their first day getting a taste of being the country's community do-gooders.

Tias joined 50 people who planted a community garden at the corner of Northeast Skidmore Street and 19th Avenue. Among the nine other projects were removal of ivy around Pittock Mansion and rebuilding trails in Marquam Nature Park.

While President Clinton swore in some recruits to the program on the front steps of the White House, Oregon's AmeriCorps forces were sent off after a swearing in ceremony by Gov. Roberts in front of Smith Hall on the Portland State campus.

Roberts, in addressing the Oregon contingent, said AmeriCorps represented the best of Oregon and America.

"We are a diverse people and I think AmeriCorps reflects that diversity," Roberts said.



**NorthWest Service
Academy**

"Learn

9-13-94

AMERICORPS MARCHES FORTH

■ **WHAT:** AmeriCorps national service initiative, President Clinton's \$1.5 billion, three-year domestic Peace Corps focusing on community work programs in education, the environment, health and human needs, and public safety.

■ **EVENT:** Clinton swore in 20,000 national members of the AmeriCorps work force after sleeping through a Monday morning plane crash on the White House lawn. The president and his family were staying across the street at Blair House.

■ **WHO ARE THEY?:** High school graduates or those with a General Education Development certificate who are at least 17 years old.

■ **COMMITMENT:** One- to two-year

■ **REWARD:** Minimum wage pay \$4,725 educational voucher for

■ **WHERE TO CALL:** If you're interested (503) 725-5903 in Portland.

AmeriCorps workers look for wells

FORT TOTTEN, N.D. (AP) — As storm clouds approach during a gloomy afternoon, Jessica Krumwiede and Kelly Bosch travel down a muddy gravel road west.

Their once tan pickup is a dull gray. They've taken the time, however, to wipe the mud and dirt away from the "AmeriCorps" logo attached to the door. Their job is easier, they say, if people know who they are.

"Once we explain what we're doing, what we're there for, we get a good response," Bosch said. "Most everyone is concerned about water quality."

With an ever-expanding Devils Lake chewing up shoreline on the northern end of the Devils Lake Sioux Indian Reservation, tribal officials are being forced to move homes to higher ground.

Their flooding woes aren't just above ground, however.

"There's a number of old, abandoned wells" on the reservation, said Peggy Cavanaugh, who serves as both the emergency management coordinator and health director for the tribe. "We have areas where the waters are rising, going close to wells or covering wells. We're concerned about the mixture of runoff and the movement of water, and these old wells."

"The flooding has given us fear for the quality of water. We don't want the lake to hurt the aquifer once these wells go under."

The town of Fort Totten and much of the rest of the reservation get drinking water from the War-

wick aquifer. About a year ago, tribal officials decided to collect information on abandoned water wells in the interest of protecting that, and other aquifers.

"The flooding created an urgency," Cavanaugh said.

After the wells are located, the tribe plans to start looking for money to seal those that are abandoned or threatened.

For the past two weeks, Krumwiede and Bosch, both Devils Lake natives, have spent their days walking around the reservation with high-tech equipment.

The two have battled stormy weather and muddy back roads, the occasional unfriendly dog and sand flies that swarm in massive clouds around the edge of the lake along the way.

"It's exciting," Bosch said as he and Krumwiede surveyed lake lots on Devils Lake's southwest shore for potential well sites. "Everything's an adventure."

Bosch and Krumwiede are members of AmeriCorps, a national service program started in 1994 to help students raise money for college. On the reservation, their mission is to identify the location of wells — those that have been abandoned and those that are still in use but within a mile of the lake — using satellite technology.

The collaboration of the tribe and the AmeriCorps program in North Dakota came about primarily through the help of Don Felch, a liaison between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and

the Devils Lake Sioux and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa tribes.

"The tribe wanted something done," Felch said. "They're being flooded out... and they were looking for anybody that would give them some help."

In North Dakota, the AmeriCorps program is run through the NRCS. One of its goals is increasing awareness in rural areas about the need for protecting ground and surface water from contamination.

Bosch and Krumwiede are using the tribe's Global Positioning System equipment to find abandoned wells and wells near the lake. It involves satellites the Defense Department used during the Persian Gulf War.

The equipment consists of a hand-held device, a battery pack and a survey rod.

"We stand as close to the well as we can get and place the receiver over it," Bosch said as he tried to simultaneously work the equipment and swipe bothersome sand flies away from his face.

"It's like a little calculator," Krumwiede continued. "We press a few buttons, and the satellites give the coordinates — latitude and longitude."

At the end of the day, the information gathered in the field is transferred to a computer at the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Fort Totten.

Within the next two years, the tribe wants to have most of the well sites mapped out, Cavanaugh said.

No one knows how many aban-

doned or threatened wells are on the reservation, Cavanaugh and Felch said.

"Right now, we're concentrating more along the northern part of the reservation," Felch said. "We want to delineate all the wells from the west to the east along the Devils Lake front."



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Water Department staff members explain to second grade students how water is brought into their homes and how a water main is tapped. (L to R) John Silvernail and Randy Seelig.



After the Water Week demonstrations these kindergarten students enjoyed a treat at a local restaurant.



Jack Orts of AmeriCorps tests water from rural wells at Lisbon Elementary School last Wednesday and Thursday. Students brought water samples to the classroom to be tested.

Water Week observed locally

The staff of the Lisbon Water Plant visited the elementary school last Wednesday and Thursday with demonstrations for students in grades K through 4.

Randy Seelig, water plant superintendent, and John Silvernail explained how water is brought

into homes. They led a discussion on the importance of keeping the area around wells clean and protected from pollutants.

Students learned how a water main is tapped as well as how water lines are cleaned.

Jack Orts and Jeff Printz of the

AmeriCorps program assisted the Water Department employees by testing water samples which rural students had brought into the classroom.

To celebrate Water Week the students were bussed to the Bronco for treats after the demonstrations.

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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."

AmeriCorps stresses work ethic

Also provides college money

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

APPLEGATE — Eagle Point resident Melissa Powers, 20, gave up her job at a local pizza restaurant to join AmeriCorps.

"I want to earn some money to help me with college," she explained. "I want to get a degree in forestry and work outside."

Seattle resident Lynne Petersen, 21, who had been working as a nanny while going to college, was also looking to earn money to further her education.

"I wanted the discipline and the college education," she said. "Also, I wanted to learn a lot about the environment."

But there was another reason Petersen, who sports a thin silver nose ring, had for joining.

"I think it will be fun," she said with a grin.

The two were among the 38 young adults standing in the rain near the Star Gulch barracks in the Applegate Ranger District that will serve as their home base for the next 11 months.

The camp, which began Tuesday, will be administered by the Northwest Youth Corps in a partnership with the Rogue River National Forest. It is one of eight AmeriCorps camps that have been established in the nation.

Under the national service program created by President Clinton, participants receive up to \$7,500 per year in pay plus an educational award of \$4,725 at the end of the year to go toward college or trade school expenses.

During their tour, the coed group, ages 17 to 24, will learn career skills while doing tasks ranging from trail maintenance to construction projects.

The 38 participants come from as far as North Carolina and Minnesota, but most — nearly 30 — are from Oregon. They were among thousands of applicants who applied for AmeriCorps jobs across the country, and were selected based on their ex-



Mail Tribune / Jim Craven

KNOTTY — Members of AmeriCorps practice a team-building technique, untying a human knot without letting go of each other's hands.

perience, enthusiasm and career goals.

"A youth program such as this is exactly what the forest is looking for," Rogue River Forest Supervisor Jim Gladen told the group. "This is just the thing we need to help our spirit."

Carl Lierman, 76, of Tigard, who worked for two years in the Civilian Conservation Corps that ran from 1933 to 1942, told the young crew that it is also what the nation needs.

In addition to teaching young people a good work ethic and providing training, it would also provide community service, he said.

"This is what our group (CCC

alumni) was hoping that Bill Clinton would do, something for you kids," he said.

In addition to working on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management projects, the AmeriCorps crew will assist communities such as Butte Falls and Prospect in a variety of civic chores. The communities have each received \$100,000 federal grants awarded through the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative aimed at providing economic stability to Northwest timber-based communities.

"Our age group kind of gets a bad rap for being apathetic and lazy," said Dan Miller, 23, a crew leader who has bachelor's de-

grees in resource management and public policy. "This program gives us an opportunity to demonstrate that is not true."

The Star Gulch facility, which is still being spruced up for the crew, includes separate bunk houses for men and women, a dining hall, a recreation meeting hall and a staff trailer. No drugs or alcohol will be allowed.

A husband and wife will cook dinner for the crew and help the crew prepare breakfast and lunch.

"We're stressing real health-oriented food," Miller said. "They are going to need healthy meals because we're going to be working them hard."

Director lauds AmeriCorps program



Mail Tribune / Bob Pennell

HELPING HAND — Joel Berg, national director of the AmeriCorps program, helps Rogue Valley AmeriCorps members create fish habitat at Applegate Lake Thursday. Berg visited southern Oregon as part of a tour of Northwest programs.

