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CORPORATION

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S E R V I C E

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Seasons of Service

"I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service...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."

—President Bill Clinton,
Inaugural Address

**The Corporation
for National Service**

Getting Things Done.

AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

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AmeriCorps*NCCC Project Accomplishments
Reported as of February 15, 1995



*The following list is an interim report of AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps Project Accomplishments.*

AmeriCorps*NCCC Western Region --- San Diego, California

Disaster Response and Relief

- Southern California Floods: Trained as Advanced Technicians in the American Red Cross National Disaster Network, AmeriCorps*NCCC provided mass shelter to 204 families, served 530 meals, conducted damage assessment of 75 destroyed homes and trailers.
- Northern California Floods: Trained as Advanced Technicians in the American Red Cross National Disaster Network, AmeriCorps*NCCC staffed two mass care shelters serving 2,400 families, staffed two Red Cross Warehouses serving 6,170 meals, staffed (providing Spanish translation skills) for case workers opening 2,230 cases.

Environment

- Excavated, stabilized and restored the first European settlement on America's west coast ("the birthplace of European California"), the Presidio of San Diego, creating a major cultural resource that will generate tourist income for the City of San Diego (business community has now featured the site on several bus tours and has been described as a visitor point-of-interest in several newspaper articles); 250 cubic meters of soil were excavated from the site, exposing a complex array of ruins including 1.5 million artifacts; estimated value of completed (Summer, 1996) A*NCCC project: \$2.25 million; communication about the project spread through INTERNET to locations throughout North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia; conducted cultural resource education program to 2200 local area students.
- Restored 3 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, .5 mile Taft Canyon Trail.
- Organized 450 local area residents to clean up 52 tons of trash from a San Diego regional park.
- Restored facilities, landscaped and eliminated lead exposure at four San Diego playgrounds, Paul Ecke Central School Playscape.
- Helped establish San Diego residential trash recycling programs.
- Stenciled 350 storm drains to discourage dumping.
- Mapped vegetation and endangered plants in the entire 840 acre Tecolote Canyon San Diego Regional Park, and designed and built an interpretive exhibit to increase awareness in the parks estimated 150,000 annual visitors, taught conservation to 1500 local area school children and girl scouts (plus 150 after school children).
- Removed 100 tons (dozens of acres) of exotic plants and restored habitat (planting several thousand new plants) in critical areas of San Diego area natural places (e.g. Cabrillo National Monument, Collier Park).

- Remodeled sections of the Campo Border Museum, developed master plan, and enhanced the interpretive exhibits regarding the military history (Buffalo Soldiers).
- Constructed two 25 foot check dams and stabilized site of CCC Paralyzed Veterans Camp.
- Conducted American Disabilities Act surveys for the State of California Parks of 200 buildings, 15 miles of trail, 32 parking lots.
- Performed visitor usage surveys for BLM front country area of Desert Protection Act Lands, set two miles of fence and placed 490 steel fence posts.
- Refurbished a YMCA camp that reaches 9,000 at-risk urban children annually, removed 500 sq. feet of graffiti and restored 5,250 square feet of cabin, kitchen and recreation space.

Unmet Human Needs

- Assessed status, educated and referred 4873 families to infant immunization programs.
- Prepared lunch meals for 742 impoverished senior citizens.
- Assisted 400 clients at Urban League employment program.
- Unwanted pregnancy prevention program reached 2,000 at-risk young people from 6 different San Diego High Schools.
- Refurbished 7 homes for San Diego HUD low income families.
- Refurbished 18 homes for Phoenix, Arizona low income families.

Education

- Restored 4 acres of a school's native plants and mentored 100 students in the preparation of their annual science study projects.
- Tutored and mentored 350 economically disadvantaged elementary school students in San Diego's Accelerated Literacy program.
- Landscaped a historic farm in a low income community that is used as a environmental and history education center.
- Provided over 3,500 contact hours reaching 1200 children mentoring, tutoring and supervising at a Boys and Girls Club; enrolled 125 new young people.
- Contact hours in Playscape construction.
- Moved the 65,000 book Chula Vista Library.
- Refurbished 6 classrooms in at-risk Feaster Elementary School.

Public Safety

- Conducted 520 community policing surveys and helped to establish Neighborhood Watch programs.
- Updated 585 offender files in the Chula Vista Police Department.
- Remodeled and painted a 5000 sq. foot teen night club run by South Bay Community Youth Program which will serve population of low-income youth.

Disaster Relief

- Cleaned flood debris in 15-home Lyons community.
- Installed glass bricks and flood damage resistant structures in homes of low-income residents in flood prone area.
- Constructed flood walls and berms and altered slopes to decrease flooding.

Environment

- Constructed 1000 feet of trail in Eldorado Canyon State Park, reducing erosion and increasing handicapped accessibility.
- Implemented erosion control and habitat restoration/preservation techniques in 4 Municipal, State, and Federal park reserves.
- Constructed 8 holding pens for buffalo and elk in Denver area mountain parks.
- Refurbished building in Colorado State Forest preserve.
- Removed 16 tons of obstructing rock and dirt, improving irrigation of Aurora park.
- As part of Denver Parks & Recreation Department garden project:
 - “Turned in” 70 urban garden beds (80,000 sq. ft.)
 - Leveraged 400 community volunteers.
- As part of Denver Urban Gardens Project:
 - Planted 92 trees and 4,000 sq. ft. of sod.
 - Graded 43,200 sq. ft. of garden area.
 - Constructed 6 arbors, 320 sq. ft. of sidewalk, 15 concrete footers, 4 sheds, 100’ of trellis.
 - Laid 450’ of irrigation pipe.

Human Needs

- Refurbished Presbyterian Shelter for 60 homeless men, increasing awareness of local homeless problem.
- Established supportive sponsor relationship between homeless shelter and community hotel/restaurants.
- Secured donations of books, bedding, and food for shelter which serves 60 homeless men.
- Refurbished 2 homes of low-income, minority residents of Cole Community neighborhood.
- Contributed 2,695 CM hours to Habitat for Humanity project in low-income, urban community, constructing fences, drywall, and installing gutters.
- Conducted Mayor’s Office survey of community Employment and Training needs.
- Increased Women’s Bean Project production of dry soup mixes by 30%, increasing fund-raising capacity for non-profit organization for low-income, abused, or homeless women.
- Painted group home for developmentally disabled adults.
- Established HIRE, employment counseling service for low-income, homeless, and recovering alcoholic persons.
- Increased handicapped accessibility to Eldorado Canyon State Park and Denver Urban Gardens projects.

- Assisted with organization and conduct of conference on the Aging sponsored by the Administration on Aging.
- Painted 2 homes for disabled residents.
- Constructed wheelchair ramp for group home for developmentally disabled; made possible by labor savings of \$5200.
- Supported Colorado Aids Project (CAP), contributed 456 hours, distributing food to over 600 people.
- Reorganized CAP library and videos Educational Resource Center for Denver Metro Area.
- Conducted 12,000 piece mailing yielding over \$30,000 in contributions to CAP.
- Provided child immunization information to 1733 homes, identifying 31 children in community needing immunization.
- Developed community volunteer base for VA Medical Center.
- Made 4600 patient contacts, visiting and escorting patients of VA Medical Center.
- Winterized yards of 18 elderly resident clients of Department of Social Services.

Education

- Tutored 300 students in Reading and Language Arts.
- Taught 24 teenagers videotaping, off-set printing, and work skills.
- Reorganized a fund-raising thrift store for Boys & Girls Club Job Start program.
- Established tutoring programs in 5 community schools and implemented on-going volunteer recruitment system.

Public Safety

- Removed graffiti from 180 sites in urban area; conducted graffiti awareness education with youth of community.

Disaster Response and Relief

- Twenty-nine CMs joined 533 trained firefighters in containing 90% of the blaze over 21,000 acres in Idaho fires. CMs worked 5684 hrs. fighting the fires and restoring fire ravaged areas.
- Seventeen CMs assisted approximately 7200 victims of the Texas floods, serving for 4607 hours toward the establishment of normalcy after the flood. Working in mobile mass care units CMs distributed food, health and hygiene kits and blankets, set up temporary shelters and helped flood victims assess damage.
- Completed 230 household evaluations for flood victims, assisted 47 home owners in clean up and spent 1360 hours in assisting victims.

Environment

- Restored and maintained 36.5 miles of trail for recreational and educational use of 38,000 visitors/year including 7800 school children.
- Built 6.5 miles of new trail.
- Planted approximately 400 trees and shrub, many in conjunction with 26 community members recruited for ongoing ventures in public stewardship of ecosystems.
- Leveraged \$9000 of plants and equipment because of NCCC involvement.
- Removed blockage and rerouted stream to reduce soil erosion and the amount of silt carried to the Chesapeake Bay.
- Opened 6.3 miles of upstream spawning habitat.
- Installed plywood baffle on dam to increase numbers of fish that reach the spawning grounds, benefiting both recreational and commercial fisheries and restoring balance to the Chesapeake Bay.
- Planted 1500 native wetland plant species, native dune species and native tree and shrub species to demonstrate the process of habitat restoration.
- Assisted in a demonstration event attended by 227 local residents as well as the Administrator of the EPA, the Governors of MD, PA, VA, the mayor of DC and the Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission.
- Restored a 46 acre community park.
- Recruited over 40 volunteers to continue future park projects.
- Designed and coordinated a monthly community volunteer day; 140 volunteers planted flowers and trees, defined trail, fertilized gardens and placed stairs.
- Cleared 1 acre of serpentine grassland area.
- Removed patches of phragmites from 20 acres for shoreline restoration and reforestation aimed at restoring wildlife habitat.
- Repaired a storm management system and constructed an energy dissipater.
- Transplanted 105 willow bundles to stabilize stream bank by decreasing siltation and erosion.
- Created 10 riffle and pool structures to decrease speed of water flow.
- Cleared, stabilized and restored habitat along shoreline of an island which serves as a resource for research and environmental education.
- CM's partnered with ten 15-17 year old at risk teens in conducting watershed surveys for 280 hours.

- Completed 74 additional watershed surveys to identify non-point source pollution points.
- Completed 6 habitat assessment surveys.
- Surveyed 15 200-ft sections of a river in preparation for further service projects.
- Surveyed and mapped 3 miles of stream.
- Removed 3 tons of garbage from a river and island.
- Provided energy and water conservation measures and education to 606 low income homes estimated at saving the community 272,259 kwh and 4,111,000 gallons of water per year.
- Weatherized homes saving low income home owners up to \$20,000/year.
- Planted and mulched 600 trees for US Army's CSTA (Combat Systems Test Activity) to provide a windbreak, noise buffer and privacy for project.
- Planned and delivered a Community Service Day, leading 400 volunteers in service on 13 project sites for neighborhood beautification and environmental restoration.
- Built 2 community garden beds in a community of 6500 residents.
- Converted vacant lot into a community garden to be used as an outdoor classroom.
- Engaged community adults and children in creation of a playground and neighborhood picnic area.
- Planted 155 shrubs and trees in 2 industrial areas adjacent to communities as visual and noise screens.
- Planted an additional 23 trees and 20 shrubs throughout city.
- Renovated a camp for disabled children by replacing a 7,250 sq. ft. roof, constructing 20 bunkbeds, insulating pipes in 10 cabins and 2 infirmaries and constructing stairs.
- Surveyed areas with high percentage of vacant houses for revitalization projects.
- Surveyed 500 homes for a land use assessment to determine future housing restoration and renovation projects.
- Built permanent offices and storage space, landscaped, and refurbished a YMCA.
- Refurbished a primary recreation day care facility.
- Assisted with the renovation of 2 homes.
- Planted 60 shrubs, 40 trees and 1000 flower bulbs for garden and landscaping of a home for 50 children.
- Created 5 flower beds.
- Constructed a water bar.
- Surveyed 14 sq. neighborhood blocks in a watershed survey in preparation for service projects in the Spring of 1995.
- Built 2 neighborhood baseball dugouts.

Human Needs

- Renovated and expanded cutting-edge Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center enabling an additional 220 disabled children and adults to participate in their program.
- Restored wilderness trails, making them safe and wheelchair accessible for an estimated 10,000 visitors.
- Designed and implemented programming and provided assistance and companionship to hundreds of hospitalized veterans including 250 occupational therapy patients, 250 horticultural therapy patients and 100 recreational therapy patients.

- Provided ongoing accompaniment services to 173 patients.
- Involved 21 hospitalized veterans in mural projects.
- Implemented a recycling program including collection and distribution of 1500 cans/month to a local non-profit work therapy program.
- Refurbished miniature golf course on VA Hospital grounds, making it wheelchair accessible.
- Designed and executed "A Tribute to Veterans" as 1st annual patient appreciation day.
- Organized and ran a community health fair, identifying children with high lead blood levels and vaccinating adults for flu.
- Sorted 24,660 books, 95 boxes of text books and distributed 3467 books to book bank sites and distributed 920 comics to DSS locations.
- Assisted in harvesting 30,000 lbs of crops.
- Distributed 12,000 lbs of vegetables and herbs to low income neighborhoods.
- Prepared 25 3x150ft and 25 3x75ft beds for next year's crops.
- Renovated farming area.
- Partnered with Project Share to package 10,000 lbs of potatoes, pack 10 pallets of onions, and prepare \$292,500 worth of food for distribution to 9750 low income homes.
- Sorted, boxed and stacked 69,745 lbs of dried goods and canned food being distributed to 500 agencies.
- Served 450 people who are homebound with AIDS (packed 3117 meals and delivered 2109 meals).
- Tutored 45 children daily in public housing areas, identified by Drug and Alcohol Impact Program as high risk.
- Conducted presentations to 909 at-risk students on issues related to teen pregnancy prevention, alternatives to drinking, responding to peer pressure and healthy decision making.
- Designed a nutrition program for homeless people.
- Linked community agencies to a homeless veterans' Center thus facilitation increased collaboration and community integration.
- Partnered with Habitat for Humanity replacing beams in foundations of homes.
- Constructed 3 wheel chair ramps used by more than 2,000 senior citizens.

Education

- Mentored and tutored 1940 students through in-school and after-school programming in conflict resolution; math; reading; writing; information technology; ESL; assisting special education students and special needs students.
- In partnership with the Forestry Board, delivered a hands-on seed planting program to 2480 students in 30 schools to foster children's stewardship of natural resources.
- Involved over 100 4th graders in wetland and trail construction, reforestation the land around their school boarder. 4. This area will serve as an adjunct outdoor classroom.
- Augmented environmental education program with classroom lessons.
- Delivered residential environmental education program to 492 5th graders. Because of NCCC involvement, 155 (32%) more students were able to participate.
- Mentored 90 elementary school children identified as "at risk" and tutored over 190 students in after-school programs.

- Presenter citizenship curriculum to 1850 children in 24 Elementary Schools.
- Aided in constructing an Environmental Education Center thereby enabling the campus to open 8 months ahead of schedule with 5500 additional students able to benefit from the enhanced facility. CM service included: construction of 50 person, wheelchair accessible outdoor classroom with podium, benches, stage with screen; built offices for the Center; created 2 soils observation pits; maintained and/or restored 9000 ft of trail and constructed a topographical relief map.
- Wrote, directed, edited and produced a 20 minute. video entitled "Pollution Solution" shown to 500 students in an effort to increase ecological awareness and stewardship.
- Conducted environmental tours focused on park issues for 84 community residents and 42 high school students.
- Facilitated ongoing child development activities for 165 preschoolers.
- Tutored 24 adults in reading, math and GED courses.

Public Safety

- Opened and ran a youth center in a low income area used by 40-70 ten to sixteen year olds each night.
- Doubled involvement of youth in after-school center and built linkages to nearby University and several volunteer groups for sustained impact.
- Planned and implemented Highway Safety Week.
- Designed, planned and implemented a crisis center for students, teaching problem-solving and conflict resolution skills.

Disaster Response and Relief

- Trained 37 CM's in US Forest Service Firefighter Certification.
- Deployed 30 CM's to fight fires in Idaho; worked fireline for two weeks; built firelines; performed mop-up and rehab of burn areas; protected salmon fisheries and historic Wapiti ranch.

Environment

- Restored historic log cabin in Forest Preserve.
- Cleaned debris, planted trees, and removed over-growth along 2 miles of 6,000 acre forest preserve boundary lines.
- Restored cedar shake roof of historic home in National Park.
- Cleaned debris, mapped natural features and inventoried wildlife and plant life along 8 miles of Tidal Trails used by canoe tourists.
- Inventoried over 3,000 trees as part of Charleston Urban Forestry Study.
- Restored habitats and camping areas damaged by hurricane.
- Built, printed and placed 30 wood signs promoting fire safety.
- Thinned loblolly pine seedlings to restore Longleaf Pine ecosystem.
- Cleared washed out bridge and then rebuilt new bridge; replaced bridge signs on forest roads.
- Constructed new trail and footbridge in Marion National Forest.
- Planted 75 trees and shrubs and cleared 4900 feet of trail.
- Supported Penn Center, St. Helena Island Heritage Celebration; CM's directed parking and traffic flow for 500 people; prepared and distributed food for 10,000 people in attendance; cleaned 3 acres at site of celebration; collected over 10,000 tickets; moved program and vending supplies numbering 15,000.
- Conducted North Charleston street beautification campaign; CM's mowed, edged, swept sand, removed trash along 4 miles of street in low-income community.
- Supported County recycling project by analyzing tons of commercial solid waste materials discovering that 71% of materials are recyclable.
- Primed and painted two buildings on grounds; restored and cleared 6 miles of road for public use and environmental education; restored and cleared 3 miles of primitive trails at Capers Island Marine Resources Center.
- Trimmed trees, pulled roots, cleaned out ditches, cut grass and removed debris from 2 acres of land; constructed basketball court; built 100 feet of fencing at Honey Hills Neighborhood Association Literacy and Training Center.
- Built 510' stone revetment, decreased erosion, and preserved historic Drayton Hall Plantation wharf.
- Filled, transported, and placed 9,000 sand bags, decreasing erosion of riverbank and saving \$80,000.

Cleared overgrowth, landscaped site and fence lines, painted buildings and fences, repaired hurricane damaged siding, stabilized drainage ditches at 10 sites of county waste water pumping stations, improving appearance drainage, and capacity.

Human Needs

- Conducted blood pressure screening and CPR education for 100 people; supported efforts of American Heart Association to raise \$10,800.
- Visited 35 seniors regularly to check on their health, medication and care and to prevent isolation. This service enables senior to live at home and saves taxpayers \$130,000/year.
- Extended and enhanced scope of DHEC's Immunization Program enabling DHEC to complete work 2 years faster. CMs reviewed files of over 3000 children, contacted parents of non-immunized children by phone and visited over 350 families in 3 housing projects, educating them on child health issues.
- Provided educational and recreational programming to 150 developmentally disabled persons, improving the staff to client ratio from 5:22 to 7:22.
- prepared food for and served 60 homeless people/day in a soup kitchen.
- Planned and ran daily learning and play activities for children at a homeless shelter.
- Implemented a maintenance program at a homeless shelter and assisted with sorting and cataloguing donations.
- Built shelving for food storage and prepared a warehouse for food storage and distribution, leveraging ability to receive 35% more food.
- Renovated playground and constructed group room for developmentally disabled clients.
- Assisted staff in providing direct service to 1000 healthcare patients, increasing access to hospital information and enhancing personal care.
- Renovated, painted and landscaped 2 Youth Development Centers, including offices, work rooms, bathrooms, a residential shelter and maintained 16 acres of grounds.
- Renovated and landscaped a 2 homeless shelters and grounds by painting 325 sq. ft. of rooms and creating an outdoor children's play area and enabling one of the shelters to serve 5 more people.
- Educated over 2000 community members about a local homeless shelter.
- Landscaped hospital grounds to reduce dust particles for patients with respiratory problems.
- Completed construction of a baseball field.
- Made repairs to 5 low-income homes and painted the exterior of 3 homes.
- Built drainage system for Atrocentric Teaching Museum.
- Landscaped 5 acres of grounds surrounding a medical complex and nursing home.
- Prepped and cleaned a newly constructed 44 bed nursing home and mounted 26 blood pressure units.
- Led a neighborhood clean-up in which CMs painted 231 rooms, removed 1/2 ton of rubble and planted 15 bushes/trees.

Education

- Tutored and mentored over 1300 students in elementary schools.
- Supervised students during unstructured time thereby increasing 25 teacher's planning time by 1.5 hours/week.
- Monitored lunchroom and hallways in 3 schools.
- Provided only nursing services to school 4 days/week.
- Designed and delivered creative writing course for 25 5th graders and produced a book of students' work.
- Provided educational childcare programming to 35 children during PTA meetings, increasing PTA attendance by 25%.
- Planned and conducted 2 assemblies for 325 students and teachers.
- Mentored 30 children after-school and delivered "Smart Moves" curriculum to 60 children, ages 7-11, through the Boys and Girls Club.
- Restored ground of 4 schools. CMs built playground, restored athletic track, cleared schools' grounds of weeds, brush and debris, painted interior and exterior of school buildings and built relationships with hundreds of children.
- Led community in school beautification service projects.

Public Safety

- Supported Summerville Police Department drug abuse prevention campaign by removing underbrush, trimming trees, removing 27 dilapidated structures from 4 block area harboring drug and other criminal activities.
- Developed and instructed Violence Prevention course for 12 at-risk youth.
- Developed and instructed Computer Literacy course for 6 at-risk youth.
- Organized sports program for 25 at-risk youth, meeting 4 times per week, 4 hours per day.
- Supported promotion of non-violence clubs as part of YWCA programming and as part of Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday commemoration activities; recruited 100 teens to sing at celebration; developed skits for recruitment of club participants; participated in MLK, Jr. parade.
- Supported City of Charleston Moja Arts cultural festival; set-up and took down booths; administered surveys to attendees; collected tickets; controlled crowds.

NATIONAL SERVICE AND RESCISSION FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND: The House Appropriations Committee has proposed to rescind over one third of the appropriation for National Service halfway through its first year -- slashing \$210 million of the \$575 million available for national service in fiscal year 1995, leaving a total of \$365 million available. A vote on the floor of the House is expected before the April recess. The Senate has not yet acted on a rescissions proposal.

- ***A rescission would renege on the bipartisan Congressional commitment to Americans who have already committed to serving their communities. Middle class families who work hard and play by the rules would be especially hard-hit.***

A year and a half ago, Congress mandated a three year phase-in for funding 100,000 AmeriCorps Members, calling for 20,000 Members to begin a year's service in 1994 and 33,000 in FY 1995.

This rescission would cut approximately 1,000 AmeriCorps Members immediately and 15,000 Americans planning to begin their service in September. The majority of the reductions would occur in those States with the most AmeriCorps Members--New York, California, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. Working families with college-aged members willing to serve their communities fulltime for a full year -- and who are counting on AmeriCorps to help them afford college educations -- will be especially hard-hit if the Congressional commitment is not kept.

- ***A rescission would stop AmeriCorps in its tracks before it has a chance to prove its worth or Congress has a chance to evaluate its cost-effectiveness.***

Cutting over one third out of this new federalist approach to government -- barely six months old, halfway through its first operational year, with no attempt to determine the program's effectiveness, one month away from its first congressional hearing -- is not smart government. Let's make decisions based on real results, not pure politics.

- ***It's simple math -- cuts in funding already authorized and appropriated by Congress will cut the number of Americans who are already participating in service and the number of communities benefitting from their hard work.***

AmeriCorps is a model of new federalism that does not have a big bureaucracy that can be cut. There have been fewer than 200 people hired in Washington -- to oversee 20,000 Members working in communities across America -- since AmeriCorps was created.

This rescission would immediately send 1,000 AmeriCorps Members back home in the middle of their year of service, and 15,000 Americans would be denied the opportunity to begin their service in September.

Some 50 organizations, already funded to begin operations later this year would be ended, forcing the Corporation to abandon services to over 150 new communities. \$5 million of taxpayers' funds, already spent to begin these projects, would have been wasted.

Learn and Serve America, which provides service-learning infrastructure in public schools around the country, would be equally devastated. A federal rescission of this magnitude would cut kids off from a valuable lesson about civic responsibility, and would be especially hard on schools in a time of squeezed state and local budgets.

■ ***AmeriCorps should not be penalized for rewarding results.***

The Corporation for National Service bases its grants on results after a tough evaluation process -- that is why AmeriCorps awards funded in FY 1995 are not made until late in the fiscal year. AmeriCorps evaluates programs with an eye trained on "getting things done." AmeriCorps funds those that work well and produce real, tangible results and eliminates those that don't. AmeriCorps Members and communities should not be made the victims of this "smart government" approach.