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

APPLEGATE — The mud-spattered young man wearing the yellow hard hat grinned into the cold wind blowing across Applegate Lake.

"It's really exciting to move from the theory phase to making this a reality," Joel Berg said. "To work alongside these people is really something."

Berg was among a dozen AmeriCorps members Thursday who dragged manzanita brush down into the muddy basin of the lake's Squaw arm, where the brush was attached to a cable. Come spring when the lake is full, the brush will serve as fish habitat.

But Berg, 30, wasn't a member of the young national service crew based at the old Star Gulch facility of the Applegate Ranger District. Rather, he is national director of the program, appointed by President Clinton in early 1993.

He stopped by the Rogue River National Forest program, one of nearly 40 nationwide, as part of a tour of Northwest projects. In the program that began this fall, people in their late teens and early 20s earn at least \$7,500 and an educational voucher of \$4,725 for 10 months of work.

In addition to a variety of environmental tasks, they are also doing rural development work, including projects expected to start soon in Prospect and Butte Falls.

A longtime supporter of the program, Berg noted that it has components similar to that of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the Great Depression.

"But there is the educational benefit that didn't exist before," Berg said. "Not only is the government asking something of young people, but we're giving something back."

"The reason Clinton believes in it so

strongly is that it's kind of a GI bill without the GI," he added. "This is an alternative way for young Americans to do service for their country without joining the military."

Nationwide, there are about 20,000 members, but he expects the ranks to grow.

"I think it's working even better than expected," he said. "This is work that either wouldn't get done or work that the taxpayers would have to pay about five times as much if private contractors were to do it."

In addition to learning good work ethics and gaining experience, many

participants will go to college and continue to add to the economy, he said.

Many young people would have a bleak future without the program, he said.

"They are doing things government

couldn't do, or doing it better for a lot cheaper," he said. "The president hopes this goes beyond party politics. A lot of Republicans supported this."

Because of that bipartisan support, Berg expects AmeriCorps to survive future political battles.

"We need members of Congress to come up and see what these people are doing," he said. "If they think they are young, lazy people being overpaid, then they can kill the program."

But he figures that most observers will come to the conclusion the work is important, along with the training.

"These people are working darn hard, and the money they are getting is actually pretty measly," he said.

The program offers a future for many young people, he said.

"They are doing things that need to be done," he said. "This is not make-work. The president's goal is to get up to 100,000 members by the end of four years."

"It's really exciting to move from the theory phase to making this a reality. To work alongside these people is really something."

— Joel Berg,
AmeriCorps director

Chicago Sun-Times



Some of the 50 Chicago area members of AmeriCorps, the new domestic service organization, work Tuesday at the Edna White Century Garden at 111th and Homewood. BRIAN JACKSON/SUN-TIMES

Diverse AmeriCorps Youth at Work

By Rob Olmstead
Staff Writer

Chris Travis was not amused when a little British history was slipped in on him on his first day of gardening as a member of AmeriCorps.

A community volunteer told Travis about the legend of Queen Anne's Lace, a flower said to have sprung from the blood of Anne Boleyn, wife of Henry VIII, after she was beheaded.

But mini-history lesson aside, Travis, 18, a resident of the Ida B. Wells housing development, said, "It's the best job out here—in the world."

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's effort to bring people to public service while helping them earn money for education. In Chicago, the program is at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Science. Fifty young people will be employed for 10 weeks, each earning a tax-free \$147 stipend per week.

Yearlong programs start in August, but the summer run is being called "Summer of Safety" because part of its focus is to curb violence and crime.

"The carrot at the end of the stick is ... a \$1,000 scholarship," said crew leader Paul O'Grady, an office manager with the U.S. Department of Agriculture taking a break from his normal duties to supervise 10 participants.

The young workers are recent or soon-to-be high school graduates

from "all different educational backgrounds, economic background—some of them went to Ag school, some are from Ida B. Wells," said Elizabeth Tyler of the Botanic Garden in Glencoe. Tyler has been helping community volunteers establish the garden, called the Edna White Century Garden, at 111th and Homewood, for more than a year.

The diversity, the scholarship and the chance to be a part of a

program aimed at curbing violence, drew Brigid McDonald, 17.

"I'm working with completely different people all the time, that I don't live around," said McDonald, a graduate of Mother McAuley High School.

O'Grady said workers start at 7:30 a.m. and loafing isn't allowed.

"That's part of the project also: teaching a work ethic," he said. "[This is] a job and it's not a 'do-what-you-want' type of thing."

6/22/94

Woolsey praises local work site

Congressional representative Lynn Woolsey, 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 earlier in the month 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 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.

Fifteen thousand Americans were sworn into the AmeriCorps recently 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 \$4,725.

Woolsey also noted that a coalition of 18 nonprofit 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.

OKLAHOMA.

FARMER-STOCKMAN

November 1994



Inside this issue:

A facelift for windbreaks

Job program investing in conservation

Patterned after the CCC of the 1930s, AmeriCorps workers take their turn on the windbreaks of western Oklahoma

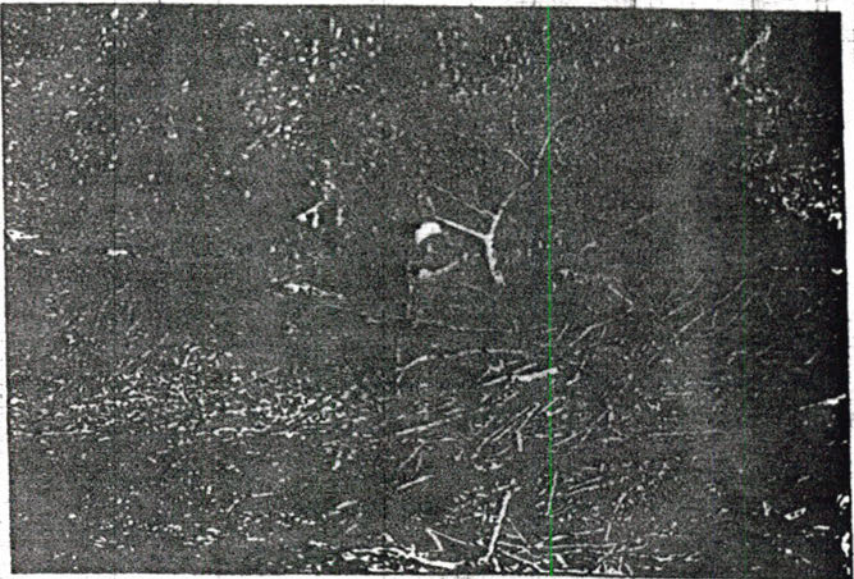
BY DAN CRUMMETT

Milton Vaughn, 77, has farmed the light soils of Greer County since 1942 when he returned from the Seabees to farm with his father. The windbreak that extends westward from his current home was already there, beginning to control what had been a farmer's nightmare only several years before.

"We bought our first tractor in 1936 or '37, and you could hardly drive it over the dunes in this field," Vaughn pointed, noting today's field as it gently rolls, neatly surrounded by windbreaks on three sides.

The windbreaks planted by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the federally-sponsored work program born of the drought and depression of the 1930s, have served well. Vaughn will tell you they've stopped a lot of sand and have allowed him to farm wheat, cotton and alfalfa since he came home to help his dad, whose failing eyesight was ending his career.

But, windbreaks are living creatures, and like all other creatures they age. More than a half-century of standing up to the hot summer winds of southwest Oklahoma has killed some of the trees in the 1940 vintage planting. On two occasions Vaughn "posted" the planting, selectively cutting some trees for fence



Removal of dead underbrush is one of the first steps in renovation of windbreaks that date back to the 1930s and '40s.

posts to make room for new growth. Still, without additional periodic maintenance the windbreak's Siberian elms, desert willow and mulberries ultimately will give up.

That's where the modern-day counterpart of the CCC entered the picture this fall. A team of 11 young people employed under the USDA's new Soil Conservation Service AmeriCorps program provided the labor to upgrade Vaughn's windbreak, and many others in a 23-

county area of western Oklahoma. Overall, 20 members of the Oklahoma Public Lands and Environment Team currently are employed in western counties to renovate windbreaks. They are organized into three teams based at Sentinel, Mangum and Woodward.

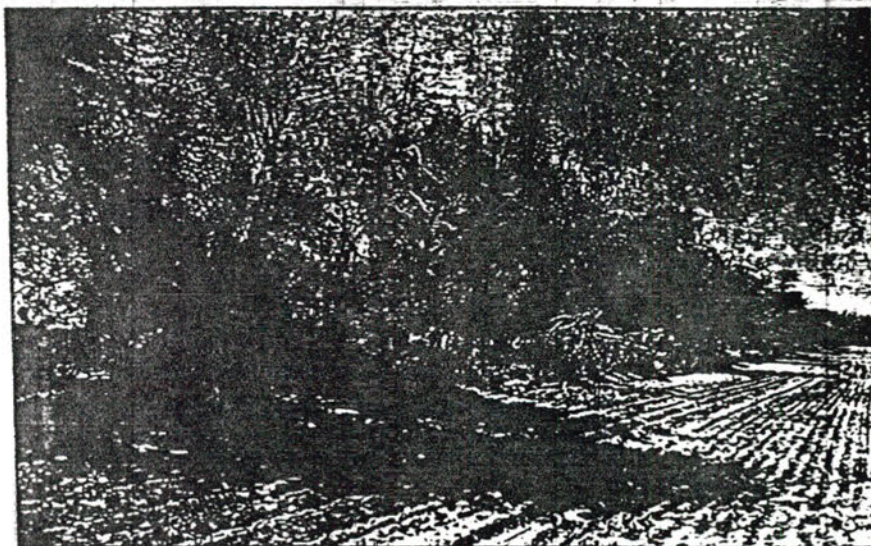
Using chainsaws, axes and gloved hands, the teams follow directions provided by state foresters and SCS personnel to scour out the undergrowth of old windbreaks, remove dead and fallen limbs and, in general, prepare the old plantings for planting season.

During cold weather, team members will be back planting modern windbreak varieties, such as pecan, to fill some of the holes age and decay left in the windbreaks over the years. In addition, the clearing of undergrowth and brush will allow existing trees to be invigorated and will provide for natural regeneration.

Team members also will be involved in constructing fences on windbreaks exposed to cattle, to prevent trampling of young trees before they can become established.

In all cases, the AmeriCorps team works hand-in-hand with the landowner, SCS and state natural resources personnel.

For their efforts the workers receive roughly a minimum wage paycheck, health insurance coverage and



Providing a half-century of protection to the fragile soils of Greer County, this aging windbreak receives a face lift from young people employed in the USDA AmeriCorps program.

the right to a \$4,725 educational voucher at the end of 10 months, said Tom Wilson, Sentinel, district conservationist of the North Fork of the Red River Conservation District. "They have to work the entire 10 months, but the voucher they receive is good for books and tuition at any college or technical school, or it can be used to pay existing higher education loans."

Other benefits of the program include a new public awareness of windbreaks and their need for maintenance, Wilson explained.

"In many cases, people around here have taken windbreaks for granted...they've always been there. Now, with the teams working updating the older windbreaks, we have producers realizing the need to protect them from cattle and keep them vigorous."

"We've gotten a good benefit from

this awareness already, and we haven't planted a tree yet," he explained, noting planting will be done during the dormant season of winter.

The renewed awareness of the need to protect windbreaks is even more critical now, Wilson says, because many of the older windbreaks were made of eight to 10 rows of trees. Newer plantings are usually designed with only three rows.

"So, we have to be very careful about protecting them from grazing cattle, or we'll lose them early on."

After watching the team in action on his place in late September, Vaughn, a conservation district board member, is convinced.

"They're workin' little dudes," he smiled. "We interviewed these people before they came to work. They are all trying to get an education. And, I believe most will make it!"

If you're interested, call...

■ Western Oklahoma landowners interested in having new windbreaks built or existing windbreaks renovated, may apply for the program by contacting the district conservationists at the nearest SCS field office. Participating landowners will be part of the Oklahoma Forest Stewardship Program which makes cost-share opportunities available.

Why AmeriCorps?

■ During a break from cutting, stacking and raking, the Sentinel AmeriCorps crew took time to discuss their motives and feelings with the *Farmer-Stockman*.

The educational voucher was the primary goal, of course, with five members of the team planning to use it to go to school for the first time. The rest planned to pay off existing college loans once they complete their ten-month stint with "the corps."

But there was more. There was a link to the past and a desire to build links to 1994 for the future.

"It would be nice in 50 years to see this, and say 'I did that,'" explained one member. Another chimed in "it's good to do something for the environment and our communities...to put something back." Also, the team was quite interested in meeting members of the original CCC crews who planted the windbreaks they are now renovating.

Dill City's Cindy Marquez was quite vocal about wanting to make the team successful.

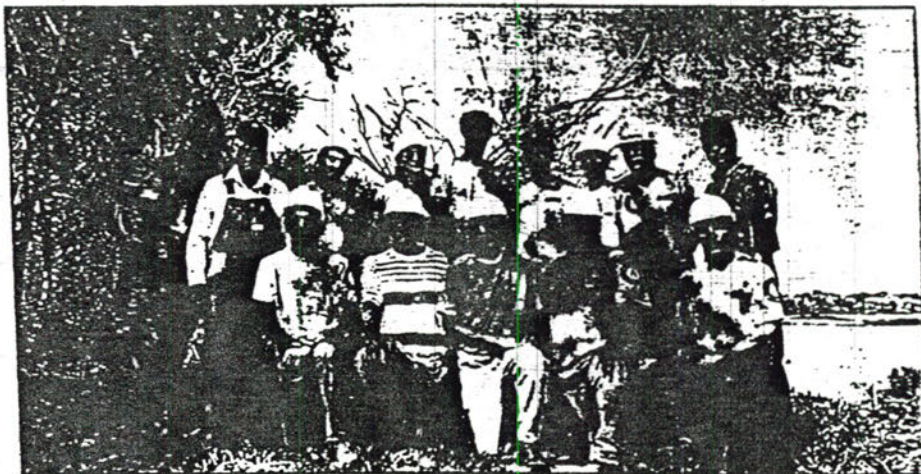
"We want to do a good job, since this (the team work project) is a first," she explained. "It's up to us

to work together as a team. We have to make it work or they'll (the government) drop it."

Landowner Milton Vaughn seemed to think the team would have no prob-

lem "making it work."

"They've worked together quite well for just getting to know one another. I've been amazed at how they've pitched in."



One of several groups of Oklahoma young people hired in USDA's AmeriCorps program to work on conservation related projects, these workers are based in Sentinel and cover part of a 23-county area. Those pictured include, from left, backrow: Lynden Haygood, District Conservationist, Greer County Conservation District; landowner Milton Vaughn; Christopher James, Mangum; Cindy Marquez, Dill City; Dustin Carr, Hobart; Grant Griffith, Sentinel; James Buchner, Lawton, and Tom Wilson, District Conservationist, Sentinel, North Fork of the Red River Conservation District. Front row, from left: Jesse Carter, Sentinel; Sam Rice, Warren; Chris Shield, Sentinel; Tommy Koons, Colony, and Brent Smith, Sentinel.

DEC 27 1994

BURRELLE'S

RN

Clean and sober, woman looks to help others

By Jeff Hanson
Journal-News

FRONT PAGE

HAMILTON

Today, Vicky Adams watches young people doing to themselves what she did to herself only four years ago.

"It hurts to the bone," she said. "It hurts to the bone to see young men and women throwing their lives away."

Four years ago, the 32-year-old Hamilton woman wasn't going anywhere: after more than a decade of drug and alcohol abuse, she wound up in a hospital bed with a failing liver.

"You've heard about being scared straight?" she asked. "It scared the hell out of me."

She's been clean and sober ever since. As a result, victories keep on coming.

Next month, Adams is going to work for the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps as part of AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program. For 10 months, Adams will work in soup kitchens, educate people about the importance of nutrition, and make breakfasts for senior citizens.

"It's been a long four years," she said. "Emotionally it's been rough. But God has seen fit to put the right people in my life. Nothing has been as bad as my days of drinking and drugs. I know I have a future without drinking and drugs. And I know I don't have a future with them."

She dropped out of high school in 1979. Last month, she took her graduate equivalency exam. She feels pretty good about her chances of passing. But what's most important to her is the lasting

effect she can have on people by sharing her trials, as well as her triumphs.

"If I can help someone not go through the pain and suffering and turmoil that I've gone through, I've accomplished my goal," she said. "No diploma could take the place of that."

One of the benefits of AmeriCorps is an education award for college or vocational training totaling \$4,725. Adams doesn't know what she wants to do following her 10-month commitment to the program, whether she might sign up for another stint.

College is a goal. One day she'd like to work as a drug and alcohol prevention specialist and expand on the work she has done as a volunteer to substance abuse prevention agencies in Butler and Hamilton counties.

"I think it's important that teen-

agers know there are adults that have been there, that we know what kind of harm (drug and alcohol abuse) could do," she said. "It's so important that we catch them before they get there."

Hamilton will have a lasting effect on her. She's enjoyed a lot of success. She's also enjoyed the support of people who cared for her as she discovered a different way of living.

"I'm feeling all kinds of things," she said about leaving Hamilton. "I came here without no family. But people have taken me in, tough-loved me, and loved me until I could love myself."

"I've had a lot of natural highs," she said. "Sometimes people will ask me if I'm on (drugs or alcohol) and I say, 'No, I don't go that way anymore.'"

Saluda County clears 911 hurdle

Identifying roads first step to service

By KAY GORDON
Staff Writer

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.

But the service is at least 18 months away.

That's how long it will be before the county is in a position to ask telephone companies to begin work on the system, said Paul Potts, chairman of the county Planning Commission.

But the county is on the right track.

Recently, a Natural Resources Conservation Service AmeriCorps team of volunteers spent three weeks identifying all of the county's named and unnamed roads. They developed cross references by names and numbers. Then, they made copies of the tax maps and identified road names on the maps and the property numbers.