Five months into the fiscal year, the Corporation has put detailed operations in place for the use of monies already appropriated by the Congress. Some programs, such as funds for State Commissions, which are appointed by and report to the Governors, have already been awarded funding levels for fiscal year 1995. A rescission would require the Corporation to terminate these grants and reissue them at lower funding levels. In other cases, applications have been sent to States and local initiatives, which are already hard at work developing plans for service starting later this year. They have expended significant time, effort, and money in this process.

■ ***The Public-Private Partnership would be undermined if the "Public" reneges on its commitment.***

AmeriCorps innovative approach requires programs to raise 25 percent of operating costs and 15 percent of the living allowances from private sources. Private investment in AmeriCorps has been strong -- in its first year of operation, the Corporation has received hundreds of commitments from private companies such as General Electric, American Express, IBM and foundations to support AmeriCorps Members in communities across our country. Our business partners make investments based on stable growth, fulfilled commitments and real results. They might understandably be wary of a partner tossed by political currents.

■ ***AmeriCorps is working already.***

AmeriCorps service produces direct and real results in American communities. AmeriCorps Members help prevent crime, tutor and mentor at-risk youth, organize neighborhood watch associations, build affordable housing, help seniors live independently, and help immunize children against preventable diseases. For example:

- ✓ Last summer, the New York Police Department reported that recreation areas and public pools policed by the AmeriCorps Cadet Corps were free of assaults for the first time in memory.
- ✓ AmeriCorps Members in Kansas City shut down crack houses and reclaimed a neighborhood's only park from gangs, causing the Kansas City police chief, Steven Bishop, to state: "The partnership of national service and community policing is a winner in Kansas City."
- ✓ AmeriCorps Members helped clean up in the aftermath of floods in the Midwest and earthquakes in California, and fought fires in the West. FEMA's Richard Krimm has stated, "They have helped literally thousands of victims pick up the pieces of their lives."

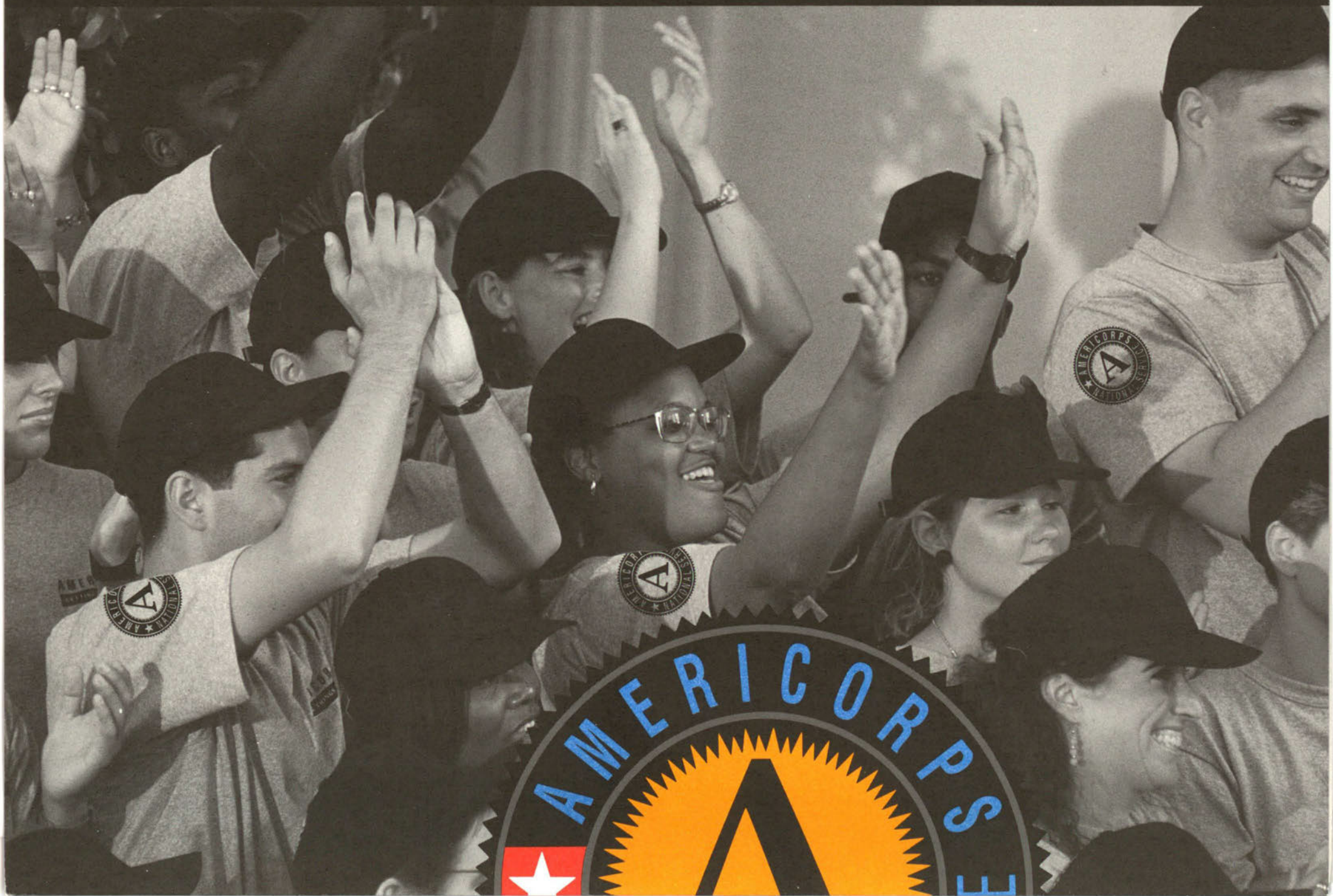
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AMERICORPS GETTING THINGS DONE IN COMMUNITIES EVERYWHERE



Charleston will get new youth corps unit • APG opens up 1
 Americorps • NTC touted for national service center • Clinton
 corps may land at Lowry • A CCC for the 1990s • Mikulski
 and Sarbanes help launch national service • New national ser
 vice program recruits in Northeast, mid-Atlantic • Youth op
 portunity slated for new test • Applications ready for President
 National Service • Welcome to the community corps • Corp
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In The News

Selected Clips

Office of Public Affairs, Corporation for National Service

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ice • The national community service corps offers training
 ving expenses and benefits for education • Charleston will ge
 ew youth corps unit • Lowry picked for corps • Newly create
 rogram wants to use base as campus for volunteers helpin
 ut community • Clinton aide will make announcement Frida
 Here's How To Join • The domestic peace corps brings \$3 mi
 on payroll to Lowry • Naval Training Center to house civilia
 orps • Corps to train at base • April 15 deadline to join ne

OPINION USA

AmeriCorps works — don't kill it

National service helps young, elderly, communities, volunteers at modest cost. What more can be asked?

AMES, Iowa — Here's an idea for the Republicans: Let's not pay our soldiers. Let's not pay our teachers. Let's not pay our police officers.

After all, it's their democratic duty to defend our shores, to educate our children, to ensure our safety.

Why, my own Republican senator, Charles Grassley, says, "Where the president and I part company is that he supports an expensive bureaucracy, and I don't. He

wants to pay volunteers, and I want to preserve the integrity of volunteerism."

Makes sense to me, I guess.

I'm not sure how soldiers or teachers or police officers are supposed to live if they're working 40 hours a week without pay, but the Republicans must have a way.

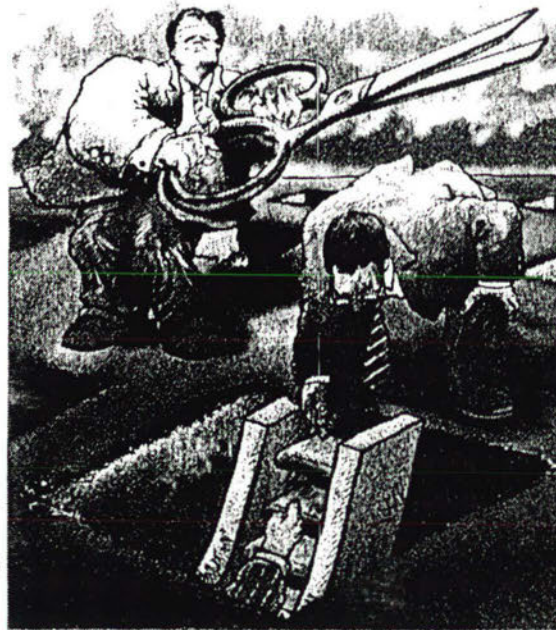
That will probably come out in the second 100 days.

Grassley wasn't talking about soldiers or teachers or police officers, of course. He was talking about the men and women who work in AmeriCorps, but it's the

same principle. AmeriCorps is President Clinton's wonderfully successful program that hires dedicated Americans to help the aged and the feeble and the young and the needy and the sick and the unlucky lead better lives.

For most, it's full-time work.

The hours are as long as those of the peacetime soldier and the teacher and the police officer. And the



By Web Bryant, USA TODAY

AmeriCorps worker, too, gets paid, though the pay is peanuts. It's the minimum wage, or less, but if workers stick it out for a year they have put in trust \$4,725 they can draw to pay for college or vocational training.

More than 20,000 Americans have signed up since national service started in October. They're working on 350 projects.

Here in Iowa, there are 158 AmeriCorps workers, ages 18 to 54, helping to immunize young people, care for old people, restore wetlands, educate migrant workers and protect people beaten up by their own family members.

In a town down the road, they're working to make sure that poor kids get to school and stay there and learn there and that they have mittens for the cold and mitts for the Little League.

Successes are everywhere.

Yet the Republicans want to kill this.

That makes no sense.

This program, run by state organizations and financed in part by local contributions, sounds like a Republican dream: It uses cheap labor to foster family values at the local level. And it encourages education with a modest stipend that a person must work a year to receive.

If it didn't exist, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., would invent it.

But this is a Democratic program, the cherished baby of Clinton, and Democratic stuff is tainted stuff. So the Republicans are out to ax it.

Their reasoning is bizarre.

They consider the men and women of AmeriCorps "volunteers," though it's their full-time job, and the Republicans think you shouldn't pay volunteers.

Grassley, leading the charge, supports "the notion of national service and, by and large, the activities performed by the spirited AmeriCorps participants."

He just doesn't want to pay them.

Grassley also says that "it appears AmeriCorps programs could be costing \$30,000 per participant" — note the "appears" and the "could be" — and he has asked the General Accounting Office to audit the organization. AmeriCorps says the average is under \$20,000, including that \$4,750 college grant.

Killing AmeriCorps wouldn't save much — \$376 million last year, \$580 million this year — but maybe this is just the start.

The Republicans have been refusing to say how they intend to balance the budget, but maybe AmeriCorps provides the clue.

Maybe the Republicans plan to eliminate the salaries of all 3 million federal civilian employees.

That would save \$108 billion.

And maybe that's not a bad idea.

I certainly know where I'd start.

COUNTERPOINTS' four columnists provide views from diverse perspectives on today's issues. **Wednesday:** Linda Chavez on affirmative action. **Thursdays:** Susan Estrich. **Mondays:** Tony Snow. **Tuesdays:** Michael Gartner.



COUNTERPOINTS

By Michael Gartner



By Ernie Leyba today.

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OUTLOOK

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1995

Eli J. Segal

AmeriCorps: Making a Difference

The House Appropriations Committee proposed last week to renege on a bipartisan commitment to thousands of Americans, by retroactively slashing funds already authorized and appropriated for AmeriCorps members by more than one-third in the current fiscal year. Working families with college-age members willing to serve their communities full-time for a full year—and who are counting on the new AmeriCorps program to help them afford college educations—will be especially hard hit if the congressional commitment is not kept.

A year and a half ago, a bipartisan Congress mandated a three-year phase-in of AmeriCorps. Six months into its first operational year—with 20,000 citizens working in communities across America, without the benefit of any congressional hearings to consider the benefits of the work they are doing—House appropriators would now turn the phase-in into a phase-out.

AmeriCorps is a funded non-manipulate—a decentralized approach that moves most of the decision making and responsibility to the states that elect to compete for AmeriCorps members,

along with the funds to carry out the mission. Fewer than 200 people in Washington oversee 20,000 members on 1,100 projects in communities across America. That's why rescission would have such a devastating effect—any cuts made on Capitol Hill would directly cut the number of members who are working in the field. One thousand members would be sent home immediately, and 15,000 fewer young people would have the opportunity to begin service in September.

The public-private partnership of AmeriCorps would be undermined if the "public" reneged on its commitment. Programs are required to raise 25 percent of operating costs and 15 percent of the living allowances from private sources. Private investment in AmeriCorps has been remarkable; in its first year of operation, the corporation has received hundreds of commitments from companies such as General Electric, American Express, IBM and a myriad foundations. Our business partners make investments based on stable growth, fulfilled commitments and real results. They might understandably be

wary of a partner tossed by political currents.

AmeriCorps should not be penalized for rewarding results. The Corporation for National Service makes its grants after a tough evaluation process—that's why AmeriCorps awards funded in FY 1995 are not made until late in the fiscal year. AmeriCorps funds programs that work well and get things done and eliminates those that don't. AmeriCorps members and communities should not be made the victims of this "smart-government" approach.

AmeriCorps may be new, but members are already meeting challenges in public safety, education, environment and human needs:

- The New York Police Department reports that recreation areas policed by its AmeriCorps members in the 1994 pilot were free of assaults for the first time in memory.

- AmeriCorps members in Kansas City have shut down 12 crack houses and reclaimed a neighborhood's only park from gangs.

- In rural Simpson County, Ky., AmeriCorps members tutoring half of the

county's second-graders are raising reading scores from two grades behind grade level to one grade above in one year of service.

- AmeriCorps members have also been on the front lines in natural disasters, from the floods in California, Houston and the Mississippi River Valley to the Idaho forest fires and the California earthquake. FEMA official Richard Krimm wrote: "They have helped literally thousands of victims pick up the pieces of their lives."

Moreover, AmeriCorps members are still there, long after the waves of initial volunteers have had to return to their jobs. That's why many of our nation's premier charities compete for AmeriCorps members. From the YMCA to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, from the Red Cross to the Children's Health Fund, from Notre Dame to the National Council of Churches, they know that the focused efforts of full-time, trained and committed AmeriCorps members help them accomplish more—and deploy part-time, sporadic volunteers more effectively.

A perfect case in point: In Miami, 26

AmeriCorps members working with Habitat for Humanity have learned all facets of home construction and have trained, supervised and worked beside 2,700 temporary (and uncompensated) volunteers they've attracted since October. As a consequence, the AmeriCorps team is nearly halfway to its goal of building 90 homes in Miami this year, and members are teaching working families how to make the transition from renting to homeownership. Habitat's Jerry Bass says, "We could not do this job without them."

We do not maintain that AmeriCorps will end crime or illiteracy, pollution or hunger, but AmeriCorps members are making a real difference every day in communities across America. We should strive to match their commitment to making our country even better instead of letting them twist in the political winds. They have earned a chance to be America's next generation of heroes.

The writer is assistant to the president for national service and chief executive officer of Corporation for National Service.

Program With 60's Spirit Butts Against 95's

By PETER APPLEBOME

Special to The New York Times

PHOENIX, Feb. 1 — On New Year's Eve, Kerri Goncher packed up her 1987 Toyota Supra in Chicago and drove here in 34 hours straight to begin teaching the severely emotionally disturbed and sometimes violent children who end up at the Little Canyon Center run by the Arizona Baptist Children's Services. She will earn \$4.50 an hour plus an annual \$4,725 educational grant.

Ms. Goncher's bouncy enthusiasm for a low-wage public service job may be just what President Clinton had in mind for the AmeriCorps public service program.

In its first five months of operation, the program has placed 20,000 Americans like Ms. Goncher, a recent University of



Jeffery V. Chatlosh for The New York Times

The New Volunteers

A special report.

Wisconsin graduate who hopes to become a teacher, in a wide variety of public service jobs tutoring children, serving as police cadets, repairing housing projects and monitoring contamination of rivers in 350 programs around the country.

Mr. Clinton has hailed the program as perhaps his proudest achievement and one that is already "changing the way that Government works." In his proposed budget for the fiscal year 1996, he is asking \$812.5 million out of a \$1.6 trillion budget to finance 47,000 AmeriCorps members.

Congressional Republicans are threatening to kill AmeriCorps, calling it a costly throwback to an era of big Government. Some say that it will make it harder to recruit volunteers without incentives and that it is unnecessary because many participants will just get Government assistance to do what they would have done anyway.

And instead of Mr. Clinton's hope that AmeriCorps would evoke the spirit of the Kennedy years, when the Peace Corps drew instinctive support, AmeriCorps



Jeff Topping for The New York Times

Donald Davis, above, works for the Federal AmeriCorps program organizing social service projects for young people at two elementary schools in Florence, S.C. Kerri Goncher teaches emotionally disturbed children in an AmeriCorps program in Phoenix.

Continued on Page B7, Column 1

has come to reflect the opposite: the Anti-Government ethic and budget roadblocks now facing almost any new Federal program.

With its self-consciously business-like moniker as the Corporation for National Service, its bottom-up structure controlled by state commissions appointed by mostly Republican Governors, and its scaled-down stipend, the program was designed as a public service program for an anti-Government era.

"I like to think of our role as an investment banker investing in local communities, rewarding the programs doing well with growth possibilities and making sure those not working are not refunded," said Eli Segal, who heads the program and has the title of chief executive. "This is like a start-up business, designed with the support of moderate Republicans, which believes that delivery systems as close as possible to the customer will bear fruit in terms of quality."

But, businesslike oratory aside, Congressional Republicans say Americorps is just another Government program at a time the nation needs fewer of them.

"If you're going to get to a balanced budget and your choice is having a nice little Government bureaucracy that runs people around the country doing nice things or taking care of people with severe disabilities," Speaker Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, said in a recent interview, "where is each one on the priority list?"

"It just strikes me that on any reasonable list that gets to a balanced budget, this is a long way below the line of what doesn't survive."

In his Presidential campaign, Mr. Clinton advertised his proposal for a national service program as a way to help students pay for their education while serving their country and being imbued with the spirit of service to others. Interviews with Americorps members and organizations that employ them indicate that the program is already creating extraordinary interest among young people and tapping into a nascent spirit of public service on college campuses.

But they also indicate that it could be difficult for the program to meet the most exacting standards for selfless activism that some will hold it to and that the timing of the program could not be worse, given the budget realities in Washington.

"I really think that as long as the Government is going to play some role, this is the best way they can do it, and that you can use a program like this to jump start a lot of positive activity for very little money," said H. Daniels Duncan, president of

the United Way in nearby Mesa, where six Americorps workers are putting together what organizers hope will be a network of 3,000 community volunteer workers. "The issue is, Is a little money too much money right now?"

The Beginning A Network Of Activists

Americorps formally began last September with a \$376 million budget for 20,000 participants. The budget for the fiscal year 1995 is \$580 million for 33,000 members.

Participants receive a small living allowance, approximately the minimum wage, limited health care coverage and child care, plus a \$4,725 tuition grant for each year of service — about 1,700 hours of work. People can serve for two years and get a maximum tuition grant of \$9,450, which can be used for current or future college costs or to repay existing loans.

Americorps incorporates some existing programs like Vista. It is separate from the Job Corps, which provides job training every year for about 65,000 disadvantaged young people.

Americorps is producing an enormous variety of public service work, much of it historical social service activity, some of it reflecting current conservative trends.

In New Orleans, the Youth Action Corps founded by Americorps works on projects from wetlands preservation to tutoring in low-income areas. The South Carolina Victim Assistance Network works with crime victims and advocates for victims rights in law-enforcement centers, shelters and crisis centers around the state.

At what is called the SalmonCore program, students from the Yakima Indian Nation in Washington State are cleaning out polluted settling ponds at a former Department of Energy site to grow fish to help replenish the dwindling salmon run in the Columbia River.

In the New York area, activities include tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged young people through the I Have A Dream Foundation and working as cadets in the Police Cadet Program of the New York City Police Department.

In Iowa, Sarah and Rebekah Swan, 19-year-old twins, are members, Sarah working at a Family Violence Center in Des Moines, Rebekah at the Alzheimers Association of America in Cedar Rapids.

Donald Davis, 45, a carpenter and painter, decided after 14 years in the Army that he wanted to work with young people. He is now working at two elementary schools in Florence, S.C., organizing social service projects for youngsters.

Michael Davis, a student at Eastern Michigan University, and Michelle Cooper, a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, tutor as part of the program. In Boulder, Colo., Pakou Cha, a University of Colorado student who speaks Hmong, Spanish and English, tutors children, many of whom speak little or no English, at the San Juan del Centro Family Learning Center.

The program's goal has been to provide opportunities for as diverse a group as possible, from the Ivy League graduates who once might have joined the Peace Corps to high school dropouts working on their general equivalency degree and trying to stay out of trouble.

"I had thought of being an architect, but it was like a fading dream," said Timothy Moore, an 18-year-old high school dropout and former gang member in New Orleans. "Americorps really changed my life. It gave me good things to think about."

The Mechanics

Conservatism And Public Service

The program in Arizona reflects Americorps's structure and scope —

from working on environmental issues with Navajo elders to passing out condoms and pamphlets about sexually transmitted diseases in Tucson's red-light district.

Programs are selected by a 25-member board appointed by Gov. Fife Symington, a conservative Republican, and headed by Lieut. Col. Gary Smith, who works in the anti-drug program of the National Guard.

Most participants, like Ms. Goncher, augment existing operations. The most ambitious new project spawned by Americorps is the Border Volunteer Corps, a \$2.6 million program with 103 Americorps members working in 25 projects along the border.

Richard H. Carter, the program's director, said, "There is a new park now, immunized children, trained migrant farm workers, people working in environmental programs, community gardens, new homes in the Indian nations, restored homes."

But Republican critics in Washington say that its incentives will

draw people from other volunteer activity, that it is more expensive than the Government is saying and that in the end it is not true volunteerism but a Government job.

"All those volunteer programs that have been working so beautifully cannot compete with this type of program," said Representative Bill Goodling, the Pennsylvania Republican who is the new head of the House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee. "You really kill volunteerism with a program like this."

Social service organizations here and elsewhere scoff at the idea that Americorps will have a negative impact on volunteerism.

"We've had a lot of volunteers, but most don't last more than a day or two," said Maggi Castagna, education coordinator at Little Canyon Center, which has about 36 emotionally disturbed students ranging in age from 6 to 17, and where Ms. Goncher augments the three teachers and three technicians. "They

just find that these kids are out of their league."

On the other hand, it is less clear how much Americorps is creating new public service workers and how much it is just creating a more attractive environment for people who would be doing similar work.

In Arizona, Jennifer Larkin, 25, was holding down three part-time positions with the Y.M.C.A., working with children before and after school and in the 118-degree heat at summer camp. "I really felt I was being used," she said.

Now she gets her health care covered and the educational grant helping to organize volunteer programs for Parents Anonymous, which works to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Dorothy Cuppernell, 20, whose husband is with the United States Army in South Korea, originally got into the Americorps program in North Carolina because it was one of the few options available to a young mother that provided day care.

She said her first position was at a school where she barely felt needed. Now, in Phoenix, she is at Tumbleweed, a small social service agency that runs shelters and group homes for teen-age runaways. And the program pays \$75 of the \$99-a-week child care cost for her 3-year-old daughter.

Barbara Tenes, 27, who works at another Tumbleweed shelter, was previously a youth-care worker for another social service agency and joined Americorps partly because of the opportunity for child care for her four children. Americorps has a maximum amount it will pay for child care and she is still waiting to find out how much the state will pick up to see if she can afford to stay in the program.

"I'm doing basically what I was doing before," she said.

The majority of Americorps members are young people without children or with minimal interest in health insurance.

"There's not enough money in this to do it unless you really want to serve," Ms. Goncher said.

But, in the current budget-cutting environment, critics say, it is likely that unless the program can document that it is increasing the volunteer pool, it could run into problems in Congress.

The Future Productivity Vs. Priorities

Americorps' future may depend at least as much on how people in power view Government as how they view the program.

Mr. Gingrich says he has no great criticisms with the way the program has been run, but he still thinks it is not needed.

"I'm glad that Americorps vaguely resembles the Peace Corps," he said. "I'm willing to bet money 20 years from now it won't. If you looked at HUD, at the Model Cities Program, the Appalachian Commission, you'll find they will gradually be politicized, they will have a few scandals, they will then adopt more rules and regulations, and presently they will be a mess."