The five-member team also noted new roads that were not marked on the 1968 highway maps they used.

The end product was an updated map of the county in four sections.

Accurate and updated road maps are critical to establishing a 911 system, Potts said. To qualify for 911, at least 80 percent of the roads must be named.

A county committee is naming the roads, but hundreds still have no names, team members said.

"We don't even come close to 80 percent being named," Potts said. "We're working toward that. There's a major push to get that completed. Then, roads have to be numbered."

The seven-member, all-volunteer planning commission asked the AmeriCorps team to inventory the roads.

AmeriCorps is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Projects are based on community-identified needs.

"They had the time and vehicles and computers," Potts said. "We're getting ready to ask them to help with indexing — numbering of streets and roads, which will lead to a numbered address as opposed to a route and box number."

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative to

address critical education, human service and environmental needs in communities.

**To qualify for 911, at least
80 percent of the roads
must be named.**

Several AmeriCorps projects are underway in South Carolina. The one for rural development in South Carolina is sponsored by the USDA/Natural Resources Conser-

vation Service.

Project area counties include Abbeville, Laurens, Greenwood, Newberry, McCormick, Lexington, Saluda, Edgefield and Aiken. The teams, which began in September, will work on various projects in rural counties for the rest of the year.

The South Carolina Rural Development AmeriCorps project has four five-member teams, with 10 in Greenwood County and 10 in Newberry County.

A Newberry team conducted the recent project in Saluda County. It also has done projects in other areas, including building outdoor learning centers, developing related lesson plans, and water quality sampling.

First AmeriCorps worker to focus on water, sewage plans

By Barbara Hahn
of the Daily Courier

CAVE JUNCTION — Rural development in a small town in the Dominican Republic has a lot in common with rural development in a small town in southwest Oregon.

Marcus Kauffman, the new community development coordinator for the Illinois Valley, knows the similarities well. As a Peace Corps volunteer, he helped set up water collection and storage systems, as well as construct a latrine in a Dominican Republic community with few such facilities.

In his new post in the Illinois Valley — the first AmeriCorps position in the valley — he'll help the Community Response Team meet goals outlined in the region's strategic plan. And one of the big goals outlined in the plan is to improve and expand water and sewage systems.

Same thing, bigger scale.

But for Kauffman, 26, the experience of helping a community solve its problems and accomplish goals has a personal twist. This is his home town.

Kauffman grew up in the Illinois Valley and recently returned after leaving to earn a bachelor's degree in international studies, with an emphasis on Third World

economic development, from the University of Oregon. Then, he joined the Peace Corps, helping rural Dominican Republic communities improve infrastructure.

Trained as a rural youth volunteer, due to his experience with Future Farmers of America and 4-H as a youngster, he was sent to the northwest corner of the small Caribbean island nation.

"I started off in rural youth projects," he says. That is, he managed a baseball team composed of Dominican Republic children.

"There are hundreds of kids there and everyone wants to play baseball," he explains.

With sports a mainstay of community participation, Kauffman organized a program that brought needed sports equipment to rural communities. Through contacts at Illinois Valley High School and other schools, unused athletic equipment was shipped to the small country. The sporting goods were then distributed to those community groups willing to put their labor toward a community project, he says.

One success story was a community latrine.

"Most of the people in the com-



MARCUS KAUFFMAN
Drawn to rural communities

munity didn't have latrines," he says. So, Kauffman organized a project that built a simple latrine near a community building that served as a center for social functions.

Then there was a project to provide drinking water.

"About two-thirds of the villagers didn't have access to potable water," he says. Instead, there was a large, concrete cistern within the community that was periodically filled by the government to provide for basic needs.

The idea was simple enough: Capture rain water that falls from November through March via gutters attached to roofs, then store the water in cisterns for use later in the season.

Using system designs, Kauffman wrote grant requests that garnered funds from public and private agencies. The money came through, but within days of the project's implementation, Kauffman severely injured his leg, sending him back to the U.S. for reconstructive surgery. Another volunteer saw the project through.

Though now out of the Peace Corps, Kauffman saw a need to continue helping rural communities. This time, President Clinton's AmeriCorps program provided a way to employ him at a local level.

"This is an opportunity to do great things," Kauffman says of the program. Not only with the community benefit from the help, but he'll also have \$4,700 a year in student loans paid off for his effort.

The experience also is giving him an opportunity to return to his roots.

"I spent my formative years in college," he says. "I'm having to

relearn the community."

And, the community has changed in recent years. More people have moved in, and those involved in promoting projects have changed faces.

"I'm working on outreach now trying to get more people involved," he says. Most important is to get these willing to commit for at least a year of service involved in working toward meeting the community's goals.

The Community Response Team will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at Illinois Valley High School.

AmeriCorps workers lend a hand to flood recovery

BY LARRY PEIRCE
Lincoln Journal

BROWNVILLE — Anyone joining AmeriCorps, President Clinton's "domestic Peace Corps," must have community spirit and be willing to forgo higher wages they might earn at another job.

In return for their sacrifices, workers can wipe out college debt or gain money to return to college by helping out nonprofit agencies and local governments.

Workers must look beyond the limited financial benefits of AmeriCorps, said Chuck Yearly of Lincoln, supervisor of a crew working out of Tecumseh.

"We're here for the community, to get involved," Yearly said.

Workers wear black baseball caps and gray T-shirts with a white A on a black circle. The AmeriCorps motto is "Getting things done."

The Tecumseh crew will spend most of its 1,800 working hours clear-

ing 1993 flood debris from flood control dams in Johnson, Otoe, Nemaha, Richardson and Pawnee counties.

Work is directed out of the Soil Conservation Service office in Tecumseh and is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural development program.

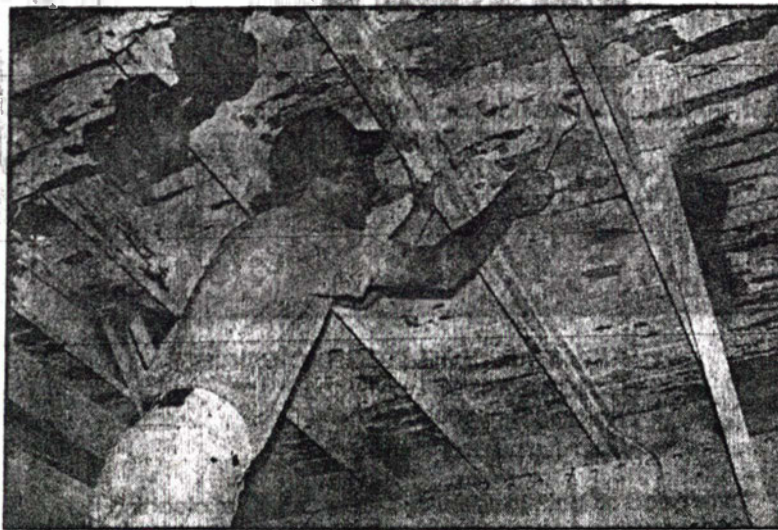
AmeriCorps also has crews working in an anti-hunger, nutrition and empowerment program.

Clinton announced AmeriCorps on Sept. 12, and crews went to work a week later. Yearly is accepting project proposals for nonprofit and public projects in villages, cities and counties.

"A lot of these places don't have much money (for public work projects)," he said.

Last week, the Tecumseh crew began scraping damaged paint from the interior of the floating Meriwether Lewis Museum. Last year's floods nearly swept the old river

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LARRY PEIRCE/LINCOLN JOURNAL

Eric Bartels of Tecumseh scrapes paint from the ceiling of the Meriwether Lewis Museum in Brownville. Bartels and three other AmeriCorps workers are repairing damage done to the old dredging boat by a leaky roof and flooding in 1993.

AmeriCorps/Workers help communities and themselves

Continued from page 1

dredge away. The interior paint was damaged when the roof leaked. Heat and humidity caused more damage.

The crew will scrape and then repaint the ceiling and walls for the nonprofit Meriwether Lewis Foundation. A private contractor installed a new roof this summer.

Yearly, who has a master's degree in rural and community planning, was a community planner in Carroll, Iowa, before his job was phased out. He had been out of work for months. AmeriCorps will help him pay off his graduate school debt and gain experience as a supervisor.

Eric Bartels of Tecumseh, a construction worker and the father of two children, said he wants to go to a two-year college without borrowing money.

Theresa and Emily Sherman, two sisters from Tecumseh, said they will pay off student loans they incurred while attending Platte Community

College in Columbus and Peru State College.

"It takes care of all of mine, thank God," Emily Sherman said, scraping paint from the ceiling of the old river dredge.

The sisters, 20-year-old identical twins, plan to go back to school after a year.

AmeriCorps, a \$360 million program, pays 20,000 Americans to work in four areas: education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety. If extended by Congress, the program could spend \$1.5 billion over three years to pay for 100,000 workers.

Anyone older than 17, including high school dropouts and people with graduate degrees, can apply for the program.

AmeriCorps supervisors make \$6.35 an hour plus credit toward money for education; workers earn \$4.35 an hour plus school money.

When the educational voucher is

added in, workers earn about \$12,000 a year plus paid medical benefits. AmeriCorps workers are not considered federal workers and are not eligible for unemployment. They must work the entire year to receive educational benefits, and are limited to two years in the program.

Yearly said the Tecumseh crew and crews in Lincoln, Omaha and Norfolk soon will each add another worker.

In Lincoln, recruiting is under way for 23 volunteers to work with nine community action agencies in Nebraska, said Lorrie Benson, director of Community Action of Nebraska Inc.

Benson will oversee a program aimed at reducing violence among youths 10 to 15 years old. For information, call Benson at (402) 471-3714.

For information about other AmeriCorps opportunities, call 1-800-880-4183.

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AmeriCorps Members Help With Park Cleanup

BY JANET ECKMANN

Special to the Press & Dakotan

PLAINVIEW, Neb. — Aluminum rain gutters wrapped around trees. A 2-by-6 driven 4 feet into the ground. Electrical wire with outlets and light sockets still attached draped in tree branches. These were just a few of the sights that greeted AmeriCorps workers in Beatrice, Neb. last week.

Local AmeriCorps members, Nadene Chavet, Mary Rose Backhaus, Stephen Wilson Cook and Carmen Shaffer, were called on to help clean up Homestead National Monument of America Park near Beatrice following the devastating tornadoes May 8.

While the tornadoes missed the park buildings, significant damage was done to homes in nearby Pioneer Acres. Team members removed debris from the damaged homes and replaced the park's east entrance sign.

The group worked approximately 105 volunteer hours. By May 17 eight load of debris, totaling two tons, had been taken to the Beatrice city dump. Members were instructed to save any

personal items such as photographs so owners could be located later.

One member assisted in the visitors center, so park personnel were free to continue their programs.

Chavet said that their group was thankful they were not looking for bodies. There were no casualties in Beatrice.

"There were seven homes near the park which received extensive damage ... We found such things as tricycles, gas grills, shoes, tires and parts which appeared to be a triple garage belonging to an apartment building," she said.

Chavet said she had read what strange and weird things tornado winds would do. "Now I believe it. We have seen some unbelievable sights," she said.

Other AmeriCorps workers from Omaha and Lincoln and other volunteers will continue clearing debris as they try to return the park to its original natural beauty.

Program shares fruit of the fields

AmeriCorps will hire students to glean fields for area food banks

By LAURIE LEMMERMAN
Staff Writer

While most college students spend their summers looking for jobs or working on their tans, two students may decide to enjoy their school breaks by picking through rows of lettuce.

And rows of corn, strawberries, onions or any other crop that has already been picked over for market but still has edible fruit and vegetables left in the field.

This year has been named the "Summer of Gleaning" by

AmeriCorps and the United States Department of Agriculture. A local 12-week gleaning project, during which volunteers go through local fields after harvest to salvage any crops, was announced Wednesday by Joel Berg, director of national services for the USDA.

AmeriCorps is a national service program created by President Clinton. It allows any citizen or permanent resident age 17 or older to serve their communities in exchange for educational grants.

Through the gleaning program, San Benito County will participate with the Second Harvest Food Bank in Watsonville



Please turn to CROPS, A8

BERG

Crops

• Continued from page A1

and F.O.O.D. CROPS in Castroville to provide 500 pounds of produce to people in surrounding counties.

"We need to do everything we can to use youth power to solve our community problems," said Berg at a news conference in Hollister. "We are helping them get an education in the process. I'm very excited to be a part of this."

Two AmeriCorps volunteer positions in the local gleaning program are open to interested students. Selected members will receive a \$2,242 living allowance for 12 weeks of work plus a \$1,000 educational award

which can be used as college tuition, graduate school fees, job training fees or to pay off existing school loans.

Work in the summer project locally will be split into two areas, one staying in Watsonville doing office work at Second Harvest and the other actually out in the fields picking crops.

Although Community Pantry, the food bank in Hollister, is not currently in need of extra produce, Berg said there is plenty of other people out there who can use the help AmeriCorps offers.

"We are very concerned about the food this country wastes, and here we are in the middle of a great agricultural area," he said. "This is like the fruit and vegetable basket of America. We know there are al-

ready a number of farmers working with food bank, we want to help create a permanence to the program."

During his one-hour visit to Hollister, Berg also toured demolition of the city's old lice building, which is being renovated in hopes of its coming a youth center.

Bryan Briggs, an AmeriCorps volunteer currently assigned to Hollister, showed Berg progress made at the center. They were accompanied by Councilman Ken Duran and City Manager Barry Johnson.

Other AmeriCorps projects within the city include painting of 15 low-income homes in downtown Hollister, as well as a downtown mural signed and painted by local youth.

Delta Chronicle
June 19, 1996

**U.S.D.A. AMERICORPS
MEMBERS ARE MAKING
IT HAPPEN AT MONTE
ALTO**

As part of the U.S.D.A.'s on-going commitment to gleaning and food rescue Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has designated Texas as one of seventeen states where 8 AmeriCorps members will work to glean food primarily for persons in colonia areas of Hidalgo, Starr, and Webb County.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program that allows Americans of all backgrounds to serve their communities in exchange for educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training, or payback existing student loans.

Service Corps granted funding

By KAREN ROACH
Gazette Reporter

Gleaning program aids food pantries

ALBANY — Four local residents will help recover surplus food from around the region to supply food pantries over the next few months as part of a federal program called the Summer of Gleaning.

The program, part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps national service initiative, has awarded the Albany Service Corps a grant of \$22,500 to pay for the four workers for the summer.

The workers will be deployed around a six-county area at farms, restaurants and other institutions to gather extra food that could otherwise go to waste.

In return, the workers will get a weekly stipend of approximately \$170, and if they stick with the program, they will earn a \$1,000 education award at the end of the summer.

"In these days of dwindling resources, and dwindling commitments from state and federal agencies, we have to be creative," said Mayor Jerry Jennings, in helping to announce the grant. "This is an honor for us to be chosen."

Albany's program was the only one in New York, and one of only 20 around the country to be chosen for grants under the Summer of Gleaning program, according to Paul Winkeller, director of the Albany Service Corps.

The idea of gleaning is based upon the practice in biblical times, where farmers would leave the edges of their fields unharvested so the poor could gather food there.

In the book of Leviticus, God commands Moses to leave the gleanings of the harvest for the "poor and the sojourner."

In more recent times, the practice is catching on across the country and in this area.

The Hunger Action Network of New York, a statewide anti-hunger group, encourages gardeners to plant an extra row of vegetables and donate the proceeds to a food pantry.

Also, the Regional Farm & Food Project, formed this year, serves as a clearinghouse for volunteers interested in helping pick surplus fruits or vegetables, and a contact for farmers who have extra food to give.

Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about that organization can write for more information to 27 Elm St., Albany, N.Y. 12202.

One of the major problems with the idea of gleaning, is that when a farmer offers a field, volunteers and vehicles must mobilize quickly. The Ameri-

Corps program will provide a steady team of people ready to gather the available food, program leaders said.

Winkeller estimates the team of gleaners could result in another 10 tons of food being distributed to food pantries in the area.

He said the program will help feed the 20,000 low-income people each month who depend on food pantries in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Greene and Columbia counties.

Marc Smith, the state executive director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, which is administering the program, said the program will not only help feed the hungry, but will provide a learning experience for the AmeriCorps workers.

"We're pleased to be a part of it," Smith said. "I think we've got a system that can help, and we're looking forward to this."

THE DAILY GAZETTE
ALBANY, NEW YORK
JUNE 18, 1996



SUNRISE
EDITION

JULY 1,
1996

PORTLAND,
OREGON

35 CENTS

SATURDAY

The Oregonian



AmeriCorps worker Se-ah-dom Edmo of Portland runs Salmon Camp, a cultural-heritage program for American Indian children.

Photos by
MARK T. OSLER
for The Oregonian

"I joined AmeriCorps because I wanted to repay the people that have helped me."

Se-ah-dom Edmo

IN SERVICE TO AMERICA

*Camp coordinator
acquires discipline,
dispenses tradition
through AmeriCorps*

By JODI RAVE

of The Oregonian staff

WARM SPRINGS — In the distance, Hehe Butte shimmers through the hot, sagebrush-scented air. Three hefty chinook salmon, split end-to-end and skewered on wooden stakes, hiss and sputter over a fire pit dug next to the Warm Springs River. Nearby, the sacred Long House of the Three Confederated Tribes soon will fill with song and dance.

Behind the Long House, an 18-year-old is in constant motion. Se-ah-dom (Beautiful Girl) Edmo directs camp games and maintains cool control among her group of 23 fifth- and sixth-graders: the Salmon Camp kids.

Edmo, a Shoshone-Bannock, coordinates the Salmon Camp on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation as part of her yearlong AmeriCorps assignment.

President Clinton, who created the program, again called attention to it Tuesday during his appearance at Portland's Pacific Rim Economic Conference.

When a Portland State University student, Velaida "Cricket" Shepard, appeared on one of the conference panels and described her AmeriCorps experience, her account marked one of the conference's emotional highlights. "Do you think



Se-ah-dom Edmo (right) of Portland has a knack for working with the youngsters enrolled in Salmon Camp on the Warm Springs Reservation.