So far almost all the criticism of the program has come from Washington. In the states and among those in academia who study volunteerism, there is general agreement that the Federal Government can play a positive role in fostering public service and volunteerism and that the current moment is a propitious one for doing it.

Arthur Levine, the president of Teachers College of Columbia University, who has studied volunteerism on campus, said the nation was seeing a resurgence of public service on campuses and that a recent study showed that 64 percent of college students took part in some form of public service.

What is needed, Dr. Levine said, are structures and incentives that allow that service to be sustained. In its ability to foster a broad-based ethic of community service, he said, Americorps is admirable and right for the times.

"The last Administration talked about a thousand points of light," Dr. Levine said, "but that hasn't produced the kinds of programs that America needs. This is real, it's tangible, it's worth doing well."

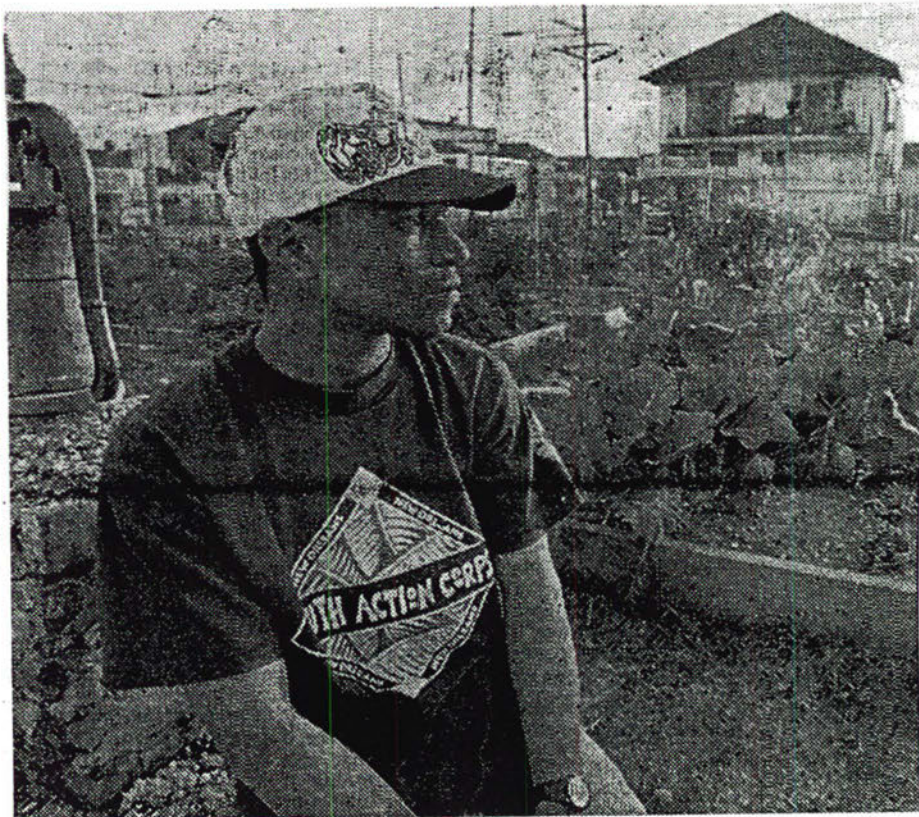
"This isn't recruitment for national activity. It's making things better at the local level, which seems consistent with everything that's happening in the country."

Whether it is consistent with current budget realities is another issue.

"Show me the priority list that keeps this alive and show me what you kill in order to keep this alive," Mr. Gingrich said. "The President's answer is, 'Don't have a balanced budget, and your grandchildren will be glad that you borrowed the money from them to do this in your lifetime.'"

"I think, frankly, that's wrong."

Program With 60's Spirit Collides With Do-It-Yourself Ethic of 90's



DETAILS

Americorps Up Close

■ **CURRENT FIRST-YEAR FINANCING**
\$376 million for 20,000 AmeriCorps members.

■ **AUTHORIZED SECOND-YEAR FINANCING**
\$580 million for 33,000 participants.

■ **COMPENSATION**
Living allowance of approximately \$7,600 a year and education award of \$4,725 for up to two years.

■ **REQUIREMENTS**
Participants in most programs must generally be at least 17 years old, must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and have high school diploma or G.E.D. or agree to obtain one before using education award.

Alex Brandon for The New York Times

Timothy Moore, a high school dropout in New Orleans, said the Youth Action Corps, part of the Federal AmeriCorps program, changed his life. He helped prepare the beds for vegetables in a neighborhood garden.



Jeff Topping for The New York Times

Barbara Tenes, a mother of four, works with Tumbleweed, an agency that runs shelters and group homes for runaways in Phoenix. She said she joined the program because it provided child care for her children.

A baffling conservative assault on a worthy program

Much of what is going on in Washington today is admittedly puzzling as we struggle to master the vocabulary and understand the philosophy of the Newt Frontier. But nothing so baffles me as the conservatives' attack on AmeriCorps, the fledgling national volunteer service organization that seems to have been baptized with John F. Kennedy's immortal declaration, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."



TOM FIEDLER
POLITICAL
EDITOR

In its six-month life, AmeriCorps has attracted 20,000 volunteers, most of them late teens and twenty-somethings. That's more than the Peace Corps, its older and well-established cousin, attracted during its zenith years in the 1960s.

That apparently means little to Speaker Gingrich and the GOP's emergent conservative wing. In a speech last week to the Republican National Committee's winter meeting, Gingrich dismissed AmeriCorps as an example of "coerced volunteerism" that needed to be rooted out of the federal budget.

John P. Walker, president of The New Citizenship Project — an incubator of conservative thinking and ally of Gingrich — urged last week that conservatives engage in battle with President Clinton over AmeriCorps as a way of clarifying their divergent philosophies.

"AmeriCorps embodies the bureaucratic populism that has become the variant of big-government liberalism," Walker wrote.

So what is this evil that good conservatives must rip from the bosom of the federal government? In South Dade, it's young

people with hammers and saws and a hunger to help who are building houses through the Habitat for Humanity program, working alongside the prospective owners and helping weekend volunteers learn the necessary skills.

In Broward, they're volunteers who are tutoring teens on the verge of dropping out of school. The idea is that if the teens can keep up in their classes, not only will they be enriched personally, but the community has one less youth — with too much energy and too much idle time amid too much temptation — to drift into crime.

In Miami's Overtown this weekend, AmeriCorps volunteers worked with families around Phillis Wheatley Elementary to clean up a vacant lot — long a hangout for drug dealers — and transform it into a community garden. It's one less place for crime to take root. And in Liberty City, volunteers help residents remove lead paint from old apartments — paint that, when eaten by children, can cause permanent brain damage.

The list of Florida projects is eye-opening, some rural, some urban. In Pinellas County, volunteers assist police every day, while at night they attend classes toward a police certification. In Frostproof, they work with elderly farmworkers — an overlooked and vulnerable group of people.

Meanwhile, nearly 100 volunteers will fan out through the Everglades and Florida Bay, helping scientists to gather the ecological data critical to saving that endangered jewel.

This is not, says Jim Brower, deputy director of Florida's AmeriCorps program, a jobs program. The pay is too small and the hours too long for that.

"This is a program for people who want to make a difference," said the retired Navy officer. "What this does is enables people who might not otherwise be able to volunteer and serve the community to be able to do it."

The financial rewards are clearly miniscule. Each volunteer gets \$7,640 a year in salary, or \$116.92 a week, about half the minimum wage. That weekly stipend is roughly what a congressman makes in two hours (not counting the lobbyist-paid perks). The maximum hitch is two years.

In addition, for every year of service, the federal government agrees to pay \$4,725 toward college or vocational school expenses.

What makes this attack more puzzling is that the AmeriCorps would seem to encourage the values that conservatives take so much pride in emphasizing, rightly so.

The program, of course, is erected atop a foundation of

charity toward others. It also insists that those people who benefit from most AmeriCorps programs also contribute to it.

When volunteers work in an inner-city neighborhood helping residents make their houses safe against burglaries, the residents — through homeowner associations and other means — are asked to contribute a portion of AmeriCorps' costs. Typically, they are also enlisted as workers in other neighborhood projects led by AmeriCorps volunteers.

It's part of that citizen compact: with every right comes a responsibility.

Moreover, all but a few of AmeriCorps' projects are controlled by the community in which they occur — not imposed

on them from Washington, D.C., or Tallahassee. The volunteers are not even federal employees; they draw their paychecks from the program in which they work.

So much for Big Government. As kind-hearted as AmeriCorps may be, it's also a hard-headed business investment for taxpayers. For one thing, the local community gets far more from each worker than would otherwise be possible to buy on the open market.

And — just as with the GI Bill — every penny we spend on a volunteer's salary and tuition will likely come back to the U.S. Treasury many times over. The college education will enable the ex-volunteer to command a higher salary in the job market, which means higher income-

taxes flowing back.

This is not — or shouldn't be — a Democrat versus Republican issue. Among its backers have been U.S. Sen. Connie Mack of Florida, a Republican, and his colleague, Bob Graham, a Democrat. Former President Bush supported the program and presided during pilot programs.

And it may be instructive to note that in the 10 Florida counties where AmeriCorps is active, the GOP is dominant in the politics of all but one (Broward).

It would be disheartening to suddenly see congressional Republicans stampede into line behind Gingrich because of his personal and mindless hatred of government. There is an irony in that.

The speaker, his new book deal aside, has spent his life dependent on income from the public treasury. He grew up as the son of a military officer, attending government-financed schools.

After attending graduate school (which he was able to do because he applied for and received a student deferment from the draft, unlike so many of his peers in the 1960s), he was hired as a professor at a state college. He now, of course, draws his salary from you and me.

Perhaps Gingrich might change his view of AmeriCorps if he took its approach to public service. He could forgo his salary and perks in favor of the \$7,640 stipend for the next two years.

That would be a start.

But of course by doing his service in Congress he'd miss out on the chance to help people directly who have been through disaster or are hoping to avert one; he'd miss the chance to experience the fear and frustration of those who try to lead good lives in crime-riddled neighborhoods; he'd miss the joy of teaching a child to read, thereby opening his or her mind to a world of wonder and opportunity; he'd miss the true meaning of JFK's clarion call.

Most of all, he'd miss the chance to gather material for a great second book. An apology for his first.



Herald file photo

READY TO WORK: AmeriCorps volunteers in Dade County were sworn in by President Clinton via satellite at the Miami-Dade Community College downtown campus in September

Clinton needs to save AmeriCorps

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Newt Gingrich wants to kill the Clinton administration's national service program because, he claims, it is "coerced volunteerism," a tortured concept he just invented.

The man who had a \$4.5 million book deal approves of volunteerism, mind you, he just disapproves when it does not spring from a selfless desire to work for free, but actually results in concrete rather than purely spiritual reward.

Cute Newtspeak. Clever Newtology. This is the most convoluted act since Rose Mary Woods demonstrated how she struck a foot pedal barely within reach to accidentally erase 18 crucial minutes from a Nixon Watergate tape.

It would be hilarious were this not such serious business.

The president's program, called AmeriCorps, puts young men and women at work on public service projects for a year at the minimum wage. They are rewarded with \$4,725 in education vouchers, to be put toward college tuition or paying off college loans.

They commit to a regular full week's work, unlike the traditional unpaid Gingrich-preferred volunteer, who serves perhaps an hour or so a week, when he or she can find time away from job and family responsibilities.

National service corps participants are not forced to join this program; they must apply of their own free will. No coercion is involved. No government rope snares them in, no federal trap compels them. Far more people are clamoring to get in the program than funds can support.

And government incentives to prompt people to do what they should be doing in the first place is a social policy as old as communal living itself. Harry Truman is famous for remarking upon the irony of this phenomenon, but even he was a latecomer to the idea.



Marianne Means

AmeriCorps combines idealism and practicality, opportunity and responsibility. What could be wrong with that? It has President Clinton's name on it, that's what's wrong. The resurgent Republicans would like to wipe out every trace of Clinton's presence in the White House.

Republicans, in fact, have no objections to such stimuli when they come in the form of tax breaks, tax credits or subsidies to lure private industry or wealthy individuals into preferred development, investment or regulatory strategies.

THE SERVICE CORPS is a domestic version of President Kennedy's famous Peace Corps. It is designed to encourage good citizenship, provide needed civic service and help deserving young people go to college all at the same time.

It combines idealism and practicality, opportunity and responsibility. What could be wrong with that?

It has President Clinton's name on it, that's what's wrong. It might, if left intact, become a positive part of his historical legacy.

The resurgent congressional Republicans would like to wipe out every trace of Clinton's presence in the White House. He has mightily offended them by reversing major policies of the Reagan-Bush era and shifting some spending from the Pentagon toward domestic initiatives.

The national service corps, a Clinton campaign pledge, is the one program with which the president is totally identified. "It represents everything I wanted to do," Clinton says.

The Republicans complain that it is just more pork from big Democratic spenders. They hope that by slapping a big government label on it they can do in the program just as they did in the Clinton health plan.

But AmeriCorps volunteers are not reporting to some big new bureaucracy. They go to work for established local community and philanthropic groups that

are already serving the public in a wide range of ways, helping flood victims, repairing low-income housing, bringing supplies to elderly shut-ins, teaching illiterate adults to read and so forth.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT officials, and Washington bureaucrats, choose which organizations are to be helped. A small federal agency with a powerful inspector general was created primarily to monitor costs and conflicts of interest.

The cost, as federal budgets go, is not much. The program will fund 33,000 service jobs this year on a \$350 million budget. It could eventually put 100,000 young men and women to work — a help them go to college — at a cost of \$5 billion.

Republicans also contend that reimbursing volunteers is bad policy because it will discourage millions of young people already doing community service from offering their services for free.

This is unrealistic, not to say hypocritical. Most current volunteers serve intermittently, part-time, and are financially secure. The program is aimed at providing reliable, consistent service from young people needing financial help to go to college who are also dependent upon earning an income for daily survival.

President Clinton vows to fight AmeriCorps. It is one of the places he has chosen to draw a line in the sand against the aggressive GOP challenge. He is correct on the merits. And it is a minimum pluck he must show if he is to earn a second term.

■ Marianne Means is Washington, D.C. columnist with Hearst Newspapers.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer 1-29-95

Volunteers or Not, They Get It Done

By SARA ENGRAM

Don't call members of AmeriCorps volunteers. As anyone connected to the program is quick to point out, they're full-time workers. You won't find many "volunteers" who spend 40 hours a week or more on the job.

But for some Republicans the term is a handy buzzword for igniting a partisan debate. "To replace voluntarism with bureaucrats is wrong," says House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Supporters of AmeriCorps — and of the ideals of national service — are ready with their answers.

"They're not replacing anyone," says Rhoda Dorsey, former president of Goucher College and chair of the Governor's Commission on Service, the board that oversees Maryland's AmeriCorps efforts. AmeriCorps funding is available only for projects that are not being done by anyone else. If these workers didn't offer these services, nobody would.

Hilda Peterson, 45, a mother of seven children in Cumberland, has learned first-hand the needs that exist in her community. As an AmeriCorps worker in Western Maryland, she has been able to extend a meal-delivery program for senior citizens into a rural community where elderly people were getting no help.

Often, Ms. Peterson says, these people were existing on diets of crackers and applesauce simply because they were unable to prepare more nutritious meals. Her most satisfying experience is the aid she has been able to provide for a woman in her 90s, crippled with arthritis and living alone in a farmhouse several miles from her nearest neighbors. "Helping her has made the whole thing worthwhile," she says.

In Baltimore, 28-year-old Sean Stevenson, an AmeriCorps worker who is tutoring in a city elementary school, cites the first-grade child who spent her days in silence before the program began. Now, he says proudly, she's such a confident little girl. "she talks all day."

Ms. Peterson and Mr. Stevenson, like those AmeriCorps members who were present in the House chamber for President Clinton's State of the Union message this past week, are volunteers in the sense that they asked to participate. But these days soldiers also volunteer for the army, and even members of Congress voluntarily run for office. Yet once they're in service to the country, no one expects them to serve for free.

In contrast, AmeriCorps workers come close to working for free. They earn only a small living allowance, usually around \$600 a month, plus about \$1,200 a year in health benefits. For most of them, the enticement is a voucher for \$4,725, to be used for education and collected only after they have completed a year of service, or 1,700 hours of work.

Their one-year service to America costs about \$13,000 each, 20 percent of which is covered by the programs in which they work.

Meanwhile, AmeriCorps members are plowing plenty of rewards back into the communities. That's especially true in Maryland. With 854 people serving in some 18 different programs, Maryland now has more AmeriCorps members per capita than any other state. The benefits they provide don't come just in dollars and services, but also in the spark of imagination that helps communities pull together to find local, small-scale, non-bureaucratic solutions to problems.

That's another place defenders of national service differ sharply with the critics. AmeriCorps encourages partnerships that would seem unlikely in other contexts. In Baltimore, Mr. Stevenson works in a program called Enable, which offers a range of services under the auspices of Baltimore Reads, Inc., the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland at Baltimore and Community Building in Partnership, Inc.

As Dr. Dorsey notes, we live in a society that believes in solutions. We tell ourselves that if we can define a social problem and devise a way to tackle it, we can solve it. But that kind of thinking has often led to exactly the kind of expensive and expansive government efforts that Speaker Gingrich and his allies detest.

AmeriCorps has a different philosophy. It puts a premium on small-scale approaches and on finding ways to leverage local resources, both in money and time. Many AmeriCorps programs make use of a "cascading" model of voluntarism, in which AmeriCorps workers recruit and train volunteers for various projects, who in turn recruit and train other volunteers, thus multiplying the rewards many times over.

"This is a not-very-expensive way of tackling problems that have not been amenable to solutions on a grander scale," Dr. Dorsey says.

AmeriCorps gets things done — from feeding hungry people and tutoring students to taking health services door-to-door and cleaning up public areas. No wonder President Clinton considers AmeriCorps one of his proudest achievements.

Sara Engram is editorial-page director of The Evening Sun.

STANDARD-TIMES

NEW BEDFORD, MA
DAILY 43,903

SATURDAY
JAN 28 1995

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It is irrational to cut community service

by George Keverian

6297AT

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "life's persistent and most important question is what you are doing for others."

This year, The Massachusetts National and Community Service Commission (MNCSC), a 24-member body appointed by Gov. William Weld, joined the Corporation for National Service in celebrating Martin Luther King Day by making it a day to reflect on our commitment to community service and our power as individuals to create change in our communities.

Sadly, our new speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, does not share this view. Rep. Gingrich saw Jan. 17th as an opportunity to announce the he was "totally, unequivocally opposed to national service."

Here in Massachusetts, young people are making a difference in communities throughout the state. MNCSC and the Corporation for National Service alone fund 41 service programs throughout the commonwealth.

Young people are working with community-based organizations to address vital community needs and to strengthen the work of these organizations.

In Revere, young people in the YouthSTAR program are working to immunize low-income residents.

In Springfield, Americorps members are providing legal assistance to battered women.

In Worcester, young people are working in the schools to teach middle school children

Throughout the commonwealth, community service learning is becoming a valuable teaching tool, instilling in young people a strong sense of civic responsibility and volunteerism.

violence prevention and conflict-resolution techniques.

And, students at Lasalle College are providing educational outreach programs to local schools on HIV/AIDS.

Throughout the commonwealth, community service learning is becoming a valuable teaching tool, instilling in young people a strong sense of civic responsibility and volunteerism.

Above all, these young people are giving of themselves and giving back to their communities. By engaging in service, they are committing themselves to improving the lives of those around them. This is truly an inspiration in a time when many people are disillusioned, having lost their faith in government, in their communities, and in each other.

Through community service, people are working hard every day not only to help those around them, but also to restore our faith in this county, and our belief in positive change. Rather than despairing, these individuals are finding ways to have a

meaningful impact on their communities.

Each and every one of us who engages in community service — whether by teaching recent immigrants to learn to read, participating in a local food drive, or coaching little league — should be very proud. By engaging in service, you are giving of yourself to enrich your community and your nation.

You are also engaging in something uniquely American. Americans should be proud of their long history of meaningful community service. It is this sense of civic responsibility and volunteerism that makes our democracy work.

As the former speaker of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts and a public servant for more than 35 years, I am inspired by the number of citizens throughout the commonwealth who are serving their communities.

I am encouraged that Americans are again making service a national priority and that many of us are choosing to make helping those in our community a personal priority.

As Dr. King so eloquently stated, "make a career of humanity . . . and you will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."

It is very sad that Newt Gingrich does not agree.

George Keverian, former speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, lives in Everett and is the chairman of The Massachusetts National and Community Service Commission.

DISPATCH

MOLINE, IL
DAILY 28,486

THURSDAY

JAN 26 1995

BURRELLE'S

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EDITORIAL

AmeriCorps: Good, not 'big' government

There is much that President Clinton has done wrong. And, whether he will admit it or not, it was his performance and that of the Democrat majorities in both houses of Congress which led voters to change government so dramatically last November.

Republicans still crowing over that victory — as well as the slight right turn to Mr. Clinton's state of the union speech — should take care that they don't kill any worthwhile programs in their rush to stamp everything the president did as "big government" and therefore bad.

One such program, AmeriCorps, may be the most important that this president has ever or will ever produce. Given its relatively low startup cost — \$350 million

— and its high rewards — a chance at college for young Americans who might otherwise not be able to go and the reward of helping others — one wonders if that isn't the primary reason that Newt Gingrich and others want to kill it.

THE ISSUE

Should Congress be allowed to kill the president's national service program?

Mr. Clinton called it "citizenship at its best" Tuesday. Speaker Gingrich has scoffed that it is really "coerced volunteerism," despite the fact that the program is voluntary. He also worries that it will keep young people who already volunteer for free from doing so, never mind that unlike the fulltime national service program volunteers, the bulk of those young people volunteer for just hours a week. He adds that people should help others without regard to financial reward. (Please, someone remind Mr. Gingrich of one of Mr. Clinton's more clever soundbites Tuesday: "Members of Congress have been here less than a month but by the end of the week — 28 days into the new year — every member of Congress will have earned as much in congressional salary as a minimum-wage worker makes all year long.")

The program, which allows Americans 17 and older to earn educational grants by doing community service, has begun modestly. Just 20,000 people are working on 350 projects. For their full-time commitment to this "domestic peace corps" they earn an allowance of about \$600 a month. After about a year of work, they receive awards worth \$4,725 for higher education.

Mr. Clinton is right to champion the program. While his inclusion of AmeriCorps volunteers at his speech Tuesday was theatrical, it also was effective.

Take Cindy Perry. Mr. Clinton said she teaches second-graders to read in AmeriCorps in rural Kentucky. Married as a teenager and now a mother of four, Ms. Perry says that AmeriCorps inspired her to get her high school equivalency. She's using her AmeriCorps money, the president says, to go to college. "She gains when she gives," he said.

Here is a tiny sampling of some of the other useful things the 20,000 volunteers are doing to help America: helping flood victims, repairing low-income housing, tutoring, teaching the illiterate to read and bringing meals and supplies to shut-ins. And all of this for a relatively small price. Even if the program is expanded as intended to put 100,000 young men and women to work, the cost will still be small as government programs go: \$1.5 billion.

Mr. Clinton has vowed to fight to save AmeriCorps. To win, however, he must convince members of Congress that the program is not "big government," but good government.

THURSDAY

JAN 26 1995

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Building on shared values

President Clinton went to Capitol Hill on Tuesday night to stake out common ground with a Congress now controlled by the Republican Party. He outlined in broad strokes the importance, in national policy, of social and fiscal values supported on both sides of the partisan divide. And he cast his own record in the light of having begun the work of advancing those values.

His State of the Union speech was more bully-pulpit than programmatic outline, but he did use it to mount a lively defense of one endangered program, his national service corps or Americorps. In fact, Mr. Clinton cited the program as a concrete example of how enlightened national policy can support broadly held societal values.

"Opportunity and responsibility," he said, "go hand in hand. We can't have one without the other, and our national community can't hold together without both."

Americorps supports those linked goals. It helps instill a sense of civic responsibility by putting young people to work on grass-roots community improvement projects. And it helps ensure opportunity by providing them a modest stipend toward the cost of continuing their education.

But Mr. Clinton invited bipartisan cooperation on a far wider range of issues. The invitation was expected, of course, but this political necessity has much else to recommend it.

Americorps has had enough of partisan bickering and congressional paralysis. Democrats eager to give Republicans a taste of their own obstructionist medicine should think again. Likewise, Republicans tempted to show uppity Democrats who's boss now should remember this is more than a political game.

It is government of, for and by the people. And "the people" are less concerned with partisan win-loss tallies than with the well-being of the country and the security of its future.