Please turn to
AMERICORPS, Page A13

AmeriCorps: Program has its critics

■ Continued from Page One

this is worth your money?" Clinton asked the crowd, generating enthusiastic applause.

But not everyone applauds the social service program, which will cost \$580 million to support 33,000 volunteers this year and — if Clinton has his way — \$812 million for 47,000 volunteers next year. Critics, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., have cited what they consider more pressing needs.

Edmo said the program has given her invaluable opportunities while helping preserve American Indian culture. During the 10-day camp American Indian children learn the cultural and social significance of salmon.

"Students owe it to the elders to take 10 days out of the year and to devote it to one of the most sacred

things in the Northwest," Edmo said. "Not only do we owe it to our elders, but we owe it to our children that are coming seven generations ahead."

Edmo is an AmeriCorps member with the Northwest Service Academy, one of 14 AmeriCorps programs in Oregon. The program offers a \$7,500 annual living stipend, plus \$4,725 in educational support, and is limited to two years of participation.

Edmo will finish a year in the program July 29. She graduated a year ago from Catlin Gabel School, which she attended on various scholarships.

She said she has gained insight and learned discipline during the past year. She served with nine groups, including the Oregon Food Bank, an experience she found especially valuable.

"Rather than writing a check, you get to hand over the food to people who are hungry," she said.

"I joined AmeriCorps because I wanted to repay the people that have helped me." Some of the people she hopes to repay are her parents, relatives and others who have helped her succeed.

She's also been nurtured by the Oregon Museum Science Institution and by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, both of which are sponsors of the Salmon Camp.

Her parents, Ed and Carol Edmo, said her need to give is just part of her spirit.

"She was raised in a cradleboard," Ed Edmo said. "She's been a part of her culture since birth. We've reinforced it with ceremonies, and the elders also expect her to do good. And they reinforce it. They praise her."

So do her young charges at Salmon Camp.

"Everyone respects her," said one

AMERICORPS

■ **THE PROGRAM:** AmeriCorps is national community service program designed by the Clinton administration. It allows students to donate their time to service projects while they earn money to help meet college costs. This year the program will cost \$580 million and will involve 33,000 participants.

■ **THE BENEFITS:** AmeriCorps members receive a \$7,500 living stipend and a \$4,725 education credit, some health benefits and child care, if needed.

■ **TO APPLY:** Call the Oregon Commission for National and Community Service at (503) 725-5903 to find out about the 14 program options provided in Oregon.

camper, Lena Caudill, a member of the Tlingit and Cherokee nations. "She's nice. She's comedy."

"She's not a crab, and she goes by the rules," added the 13-year-old from Banks. "It's like she's known us for years."

**MAIL TRIBUNE
MEDFORD, OREGON
FEBRUARY 15, 1995**

AmeriCorps update

The last time we wrote defending President Clinton's national service program, AmeriCorps volunteers were up in Butte Falls, hammering away on improvements to the Butte Falls community hall.

They're still in Butte Falls, working at the county library branch building, the fire hall and restrooms at the park. Earlier, they maintained national forest trails, planted trees, and worked on erosion-control projects.

THE NATIONAL SERVICE program provides young workers with a living stipend and money for college. But the GOP Congress is still eager to make AmeriCorps an example of its willingness to spare no "liberal" program (although it wants to spend more money for young soldiers to do make-work on obsolete military bases) — especially a program that President Clinton can properly be proud of.

Anyway, since that last editorial AmeriCorps crews are now helping improve the popular but heavily worn trail on Upper Table Rock. Literally, your tax dollars at work.

ARIZONA DAILY NEWS
FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA
AUGUST 26, 1995

2—ARIZONA DAILY SUN, Flagstaff, Arizona, Saturday, August 26, 1995

AmeriCorps volunteers can only help: official

By BLAKE MORLOCK

Sun Staff Reporter

The director of AmeriCorps' largest component visited Flagstaff Friday, defending the embattled program from criticisms raised by congressional Republicans.

"Some of the complaints are from Pluto," said Joel Berg, who runs the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Service program. He said Republicans are attacking the program because it displaces volunteers from other organizations, it pays them minimum wage and it costs too much to run.

Berg on Friday attacked the complaints during a meeting with community leaders at the Greater Flagstaff Economic Council.

He said unlike Republican claims, he has never heard of an AmeriCorps program taking over the work of other agencies. Republicans say this has prevented concerned citizens from volunteering.

"They act like volunteers are tripping over themselves to help the community and they have all day to work," Berg said.

On the assertion that it pays its members, Berg said, "When congresspeople work for free, then we'll stop paying AmeriCorps members minimum wage."

Berg also said that of his department's \$2.6 million budget. This year, he will spend \$30,000 on administrative costs, including his trip to Flagstaff.

Berg was flanked by two volunteers, Jerry Chavez and Usha Little.

As a member of the rural development wing of AmeriCorps, Chavez put together a deal to guarantee fire and emergency medical service for the Bellemont area. This was instrumental in landing a Wisconsin Tissue plant in the Flagstaff area, expected to bring in 75 to 100 new jobs. He also brought emergency medical services to Parks.

In addition, Chavez put together a cooperative agreement among 19 local, state and government agencies in northern Arizona that will streamline the process of sharing resources in emergencies.

Little said her AmeriCorps efforts in the Navajo Reservation town of Camero have improved the quality of life there. She said she set up a cultural preservation organization and has promoted tourism to improve the economy.

GFEC President Dave Spaur said Chavez helped in attracting Wisconsin Tissue to Flagstaff because Chavez had more staff power and a better budget.

Flagstaff Mayor Chris Bavasi said the city's faith in AmeriCorps is illustrated in the city budget.

"The proof in the city of Flagstaff's interest in this program is that we have invested heavily in this program," Bavasi said. "We think this program is very important."

Young AmeriCorps volunteers are tackling WMNF projects

32-member
crew plans
to spend a year
working on
conservation
tasks -- unless
their new
program
is Newtered

By WENDY HANSCOM

They're young, enthusiastic, visionary and they want to inspire a generation of Americans to take up national community service.

Thirty-two AmeriCorps members are now encamped at the Bog Brook Training facility in Gilead. They range in age from 18 to 26, and have signed up for a year of work in the 800,000-acre White Mountain National Forest.

AmeriCorps was a cornerstone of President Clinton's campaign platform. He likened it to a domestic Peace Corps. The six-month-old program currently employs 20,000 young people in 300 programs.

AmeriCorps members have been charged with environmental cleanup, conservation work, combating hunger and poverty, and helping rural communities plan for the future.

Workers in the program receive a weekly living stipend, room and board, limited health and medical care and a \$4,725 tuition grant after



IMPROVING WILDLIFE HABITAT—AmeriCorps members Sara Cory (left), Claire Darling and Stina Johnson help clear out a spot along the Kancamagus highway to improve animal and bird habitat. AmeriCorps members will be working in the White Mountain National Forest until December, unless the program is cut. Some House and Senate Republicans have been critical of President Clinton's national service program.

(Photo by Bryan Yeaton)

**'We're not high-school dropouts
or court-ordered people here**

DAN MARTEL
AmeriCorps member

they have completed 1,700 hours of service.

The grant may be used to pay off college loans, or for further schooling, if it's not used for either purpose it's forfeited.

Crew members at Bog Brook have enlisted for a variety of reasons -- some say it's the money, others were intrigued by the experience. "I'm here because I want to ex-

plore opportunities in environmental studies," said Jessa Eisenwinter-Lake, a biology major who recently graduated from Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. "It's a good way to look at options in environmental careers, study and pay back those loans."

Jeff Fournier of Penbrooke, N.H., said he needs the money too.

"I came here for the experience of living up here," he said, "and the

big reason is for the money for school. It's not a ton of money, but it's enough to get me going."

Erik Hamilton, a 20-year-old who hasn't been to college yet, said he just wanted to do something different.

"I wanted to meet new people," Hamilton said. "I also want to further my education in phys. ed. It's nice being around a lot of people and I can use the money for college. I love the outdoors, and I like what we're doing right now. I could do it for the rest of my life."

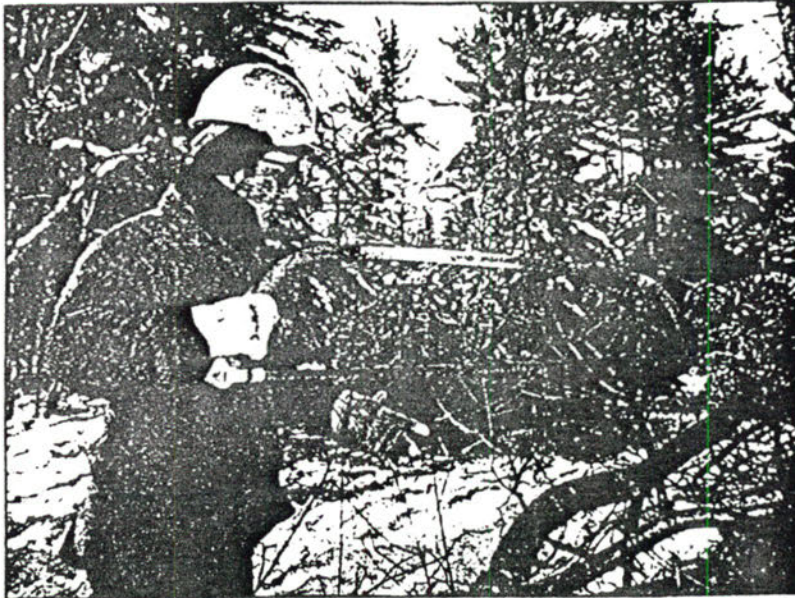
Susan Chunt of New York City is hoping the program will improve her construction skills.