They want, among other things, smaller gov-

ernment, less federal spending. And the new Republican leadership claims leadership of a revolution in that direction. But President Clinton reminded the public Tuesday night that the revolution began two years ago.

"For years before I became President," he said, "I heard others say they would cut government and how bad it was. But not much happened. We actually did it. We cut over a quarter of a trillion dollars in spending, more than 300 domestic programs, more than 100,000 positions from the federal bureaucracy in the last two years alone."

The president's bragging list went on: Mohair subsidies finally got axed. So did 1,200 Agriculture Department field offices. The small-business loan form shrank from an inch thick to a single page. And the government's 10,000-page personnel manual, declared hopeless, was just thrown away.

Decisions already made will reduce the bureaucracy by another 150,000 positions in the coming year. And the deficit is expected to decline for the third year in a row — the first time that has happened since the Truman presidency.

It's a more-than-respectable list of accomplishments and rebuts the Republican assertion that they are the only ones willing and able to rein in federal excess. Neither party can credibly claim sole rights to fiscal responsibility.

The country's best hope for continued progress toward budgetary prudence lies in bipartisanship. The same is true on social issues.

Democrats and Republicans alike believe in protecting children, empowering people, strengthening families and making communities healthy and safe. Wise policy will be guided by such values. They don't belong to any political party.

They unite us as a people and define a common ground on which our national politics should be played out. The president has invited Republicans to join him there. The nation will benefit if they do.

PRESS DEMOCRAT

SANTA ROSA, CA
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FRIDAY

JAN 20 1995

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With Americorps, try cooperation

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President Clinton has served notice that he will not let Republicans dismantle his national youth service program. In making that declaration, Clinton may well have been looking for a good fight with new GOP House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who has denounced Americorps as "gimmickry" and "coerced voluntarism."

But the Americorps issue also presents the two men an opportunity to do something they periodically claim interest in: cooperating, when possible, in the quest for better government.

Just two years into the administration, there are more Americorps participants, 20,000, than there were Peace Corps workers at the zenith of that program. In exchange for working on community-based and community-run programs, the young people receive minimum wage, child care assistance and tuition assistance for college.

Gingrich and the Republicans talk a lot about wanting to cut government social services and let private charities take up the slack. But even non-profit groups must have somebody to do the work. And one of the best sources of that labor would be "a steady stream of young, altruistic, energetic, exemplary (and cheap) workers." That's Newsweek's Joe Klein's description of Americorps.

Klein quoted a youth shelter director in State College, Pa., about the Americorps volunteers: "They've come into the community and done far more than we asked or expected," said Dawn Taylor. "Their job is to tutor the young people, but they're not content with that."

"They are so enthusiastic and energetic. And there are a lot more ways we'd like to use them, if we could."

The catch is that Americorps workers cannot supplant public workers — a concession made to win votes of Democrats in Congress who support, and are supported by, public employee unions.

And, inevitably, some of Americorps' efforts are more effective than others.

Rather than fight over the very existence of Americorps, the speaker and the president should collaborate on improving it.

These two will not lack for "take-no-prisoners" confrontations. A program this idealistic and valuable deserves a more constructive approach.

LANSING STATE JOURNAL

LANSING, MI
DAILY 70,000

THURSDAY

JAN 26 1995

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AmeriCorps Keep Clinton crew active

E 6291AT EDITORIAL

The hands-on spirit of President Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps enhances the State of the Union as well as mid-Michigan.

National service corps workers took their rightful place in the audience for Clinton's State of the Union address Tuesday night.

Their work clearly demonstrates how state-federal partnerships help revitalize communities. Their labor helps pay off college loans.

Last fall, Michigan's first U.S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps crew began helping farmers control runoff to the Grand River. They identify potential sources of groundwater pollution — a first step toward prevention.

In all, AmeriCorps assigned 15 workers to assist farmers in six watersheds protect their groundwater. Each put in 1,700 hours for a \$12,000 living stipend, education awards for college or vocational training, health insurance and a child-care allowance.

Watershed areas include the upper and lower Grand, Kalamazoo River, River Raisin, Black River, Pine River and an area in Leelanau and Benzie counties that drains into Lake Michigan.

AmeriCorps should be protected and preserved regardless of changes in the Washington power structure. A national service program connected to college loans remains a non-partisan priority.

THURSDAY
JAN 26 1995

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State of the Union was Bill Clinton at his best

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O H, IT was sweet. I still can't decide what was the best part of Tuesday night's annual State of the Union ritual.

Was it watching Peggy Noonan, the Republican speechwriter, make a fool of herself on NBC by comparing President Clinton's speech to his 1988 disaster in Atlanta when he single-handedly put the nation to sleep?

Was it watching Newt Gingrich squirm as he found himself applauding the work of AmeriCorps, a program he has vowed to kill because, as he claims, it's coerced volunteerism?

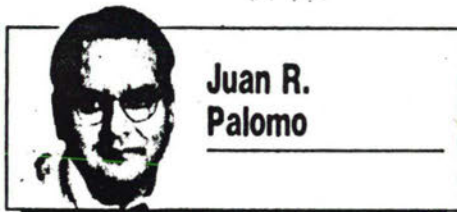
Was it watching Dick Armey, the chief foe of a minimum-wage hike, looking dumb and glum when Clinton reminded Americans that members of Congress in their first month in office, were already earning more than a minimum-wage worker would earn in an entire year?

Was it Phil Gramm behaving like himself, only more so?

Was it any of the other numerous sweet ironies of Bill Clinton's night, one the Republicans clearly expected to be theirs?

No, it was simply watching and listening to one of the best political speeches in recent years.

This may not have been the night that



Juan R.
Palomo

Clinton turned around his presidency, but it certainly was one of his finest moments and it showed the Republicans that they have nobody — not the dour Bob Dole, not the barmy Newt Gingrich, not the blustery Phil Gramm — *nobody* who can match Clinton at his best.

And he was at his best.

(I'm not talking about the content of his speech, just his style and delivery, and its effectiveness. Like any good liberal, I was offended by his immigrant-bashing and his attempts to out-conservative the conservatives on welfare and other issues.)

Compared to Clinton, New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman looked and sounded like a tired late-night infomercial host.

It was a long speech. But who cared? Americans love a great speech, even when they disagree with the contents or the person delivering the speech. More than 80 percent of those polled by three networks said they liked it.

Even more amazing, more than three-quarters of those polled by ABC said they liked the idea of raising the minimum wage and an almost equal number said AmeriCorps should be kept.

The speech's popularity is not surprising, for Clinton was able to turn the tables on the GOP by making Americans — for that one night, anyway — see the congressional Republicans as part of the problem instead of the solution.

His insistence that he would not allow Medicare to be cut, for instance, had the effect of making people believe Republicans are bent on taking Medicare from old people. Never mind that Newtists have never really come out and said it.

His admonishment that they "just stop" taking all those freebies from lobbyists succeeded in making the Republicans appear as the instruments of the lobbyists (if Dole thinks it was a cheap shot, it obviously was effective). Never mind that Democrats — including Clinton — have done little to curb the lobbyists' influence.

His comparison of congressional salaries to those of people on minimum wage was a stroke of genius (even if it wasn't original) because it brought home to viewers in stark terms the reality that members of Congress continue to live a

pampered, luxurious life, the kind that most of us can only dream about. Never mind that the president obviously has no intention of fighting the minimum-wage increase battle.

And for those of us who wondered why Clinton was not striking back at the nastiness aimed his way by Gingrich, Gingrich's mother, Dick Armey and other Republicans, now we know. Clinton was able to stand up there Tuesday night and talk convincingly about ending the partisan pettiness. He didn't say the Republicans were being nasty, but he didn't have to.

Clearly, this was one of Clinton's best nights. His speech will help his slumping ratings in the short run. But will it save his presidency? Probably not. He's in too much trouble already. He will never be able to discard all of his personal baggage and the electorate won't be shifting back to the middle anytime soon.

But what this speech cannot do for him, the Republicans just might. All you had to do was look at the faces of his potential opponents in the audience (and picture Danny Boy sulking back home in Indiana) to understand that if Clinton is renominated without much of a bruising, his re-election can't be ruled out.

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The Boston Globe

• THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1990

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Clinton's mid-course correction

It was couched in the rhetoric of reconciliation. The talk of smaller government and less regulation could have come out of the Republican "Contract with America." But underneath the cooperative tone of President Clinton's State of the Union address is an agenda that differs markedly in substance and philosophy from that of the new Republican majority in Congress.

It is an activist, progressive agenda that shows Clinton now seeking to move forward, and not on his heels as he was in November. He hopes that his "New Covenant" can be a viable alternative to Newt Gingrich's Contract.

There are aspects of Clinton's approach that are unrealistic. His embrace of further reductions in the budget deficit is welcome, but excluding consideration of even minor changes in Social Security, Medicare and veterans benefits undermines his credibility as a long-term deficit-cutter.

In confessing that he had bitten off more than he could chew on health care last year, he acknowledged the obvious, and a measured approach now, "starting with insurance reforms, makes sense. But Clinton and Congress should not forget that the number of uninsured Americans is a disgrace.

On some other issues Clinton is tardy. Lobbyist and campaign finance reforms, for instance, should have been a first-year focus. We hope he finally does turn the heat up this year.

Several other Clinton initiatives are ones we support, including a reasonable increase in the minimum wage, welfare reform that focuses on moving recipients to work rather than punishing poor children, and modest middle-class tax reductions that are fully funded by well-advertised budget cuts. Clinton was also on the right track promising to crack down on illegal immigration. For a nation of immigrants, the only way to keep the front door open is to lock the back doors and windows against illegals.

Clinton's passionate defense of the assault weapons ban passed last year was the dramatic high point of the speech - "I will not let that be repealed" he repeated, and we applauded. He was right to defend the proven crime prevention programs as well.

Clinton captured several worthy themes in his emotional championing of Americorps, the program that has put 20,000 persons into service in their communities. Americans have to "give something back to their communities and their country," he said.

Americorps, he said, is "the essence of the New Covenant, and we shouldn't stop it." This contrasted sharply with Speaker Newt Gingrich's recent attack on the program as "gimmickry" to which he is "totally, unequivocally opposed."

As these opposing views indicate, the debate over national service is likely to be one of several that define fundamentally the current political philosophy of this Congress and the nation. Government minimalists argue that community service should be voluntary and that taxpayers shouldn't be forced to subsidize needless bureaucracies.

But even as confirmed a minimalist as Gov. Weld is a longtime supporter of the Boston-based CityYear, which has been copied by many of the 300 programs that are part of Americorps.

Clinton's embrace of Americorps makes sense because it is not a huge central bureaucracy doling out cash but a small government agency distributing funds to community-based groups, most of which have strong private support as well. In addition to minimum-wage jobs in the community, the program gives participants the promise of help in paying off college loans - a powerful incentive. It generates some of the idealism of the Peace Corps.

Government's job - and we believe this is what most voters want - is to conduct its business effectively, not go out of business.

DAILY TEXAN (UNIV. OF
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WEDNESDAY
JAN 25 1995

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'Grinch' blasts AmeriCorps program

6297AT

Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., claims to be a college professor by trade. Despite this, the good man is out of touch with the needs of the workaday college student.

Gingrich recently blasted the AmeriCorps national service program, President Clinton's brainchild, as "coerced volunteerism." The AmeriCorps program allows students to pay off their college loans by working in non-profit programs. AmeriCorps allows students who do not want to enter the military to finance their education by serving their country upon graduation. The program has been hailed as a "Peace Corps for America" and a "G.I. Bill for the '90s."

But Newt doesn't see it that way. He derides the program as "gimmickry" and a waste of money that will only give limited benefits to college students.

In one respect, Gingrich is correct. This is "coerced volunteerism," but

Stephen Thibodeau
TEXAN COLUMNIST

only because the current economic situation nearly forces those who can't afford school otherwise to enroll in the AmeriCorps program. If they don't, students will need six years to finish school, and they'll graduate with a massive debt burden brought on by student loans.

Gingrich's own Contract with America does attempt to give incentives to those attending college. Families paying for their youngsters' college education will receive a big tax break under the Contract.

Well, that's fine and dandy — if your family can pay for college in the first place. In essence, Newt wants to reward those who can already afford to send their kids to school. Imagine cutting out the AmeriCorps program so the money can be used to give tax breaks to the

rich! It's a classic case of social stratification along the lines of class.

In addition to these tax breaks, Gingrich also proposes eliminating subsidized government student loans altogether.

This would mean that students would need to pay interest on any student loan immediately after taking out the loan. In the sum of things, only the bankers collecting the interest would enjoy this situation.

As a history professor, Gingrich should know the implications of his plan. Prior to World War II, college education in the United States was primarily reserved for the rich. Only after the G.I. Bill allowed millions of servicemen the opportunity to attend school did college enrollment skyrocket. A reversion to the days of college as an exclusive club of the elite would damage our society as a whole. Allowing all economic levels an opportunity to get a degree encourages understanding of the

cultural, social and economic patches of the American fabric.

Granted, the AmeriCorps program is not perfect. Currently, only 20,000 students are enrolled in the program, which doesn't even equal half the student population here at the University. But the program has been in existence for only a year, and spending on the program will increase in 1995.

The AmeriCorps program merits more time to develop and prosper. The lack of enrollment due to limited funds is not an argument for its abolishment. It is a call for more development and study.

Gingrich needs to end this demagoguery against the national service program.

AmeriCorps is a win-win situation: students win and society wins. Let us college students decide whether or not it is "gimmickry."

Thibodeau is a graduate student in Asian studies.

TAMPA TRIBUNE

TAMPA, FL
DAILY 268,876

WEDNESDAY
JAN 25 1995
BURRELLE'S

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Official defends national service program

An Associated Press Report

WASHINGTON — The fledgling national service program known as AmeriCorps — targeted by Republican budget cutters — builds leaders and is more than worth the money it costs, a White House official said Tuesday.

"Taking responsibility and earning opportunity — that is what AmeriCorps is all about," national service chief Eli Segal told a Capitol Hill news conference. The program allows Americans 17 and older to earn educational grants by doing community service.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich has threatened to cut the program, calling it "coerced voluntarism" and "gimmickry." He has said he is

totally, unequivocally opposed to national service."

Joining Segal were four AmeriCorps participants who were invited to sit with Hillary Rodham Clinton to watch the State of the Union address Tuesday night.

"I'm not too much up on politics. All I know is that it's made a difference," said Cindy Perry, a mother of four from Franklin, Ky.

Perry joined AmeriCorps in September, helping second-graders from low-income families boost their reading skills. Since then, she has earned her high-school equivalency degree and she is planning to use her educational award for college.

Segal also invited five members of Congress who served in the Peace

Corps to talk about their experiences to prove his contention that such programs create leaders and are more than worth the money. The current budget for AmeriCorps is \$580 million.

"It taught me a lot about maturing. It taught me a lot about fellowship," Rep. Tony P. Hall, D-Ohio, said of his Peace Corps service in Thailand. Of the national service volunteers he has known, Hall said, "They carried this commitment and zeal into every part of their lives."

AmeriCorps — a President Clinton-sponsored program passed by Congress in 1993 — has 20,000 members working on 350 programs to improve education, public safety, human services and the environment.

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1995

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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.

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1995

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?

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Tuesday, January 24, 1995

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Can service corps survive politics?

SOME government programs are hard to defend. The fledgling AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service plan, is not one of them. It's a splendid way to revitalize communities, encourage social responsibility and expand educational opportunities — causes that conservatives and liberals alike can embrace.

So why are congressional Republicans trying to kill off AmeriCorps? House Speaker Newt Gingrich calls it "coerced voluntarism." Huh? Last time we checked, no one was forced to join. The service corps' 20,000 members aren't even volunteers. They get the minimum wage, health benefits, child care and an annual grant of \$4,725 to pay for college or vocational training.

An expensive bureaucracy? Come on. The program costs just \$500 million a year, a pinprick in the \$1.5 trillion federal budget.

Even so, critics complain that the cost per participant — about \$20,000 a year — is too high. That's in the eye of the beholder, of course. But the federal dollars leverage much more in private contributions — exactly the sort of public-private alliances that Republicans say they want to encourage.

Gimmicky? So says Gingrich. The facts argue

otherwise. AmeriCorps' 300 projects around the country plug into existing programs in public safety, health care, the environment and human services. In Austin, Texas, for example, participants clean up graffiti, immunize needy children and work to improve relations between police and the community. Nitty-gritty stuff that might not otherwise get done.

There's another aspect to this modest program that conservatives ought to like: It revitalizes the social contract between citizens and government. In contrast to entitlements, which demand nothing in return, national service marries benefit to sacrifice, individualism to community. Participants gain support for their schooling. But society, too, comes out ahead when the urban fabric is strengthened and the work force is better educated.

So really now, what's not to like? It's hard to avoid the conclusion that the GOP objections to national service are not about voluntarism or big government but rather about embarrassing Clinton: Get rid of a probable domestic success story and deny him something to brag about in 1996. If that's the aim here, it's a victory for political spite, not enlightened government.

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 Stormbreak 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 fundraising 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 gimmicky." These are spurious, knee-jerk arguments. National service is induced—not coerced—voluntarism, just as his tax credit for charity would be. And, gimmicky? 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.



RAY F. HILLSTROM JR.

Beleagued: No time for society?

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

BUFFALO NEWS

BUFFALO, NY
DAILY 305,482

MONDAY
JAN 23 1995

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Give AmeriCorps a chance

Clinton should fight for national service idea

EVEN before it has a chance to succeed or fail, the youth corps program proudly promoted by President Clinton is being measured for the ax by House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia.

AmeriCorps, as it is called, is "gimmickry" in Gingrich's view. He has pronounced himself "totally, unequivocally opposed" to it. Given Gingrich's power and prominence since the 1994 general elections, those comments wrongly put AmeriCorps in jeopardy just as it leaves the starting blocks.

It was only last September — the day the airplane crashed on the White House grounds — that Clinton held the ceremonies that started AmeriCorps. The program puts young people into one- or two-year public service jobs carrying the minimum wage, health insurance and a \$4,725 educational voucher for each year in the program. The voucher can go for college tuition, vocational training or the payment of student loans.

Surely the program deserves more than four months' trial. It has the promise of providing direction and structure to young people. It's not a handout. Clinton's attraction to the program was fortified in the 1992 campaign when his proposal repeatedly drew strong applause from audiences.

The president has seemed ready to compromise in the face of the Gingrich whirlwind, but on this issue he has apparently drawn the line. That's as it should be. He should fight for the program because it is

based on a hopeful concept of creating stronger, more focused citizens and because it hasn't had a chance yet.

In this area, the West Seneca Youth Bureau operates an AmeriCorps group of 16 young people engaged in a wide range of community service tasks, some of them in Buffalo. The group spends two days a week at the Food Bank of Western New York in the city, for instance, and has ties with the organization restoring St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Genesee Street. One day a week is spent in educational activities, including efforts of the group's high school dropouts to attain equivalency diplomas.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a smaller band doing mapping of Erie County in conjunction with the county's Department of Environment and Planning.

It might have been more to the point if the first group in this area had been based in Buffalo, but apparently suburban West Seneca won out because of prior experience with youth service projects. City Hall is still in contention for grants later this year.

Nationwide, AmeriCorps includes 20,000 young people in 300 different programs. The Republican Congress should let it live for a decent time and judge it on its results in a fair way, not through the filter of partisan politics.

America's young people should be able to expect at least that much.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

PITTSBURGH, PA
DAILY 247,145

MONDAY

JAN 23 1995

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Defending national service

Gingrich is out of bounds in attacking the new program

Newt Gingrich has struck a chord with his campaign against the welfare system and crime and bloated governments and taxes. But national service?

The speaker of the House stepped over his perceived mandate in attacking the national-service program that was enacted last year. His misstep has given the Clinton administration a golden opportunity to find its voice.

"I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service," Mr. Gingrich told Newsweek. "It is coerced volunteerism. ... It's gimmickry."

What it is, in reality, is 20,000 primarily young Americans working with local organizations to tutor children, rehabilitate old housing, immunize babies, help old people, fight illiteracy and much more. In exchange they get a minimum-wage stipend and help in paying for college.

President Clinton had dreamed of hundreds of thousands of students giving service to their communities. Instead he got 20,000 the first year — still more than the Peace Corps at its peak — and nearly 50,000 in three years. They won't change the world, but they will help remake their neighborhoods. And many of them, in turn, will have a better chance of remaking their own lives through higher education.

Yes, they are compensated. Mr. Gingrich might prefer a totally charitable gesture, but the compensation doesn't pollute the service and it most assuredly does not coerce it. If there is a gimmick involved, it has not yet been revealed.

This program won Democratic and some Republican support. It costs \$500 million a year, which is not peanuts, but by all accounts it is money that actually yields grass-roots results and does not support a bureaucracy.

It's a worthy initiative, one of Mr. Clinton's proudest achievements, and it deserves continued funding. And the president, on the appropriate occasion of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, said that it was a program for which he would fight.

That's great, but Mr. Clinton shouldn't stop there. It isn't enough for the president to wait for Mr. Gingrich to get ahead of himself and go after programs that he loathes, but that the public does not.

The House speaker is shaping the discussion on the fundamental issues of the day — crime, welfare, the role of government. Mr. Clinton cannot afford to stand by waiting for miscues. He must define himself and his vision and turn the discussion into a debate. National service is just a starting point.

JAN 22 1995

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EDITORIAL

AMERICORPS

Helping communities is still a good idea

ELIZABETH
Republican lawmakers should, and will, take the Clinton administration to task over initiatives that cost too much and are not needed. But Mr. Clinton's national service program shouldn't be one of them.

The program, Americorps, allows young people to work for minimum wage in communities across the country in exchange for government help in repaying college loans or vocational training loans. A kind of domestic Peace Corps, the year-old program provides an excellent vehicle for restoring a much-needed sense of citizenship and community right here at home.

Yet, the new Republican leadership, especially House Speaker Newt Gingrich, has targeted Americorps for the budget ax. He told *Newsweek*, "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service. It is coerced voluntarism. ... It's gimmickry."

Hardly. It was a good idea when Mr. Clinton made it a major campaign theme. And it was a good bill when approved by Congress. Sixteen House Republican co-sponsors sent letters to their colleagues encouraging them to support the national service bill. "We believe national service is a basic Republican idea and that the president's proposal is structured as a Republican would have structured it and that it deserves Republican support," the letter said.

Especially Republican about the bill is its decentralization, both in terms of funding and administration. A third of the federal trust fund for the program goes to national nonprofit organizations like the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and Teach for

America. The bulk of the money goes to bipartisan, independent state commissions that distribute the funds according to state guidelines. The application process is local, and local jurisdictions actually employ the youngsters. That means the people who know the greatest needs in their community can direct volunteers to that concern.

Texas, which has 14 program partners, has the largest number of participants per capita than any other state. The Greater Dallas Community of Churches is the local partner and is using its 49 participants to: tutor in elementary and middle schools, teach alternatives to violence, expand access to health care and improve nutrition and reduce hunger. And the volunteers are in the neighborhoods where their efforts can do the most good.

Republican critics say the program costs too much. Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa says the cost per participant is more than \$30,000. Eli Segal, head of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the program, told *The Dallas Morning News* that the cost is under \$20,000. He said that Mr. Grassley includes such things as the donations of equipment and retired personnel by corporations being good corporate citizens.

Costs do matter. But the potential benefits of this program — meeting unmet community needs, bringing youngsters of all ethnic and economic backgrounds together, helping youngsters defray college costs, and instilling a true sense of civic responsibility — make it a worthwhile investment.

Newsday

EDITORIALS

1/10/95

Back Off, Newt

Bill's AmeriCorps is a good idea

The national service program seems an unlikely place for a beleaguered Democratic president to make a stand against budget-chopping congressional Republicans. It's too new and too inexpensive to have developed much of a



Gingrich

constituency. A country that got along without it before President Bill Clinton came along could survive without it now.

But this particular program, now called AmeriCorps, has Clinton's fingerprints on it. He says he'll fight to keep it alive. We hope he means it. A voluntary corps makes a powerful statement to young Americans that their contributions in community service are needed and valued. Since it doesn't require a huge bureaucracy, even Republicans should like it.

AmeriCorps has about 20,000 members working in more than 300 locally run programs nationwide. It pays the \$4.25-an-hour minimum wage for up to 1,700 hours a year, plus medical insurance. Members can get as much as \$4,725 for past or future college costs.

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich, scenting an opportunity to trash a Clinton achievement, says he's "totally, unequivocally opposed to national service." With his usual gift for the colorful but inaccurate sound bite, he calls it "coerced voluntarism." But this man's coercion looks more like opportunity — an educational one that otherwise might not exist, as well as an opportunity for patriotic folks to serve their country and still subsist.

Congress has already approved funding for as many as 33,000 AmeriCorps slots by early fall. Clinton may not be able to expand the

program as he'd like. He may even have to shrink it to keep the Republicans at bay. An experiment with means-testing — by tying tuition subsidies to parental income for kids who choose to go to college before doing their AmeriCorps stint — might also be worth a trial. But this is a program worth fighting for. For once, Clinton must follow through.

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JAN 20 1995
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AMERICORPS

EDITORIAL

Program deserves a chance

President Clinton, who on some points has seemed almost too willing to accommodate the new Republican congressional majority, has rightly taken a stand for one of the best achievements of his administration. He is mounting a defense of the Americorps national-service program, which is the latest target of House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

It would be a shame if Americorps becomes a victim of the Republican government-cutting campaign. There are so many other things more deserving of the budget ax.

Far from an entrenched program that has outgrown its usefulness and become a bloated bureaucracy, Americorps is a new idea and a new approach, an example of a more creative approach to government problem-solving.

CLINTON MADE a national-service program an important part of his presidential campaign. Its approval was one of his early legislative successes. Last September, a satellite hookup helped him swear in the first 15,000 Americorps volunteers. Some 20,000 are involved now.

The idea behind Americorps is simple. Young people work for a specified time in a worthwhile program in exchange for government vouchers that can be used to help pay for higher education or to pay off student loans. While they work, they are paid minimum wage and receive health benefits.

The potential advantages are many. The volunteer-service program is a good way to help students and their families deal with the soaring cost of college.

It encourages higher education, certainly a worthwhile national goal, given

the need for a more capable work force. Because it uses vouchers for work done, it avoids the default programs that have plagued government loan programs. Because it usually places volunteers in existing programs, it does not involve make-work or an extensive new bureaucracy.

It gives young people some much-needed work experience and often makes them more aware of problems in society. Ideally, it shows participants the values and rewards of community involvement and might help revive the spirit of volunteerism.

Americorps is not a handout; it involves work; it bolsters old-fashioned values of helping oneself and helping others.

In short, it sounds like something that Gingrich and company might have come up with themselves.

Instead, Gingrich is attacking the program as "gimmickry" and saying that he wants to do away with it to help pay for the middle-class tax cut he's promising.

Middle-class families who are struggling to educate their children stand to benefit more from the opportunity Americorps offers than from the few dollars a tax cut might save them.

The program should not be dismantled simply because it was created by Clinton.

Clinton has promised to work with congressional Republicans to trim government and reduce spending, as he should.

But he's right to draw the line around Americorps.

Rather than an old, outdated program that is demonstrably wasteful, the national-service corps is an innovative, fresh approach with promise.

It deserves a chance to prove itself.

AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

AUSTIN, TX
DAILY 173,368

WEDNESDAY
JAN 18 1995

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National service program deserves continued funding

EDITORIAL

Republicans in Congress apparently intend to drag President Clinton's national service plan, AmeriCorps, to the federal budget chopping block this year.

Although the president has given tacit approval to some other items the GOP wants to ax, he is drawing the line at the two-year-old AmeriCorps. Clinton is right to fight to save his young national service program.

Congress should be finding ways to encourage more national service, not eagerly awaiting the chance to slay a fledgling program that appears to actually be doing some good for the country.

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich has condemned the national service plan as "coerced voluntarism" and "gimmickry." So his acolytes in the House are falling meekly in line and planning the demise of AmeriCorps.

Clinton rode into the Oval Office promising a program of national service, which had been advocated years before by Clinton's allies in the Democratic Leadership Council. Without a lot of fanfare, AmeriCorps began in 1993 and now has 20,000 young people working for it.

The volunteers work full- or part-

time for minimum wage in the areas of education, human services, public safety and the environment. In return, the federal government awards them up to \$4,725 for education benefits.

Although the program is a modest one, it deserves congressional support, not the death penalty. There are many items in the federal budget that Gingrich and his supporters ought to kill — including some of their own perks and some questionable corporate giveaways — but AmeriCorps isn't among them.

What does the government get for its \$500 million AmeriCorps appropriation? It gets 20,000 young people working, serving 300 communities across the country in important roles; it provides these volunteers with job skills and community and personal values; and it assures them of financial help to continue their education.

Only the most myopic budget writers couldn't see the value in that kind of investment in America.

Congress should be looking for ways to expand national service, not devising plans to retreat from it.

National service is one way this country can begin to heal from within. And that is worth the investment.

Commentary

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995

EDITORIALS

Let National Service Survive Budget Cuts

House Speaker Newt Gingrich says he wants to eliminate a national sense of entitlement, to transform American culture into one in which citizens value work.

Given that, it's hard to understand why Americorps national service is high on Gingrich's list of programs to cut.

The national service program is President Clinton's pet project. He campaigned for it, worked with Congress to deliver it, and now has vowed to fight for its continuance.

But this debate shouldn't be about partisan politics. It ought to focus on the program and its potential benefits not only to the participants, but to all of us.

Americorps includes 20,000 young people who work full or part time at 300 different community service programs across the country. The youths are paid minimum wage and get help repaying student loans. In Illinois, 270 Americorps workers perform tasks as varied as running after-school programs, helping the homeless and planting gardens.

The program serves two worthy goals: It encourages young people to perform unglamorous work in their communities, and it makes a college education more accessible.

The program is expensive: \$500 million this year, and \$700 million in fiscal 1996. Cutting it would produce savings.

But at what price ultimately?

Even Gingrich says he believes that budget cutters ought to focus on redefining the role of the federal government. That means looking at each program and asking one question: Does this program have a national benefit, or does it merely benefit the region where the money is spent or the interests on whom it is spent?

Answering that question honestly could lead to elimination of many programs already on the cutting block. But the national service program shouldn't be among them. Far from being the "coerced volunteerism" that Gingrich charges, national service is a compact of mutual interest between citizens and society that is based on shared responsibility, not on entitlement.

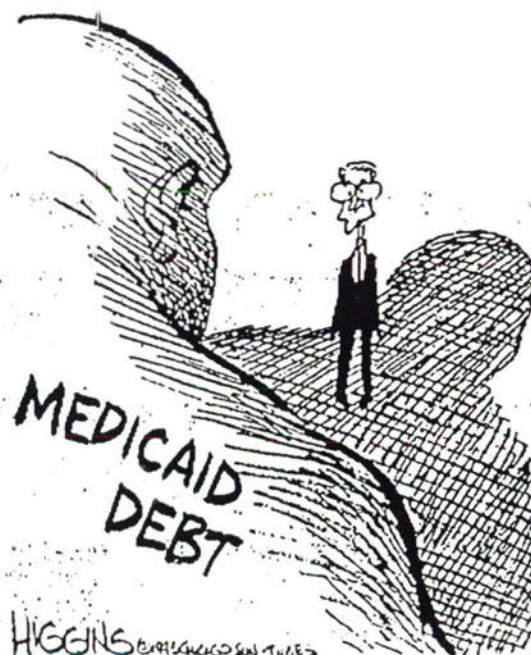
On this issue, President Clinton is absolutely right and Gingrich is wrong. Let national service work.

Make Election Laws Consistent

The Chicago Election Commission made the right decision.

By allowing a convicted felon to remain on the ballot.

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I SAW A MAN WHO WASN'T THERE



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GOP Dilemma: to Cut or Not to

In an interview Monday, former state Sen. Thomas McCracken Jr., chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority, was asked what effect changes in Washington would have on local transit issues. With a Chicago-based public relations adviser at his side, the suburban Republican took a deep breath and answered: "major challenges."

Welcome to the tricky new world of GOP politics. With a congressional majority promising steep tax cuts and a balanced budget by 2002, Republicans have

number of unfunded mandates passed. But that legislation is prospective. It was the estimated \$8.9 billion to \$12.7 billion mandates passed by Congress in the last 10 years.

"Washington is not focused on what is the plan," McCracken says. "All the eliminating unfunded mandates is pros should not lose operating and we have authentic mandates." McCracken plans to have

Commentary

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

EDITORIALS

Let National Service Survive Budget Cuts

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HUNTSVILLE TIMES

HUNTSVILLE, AL
DAILY 58,965

WEDNESDAY
JAN 18 1995

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Clinton's line in the sand

After facing weeks of criticism for being altogether too compliant with the new Republican Congress, President Clinton has finally drawn a line in the sand. The issue? His national service program, known as AmeriCorps.

During the 1992 campaign, Clinton made his proposal for young Americans to work in community service in exchange for college tuition grants a cornerstone of his platform. Then he had visions of a grander program, but his deficit-reduction program demanded a little sacrifice.

Clinton settled for a plan that this year has some 20,000 youngsters working on about 350 community projects nationwide. Participants work at least 1,700 hours a year in exchange for \$4,725 per year for college. The cost to the taxpayer is \$590 million this year, with a \$1 billion price tag expected next year due to expanded enrollment.

From the start, House Speaker Newt Gingrich has opposed the plan, but Monday

Newsweek magazine published an interview where he turned up the torch. For Gingrich, AmeriCorps represents "coerced voluntarism," "gimmickry" and a ballooning, costly government bureaucracy. He implied he'd work to kill the program.

For Clinton, the program is a symbol of his brand of activist government that encourages personal responsibility. Speaking in Denver Monday, he said it represents "everything I want to do." It is "the one achievement I was most proud of" in his administration. And AmeriCorps' director, Eli Segal, announced that Clinton had told him that, "This is a program I'm going to fight for today, tomorrow and forever."

That's more consistency than this nation has seen from Bill Clinton in a long time. And frankly, it would be refreshing to see. AmeriCorps is a sound concept at a reasonable price, and it comes at a time when more and more students are finding it extremely difficult to pay for college educations. Clinton has staked out a reasonable bottom line; we'd like to see him defend it.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Despite GOP Criticism, National Service Corps Wins Praise Among Participants, Communities

By JOE DAVIDSON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

AUSTIN, Texas — Sharon Brown, a single mother of three, credits joining President Clinton's national service corps with giving her life a new zeal. "I love it," says Ms. Brown, who works with residents in a low-income Austin neighborhood. "I live to come here every day."

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich and many other Republicans in Congress don't love it. Though a tiny speck in the budget, the national service program, known as AmeriCorps, has become a big symbol of the clash between Mr. Clinton and the new GOP Congress over the role of government in Americans' lives.

To the president, the program to involve younger people in a kind of "domestic Peace Corps" is an example of limited, nonbureaucratic government to help deal with community problems; on Monday, the president described it as the "one achievement I could say I was most proud of." To Republicans, AmeriCorps, with an annual cost of \$20,000 to \$30,000 per participant, is an expendable government program the GOP-controlled Congress may decide America doesn't need. "We just don't have to fund it," says Sen. Don Nickles of Oklahoma.

AmeriCorps's parent body, the Corporation for National and Community Service,

in what may have been an omen, was formally initiated in September, the same day a suicidal pilot crashed his small plane into the south lawn of the White House. The national service launching ceremony was moved to the north side. With a budget of \$1.5 billion over three

moted as a "New Democrat" idea. "AmeriCorps isn't big government," argues Eli Segal, who heads the program. "It's smart government that helps people help themselves."

With about 20,000 members in more than 300 projects across the country, AmeriCorps already has more participants than the Peace Corps did at its height. The members, as they are called, aren't volunteers. They receive the minimum wage, plus health benefits, child care and a scholarship grant of \$4,725 for each year of full-time service to pay for college or vocational training. Most serve a maximum of two years. They work with co-sponsoring organizations in the areas of education, public safety, the environment and human needs such as health care. Mr. Clinton calls the program "the embodiment of what we want to do."

Graffiti Battle

In places such as Austin's low-income east side, the political bickering in Washington takes a back seat to the work of the day by AmeriCorps members and local residents. One task is painting over gang graffiti that scars walls around the Booker T. Washington public-housing development. After spreading brown paint over gang markings on retaining walls in the housing development yard, Ms. Brown recalls how gang members would successfully put their wall writings higher and higher to escape AmeriCorps redecorative efforts. "We were going to get the best of these people sooner or later," she says. "In the end, we won." The gang members gave up on the graffiti.

Ms. Brown is one of 20 AmeriCorps members in a year-round "Summer of Safety" program sponsored by the city's housing authority, police department and the University of Texas at Austin. The

public assistance, serve in victim-service programs, attend citizen police academy courses, parenting sessions and, for those who need it, classes leading to a high-school equivalency diploma.

Though she received her high-school diploma 14 years ago, the 32-year-old Ms. Brown credits AmeriCorps with getting "the wheels turning in my head." Now she wants to use her scholarship grant to study psychology and become a counselor.

Building Cooperation

Because the participants are from high-crime areas, their presence as public safety workers is particularly helpful in building police-community cooperation, police Sgt. Michael McDonald maintains. "The contact, that's something we could not have accomplished without the program," he says.

At Allison Elementary School, AmeriCorps members generally are university students eager to put their idealism to work. "I see these kids growing. I see these kids learning. I know I'm making a difference," says Andrew Martin, a 19-year-old biochemistry major from a middle-income family in the "seriously backwoods" community of New Boston, Texas.

His adult body positioned on a chair made for a five-year-old, Mr. Martin, who is considering becoming a patent attorney or physician, marvels at how working with the eager children around him reduces stress. "You walk into a classroom and you have 14 voices calling your name. It brightens your day no matter how bad a day you've had," he says. "It's hard to get

stressed when kids are learning what two plus two is and they're excited about it."

One program AmeriCorps officials particularly are excited about is the immunization effort in Texas. In one demonstration program, 80 AmeriCorps members helped inoculate more than 100,000 children who lacked immunizations even though they were free. That program continues with members such as Tina Hernandez and Barbara Williams, who work at a clinic in Zavala Elementary School. Both neighborhood residents, Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Williams organize health fairs, go door-to-door publicizing health services and even provide transportation to doctors' offices.

To Elaine Sandoval, whose four children have been immunized and given physicals through the outreach efforts of AmeriCorps members, the program means her children get the care they need. "If I have to take my little boy to the doctor, I don't have a car and it's raining, they will take me," Ms. Sandoval says.

'Grass-Roots Effort'

The AmeriCorps members "do a lot of the basic pavement pounding, telling people that I'm here, that the services are free," says Karen Miller, the school-based registered nurse. "If they weren't here with the grass-roots effort, I would not get the population that I do."

Though AmeriCorps is designed to invigorate community service, GOP opponents contend it does just the opposite. The Clinton administration, Sen. Charles Grassley complained in a speech, "seeks to federally bureaucratize voluntarism,



Eli Segal

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Jan 18, 1995

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thereby standing the concept on its head." In a series of letters between Sen. Grassley of Iowa and Mr. Segal, the senator said "It seems the laudable goals of community service and reinventing government . . . are being undermined by the establishment and funding of a large and costly bureaucracy."

Sen. Grassley contends the average per-participant cost, including nonfederal funding, is more than \$30,000. That is "enough money to cover four years of tuition and fees for three full-time students at the University of Iowa," he told a Heritage Foundation audience. That doesn't include administrative overhead, he adds, such as a \$1.7 million contract to a public-relations firm.

Documents supplied to Sen. Grassley's office by Mr. Segal indicate total per-participant costs ranging from \$25,000 to \$70,000. Mr. Segal says in an interview that the average per-participant cost, including the educational grant but excluding the co-sponsor match, actually is closer to \$20,000. AmeriCorps acts as an investment banker, he argues, leveraging other monies in a public-private partnership for community betterment. The General Accounting Office is studying the cost issue.

Strong Opposition

Even a \$20,000 cost for each participant is too high for many Republicans, particularly when some co-sponsors provide matching funds from other federal sources. And what Republicans think is important. Only six GOP senators and 26 House members voted to create the program in 1993. In the new GOP Congress, the opposition—led by Speaker Gingrich—is even stronger.

But in Austin, principal Fred Estrello maintains that the AmeriCorps members who work with his youngest students at Allison Elementary are a blessing. "It's made a real difference," he declares. "I wish I could have one in each class for each grade level."

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The New York Times

Clinton Says Service Plan Can't Be Cut

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1995

Defends His Venture From G.O.P. Critics

By DOUGLAS JEHL
Special to The New York Times

DENVER, Jan. 16 — President Clinton today mounted a defense of his \$500 million program that encourages young people to take part in national service, an idea that Congressional Republicans have in their budget-cutting sights.

The program, known as Americorps, now includes 20,000 young people who work full or part time at minimum wage in one of 300 different programs in communities around the country. In return for Government help in repaying their college loans. In an address here today, the President proclaimed that its establishment had been perhaps his proudest achievement.

But the new Republican leaders in Congress have suggested that the program be eliminated to help finance a new tax cut. Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia was quoted in Newsweek magazine as saying that he was "totally, unequivocally opposed" to the Clinton program, which he labeled "coerced voluntarism" and "gimmickry."

In a careful response today, Mr. Clinton took pains to insist that the national service program was "not a bureaucracy." He said the program should be spared from the spending cuts that the White House has vowed to work with Republicans to bring about because the program is already "changing the way that government works."

"The purpose of all this is not to wreck the Government, not to give us a mean-spirited government, but to give us a lean government that will work with us to solve all our problems," the President said.

After two months in which the White House has embraced substantial parts of the Republican agenda, today's defense served notice that the national service program would be among the features of Mr. Clinton's program for which he remained determined to fight.

As the President began a two-day Western trip here by commemorating the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before flying to California to pay tribute to the state's latest efforts to contend with natural disaster, aides said he had already planned the encourage community service as a proper way to honor the slain civil rights leader.

But after Presidential aides

*Drawing the line
with budget cutters
who have attacked
national service.*

into a room here where reporters were working to volunteer one last word. "It's an effort that deserves support and not a meat cleaver," Mr. McCurry said of the national service program.

The President himself did not mention Mr. Gingrich by name in his speech to a vast crowd of local residents who gathered in Denver's outdoor downtown amphitheater to commemorate Dr. King's birthday and to celebrate the Federal holiday in his name.

Mr. Clinton's aides were similarly choosing their words carefully, saying they hoped that Mr. Gingrich could be brought around. But throughout the day, the President and his aides spoke from a common script in insisting that the program deserved protection.

In campaigning for the Presidency, Mr. Clinton made his support for a national service program a central theme, and he and his aides were able to celebrate less than eight months later when Congress, with some Republican support, adopted legislation authorizing the program in 1993.

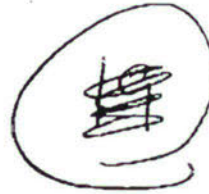
At the time, Mr. Gingrich expressed mixed feelings about the program but voted against it, and his comments over the weekend appear to make it likely that fellow Republicans may follow his lead as the House Appropriations Committee begins its search for spending cuts.

In its first year, the Americorps program cost \$300 million. It has grown to \$500 million in the current fiscal year and, while the White House has not yet submitted its budget request for the fiscal year 1996, its plans have called for the program to continue to grow.

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Gingrich's remarks, the White House moved quickly this morning in what a senior Administration official described as an effort to "draw the line" around the national service program and to portray its critics as wrongheaded.

Mr. Clinton's remarks here were preceded by an impromptu briefing on in a rear compartment of Air Force One in which senior officials who insisted on anonymity professed disbelief at Mr. Gingrich's stance. Later, Michael D. McCurry, the White House spokesman, ventured



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The Washington Post

THE WASHINGTON POST TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1995

Evoking King, Clinton Defends National Service

*White House Draws Line
Against Hill Republicans*

By Ann Devroy
Washington Post Staff Writer

AT

DENVER, Jan. 16—President Clinton, chiding Republicans for their opposition to his national service program, today evoked the memory of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in summoning Americans to repay their country for their freedoms by providing responsible service to their communities.

Without directly attacking House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), who opposes the national service program under which students do community work in exchange for college stipends, Clinton made clear that he will use the issue to draw a line between his policies and those of the GOP. White House aides have suggested that Clinton would veto any effort by Republicans to kill the program.

"I was told . . . in this new Congress there may be a move to abolish the national service corps to save money to pay for tax cuts," the president told a rally in Civic Center Park here. Asserting his own belief in a leaner government and middle-class tax cuts, Clinton said, nonetheless, that the "purpose" of the effort to reduce the government "is not to wreck the government, not to give us a mean-spirited government. It is to give us a lean government that will help us to work together to solve our own problems."

The White House seized on some recent comments by Gingrich opposing national service to reinforce Clinton's gentle criticism. The president's statement was part of an effort to point out subjects where he has fundamental philosophical disagreements with the Republican-controlled Congress. That contrasts with the administration's public approach at the opening of Congress, when the White House was at pains to emphasize subjects on which it agreed with the Republicans.

Gingrich has opposed the national service program since its introduction by Clinton in

See CLINTON, A4, Col. 1

■ Civil rights panel urges leadership from the president and Congress. Page A7

Clinton Defends National Service At King Day Rally

CLINTON, From A1

1993; he and many Republicans voted against it. He repeated that opposition in an interview with Newsweek published today in which he said, "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service. . . . It is coerced volunteerism. It's a gimmick."

Eli Segal—head of the national service program Americorps—called reporters to the White House to outline the hundreds of community service program that workers are involved in around the nation and to have workers give testimonials to benefits they and their communities received from the program.

Segal asserted that the program is precisely what the voters want—a nonbureaucratic effort that "enables young people to give a hand to their communities, get a hand paying for college and show all of us what's best in America."

He invited Gingrich, publicly and in a letter release by the White House, to join him in visiting Americorps programs. "Americorps programs renew America just the way he's talked about," Segal said of Gingrich, "with citizens solving problems from the grass roots up."

Al From, president of the Democratic Leadership Council, the conservative wing of the party, also entered the fray. In a statement, From quoted Gingrich's calls for revitalizing citizenship and civil society, and said, "To abolish national service would be inconsistent with those important goals." He called Gingrich's words "a sad retreat" from ideals he espouses.

A senior official traveling with Clinton said the president was "surprised" at Gingrich's opposition. The program, he said, "is what Americans are for. They're asking for streamlining government but to make that work you've got to be able to provide incentives for volunteerism and that's what national service is all about. It's an effective way to get kids involved in serving this country. . . . It is a little bit difficult to understand tax credit as incentives, tax cuts as incentive but not support national service."

Gingrich's spokesman, Tony Blankley, said of Gingrich's opposition to national service: "This is what he has said all along. Most Republicans oppose it. 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."

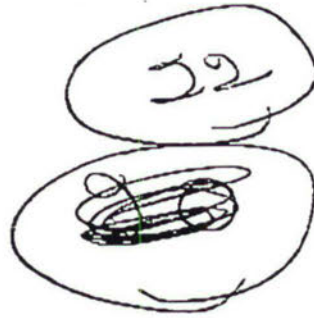
Under the program, participants work at least 1,700 hours a year on projects involving public safety, health, education or the environment. In exchange, they receive \$4,725 per year for college. Clinton had wanted a program open to all college students who wish to participate but was forced to scale back in the face of federal budget problems. Congress originally funded 20,000 Americorps positions; 350 projects nationwide.

Clinton made his remarks at a large rally.

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Jan 17,
1995

Clinton and Sen. Dan Rostenkowski Campbell
(D-Colo.) disembark from Air Force One in Denver.



Clinton said the nation must "build a new community to survive and without naming Republicans directly say those who, like King, fought for civil rights in this country did not do so to "advance the proposition we are just isolated individuals out there and everything we as a government is wrong."

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NASHVILLE, TN
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AmeriCorps' positive step

WHAT was once a mere campaign pledge is becoming reality.

President Clinton's AmeriCorps, a community service program creating opportunities for people of all walks of life, is taking shape, including right here in Nashville.

Locally, some 60 people are embarking on a plan either to help provide prenatal and post-natal care for women, or by assisting in health-care services for elderly people.

The jobs pay, but not much. Each participant will get a package that totals about \$7,000. That's a substantial amount to a young person who needs money for school, but it shows that most of the participants are involved for the broader rewards of community service.

From the beginning, the Clinton program has been hailed as a domestic Peace Corps. That it is. But where the Peace Corps, launched in the 1960s, made ambassadors of young people to third world countries, the AmeriCorps system concentrates on needs right here at home. And as the local organization

demonstrates, it reaches right into our own backyard.

Each person in the program is bound for a rewarding personal experience. The plan will no doubt create bonds between the community servants and those who can use the extra care and attention. It strikes at the heart of some of the gripping needs in our society.