"I want to learn the construction side because I want to join the

See AMERICORPS, page 3

AmeriCorps

Continued from page 1



JOE KIERNAN of the Bog Brook AmeriCorps encampment uses a bow saw to help clear out a bird habitat area in the White Mountain National Forest.
(Photo by Brian Yeaton)

Peace Corps," said Chunt, who graduated from Wesleyan University in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in economics. "I put the Peace Corps off a year so I could do this."

AmeriCorps arrived at Bog Brook on Jan. 14. The crew spent the first few days learning about each other and the program. Last Wednesday was their first full-day working in the national forest.

Their work in the forest will be demanding and labor-intensive, according to Rebecca Oreskes of the U.S. Forest Service.

Corps members will create wildlife habitat, clear for scenic vistas, paint and do maintenance work at forest recreation sites, and build and maintain trails.

"It lets us get a whole lot of projects up off the ground that we otherwise wouldn't be able to do," Oreskes said. "We're really impressed with the quality of people who've come. They're not getting lots of money and we're really pleased with their skills, dedication and determination. They really want to work and do a service."

The Forest Service manpower has been hurt by federal cutbacks the past few years.

At times during the year, corps members will share Bog Brook facilities with the National Guard. For most of the summer, the entire AmeriCorps crew will be camped

"In the summer, we'll focus primarily on trail work and environmental education," said project director Bryan Yeaton. "We'll learn more about the Forest Service and what they do. We'll be teaching people to leave the forest as good as, or better than, they found it."

Searching for more projects

During their year with AmeriCorps, crew members are also encouraged to take up a personal volunteer project in the surrounding community.

Those projects can be anything from volunteering at the local library or school to helping environmental groups with concerns like water quality, erosion control or community education.

They're willing to listen to about any pitch, Yeaton said, and he'd welcome project ideas from local non-profit civic, educational and governmental groups.

"We want to get into the schools," said corps-member Dan Martel, an electrical engineering graduate. "We're anxious to tell people about what we're doing."

AmeriCorps members are also looking for recreational ideas. Some crew members have cars and travel home for the weekend, but others do not and won't get home too often.

Cathy Newell, SAD44 Adult Ed director, is trying to help organize some activities, she said, and would

AmeriCorps provides opportunity to help

By Kristen Hebestreet

Press Staff Writer

As the little girl handed Samuel Shore a homemade get well card made from a folded paper plate, she asked, "Could you please give this to my papaw?"

Shore immediately took the card to her grandfather, a patient in the critical care ward at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Mountain Home.

Shore is one of the 300 AmeriCorps volunteers working in Tennessee's urban and rural communities. As a 47-year-old man preparing to study for the ministry, Shore is almost twice as old as the average AmeriCorps participant.

Half of the AmeriCorps workers are 21 to 29 years old, with one quarter 20 years and under and the remainder 30 and over. Most have had some college or a bachelor's degree and more than half — 64 percent — are women.

"The only requirement for AmeriCorps is that they be at least 17 years old and an American citizen," said Carol White, Tennessee Commission on National and Community Service executive director.

What the AmeriCorps workers do depends on what the leadership of the community considers a priority, Ms. White said. This includes promoting tourism, attracting industry, improving housing or working in existing programs.

In Knoxville, AmeriCorps is reducing violence in inner cities by working with Head Start students who display violent tendencies at an early age. AmeriCorps workers in Nashville are developing health care programs for at-risk families and senior citizens.

"And in Memphis, AmeriCorps workers are working to break the cycle of child abuse," Ms. White said. "AmeriCorps workers all across the state are working in environmental education and economic development."

Like AmeriCorps members in other communities, Shore wears more than one hat. In addition to his work with families of critically ill patients at Mountain Home, he is updating the community services directory at the First Tennessee Development District Area Agency on Aging.

Shore is partnered with Robert Hamm, an AmeriCorps volunteer based in Johnson County. Hamm, 53, who also works at the VA intensive care unit waiting room, does some work for Habitat for Humanity and the Haven of Mercy.

Hamm became an AmeriCorps worker after his small business shut down and his 20-year job at Burlington Industries ended. He wanted to graduate from college, but said he also wanted to serve the community.

"I understood I could help others by helping myself," Hamm



Staff Photo by Eddie LeSueur

Samuel Shore, left, helps Mary Miller at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center

said. "This has been the most rewarding and fulfilling thing I've done since I was in the military."

Nationwide, AmeriCorps 20,000 participants work in communities for \$6,200 in salary and living expenses and, if they complete a nine-month tour, are awarded \$4,725 for college.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees AmeriCorps, received \$575 million in funding this year. Like many other job training and education programs, AmeriCorps may be eliminated in the efforts to balance the federal budget by the year 2002.

There are seven AmeriCorps workers with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic and Community Development Council, all of whom are stationed in Upper East Tennessee, said Jeff Powell, council spokesman.

Powell, who is based in Nashville, said the workers are in this region because so many of the counties here are below the poverty level.

The USDA Rural Development Team is recruited from people who grew up in this area. According to an AmeriCorps brochure, planners hope this will empower communities to develop local leadership and to reverse the "rural brain drain."

Amy Crumley, a 22-year-old Jonesborough resident, says she'd been a 4-H volunteer and Future Farmers of America member since she was in fourth grade. As an AmeriCorps worker, she was a primary organizer of the recent Envirothon for high school students and the Conservation Field Day for elementary school students.

"I really enjoy doing things for other people," she said.

AmeriCorps volunteers like Ms. Crumley are required to work a total of 1,812 hours in order to receive the educational assistantship. This must take at least nine months but no more than one year.

Paperwork within the agency is kept to a minimum. Each AmeriCorps member is required

to submit a quarterly report stating the goals of each project and what is being done to meet those goals.

A service learning grant provided by the National Service Corp. allowed East Tennessee State University, Milligan College and Northeast State Community College to each offer a three-credit class called "Introduction to Community Service."

Billie Barlow, a former journalist from Charlottesville, Va., is working on a "Hidden Heroines" project for the ETSU Center for Appalachian Studies.

The project involves collecting oral histories from Upper East Tennessee women who somehow changed their communities for the better, Ms. Barlow said, and has also written a grant proposal for the cranberry project in Shady Valley.

"I was attracted to the national service movement," Ms. Barlow said. "I felt that a number of people could really make a difference."

Clearing a path to success

THE DESERT SUN
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA
FEBRUARY 18, 1995



Desert Sun photo by Andy Gomperz

John Soto (foreground) of Indio and Patrina Olvera of Desert Hot Springs cut and clear a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail recently as part of an AmeriCorps

project. The workers provide community service in exchange for minimum wage and funds to apply toward their education.

AmeriCorps provides paychecks, pride

By PAUL R. HUARD

The Desert Sun

Karen Perry stretched her arms wide, gesturing at the mountains around her as she stood on the wilderness trail she helped repair.

"This is my office," the 26-year-old Riverside woman said. "I can't tell you how proud I am of the work I do."

Perry was one of 18 crew members in the regional AmeriCorps program who recently helped clear and repair a section

BACKGROUND: When, why AmeriCorps was started/A5

of the Pacific Crest Trail in the San Bernardino Mountains above Whitewater.

AmeriCorps, a national service program, was signed into law by President Clinton in 1993. As a trade-off for a year's worth of labor, participants receive money for college.

Clinton said the program, with 20,000 people enrolled nation-

wide, is his proudest achievement. But it has come under fire from a Republican-controlled Congress looking for ways to trim federal spending.

Last month, House Speaker Newt Gingrich called the program "coerced volunteerism," "gimmickry" and waste of money.

Republican Congressman Sonny Bono said he didn't know enough about AmeriCorps to advocate it being cut, but he said the

See CORPS/A5

Corps

Continued from A1

\$1.5 billion allocated over three years would make many of his colleagues take a hard look at the program.

"It's apparent there will be a lot of sacrifices required in the future. Then the question becomes, 'Where are the priorities?'" he said. "If it's just giving away a billion-and-a-half, then I think it's going to be a big problem from the get-go."

To many people enrolled in AmeriCorps of the San Bernardino National Forest — a regional program for Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties — the program has become a means to a better life.

Angie Savio of Palm Springs worked alongside Perry, hauling rocks into a drainage ditch they built to keep the trail from eroding.

A few months ago, friends questioned Savio's sanity when she told them she would be working in the wilderness.

"Now I can use a chainsaw," said the 20-year-old member of Crew 13, based at the Palm Springs Bureau of Land Management office. "Nobody tells me I can't do or learn anything."

Although many might consider this opportunity for public service the equivalent of hard labor, the AmeriCorps members said the program is doing more for young people than the jobs they probably otherwise would get in fast-food restaurants.

"I could be clearing tables," said 27-year-old Eve Komenchuck of Indio. "Instead, I'll be clearing brush. Which job do you think is going to teach me more?"

Called "the domestic Peace Corps" by its supporters, AmeriCorps employs 86 people from Riverside and San Bernardino counties — including five from the Coachella Valley. Participants repair hiking trails, remove graffiti from picnic sites in the San Bernardino National Forest and plant trees on fire-scarred mountains.

In return, they receive minimum wage and a \$4,725 award that can be used for college tuition or to repay an existing student loan. They can work in the program a maximum of two years.

Clinton has vowed to fight the Republicans if they attempt to cut the \$500 million budgeted for AmeriCorps in 1995.

"We need to keep talking about how good the program is and get



Desert Sun photo by Andy Gomperz

ROAD TO SUCCESS: AmeriCorps workers earn money for school by clearing a narrow, winding section of the Pacific Crest Trail. The program has enrolled 20,000 since it began in 1994.

For Information

AmeriCorps of the San Bernardino National Forest: (909) 794-6198.

Corporation for National and Community Service: 1100 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington D.C. 20525, (202) 606-5000.

Recruitment: This spring, AmeriCorps will recruit in high schools and community colleges throughout Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties.

Applications: Accepted beginning in June. Next service year begins in August.

To participate: Candidates must complete an application, orientation and interview. Members are chosen based on "a true desire to go on to school," Director Randy Scurry said.

people to help us get the message out," Clinton said before leaving Palm Springs this week.

At least one AmeriCorps

Local projects:

Repairing walking trails in the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve; removing brush and trees near Idyllwild; rebuilding trails to resist erosion in Joshua Tree National Park.

member said the program already helped him choose a career. John Soto of Indio rose to the position of crew boss since he joined AmeriCorps in October.

Soto, 29, said he wants to be a firefighter, a job he learned to admire while working in AmeriCorps.

"When you're young, you don't look to the future," Soto said. "I need to provide for my family. I think I've found a way."

Americorps volunteers at work in area

By LETA CHILDERS
Capital Journal Staff

Though the program has been discontinued by Congress, five Americorps volunteers will be working in the area for about the next 10 months.

Pat Buscher, Michele Edelbach, Joe Nichols, Paula Hoerner and Matt Blumer enrolled in the federal program which allowed people to perform service to meet community needs in return for credits which can be used to pay for college, job training or graduate school or may be used to pay back student loans.

Most of the 20,000 people nationwide who are enrolled in the Americorps program work in partnerships with states, local governments and nonprofit organizations.

Buscher said he enrolled in Americorps after his position with Game, Fish & Parks was cut.

"My job was cut and I got into this because of my background in natural science," said Buscher.

The Americorps team will be working with about 50 farmers and ranchers along the Bad River to attempt to improve water quality, reduce channel and gully erosion, reduce flood impacts and increase rangeland productivity.

Blumer said he has a biology de-

gree and some background with fresh water projects which will assist the team in working on the problems of the Bad River.

While the hands-on work with the project hasn't yet begun, the team, according to Buscher, has been looking over the project and planning for spring work.

"We've been looking at the sites and getting familiar with the territory," said Buscher, who added that this spring's flooding took out many of the stock dams in Stanley County. One of the purposes of the dams is to lessen erosion flowing into the Bad River and downstream into the Missouri.

In the meantime, the team has been helping with several other projects including helping sort through decorations for the Capitol Christmas tree display, helping at the Fish and Wildlife Service's raptor center by building pens and perches and completing projects at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center and the South Dakota Discovery Center & Aquarium.

The team will also head into local schools to talk to students about the environment and natural resources.

The Pierre/Fort Pierre Americorps team is scheduled to remain in the area through next August.



Americorps workers Matt Blumer and Joe Nichols helped unpack Christmas decorations at the Capitol. Though primarily assigned to assist with the Bad River Water Quality Project, the Americorps volunteers are assisting in some small jobs throughout the Pierre/Fort Pierre community. (Capital Journal photo by Leta Childers)



"A Celebration of the Land," held recently at the Blue Creek Nature Center in Waverly, included about 1,000 Humphreys County third-sixth graders who learned about such things as farming and water conservation. Shown above, front row, from left are Ryan Stewart and Jessica Patterson. Middle: Justin Lamb sitting on 'Precious' the cow, and Jessica Moore. Back: Jerry Lamb, Darrell Duncan and Odell Poyner.

A Celebration of the Land

About 1,000 Humphreys County third-sixth graders were guests at Blue Creek Nature Center April 20-21.

The two-day event was held in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service month long observance, "A Celebration of the Land."

Hosted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, AmeriCorps and the Humphreys Soil Conservation

District, "Celebrate the Earth" gave students the opportunity to learn about topics from farming to water conservation.

Over 15 agencies and businesses that deal with the conservation of natural resources and the environment were present with educational displays and activities. Likewise, the students were treated to a livestock show by local 4-Hers and a nature walk on the trails of Blue Creek Nature Center

by volunteers.

Humphreys County School Superintendent Enid Barber said, "Celebrate the Earth was an outstanding day for the students of Humphreys County. The students were exposed to experiences that they would normally not encounter in the classroom. It was heartwarming to see the community volunteers and various agencies join together to educate the students of our county."

**Your
Environment**

By Fred Thomas



AmeriCorps Volunteers Go to Work

Their uniforms haven't arrived, but AmeriCorps volunteers have begun tackling community-improvement projects in the Omaha area.

They have picked up litter along a highway, cleaned two parks, studied an outdoor environmental education area that could become a model for schools, and volunteered to help resolve a neighborhood erosion problem.

They also have begun planning other projects, including one that will help members of the Winnebago Indian Tribe raise more buffalo to improve tribal members' diet.

"Things are starting to happen," said Marilyn Anderson, AmeriCorps' Omaha supervisor.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's new national service initiative for volunteers who will work in environmental, education, social service and anti-crime programs.

The Omaha AmeriCorps team, working on environmental and public lands projects, is based in the U.S. Soil Conservation Service's office at Chalco Hills Recreation Area overlooking Wehrspann Lake.

Mrs. Anderson said she and team members began work last week. They picked up litter at Orchard Park and Zorinsky Lake Park and removed trash along Sorensen Parkway near 30th Street.

She helped mediate a solution to an erosion problem in a housing area near Cunningham Lake and agreed to bring her team there to clean up litter on vacant lots.

Mrs. Anderson said the team and cooperating groups, working in eight counties, have proposed these projects, with many more to follow:

- Building fences on the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Thurston County so the tribe can expand its buffalo herd and get more meat to feed tribal members.

- Removing stumps and trash at the Heron Haven wetlands near 117th Street and West Maple Road.

- Working on a recreational trail near Immanuel Hospital.

- Spreading wood chips and doing mulching at Chalco Hills Recreation Area.

- Creating community gardens in Omaha.

- Assisting with cultural programs at Henry Doorly Zoo and the Emmy Gifford Theater.

- Helping keep sediment and pollutants out of Wehrspann Lake, lengthening its life.

- Planting trees at the Boyer Chute wildlife-recreation area east of Fort Calhoun.

- Measuring groundwater levels with SCS personnel.

- Landscaping at a new fire station.

- Identifying native prairies statewide.

- Seeding wildlife areas to increase their value as habitat.

- Distributing leaflets to farmers about the need to cap abandoned wells.

- Labeling trees in the Chalco Hills arboretum.

- Recycling Christmas trees.

Team members plan to work with people throughout the service area — from scouts to prisoners on work release.

Mrs. Anderson's team has three members and will add a fourth soon.

People interested in working with the Omaha AmeriCorps may contact Mrs. Anderson at 896-0121 or write her at the SCS office, 8901 S. 154th St., Omaha 68138.

Other teams will work out of Lincoln, Tecumseh and Norfolk.

AmeriCorps Defended

From: Ted Arndt, Omaha

I doubt I will see this letter published, because I am leaving for Denver as a member of the National Civilian Community Corps. I was one of the few Nebraskans chosen to serve in this program.

Hundreds applied for the position I received. I was one of the lucky few who was selected. I was and still am excited at the opportunity to serve my country in this fashion.

A Sept. 14 World-Herald editorial, "AmeriCorps, a Program of Service and Birth of Another Bureaucracy," really angered me. It mentioned only the costs, which are small compared to the total budget and to the huge, sometimes unwarranted U.S. military spending throughout the 1980s.

I will do my best to serve my country and represent Nebraskans. I and the young people I will meet in Denver are inspired. Positive people want to make this country a better place.

I will take a copy of the editorial with me and read it every morning before a hard day of work serving my country. It will motivate me and all others I show it to.