AmeriCorps is not the answer to every problem in the country. But it puts the emphasis on opportunity and on helping fellow citizens in a way that also provides a catalyst for education for its members.

The program should prove to be an inspiration, not just for those who participate now but for others who may see it as a path they would like to follow themselves one day. Leaders in government are always looking for effective ways to address grassroots needs of the people. Here is one. The AmeriCorps plan needs the continued support of all Americans so that it can truly reach the goals of community service and can pay dividends that last a lifetime. ■

FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

JACKSONVILLE, FL
DAILY 182,136

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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.

The Washington Post

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1994

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MARY McGRORY

True Domestic Servants

Eli Segal, the head of the National Corporation for National and Community Service, says his job is to "close the gap between the poetry and the prose of national service." He talks that way. He is a serious, sensitive soul who is a lifelong practicing idealist. He started out in the McCarthy campaign in 1968, got hooked on politics but kept plugging away at successful business ventures to support his habit.

Monday may have been to some the day that a small airplane foiled the technology and crashed below the president's bedroom. To Eli Segal, it was the day that Bill Clinton swore in the first 15,000 members of a domestic peace corps. Because of the wreckage on the South Lawn, the ceremony had to be put back three hours and relocated to the front steps, but the fervor never flagged.

"AmeriCorps is what Bill Clinton is about," says Segal, who hired him to run Texas for George McGovern in 1972. "I remember right

MARY McGRORY

True Domestic Servants

McGRORY, From C1

after he was sworn in and he had been talking to the president of Namibia and he raved about how the Peace Corps had rebuilt his country. 'The Peace Corps is Kennedy's transcendent legacy. I hope my legacy will be national service.'" Kennedy, Clinton's avowed idol, was astonished at the response to his call for altruism. Campuses were supposedly still in the thrall of '50s apathy, but it turned out they were just waiting to be asked to do something for somebody else. Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver, was swamped in applications, and the corps became the most honored and respected of government agencies. Its alumni were welcomed home with open arms, escorted to the top of the employment and college admission lines. Some conservative senators could not believe that red-blooded young Americans wanted to go to some Godforsaken country and share the wretched lives of the natives when they could be taking the first steps towards making a killing on Wall Street. They never understood the joy of being liberated from self-absorption. Americans loved the Peace Corps because it represented the way they like to think of themselves.

A domestic corps was organized in 1964 but never achieved the same aura. In fact, many Republican politicians, among them Richard Nixon, regarded it with unalloyed loathing.

They saw VISTA volunteers as federally subsidized rabble-rousers who stirred their impoverished clients to organize the riots that tore American cities apart in the '60s.

Segal has studied the history, fears no repetition. Besides, he says equally, "Many of those 'agitators' are now mayors." The AmeriCorps workers are indoctrinated in the idea of service to others, not doing something that makes them feel good or look good. "Advocacy" is strongly forbidden as is "make-work," which benefits only the doer. Three thousand VISTAs have been folded into AmeriCorps, which hopes to field a total of 100,000 "practical angels" in three years.

Their job will be to make urban life more livable. Through 330 programs, some of them tested in "Summer of Service" pilots. They will help the police patrol bad neighborhoods. They will escort housebound old people to the grocery store and school children through thoroughly explored routes to school that skirt crack houses and drug deals. They will counsel young girls not to have babies—volunteers will go into schools and help with sex education. They will immunize babies, tutor children and provide them with mentors—and help police disarm them. They will institute dispute-resolution sessions. They will walk women who work late home from the bus stop.

Segal's office received 100,000 applicants. They chose the 20,000 final-

ists with an eye to "reflecting America," and all ages have been accepted. They include high school dropouts and doctors who are trying to pay off college loans. Workers work 1,700 hours a year, will be paid the minimum wage, \$7,500 and also earn \$4,725 in educational expenses. Health benefits and child care if required are provided.

Republicans have criticized AmeriCorps in pretty predictable terms. Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa) complains that it creates a massive new federal bureaucracy and pays young people to do things that other young people would gladly do for nothing. Sen. Don Nickles (Okla.) says it "gives a lot of help to people who don't need it."

Segal doesn't mind. He knows his people have to be as competent as they are compassionate. At this time, it is important to show Americans that government programs that work with the private sector can work. If AmeriCorps uniforms—white T-shirts, black caps with the logo on the back—become familiar and welcome in poor communities, the program will swiftly acquire a constituency.

Kennedy stumbled on the truth that many young Americans think service is cool. Clinton wants to show that it helps givers, too, who are willing to go into dismal precincts and do as much as they can to make life there more endurable. Segal thinks it can be done.

See McGRORY, C7, Col. 1

Thursday, September 15, 1994 ★

CHRISTOPHER MATTHEWS

Bill Clinton's citizen corps

BILL CLINTON brought the Peace Corps home this week. While keeping thousands of Jack Kennedy's volunteer brigade working overseas, the 48-year-old president has brought the spirit of Kennedy's 1961 creation to the United States.

It's called "AmeriCorps." Starting with a White House swearing-in ceremony on Monday, 14,000 young Americans went to work in education, public safety, the environment and other community projects. They will work one or two years at a low salary, receiving a contribution to their educational expenses when they finish their service.

There's far more to the deal than this. What's being exchanged in these 14,000 cases is not simply

Christopher Matthews is The Examiner's Washington bureau chief.

work for money, but commitment for opportunity.

A young person joins AmeriCorps to serve his country. One reward is the chance to pursue his education. Another is the chance to be part of something bigger than one person's career plan.

It's called citizenship. It's that impulse to pick up a McDonald's

The more
people serve,
the more they
are loyal

wrapper blowing across the ground and put it in a trash can for the basic reason that you care.

AmeriCorps promises two great benefits of similar but grander scope:

► A greater Americanism:

Volunteers in this domestic version of the Peace Corps will work in areas they might not have driven their car through otherwise. People will cross lines of ethnicity, class and geography they have treated almost as armed frontiers.

Kids from working-class families will serve with second- and third-generation college graduates. Ivy Leaguers will mix with gang members. Girls from the city will meet country boys.

This mixing of our American experience has always been one of the great things about serving in the military. In the post-Cold War era, it is an essential ingredient in keeping this country thinking and feeling about itself as a country.

► A greater patriotism:

The more people serve, the more they are loyal. Look at the way veterans honor their country. They treasure America for the special reason that they have given

something powerful to her, something of themselves.

THIS EXPERIENCE, of having rendered a service to one's country, is missing in the generations since Vietnam. It helps explain the void in national emotions now abroad in the land.

People who have never served their country are unlikely to feel the same bond as those who have. They are unlikely to imagine anyone else doing something out of patriotic interest.

This is not Pollyanna. Niccolo Machiavelli, writing in 16th century Florence, observed that the most loyal subjects are those who have undergone hardship for their prince. The same goes for a republic.

AmeriCorps, which Bill Clinton inaugurated this week, answers the question of how we Americans can forge healthy bonds of citizenship in peacetime. By working in their communities and serving in a national corps, the youth of today can develop ties of comradeship and patriotism similar in kind to those felt by the World War II and Vietnam generations.

Much has been said this summer of discontent about "cynicism." People have lost their faith in their leaders, in self-government itself. Everyone is out to get what they can and say anything necessary to get away with it.

The best evidence that people are not out for themselves is to find a corps of people who aren't. America will be looking to AmeriCorps for inspiration.

The Boston Globe

SEPTEMBER 11, 1994

THOMAS OLIPHANT

Serving others and themselves

WASHINGTON
America's currently grumpy and cynical majority should take a break tomorrow, kick back and think about the commitment upwards of 20,000 young people are about to make.

In Indiana, eight of them will fan out to coordinate activities of Multiple Sclerosis Society volunteers who help patients learn to make do on their own.

In Kansas, one lucky kid will work for the American Farmworkers, helping train migrant and seasonal workers to reduce exposure to pesticides and take advantage of education and health services.

In Kentucky, 45 more will join with the National Center for Family Literacy as teachers' aides, helping adults learn to read in classrooms and at home.

And in Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa and six other states living with the impact of last year's floods, 73 young people will work for the Agriculture Department, helping restore flood control facilities and wetlands, and compiling damage assessments.

For this and hundreds of other jobs lasting a year or two, the young people will get the minimum wage, health insurance, and awards of not much more than \$2000 per year of service that can be applied to college tuition or higher education loans. It's hardly lucrative, but then that is not the point.

After more than seven years of talk by conservatives and liberals alike, the embrace of candidate Bill Clinton, eight months of legislative work, and a year of preparation, national service is finally here.

It's called AmeriCorps, and the vanguard of the first year's pioneering class of 20,000 will be sworn in tomorrow here and in 14 other locations. In one sense it's already a success because the nearly 400 programs around the country were swamped with applications, but the tougher test is still to be passed before the program comes up for re-authorization in 1996.

By definition, AmeriCorps is that most terrifying of 1990s entities — a new government program; but it draws

on a rich, deep tradition.

When it ceremonially starts, there will be a few senior citizens present who in their youth both gave and received during the Depression as members of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

That makes perfect sense; this all started with the CCC.

There will also be some not quite so senior citizens whose service to their country in the military was followed by the chance to go to college on Harry Truman's GI Bill.

And of course there will be current and former members of John Kennedy's Peace Corps, including founding father Sargent Shriver, as well as veterans of some of the offshoots he spawned that are still functioning — including domestic service programs like VISTA and Foster Grandparents.

The new Corporation for National Service's Clintonite CEO, Eli Segal, is acutely conscious of what his new enterprise is and is not. It's not pure service, because a benefit is involved; it's not make-work or spare-time volunteerism, because full-time commitment is required; it's not simply a student aid program, because poor kids can get grants and kids from families of moderate means can get loans without any service requirement; and the analogy with the GI Bill isn't exact, because the service isn't compulsory and the benefit is much less generous.

Where Segal has a leg up on the rest of us is in his knowledge that the kids are there, that the community needs are enormous, that the excitement on both sides is palpable, and that the efficient linking of the two can bring lasting benefits to both. Segal knows as well that some kids are going to screw up, and that some projects are going to be more successful than others, but he also knows that a variety of tests and dry runs have shown that he has a potentially big winner on his hands.

Segal is a successful businessman and a dreamer; he and Bill Clinton first linked up in George McGovern's presidential campaign. His energy and ability have brought AmeriCorps to tomorrow.

After that, it's up to the kids. Every urban park they build and staff, every adult they teach to read is a building block for a frayed sense of community, an arrow aimed at the heart of cynicism. As the President would say, this is a Big Deal.

Thomas Oliphant is a Globe columnist.

The New York Times

Page 121 1994 The New York Times

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 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. □

SEPTEMBER 15-16, 1993

ALSO

**A Q&A with
President Clinton
on AmeriCorps**

USA WEEK

ISSUES
BY CAROL CLURMAN

Can Clinton's AmeriCorps help?

'A lot of America's problems could be solved one on one,' the president says

PRESIDENT CLINTON, WHO this past week launched a national service program for college-bound youth, says volunteering should start at even younger ages — and be required for graduation from public school.

"I would like to see every state adopt as part of its minimum school standards a community service requirement," Clinton said in a recent Oval Office interview with USA WEEKEND.

About one-quarter of the country's public schools already have made community service work mandatory, in spite of protests — and lawsuits — from some parents who say schools don't have the right to force children to do so-called volunteer work.

Clinton's community service program, called AmeriCorps, is aimed at helping college-bound young people pay for their education and get a taste of community service in the bargain (see box). Interview excerpts:

Q: Isn't it still going to be tough for students to pay for college, even with the \$4,725 a year from AmeriCorps?

Sure it is. But it's something. You have to put it in context with the other thing we're doing with college education, which has not gotten enough publicity. A major part of the economic program I passed last year, which reduced the deficit, was also a dramatic reformation of the college loan program. Under the new system, young people can borrow money to go to college at a lower interest rate and can exercise the option to pay it off over as long as 30 years as a percentage of their income. These two things together will make a big difference.

Q: What's your advice to students who don't get into AmeriCorps and don't qualify for the student loans? Will nearly all of them do [qualify for loans]?



MORE ON AMERICORPS

- 100,000 jobs in the next three years.
- Workers get minimum wage, health benefits and \$4,725 per year toward college (up to two years).
- Cost: \$1.5 billion, approved by Congress.
- 375 non-profit groups have signed on.
- Everybody is eligible; individual programs select workers.
- What critics say: It's just another government program that won't work; it's not big enough to make a real difference.



AmeriCorps pilot programs in action: Helping to restore Colorado wetlands, left, and tutoring Boston schoolchildren



Q: What kind of influence has Mrs. Clinton had on your feelings about community service?

She did a lot of volunteer work when she was a young person. When she came to Arkansas, she started a legal services clinic there. When I became governor, she'd already gotten some women together who were family advocates and formed a group called the Arkansas Advocates

for Children and Families. She's been my role model, because it's been so much more a part of the fabric of her everyday life even than it has been of mine.

Q: Has it been hard for her these days, now that she is so caught up in ...

Yes. I think she misses that a lot.

Q: Do you see her going back to community service?

I think she would in a heartbeat if she thought she could, if she had the chance. We like the life we had before we came here, because it was informal, open and full — very full of the things we cared about. And a big part of that for her was the community work she did.

Q: Have you spoken with Chelsea about joining AmeriCorps, or has she expressed any interest in it?

She's fairly big into community service. She did a week's worth of work this summer on her own with her church group here in downtown Washington with young children who came from poor families. And her school, Sidwell [Friends], requires all students to do community service work each semester. So my little girl [now 14 years old] will probably outdistance her parents in her devotion to community service.

Q: Do you think public schools should require it?

Absolutely I do. Several years ago, I served with

the then-governor of New Jersey, Tom Kean, on a Carnegie Foundation group on middle schools, and we made a list of recommendations [including] a community service component in the curriculum of our public schools.

Q: A lot of people say that's not legal — that you can't require students to do volunteer work.

I know that. And that's why nationally I don't think you should, probably. But I think states require all kinds of things that are important for education. This is a big, diverse country; it's

**AmeriCorps
'can have a lot
to do with what
kind of country
we turn out to
be 10, 20 years
from now.'**

a wonderful place. And we're weaker when we're divided. ... [Community service] will stay with them for the rest of their lives, even if it's just in their habits and attitudes as citizens and how they talk to their own children. It wouldn't do the kids of this country any harm to require them to be in community service.

Q: When you were young, did you ever consider joining the Peace Corps?

I thought about it. But by the time I came of age, there were just other issues and other concerns that kind of dominated my imagination. But I was really captivated with it, and I still sometimes wish I had had the experience.

Q: Is there any one place you dreamed about going?

I wish I had served in Africa, because I think Americans understand Africa less well than any other continent. □

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1994

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.

TUESDAY
NOV 29 1994

TRUE SERVICE

AmeriCorps National Service allows us to help out right at home

On Sept. 12, I was one of 20,000 sworn into the AmeriCorps National Service program. Now I am one of 20 spread strategically across the state working for a program known as New Jersey Community Water Watch. A coalition of 15 environmental and community organizations came together to form Water Watch, and now the 20 of us will join in full time.

National Service — what a concept — setting out to tackle the problems in our own backyard for a change. The idea has been around for years: work hard to empower, serve, and educate in the places that need it most. It is a tradition exemplified in the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps as well as the Peace Corps. This time the opportunity is geared toward young people like myself, to experience this in our country, attacking the problems that affect our lives.

Friends, relatives, and other curious individuals asked in disbelief what it was that inspired me to do this. Was it the extravagant living stipend (minimum wage would have covered more)? Was it the light work schedule (at least 45 hours a week)? Was it, perhaps, the \$4,725 earmarked in my name as an educational award? I don't think so.

What is a summa cum laude college graduate doing willingly accepting a salary cut of more than 50 percent? What on Earth could possibly have motivated me to do this? It's simple. I believe I can make a difference and I know I am in for the learning experience of a lifetime.

What can one person do in the course of nine months? What can a group of 20 people accomplish? By June, we will have organized 14 community waterway cleanups and stream-walked about 15,600 hours covering 9,360 miles of waterway. Over the course of nine months, we will individually serve 1,700 hours assessing water quality, building stronger communities, and bringing educational programs to schools, and that's just the beginning. We will be mapping, surveying, and monitor-

ing the waterways in the most environmentally and economically distressed areas of the state. We will work in conjunction with organizations already in existence and make a significant impact within the community. When we leave, we intend to have Water Watch groups registered with the Department of Environmental Protection in each community we're in.

Currently, our country and our state are plagued with problems. Everyone feels the impact of this. Environmental degradation has brought dangers to our lives that are almost unfathomable. Mercury, PCB, and dioxin levels in our waters are sky high; all of these pollutants have been linked to public health threats such as brain damage and cancer. Nationally, over 70 billion gallons of hazardous wastes are generated and dumped each year with 15 billion pound being used here in New Jersey. In our small state, more than 50 percent of our drinking water supply comes from regions deemed unfishable and unswimmable. It is difficult not to feel wholly estranged from your environment when you life has been spent surrounded by pavement. This is the same pavement that provides a smooth sail for the motor oil and sidewalk trash that gets swept up in the rain and poured down storm drains, into the waterways that is the drinking water supply. Although the problems facing New Jersey communities are many and acute, simple energy and hope are the key ingredients in a change for the better.

Now, I'm not naive. I now my nine months of service won't cure the problems we face, but with 19,999 others working at the same time to get things done, you'd better believe there will be a difference. One person can do a lot. Together, we can do more.

Laurie M. Goldstein
AmeriCorps volunteer
New Jersey Community Water Watch
New Brunswick



T R A N S M I T T A L

TO:

David Silverberg

FAX #:

FROM:

GEORGE HUTCHINSON, PROJECT DIRECTOR

DATE:

PAGES TO FOLLOW

REMARKS:



Ve Record Black History

Volume 27, Issue 36 Wednesday, January 4, 1995

CIV
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AMERICORPS-National Civilian Community Corps Helps Community Excellence Project with Neighborhood Revitalization

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AMERICORPS-National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), Western Region and Community Excellence Project have joined together to further the goals of the Neighborhood Revitalization activities in South Phoenix Village. Americorps-NCCC will paint homes and clean yards of homeowners during the week of January 16, 1995.

The Americorps-NCCC is the national, residential service-learning program that offers community service opportunities for young Americans in return for educational awards. Corps members work in teams and are deployed to work in projects that meet critical needs in urban and rural communities. Drawing on the best methods used by civilian service projects, the NCCC provides an experience of the Armed Forces in motivating and training American youth.

Community Excellence Project and residents of South Phoenix Village will host a Welcome/Prayer Breakfast, January 15, 1995 at 9:00 a.m. They will also participate in the African

Luther King Walk, on January 16, 1995 and begin their work on the morning of January 17, 1995.

Ret. Brigadier General Donald L. Scott, Vice President and Director of Americorps-National Civilian Community Corps will be the keynote speaker for the Welcome/Prayer Breakfast. Governor Symington and Councilman Williams will also welcome the Corps members and recognize the neighborhood revitalization projects in South Phoenix Village.

include Governors Office of Community Programs, Project Intervention, City of Phoenix Neighborhood and Human Services Departments, America's Charities, Ansar Unlimited, and 100 Black Men Of Phoenix, Inc.

Community Excellence Project's Board and Staff extend an invitation to the Phoenix Community to join us on Sunday, January 15, 1995 at 9:00 a.m. in welcoming the Americorps-NCCC, Western Region.

For more information, call 534-8876.

Bill's Brigade: Young Adults Serve in San Diego

AmeriCorps goes to work in service to community

By STEVE SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

The Newt Gingrichs of America believe President Clinton lacks corps values.

Well, value this: While holiday preparations absorbed many of us last week, hundreds of uniformed young adults based in Point Loma sweated and sacrificed.

They carved trails, cleaned riverbanks, helped in police stations.

They are part of Bill's Brigade, volunteers with President Clinton's new community service army marshaled in early September under the name AmeriCorps.

"Young Americans really do care," said corps member Sesilia Song of Texas. They're not the lost Generation X you hear so much about."

Assigned to an AmeriCorps crew at the

Point Loma Naval Training Center, Song is among 15,000 people serving communities nationwide under the \$1.5 billion initiative.

Corps members earn a modest living allowance and \$4,725 toward the cost of a college education for each year in the program. The Point Loma effort is among nine separate AmeriCorps programs unfolding in San Diego County.

In Balboa Park, corps members lead safety and graffiti patrols.

In Escondido, they develop youth programs at schools, businesses and community centers.

In Chula Vista, they help city police with fingerprinting, clerical work and other du-

See Corps on Page A-26



Union-Tribune / JOHN GIBBINS

Hitting the beach: AmeriCorps workers (left to right) Audrey King, Lucio Torres and Chris Opela check Cardiff State Park to see if it is accessible to the disabled.



Union-Tribune / JOHN GIBBINS

right of a handicapped parking space at Cardiff State Beach. It is accessible to those with disabilities.

inmates trying to shave their sentences.

Some sailors on the Point Loma base dismiss corps members as socialist do-goodniks, according to some volunteers. Clinton's Communist Corps, they're called.

Many corps members said they were drawn to service by reasons both altruistic and practical: They can help others, and make money toward their own education.

Ron Edwards of Washington said the money will help cover tuition at the New Mexico Military Institute, which he hopes to attend in the fall.

He could just as well flip burgers to make money, he said, but it wouldn't be enough. "I understand that there's no perfect society," he said. "But personally, I try to be the best that I can be."

On his dorm door hangs an inspirational quote from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. On his bookshelf, Edwards keeps a copy of Sir Thom-

as More's "Utopia."

Nineteen-year-old Isa Fuimaono, another member of Song's crew, said neglecting the needs of others is considered a form of betrayal among Samoans.

She is shocked by the homeless people she sees calling for help along San Diego's streets. "It just breaks my heart," she said. "It's the Samoan way to help others."

Work experience

Not everyone takes their work totally to heart.

Chip Lopez, 19, of Huntington Park said he joined more for the work experience than any warm and fuzzies. He hopes to become a forest ranger or firefighter after leaving AmeriCorps.

Lopez was in Song's crew last week as it headed off to its latest project. Song drove, Edwards rode shotgun.

The tightly knit group put the

finishing touches on an ambitious survey of 10 state parks along the county coast — from Silver Strand beach to Torrey Pines to Cardiff.

Their assignment: To see if the parks meet rigid state and federal standards aimed at making them accessible to those in wheelchairs and to others with disabilities.

They measured parking spaces and sidewalk inclines and conducted other checks, using detailed forms to help build a computer database for use by state officials.

While the work seemed mundane, park officials called it critical. "It's important to ensure that all our park facilities are fully accessible," said park superintendent Navarro.

When Song's team reunites following the holidays, it goes to Phoenix for several days to paint houses for the poor.

After that, it may head to Northern California for further state park surveys.

Among those sponsoring AmeriCorps projects are the Urban Corps of San Diego, San Diego State University Foundation and the San Diego Consortium and Private Industry Council.

Like commissioning a ship

The Point Loma effort is one of four nationwide operating on downsized military bases. The residential program is known as the National Civilian Community Corps.

"It has come together in such a short time ... and has already made a tremendous impact," said Paul Johnson, director of the Point Loma program and a retired Navy captain.

"This has been a very challenging job, and I kind of associate it with commissioning a new ship," he said. "You start with a shell, a ship, you build policies, you build a crew, and you have a mission to perform."

Not all are up to it.

Fourteen people have left the Point Loma program, either for personal reasons or because they were thrown out.

"We all come from diverse backgrounds and that can create conflict," said Pogue. She added, however, that Song's dozen has learned to work well together.

Last week, as the crew's van sped down Interstate 5 near Mission Bay, the green-shirted bunch launched into a goofball rendition of a Christmas classic, "Silent Night: Meow, Me-meow, Meowww. Meow, Me-meow, Meowww."

They sang like cats, the whole lot of them, before sputtering into giggles.

Corps

Young adults work in community service

Continued from A-1

ties.

In Lemon Grove, they join others to paint houses for poor senior citizens.

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Hard at work: AmeriCorps worker Ron Edwards measures the height of a tree. Edwards' crew was trying to see if the park met standards making

We-Are-The-World cast. Young Americans of all stripes would come together in a year of service to the nation, bridging society's racial, economic and other differences.

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A dozen in a white van

At least four days a week, Song's 12-member crew sets out for the field in a Ford van.

They pile into the white van, wearing regulation forest-green uniforms. Six members are white,

two Samoan, two Latino, one African-American and one Korean.

Some are middle class, some poor. A few have college degrees.

"It was scary at first because I'm not used to meeting all these different people," said 19-year-old Annette Sagia of Samoa, a member of Song's crew. "Where I come from, it's basically just Samoans."

"I'm learning new things about the culture of others, about their religion, about their eating habits, about their way of life and all that."

Said Sara Pogue of Washington: "In the four months that I've been here, I've learned a lot about people. Just because Annette and I don't look alike doesn't mean we don't have the same problems."

"We're not as different as we think we are."

When people spot an AmeriCorps worker, confusion sometimes follows. Some see them toiling and think they're prison

Pacific Beach Man Hopes To Revive Civilian Conservation Corps

By Melanie Nickel
Beach & Bay Press

Pacific Beach resident Bud Wilbur thinks the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was the best thing that ever happened to him and his generation.

Established in 1933, primarily to provide employment for young men, the CCC eventually hired 3 1/2 million men for periods of six months to two years. Living in military-style camps, CCC members developed parks, built roads, planted trees and fought forest fires until the corps was disbanded in 1942. There were 19 CCC camps in the San Diego area, and its members helped to develop

Cabrillo National Monument, Mount Helix and Kate Sessions Park.

"We learned values like good work ethics and respect for the environment that lasted throughout our lives," Wilbur said. "It was a character-shaping experience for us."

As southwest regional director of the National Association of CCC Alumni (NACCCA), he wants the youth of today to have the same opportunity.

Unlike alumni groups that focus on reunions and fellowship, NACCCA devotes the considerable energy of its members (average age: 75) to lobbying for the setup of CCC-style programs for young people.



Sherry Squire, recruiting officer for the National Civilian Community Corps., receives a book about the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from Pacific Beach resident Bud Wilbur, regional director of the National Association of CCC Alumni.

They have had considerable success. The 18-year-old California Conservation Corps was a model for the nation. There are now 35 to 40 state corps and numerous city and county programs. The city of San Diego has a program, San Diego Urban Corps which was started in 1989 by then-mayor Maureen O'Connor at the suggestion of Wilbur's wife, Marion.

But the group's greatest pride and joy is the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC, pronounced "N-triple-C"), a federal pilot program which began last month. Its first 239 members are currently in residence at the closing Naval Training Center in Point Loma, one of four such centers in the country. Teams from the NCCC are fanning out through San Diego to improve parks, teach schoolchildren, clean up graffiti and otherwise improve the community.

Wilbur's organization may have planted the idea for the NCCC. President Bill Clinton signed the law in 1990, the

NACCCA convention was in Arkansas, and Clinton, who was governor of Arkansas, was one of our speakers," he recalled. "He told us he had been reviewing the idea (of a youth conservation corps) and he was going to do it for Arkansas. He said, 'This is something the nation needs.'"

Wilbur and other members of his group helped train the NCCC recruits, who are fascinated by the CCC tradition and regard themselves as its heirs. "They (CCC alumni) are our grandpartners," said Rachel Kozloff, an NCCC team leader. "They come to our events and talk to us. They say we are just like they were."

"We were hoping for more (NCCC) camps, but four is better than none," Marion said. "We feel good that we got it here in San Diego."

NACCCA is now pushing to expand the program. The NCCC accepted only about one applicant in four, and Marion feels bad about the youngsters who were not accepted. "These kids asked for an opportunity, but the government denied them," she said. "That isn't right."

'We learned values like good work ethics and respect for the environment that lasted throughout our lives.'

— Bud Wilbur

The time is right for a new CCC, Wilbur argued. "All this work on the national parks was done 60 years ago (by the old CCC)," he stated. "It's time to renovate it."

Wilbur, who spent most of his career in the Air Force, regards his 18 months in the CCC as a high point in his life. He and Marion are collecting artifacts for a planned museum in San Luis Obispo. He urges any CCC alumnus, or anyone with CCC historical material to donate, to call him at 271-3417.

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To Americorp: a big thank you

A delegation from Americorp has completed its work at Paul Ecke Central Elementary School, building a garden and playground in a park-like setting.

Americorp is like the Peace Corps only young people in the programs work on domestic projects. This is the first Americorp project in Encinitas, and it is one to be proud of.

Now, Paul Ecke Central students can enjoy a new playground facility and garden as an integral part of their education.

Hats off to the Americorp workers who made this project possible. Encinitas will never forget the fruits of your labors.

A2 — Encinitas Sun — Thursday, November 17, 1994

SUN

At the Heart of You

Americorp finishes playground

By Ben Dunigan
Staff Writer

Students and faculty at Paul Ecke Central Elementary bade farewell to workers from the National Civilian Community Corps last week.

A group of 13 workers from the newly formed program, which has been labeled a "domestic Peace Corps" spent a month transforming the elementary school's playground. The national program offers community service opportunities for Americans ages 18 to 24 in return for financial assistance for education purposes.

The end result "Special Places for Special People," a new and different

section of the playground with a nature theme. The campus was the very first of five nationwide projects planned to benefit public elementary schools.

To create "Special Places for Special People" the workers planted 26 trees, including a tipuana tipu tree grove and a tree gazebo, built a small amphitheater with telephone pole seating, and a big hill for the kids to play on, which will soon be covered in grass.

In order to get the NCCC workers to the school, there had to be a community benefit. So in the summer, when the students are enjoying their vacations,

the garden will become a community garden for the public to use and take care of.

"They did a wonderful job," said Mary Plassmeyer, a teacher at the school and the project's coordinator. "There is just no way we would have been able to put this together on our own. Both the NCCC and local donors are the reason we have it."

Those donating money and resources and/or time included the Paul Ecke Central-Pacific View PTA, the Ecke family, the Machado Family, Carol Winterbourne, Candice Porter, Carolyn Cope, Liborio Playa, Bill Burton and Associates, Shephard Seeds, Weidner's Greenhouses, Target, Sunshine Nursery, First Interstate Bank, Progressive Concrete, RCP Brick and Block, Stallings Ranch Nursery, Evergreen Nursery and Pardee Tree Nursery.

The project was the very first for all the members in this NCCC group. They said being able to work at an elementary school was a definite bonus.

"It's been great getting the opportunity to work with the kids like we have and now being able to watch them play on the stuff we helped create for them," said Tonya Dailey, a 24-year-old NCCC worker. "I'm just hoping I get to work with kids in future projects."

Plassmeyer points out that they are still looking for donors of mulch and six-packs of plants to get the garden up and growing. Anyone wishing to donate can call the school at 944-4323.



These Americorp workers got saluted at Paul Ecke Central School last week because they completed work on the campus playground and garden.

NOV 10 1994

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Local woman serves in corps

6297AT
Melanie S. Hershey, daughter of Mark & Marty Hershey, is currently volunteering with National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), in San Diego, Calif., an Ameri Corps program in the Corporation for national and Community Service, created last September when President Clinton signed the national and community Service Trust Act of 1993.

The first official swearing in was held on September 12 in Los Angeles by President Clinton with Andrew Shue as the emcee followed by musical performances from the group Immature, as well as, Patty LaBelle.

The program began with five intense weeks of physical and mental training. Various workshops including diversity, communication, physically challenged and homelessness were attended. Hershey was trained and certified in CPR, First Aid and Disaster Relief. Many challenging team-building activities including W.I.L.D. were completed.

Hershey is part of a 13 member team who began their first five month project on October 11. The team is building 2.5 miles of a wilderness trail which includes two bridges. Two sets of stairs and the restoration of a stream. The trail is located in the Taft Ruffin Canyon which is next to the Taft Junior High School. Part of the project is to educate the students about the surrounding vegetation and wildlife. Miss Hershey is also involved in before and after school recreational opportunities and individual tutoring.

Hershey is a 1990 graduate of Warwick High School and a 1994 graduate of Gettysburg College.

NACCCA Welcomes NCCC to San Diego Center

by Bud Wilbur,
SW Regional Director
NACCCA members welcomed
Corps members to the Naval
g center, San Diego, Calif., on
ter 9, 1994.

The corps members and visitors
walked through the patriotic display of
flags to their welcome ceremonies where
the Navy band entertained with music
that included the CCC March.

The program began with the Navy

Color Guard, San Diego mayor and
NTC base commander. General Scull
was guest speaker. Members of NACCCA
Chapters 55, 110 and 128 were
in reserved front line seats and the recipients of much applause for the legacy
and their advocacy for the NCCC to
become a reality.

Through an article in the *Senior
World*, a grandmother requesting the information for her grandson from
Oregon, brought together the recruiter,
Marlon Wilbur, and the corps member
Joshua Bloom. Twin corps members
are friends of Jack Riker, founder and
past president of Chapter 65, others are
from the efforts of Chapter 55
recruiting. Bryan McMains, president of
Chapter 110, and Bill Hardesty, were
featured on the evening TV news with
the corps members.

Shortly thereafter, at the Urban Corps
of San Diego, scholarship awards were
given to Zoraida Abear and Christy Nieto
from the Marlon and Bud Education
Award, and the Elizabeth M. Zertuche
Memorial Award.

On September 12, members from
Chapters 55 and 128 traveled with the
NCCC corps members to join the Urban
Corps, Vista Volunteers and the AmeriCorps
at the Universal Studios



Bud Wilbur with Zoraida
Abear and Christy Nieto, winners
of the education award.

Amphitheatre in Hollywood for President Clinton's national satellite hookup and induction of all 20,000 AmeriCorps members. Melvin Adams, president of Chapter 50, had been chosen to represent the NACCCA and pass the torch to the next satellite hookup. Melvin gave a brief speech on his work at Griffith Park and received a standing ovation.

On September 13, Bud Wilbur and Bill Pateisen, representing Chapters 55 and 128, attended the NCCC Community Work Group and learned the corps members have projects and proposals already in progress where they will be walking in footsteps of their "grandpartners" — the CCC — in San Diego County.

NACCCA members will be giving the NCCC history to the NCCC corps



Members of NACCCA pose with Donald Scott, third from
director of the NCCC.

Correction

On Page 12 of the October
Journal, a headline stated "250
Young Americans In North Carolina
Region Camp at Lowry AFB." The headline should have
read "250 Young Americans In
North Central Region Camp at
Lowry AFB."

fax 1 page Nov 17, 1994 Paul Johnson, Director, NCCC/NTC
apologies to Paul re; names omitted. They were included with the pics.
V. Bud Wilbur

V. BUD WILBUR
DIR. SW REGION NACCCA
5113 SAN ANTONIO DRIVE
SAN DIEGO, CA 92109

Bill's Brigade: Young Adults Serve in San Diego

AmeriCorps goes to work in service to community

By STEVE SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

The Newt Gingriches of America believe President Clinton lacks corps values.

Well, value this: While holiday preparations absorbed many of us last week, hundreds of uniformed young adults based in Point Loma sweated and sacrificed.

They carved trails, cleaned riverbanks, helped in police stations.

They are part of Bill's Brigade, volunteers with President Clinton's new community service army marshaled in early September under the name AmeriCorps.

"Young Americans really do care," said corps member Sesilia Song of Texas.

"They're not the lost Generation X you hear so much about."

Assigned to an AmeriCorps crew at the

Point Loma Naval Training Center, Song is among 15,000 people serving communities nationwide under the \$1.5 billion initiative.

Corps members earn a modest living allowance and \$4,725 toward the cost of a college education for each year in the program. The Point Loma effort is among nine separate AmeriCorps programs unfolding in San Diego County.

In Balboa Park, corps members lead safety and graffiti patrols.

In Escondido, they develop youth programs at schools, businesses and community centers.

In Chula Vista, they help city police with fingerprinting, clerical work and other du-

See Corps on Page A-26



Union-Tribune / J.C. Hill / Getty

Hitting the beach: AmeriCorps workers (left to right) Audrey King, Lucio Torres and Chris Opela check Cardiff State Park to see if it is accessible to the disabled.

Corps

Young adults work in community service

Continued from A-1

ties.

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DENVER

Rocky Mountain News

January 17, 1995

TUESDAY

★ 35¢ (50¢ in Designated Areas)

Old-timer knows the value of service corps for civilians

by Gary Massaro

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

AURORA — Mildred Blanche was part of a youth movement that beautified America and in turn left monuments to hard work and the spirit of sharing.

Blanche was in the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1936 to 1938 in Winnebago, Neb. She disassembled tools, tracked inventory



Blanche

built Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

"The CCC gave me hope and

and ordered supplies for the public works program launched by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Evidence of the CCC remains all across America. In Colorado, workers

opportunity when there was none," Blanche said.

Blanche recently finished a term on the board of the National Association of CCC Alumni. Historians say she is the only woman known to have served in the CCC.

"When I was handing out those picks and shovels years ago, I never dreamed it would come to this," Blanche once told a reporter in Arkansas. "It gave me work

skills I needed for job success later."

Blanche and her husband, Alton, are liaisons to President Clinton's National Civilian Community Corps, or AmeriCorps, contingent at the former Lowry Air Force Base. Clinton pitched the program Monday during his visit to Denver.

Both are retired government workers — Mildred from Fitzsim-

ons Army Medical Center, Alton from the Veterans Administration.

Mildred and Alton said FDR programs gave them an opportunity to work, a chance to keep the dignity and a shot at making contribution in society.

Now they're lobbying the government to provide similar programs, such as AmeriCorps aimed at boosting community service.



SUBURBAN NEWS BRIEFING

Growth management is topic

Arvada's growth-management plan will be the subject of four meetings beginning today at 5:30 at Arvada City Hall, 8101 Ralston Road. Other meetings will follow at 7 p.m. Jan. 24, Arvada West High School, 11325 Allendale

Drive; 7 p.m. Jan. 25, Oberon Middle School, 7300 Quail St.; and 7 p.m. Feb. 7, also at Arvada City Hall.

Westminster housing starts

Housing starts in Westminster for 1994 totaled 1,690 units, compared with 1,485 starts in 1993, an increase of 13.8% for the year. The value of construction was up 52.2% over 1993, with more than \$200 million realized, compared with \$131.5 million last year. Despite the busy year, building activity slowed somewhat in De-

cember, with 61 residential building permits issued, compared with 111 permits in December 1993.

Federal Heights appointment

Micheal Vallero has been appointed to the Federal Heights City Council to complete the term of Ward 1 Councilman Wayne Martin. Martin retired after serving 11 years on the council. He served eight years as the city's chief of police. Vallero, 35, is an electronics technician for Microsemi Corp. and had served

on the Federal Heights Planning and Zoning Commission. The appointment will last until November, when the voters will decide who will fill out the remaining two years of Martin's term.

Pedestrian killed on turnpike

A 27-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene after being struck by three vehicles Sunday evening while walking across the Boulder Turnpike just east of Sheridan Boulevard. Authorities would not identify the victim pending notification of rel-

atives. The man was first struck by a westbound vehicle and thrown about 80 feet. A second vehicle hit the victim and kept going, the driver apparently unaware of the accident, Westminster police said. Finally, a third vehicle hit the victim and dragged him several feet. An initial investigation indicates the victim was at fault, but police would like to talk to the driver of the second vehicle. No charges are anticipated against any of the drivers.

Rocky Mountain News staff

Americorps-NCCC benefits recipients, workers and communities

6297BT

I am a participant in America's new community service initiative, Americorps-National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC). With the change that is about to take place in this nation's Congress, I am concerned about the well-being of a program that has had an incredible impact on me.

The NCCC is a residential service program with four campuses across the country located in Aberdeen, Md., Charleston, S.C., San Diego, Calif., and Denver, Colo. I have been a corps member at the Denver campus since Sept. 19, 1994. In the past few months, I have seen the benefits that 250 willing and able young people (all 18 to 24 years old) can bring to a community. The NCCC teams of 10 to 12 corps members work in four service areas — the environment, education, unmet human needs and public safety. However, many of our projects cross over

several of these categories.

My team's first project was working with Boulder Open Space on trail renovation. We built a silt fence and a split rail fence to protect South Boulder Creek and the bank from erosion and siltation. We also replanted old trail areas with area junior-high children.

Our second project was with children as well; they were just a little younger this time. I worked in a Denver public school second-grade class tutoring children in math and literacy. I was astonished by how much attention these children need. Every day when I walked into class, I was mobbed by students wanting help and hugs. It is the greatest feeling in the world to see a child's face light up when they understand how to read a clock or recognize a new word.

The project we are presently working on is renovating houses for low-income families. We have been doing various kinds of

construction work from putting in dry wall and insulation to painting and cleaning. The families who will own the homes are working with us as well. In addition to helping that family, it makes the neighborhood a little safer.

Through these three projects, I have learned that I can do things to help change the problems facing this country. I would also be unfair if I said that I did not gain a lot from the experience myself. We in the NCCC also teach others through our very diverse backgrounds and experiences. Americorps-NCCC is part of the solution to our nation's problems. Please support it by joining the corps, soliciting our help for projects, and letting your congressperson know you believe in it.

HEATHER JONES
Hutchinson

The Hutchinson News Jan 4, 1995

Hutch native to spread the word about Americorps

By Jill Schrag
The Hutchinson News

Hutchinson native Heather Jones, armed with a diploma from an Ivy League college, has been spending the past few months on what she sees — for now — as her dream job: building fences and installing dry wall in houses.

Jones entered President Bill Clinton's Americorps-National Civilian Community Corps, a one-year-old domestic version of the Peace Corps. Her 11-month stint ends in August, but she has already experienced enough to establish the belief that the program is part of the solution to America's problems.

She will be speaking to students and counselors this morning at Hutchinson High School about her experiences in Americorps.

Jones, who graduated from the school in 1990, hopes she can interest more students in the program. It was a similar presentation at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., from which she graduated with a degree in government and environmental studies, that helped her decide to join.

"I was kind of looking for something environmentally and service oriented," Jones said. So far, Americorps has lived up to that description, she said.

Jones, 22, has done everything from building a 60-foot-long, one-foot-high silt fence that protects creek beds from erosion, to teaching a small Denver schoolchild how to read a clock and helping rehabilitate housing for low-income families. The scope of Americorps activities is limited by only one thing: their public service projects must have a "lasting impact," Jones said.

"It's the greatest feeling in the world to see that light bulb go on over a little kid's head," Jones said. "When I walked into class, I got mobbed by 22 kids; they almost knocked me down. They're



Photo by Monty Davis

Heather Jones will talk about her experiences with Americorps today at Hutchinson High School.

just so excited to have someone give them attention."

Building the silt fence was "the hardest work I've ever done," she said.

Americorps is designed to combine the best of military and civilian life to serve the communities surrounding its four campuses in Aberdeen, Md., Charleston, S.C., San Diego, Calif., and Denver, Colo. When each corps member, ages 18 to 24, completes 1,700 hours of public service within his or her 11-month term, he or she receives an educational stipend of \$4,725, paid directly to the university of his or her choice. The stipend can be used for future educational endeavors or to pay back student loans. Room and board is provided by the program,

and corps members also receive a modest living allowance.

The program is modeled after one of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's work programs of the 1930s — the Civilian Conservation Corps, which built Red Rocks Amphitheater in Denver — and it attracts people from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Jones said she has gained valuable insights from one of her fellow corps members, a 21-year-old rapper and father of two from a Denver-area inner city.

"When I think about how hard it was for him to stay out of gangs, I realize how privileged I've been," she said.

Jones is the daughter of Sam and Candy Jones, 2100 North Madison.

Facsimile Cover Sheet

DATE: 9 Jan 95
TO: GEN. DON SCOTT

TIME: 1545
PHONE:
FAX: (202) 565-2792

FROM: NCCC-Central Region

PHONE: (303) 340-7300/7303
FAX: (303) 340-7310

RE: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

CC:

Number of pages including cover sheet:

Message

Dear General Scott:

This Corpsmember highlighted in the attached received a personal phone call from Senator Bob Dole when he saw the article. She said he wanted to know what type of things she had been doing and in her opinion he was favorably impressed.



An AmeriCorps Program

National

Civilian

Community

Corps

Central Region Campus

1059 S. Yosemite St.
Lowry AFB, Bldg. 758
Suite 261
Aurora, Colorado 80010
(303) 340-7300 Office
(303) 340-7310 Fax

HUTCHINSON NEWS

HUTCHINSON, KS
DAILY 42,000

FRIDAY
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The Post and Courier

Founded in 1803

PETER MANIGAULT, Chairman of the Board
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ERNEST R. ADAMS, Director, Marketing and Sales
JAMES T. FIDDINS, Director, Circulation

LARRY W. TARLETON, Executive Editor

Corps does the job

In response to Michael Welch's letter in the Jan. 28 issue: On behalf of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) under the AmeriCorps service initiative, a "voice" on behalf of the program is long overdue.

From the recent commentary on the efforts of our service, it is evident that our definition of a volunteer has become distorted in a controversy over quantity of benefits vs. quality of work. The importance of our efforts lies not in the aid we receive, but rather the challenges we accepted during this season of service.

When we were inducted as corps members, we took an oath to "promote civic pride and responsibility to get things done through community service." Our mission during these 11 months is to make a change within communities throughout the nation and the only way to accomplish this goal is by getting involved and being part of the solution.

It is sad, yet true, to come to the realization that volunteers across this nation are scarce in numbers. No one has room to attack a program that provides immediate assistance to communities where individuals fail to contribute their spare time.

Volunteering has become a lifestyle for myself and 20,000 other AmeriCorps volunteers. My morning inspiration is the daily challenges presented before me when I give of myself to rebuild and strengthen communities that I enter. As a farmer is to his crop, I go forth to plant seeds to the rest of the world. These are seeds of wisdom and knowledge, charity and kindness, patience and understanding. As corps members, we plant these seeds in classrooms, hospitals, soup kitchens, forests, homes and within families — whether it is yours or ours.

I, too, left home after high school with a dream, and that was that whatever I decided to do with my life, I would do to the best of my abilities. That doesn't always mean I will be rewarded or praised for the deeds I have done. In order to make a dream come true, one has to make it happen for oneself.

When I walk into the Boys and Girls Club and wipe a tear off a

teen-age girl who says, "I can't," or receive a hug from a homeless person there is no amount of money, great or small, that will be able to replace the joy that enters into my heart at that very moment.

The government does not owe me anything, but I owe it to myself to fill the empty shoes of "should be," "could be," but "can't spare a moment of my time" volunteers.

As for those individuals serving in the Navy who are "committed to themselves and defending our nation," I present to you AmeriCorps — individuals committed to themselves and rebuilding our nation. Volunteering is something that requires immediate action, but few actually accept the challenge.

I challenge all readers, both young and old, to re-evaluate their morning inspiration. AmeriCorps may not be here to stay, but we can make a difference while we are here — today.

TANYA Y. GARRETT
NCCC AmeriCorps, Blue 4
1615 Dyess Ave.

OCT 5 1994

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BURRELLE'S

EP

Ross joins Civilian Corps

6297 AT
Denise Ross, daughter of Linda and Jerry Ross, Winner, has joined the National Civilian Community Corps. This is part of President Clinton's domestic Peace Corps program or the AmeriCorps National Service Network.

Ross, along with 250 other participants between the ages of 18-24, began six weeks of training Sept. 19 at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. Lowry is one of four civilian corps campuses along with Aberdeen, Md.; Charleston, S.C. and San Diego, Calif. The members at Lowry come from a 14-state region.

Members receive room and board, uniforms, health care and a monthly allowance. At the end of their 11-month commitment they receive an

education award to pay for school or to settle school loans.

NCCC concentrates its resources in four broad areas: environment, education, human needs and public safety.

Some of the initial projects include working with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver to renovate a camp near Ward, Colo.; to help increase participation in Neighborhood Watch programs and to work with groups like the Denver Rescue Mission, Urban league and Aurora parks and recreation department.

Initially most of the projects will be in the Denver metro area, but the corps also has projects planned as the boys and girls club on an Indian reservation in South Dakota. 2

Weather

Today mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. High in the lower 60s, lows Sunday in the mid-40s.

Labrange Daily News



IN OUR 151ST YEAR

50 CENTS PER COPY

LAGRANGE, GEORGIA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1994

SIXTEEN PAGES ONE SECTION

PHONE 804-7111

Community Corps Earning By Serving



These National Civilian Community Corps members assigned to assist local elderly citizens include (front row, L to R) Tony Ellis from Braxton, Miss.; Lake O'Donnell from Mt. Pleasant, N.C.; Marc Jackson from Manning, S.C.; Miguel Gaither from Norwalk, Ct.; (back row) Linda Ellis from Jacksonville, Ark.; Jim Camp, the local on-site supervisor of the group; Kelli Wood from

Austin, Texas; Team Leader Allison Mowery from Marietta; Michele Garcia from Pittsburgh, Pa. and Donna Ford from Tampa, Fla. Not pictured are Brooks Hoffman from Charleston, S.C. and Mikel Stuckert from Duncan, Ok. The NCCC volunteers are sponsored by the West Georgia Medical Center through the department of volunteer services.

Local Medical Center Among First Sites For Federal Community Service Program

West Georgia Medical Center is one of the first locations in the country to pilot President Clinton's National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program, hospital officials said.

NCCC is an 11-month federally funded community service program for 18-24 year-old men and women who perform community service "in a manner that will enhance their own skills while contributing to their understanding of civic responsibility in the United States."

The experience is expected to help members become skilled leaders committed to their communities, program officials said.

Volunteers are paid \$8,000 for living expenses by the government during their 11 months of community service. After completing the program, they are eligible to receive \$4,725 for college, graduate school or training program. Those who don't want the education award get \$2,402 cash.

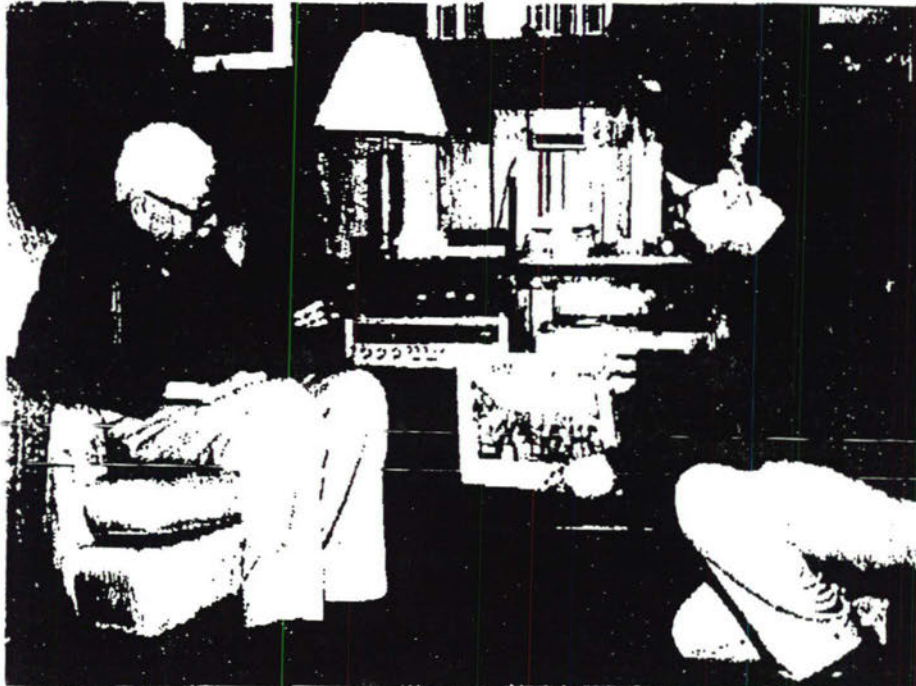
Director of Volunteer Services Johna DeGiannaro said the 12 men and women assigned to the hos-

See LOCAL, page 10



Brooks Hoffman, a National Civilian Conservation Corps member, spends time with Mrs. Claudia Williamson prior to assisting her in daily walk. Hoffman escorts Mrs. Williamson to the doctor's office and assists her with daily living tasks.

PAGE 10-LAGRANGE DAILY NEWS, SAT., DEC. 31, 1994



Mitchell Stuckert spends an afternoon with La Grange resident Bob Jackson. Jackson and Stuckert share an interest in music. A member of the National Civilian Conservation Corps, Stuckert

and his contact with older LaGrange residents enriches his life at the same time he provides physical assistance to them.

cials said.

DeGennaro said NCCC members will assist the elderly by escorting them to the doctor's office, help with daily chores, building ramps for wheelchair-bound patients, running errands, providing companionship and other palliative observation.

Referrals to the program will come from nurse managers, social workers, home health, life-line, hospice, dialysis, physical therapists and others.

DeGennaro explained that the auxiliary will review all applications and refer the appropriate patients to Cella Hay, RN case manager, who will set them up for NCCC services and monitor their progress.

"This is a tremendous benefit for everyone involved," said Charles Hudson, chairman of the hospital board. "We look forward to setting high standards for others to follow."

PAGE

B7

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1995

KIMBERLY
CROCKETTTHE
PHOENIX
GAZETTE

Volunteers

Living the dream on Dream Street.

As we prepare to celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday it will be more than a day off, of marches, of prayers. It will be a day of action in South Phoenix Village.

The Share the Dream project begins with 120 volunteers descending on the village armed with brooms and rakes and gallons of paint. And they will help 21 senior citizens of South Phoenix help themselves with a clean up and home painting campaign.

But these are not just any volunteers, they are from AmeriCorps/National Civilian Community Corps - the national service program created by President Clinton as part of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

Inspired by such men as King, John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Clinton too had a vision. His was for reenergizing the youth of this country and rebuilding America with a domestic version of the Peace Corps that allows students to trade public-service work for college-tuition money.

THESE AMERICORPS members — which got its name from Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps and Kennedy's Peace Corps — are deployed throughout the country to meet critical needs in urban and rural communities.

Young people, between the ages of 18-24, have committed 11 months to two years to community service where they are taught skills for specific projects. More important than the tuition money they'll earn, the program teaches young people how to develop themselves into good citizens, to give back to the community rather than take from it. In President Clinton's words to "strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people."

And they must do it by adapting to new environments and effectively working with people who sometimes are very unlike themselves. With these skills they should go through life with a greater understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, problem solving and how to work with other people.

"This program sends a strong message and gives tremendous boost to South Phoenix," said Gail Knight, executive director of the Community Excellence Project.

CEP has been the vehicle in South Phoenix Village — which is a 12 block area in Phoenix between 24th and 32nd streets, from the River Bottom to Roosevelt Road — that has empowered residents and businesses to effect change in their community. And with that newfound power they have addressed crime

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And they must do it by adapting to new environments and effectively working with people who sometimes are very unlike themselves. With these skills they should go through life with a greater understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, problem solving and how to work with other people.

"This program sends a strong message and a gives tremendous boost to South Phoenix," said Gail Knight, executive director of the Community Excellence Project.

CEP has been the vehicle in South Phoenix Village — which is a 12 block area in Phoenix between 24th and 32nd streets, from the River Bottom to Roemer Road — that has empowered residents and businesses to effect change in their community. And with that newfound power they have addressed crime prevention, housing rehabilitation and development, human care services for youth and families, economic development and employment training.

IN THE VILLAGE it is "Dream Street" that has become their model neighborhood. Dream Street is actually Corona, between 24th and 28th streets. It is where the residents are concentrating their revitalizing efforts to be the cornerstone and showplace of what is possible.

But so often the longtime residents have had to go it alone building public confidence with action, creating economic opportunities and safe living conditions, and keeping the destructive forces at bay. Depending on themselves and working with governmental agencies to make Dream Street a reality.

That's why having the AmeriCorps volunteers is so special.

"People who had a skeptical attitude about the community, this gives them optimism and a reason to be motivated," Knight said. "For a long time there has been the desire for the community to look better and people to take an interest. It will generate a tremendous amount of momentum and build an appreciation that young people do care, that not all are out to destroy their community."

AmeriCorps will be in South Phoenix Jan. 14-18. In addition to working they will also be learning through workshops and participate in the King march Jan. 16.

Strengthening the cords that bond us is really what the Martin Luther King holiday is day about. It is a generation to generation covenant that crosses all bounds. So that on this day, people no will have to dream the dream, they can live it too.

Kimberly Crockett can be reached at 271-2461.

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Conservation Corps Workers Find Ways To Help, & Find Themselves

By BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Whether they are slogging sandbags in marsh mud, repairing motels to house the homeless or sorting medical records, a new generation of Americans has come here to find themselves by helping others.

They have joined the National Civilian Conservation Corps, much like people in their grandparents' day joined the Civilian Conservation Corps or their parents, the Peace Corps.

About 1,000 are in the NCCC, a residential program that also has regional training camps in Maryland, Colorado and California. During the next three years, organizers hope to expand to 3,000 members.

Here at a soon-to-close Navy base, 233 young people have traded a year of their lives to wear the green-and-yellow T-shirts of the NCCC. It is part of the Clinton administration's program to meld character building with public service.

They work for minimum wage; for free housing, uniforms and health care; and, at the end of 11 months, for a grant of \$4,725 for their education. They also do it for themselves.

Michael Williams, 21, of Durham, N.C., spent a year after graduating from high school working in a pizza parlor.

"It took me a long time to figure out where I would go when I got out of high school," he said. "Now I see myself going almost anywhere."

He recently spent five weeks painting and restoring exhibits aboard the USS Yorktown, the vintage aircraft carrier that is a state-run tourist attraction in Charleston Harbor.

"I wanted to challenge myself," said a mud-splattered Amanda Colton of Summerville as she paused while stacking sand bags along the Ashley River in front of an historic plantation. "It's hard getting up at 6 o'clock in the morning. But I have never said I wanted to quit."

Ms. Colton, 18, joined to put money away for college.

Congress created the \$21 million NCCC last year as part of the larger Americorps program. Americorps, run by a new nonprofit corporation, includes the Volunteers In Service to America and awards grants to states for other

public service projects.

The Americorps first-year budget is \$300 million, which will provide financial assistance to about 20,000 students.

Young people between 18 and 24 are selected for their desire to help, not based on their income. Corps members work for government or nonprofit agencies in education, the environment, human needs and public safety. They are trained in areas ranging from landscaping to working with the elderly.

Corps members from the Southeast, selected from 1,000 applicants, arrived in early August. They live in an old barracks at the Charleston Navy Base under a military regime. There is physical training each morning and a mid night curfew. They work six days every other week.

Campus director Jeff Biel is a Navy officer who came out of retirement to head the regional center.

"It's a new start for me, too, but this is something I believe in," he said. "There's a lot of motivation in these kids to change the world."

Ms. Colton and her crew recently filled and piled 9,000 sandbags to shore up an old boat landing at Drayton Hall, an 18th century plantation on the National Register of Historic Places.

They learned a little about engineering, a little about the environment and a little about life in colonial times.

"With every project we do, I want to change my college major," said Ms. Colton, who now plans a career in law.

Ryan Land, 22, of Orlando, Fla. couldn't decide between the Peace Corps and law school after graduating from college. So he joined the NCCC to get a better idea of what he wanted.

"I've learned a lot about myself although the first two or three weeks, I didn't think it was for me," said as worked on the Yorktown. But he wonders about spending time repairing a tourist attraction.

"I think we could be doing some more worthwhile things," he said. "I've been here about five weeks and all we have done is paint."

Land says he isn't discouraged however.

"It's a first year program and they're still working it out," he said. "I looked at this like the Peace Corps."

DAILY HERALD (DES
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New generation finds alternative to Peace Corps in own back yard

Associated Press 6297AT-1

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Whether slogging sandbags in marsh mud, repairing motels to house the homeless or sorting medical records, a new generation of Americans is helping others.

And unlike the Peace Corps, they are doing it at home.

At a soon-to-close Navy base, 233 young people have pledged a year of their lives to the National Civilian Community Corps. It's part of President Clinton's larger national service initiative, AmeriCorps.

They work for minimum wage; for free housing, uniforms and health care; and for a \$4,725 education grant. They also do it for themselves.

Michael Williams, 21, of Durham, N.C., spent a year after high school graduation working in a pizza parlor before he joined up.

"It took me a long time to figure out where I would go when I got out of high school," he said. "Now I see myself going almost anywhere."

He recently spent five weeks painting and restoring exhibits aboard the USS Yorktown, the vintage aircraft carrier that is a state-

run tourist attraction in Charleston Harbor.

"I wanted to challenge myself," said a mud-splattered Amanda Colton as she paused from stacking sandbags along the Ashley River. "It's hard getting up at 6 o'clock in the morning. But I have never said I wanted to quit."

Colton, 18, of Summerville, joined to put money away for college.

Congress created the \$21 million NCCC and AmeriCorps last year. About 1,000 youths, between 18 and 24, are attending four training camps in Maryland, Colorado, California and South Carolina for the NCCC.

They work for government or not-for-profit agencies in education, the environment, social services and public safety, and are trained in everything from landscaping to working with older people.

Colton and her crew filled and piled 9,000 sandbags to shore up an old boat landing at Drayton Hall, an 18th century plantation on the National Register of Historic Places.

They learned a little about engineering, a little about the environment and a little about life in colonial times.

"With every project we do, I want to change my college major," Colton said.

At the Charleston Navy Base, corps members live in an old barracks, getting physical training each morning and a midnight curfew. Campus director Jeff Biel is a Navy officer who came out of retirement to head the center.

"It's a new start for me, too, but this is something I believe in," he said. "There's a lot of motivation in these kids to change the world."

Ryan Land, 22, of Orlando, Fla., couldn't decide between the Peace Corps and law school after college, so he joined the NCCC.

"I've learned a lot about myself, although the first two or three weeks, I didn't think it was for me," he said as he worked on the Yorktown.

He has qualms about spending time repairing a tourist attraction and wonders if they could be doing something more worthwhile, but he's not discouraged.

"It's a first-year program and they're still working it out," Land said.

"I looked at this like the Peace Corps. It is a pioneer program and something we could be very proud of."



Vital Signs



*A publication exclusively for the medical staff at
West Georgia Medical Center*

West Georgia Medical Center to Sponsor One of First Pilot Programs of the National Civilian Community Corp

Each time our country has been in great need, young Americans have risen to the challenge and answered the call to service. During the 1930s and the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps. Thousands reshaped their future by planting trees and clearing rivers. Then, President Kennedy asked for assistance by joining the Peace Corp. Many young volunteers traveled to the poorest corners of the world and assisted with building schools and feeding the hungry. Now, President Clinton is seeking volunteers to offer community service in the United States through the National Civilian Community Corp (NCCC) and AmeriCorps.

NCCC is a 11-month community service program for 18-24 year-old men and women. Volunteers are paid \$8000 for living expenses by the government during this period. After completing the program, they are eligible to receive \$4,725 for college, graduate school or training program. Those who don't want the education award get \$2,362 cash.

There are four sites nationwide which are offering pilot programs: Charleston, South Carolina; Aberdeen, Maryland; Denver, Colorado; and San Diego, California.

West Georgia Medical Center has been selected as the first deployment

out of the Naval Base in Charleston, South Carolina. Five consecutive groups consisting of twelve members will be working for eight weeks to assist in establishing the program guidelines.

The program provides the opportunity for willing young men and women to perform meaningful acts of community service in a manner that will enhance their own skills while contributing to their understanding of civic responsibility in the United States. The experience is expected to help members become skilled leaders committed to their communities.

NCCC concentrated its resources in four broad areas including environment, education, human need, and public safety. At the Medical Center, they will focus on human needs by assisting the elderly in maintaining a healthier lifestyle at home without having to be institutionalized. Referrals to the program will come from nurse managers, utilization review, social workers, home health, Lifeline, hospice, dialysis, physicians and others. The Auxiliary will review all applications and refer the appropriate patients to Celia Hay, RN, case manager, who will set them up for NCCC services and monitor their progress.

Criteria for acceptance depends on

the specific need of the Individual. Examples include individuals who are discharged from the hospital and are at high risk of being re-admitted to the hospital within 90 days and individuals who do not qualify for Home Health.

"This is a tremendous benefit for everyone involved," states Charles Hudson, chairman of the Board at West Georgia Medical Center. NCCC addresses a critical need in our community by sending help at the time of discharge. By allowing the patients to remain at home instead of recuperating in a nursing home or in the hospital, the taxpayers will be saved a tremendous amount of money. In addition, the chances of relapse are lower. "West Georgia Medical Center is very fortunate to have been selected as one of the first pilot programs and we look forward to setting the high standards for others to follow," continued Hudson.

NCCC members will assist the elderly with fulfilling unmet human needs like escorting to doctor's office or meal site, help with daily living chores, building ramps for wheelchair bound patients, referrals to other agencies, nutrition and errands, help with living conditions, companionship and patient observation and education.

Continued on back page-see NCCC

NCCC continued

NCCC and AmeriCorps are two programs sponsored by the National Service Corps. Others include Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent (both sponsored locally by WCMC) and Literacy Volunteers.

West Georgia Medical Center is currently seeking a grant to continue the NCCC project by utilizing local citizens through a program called AmeriCorps, which will begin in September 1995 if approved.

For more information on NCCC or AmeriCorps, contact Edna DeGennaro at 845-3723. □

Vital Signs is published bimonthly by the Marketing and Community Relations Department at West Georgia Medical Center. Please send news, information, comments and suggestions to:

1614 Vernon Road
LaGrange, Georgia 30240
845-3327

Top Ten Review:

Presented at the Physician's annual Christmas banquet.

Here's a list of the top ten medical movie productions voted on by the nonpolitically correct and mentally challenged...

#10—The one we all enjoyed so much. I understand that Dr. Doerr, Dr. Ayers and Dr. Major showed a great interest in this one... "Thoracic Park".

#9—Was a wonderful production, with very good reviews by Dr. Owen and all of our ER physicians entitled... "Ben Hurt".

#8—This one is coming back around again and has been very popular throughout the years. All our staff seem frustrated with the unsolved mystery entitled... "Cone With The Chart".

#7—I know you all remember this one, which is also making a comeback. "The Wizard of Odds." This one has been highly rated by Drs. Grau, Genova, Taylor and

Kratina.

#6—This one stayed on top for a while. I know you will all recall... "Giesler's List".

#5—Was a tremendous hit in 1994, especially for Dr. Carter, Dr. Coggins and Dr. Bowyer. The wonderful production of "Forrest Rump".

#4—This one goes way back. It is one of the "Oldie-Goldies" that we could watch over and over again. This has been very popular with all our OB-GYN staff. This one is entitled... "From Here to Maternity".

#3—Rates high on our list. I understand Dr. Hines and Dr. Neal, as well as our dental staff, have given this production very high review ratings. You will all remember... "Toothless In Seattle".

#2—Was enjoyed by our physician couples, the Schaufellers, the Simmons and the McGowans; it is none other than... "Beauty and the Beast".

#1 movie of 1994... "Phantom of the OR". □



West Georgia Medical Center
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AUG 13 1994

CCC ghost rises in forest

By ANGELA RUCKER
Of The Post and Courier staff

Daryl Wiggins' morning in the Francis Marion National Forest took blood, sweat and tears.

"The blood and the tears are from the thorns," joked the 18-year-old Summerville resident after emerging from the forest in a sweat-soaked T-shirt.

Wiggins and 54 other young men and women from across the nation were on lunch break Friday afternoon from the grueling task of clearing trees in the Francis Marion National Forest.

This group is part of the first class of the National Civilian Community Corps, the modern reincarnation of the Civilian Conservation Corps of 60 years ago.

The CCC was a para-military organization created by the Roosevelt administration in the 1930s to provide useful work to young Americans unable to find work in the Depression-era economy.

One-fourth of the 1,000-member 1994 organization is based

See CORPS, Page 4-B



Staff photo by Angela Hucker

Members of the National Civilian Community Corps, part of the reincarnation of the Civilian Conservation Corps of 60 years ago, works in the Francis Marion Forest Friday.

CORPS

from Page 1-B

at the Charleston Naval Base. For the next 11 months, members will be on assignments throughout the Southeast.

Following a month of training, Wiggins' group spent Friday in the forest on one of three reforestation and improvement projects.

"I'm pretty used to hard work, but I haven't worked this hard for a long time," Wiggins said.

Participants constructed fire prevention signs, planted hardwoods and chopped medium size trees in areas where endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers nest.

"We want them to learn what their national forest is about and appreciate it," said James R. Brotherton, Witherbee District ranger for the Francis Marion National Forest. "We hope they can learn some skills and have some knowledge they can use for the rest of their lives."

This is the second time a national corps of young people have labored in the forest. In the the 1930s, the CCC helped build roads and other facilities at Francis Marion.

The latest group includes women

and draws its participants from throughout the country with varying experiences.

Many were worried about snakes, said Brotherton, who found the participants enthusiastic about the forest work despite the outdoor conditions.

That didn't mean there weren't complaints about the heat and humidity or requests for a ride to a bathroom.

"Some of them have probably never driven a nail," Brotherton said.

Jaime Summers, 18, of Fayetteville, fit that novice category.

"I never cut down anything," she said before heading back into the forest, machete in hand. The environmental component of the corps program matches her long-time interest in such issues.

Many of the participants, such as 28-year-old Susie Heyob, of Alaska, see their participation in the corps as an opportunity to give back to the community. Heyob, who has a degree in urban planning, is a team leader who directs 10 other participants.

"It's an opportunity to help rebuild America," said fellow team leader Julie Powell, of Little Rock.

A veteran of the Peace Corps and other community rebuilding ef-

forts, Powell, 27, wants to continue this sort of work once the program ends.

Others hope to save money for college or find direction in their lives.

At the end of their service, each participant will earn \$4,725 for college or training programs or \$2,362 in cash. The program pays for housing, meals, uniforms and health and child care.

Participants also get monthly allowances totaling \$8,000 during the 11-month period.

April Sheffield, 26, admitted she's used to being in an office setting rather than a forest.

"We don't have trees and grass in Philly," she said.

Since graduating from Temple University, Sheffield has worked as a social worker in Philadelphia with elderly or drug addicted clients.

As a team leader in the corps, she hopes to expand her skills to young adults.

"I'm a firm believer that education is the key and that doesn't necessarily mean you have to have a college degree," she said.

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Conservation Corps Workers Find Ways To Help, & Find Themselves

By BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Whether they are slogging sandbags in marsh mud, repairing motels to house the homeless or sorting medical records, a new generation of Americans has come here to find themselves by helping others.

They have joined the National Civilian Conservation Corps, much like people in their grandparents' day joined the Civilian Conservation Corps or their parents, the Peace Corps.

About 1,000 are in the NCCC, a residential program that also has regional training camps in Maryland, Colorado and California. During the next three years, organizers hope to expand to 3,000 members.

Here at a soon-to-close Navy base, 233 young people have traded a year of their lives to wear the green-and-yellow T-shirts of the NCCC. It is part of the Clinton administration's program to meld character building with public service.

They work for minimum wage; for free housing, uniforms and health care; and, at the end of 11 months, for a grant of \$4,725 for their education. They also do it for themselves.

Michael Williams, 21, of Durham, N.C., spent a year after graduating from high school working in a pizza parlor.

"It took me a long time to figure out where I would go when I got out of high school," he said. "Now I see myself going almost anywhere."

He recently spent five weeks painting and restoring exhibits aboard the USS Yorktown, the vintage aircraft carrier that is a state-run tourist attraction in Charleston Harbor.

"I wanted to challenge myself," said a mud-splattered Amanda Colton of Summerville as she paused while stacking sand bags along the Ashley River in front of an historic plantation. "It's hard getting up at 6 o'clock in the morning. But I have never said I wanted to quit."

Ms. Colton, 18, joined to put money away for college.

Congress created the \$21 million NCCC last year as part of the larger Americorps program. Americorps, run by a new nonprofit corporation, includes the Volunteers In Service to America and

public service projects.

The Americorps first-year budget is \$300 million, which will provide financial assistance to about 20,000 students.

Young people between 18 and 24 are selected for their desire to help, not based on their income. Corps members work for government or nonprofit agencies in education, the environment, human needs and public safety. They are trained in areas ranging from landscaping to working with the elderly.

Corps members from the Southeast, selected from 1,000 applicants, arrived in early August. They live in an old barracks at the Charleston Navy Base under a military regime. There is physical training each morning and a midnight curfew. They work six days every other week.

Campus director Jeff Biel is a Navy officer who came out of retirement to head the regional center.

"It's a new start for me, too, but this is something I believe in," he said. "There's a lot of motivation in these kids to change the world."

Ms. Colton and her crew recently filled and piled 9,000 sandbags to shore up an old boat landing at Drayton Hall, an 18th century plantation on the National Register of Historic Places.

They learned a little about engineering, a little about the environment and a little about life in colonial times.

"With every project we do, I want to change my college major," said Ms. Colton, who now plans a career in law.

Ryan Land, 22, of Orlando, Fla., couldn't decide between the Peace Corps and law school after graduating from college. So he joined the NCCC to get a better idea of what he wanted.

"I've learned a lot about myself, although the first two or three weeks, I didn't think it was for me," said as worked on the Yorktown. But he wonders about spending time repairing a tourist attraction.

"I think we could be doing some more worthwhile things," he said. "I've been here about five weeks and all we have done is paint."

Land says he isn't discouraged, however.

"It's a first year program and they're still working it out," he said. "I looked at this like the Peace

DAILY HERALD (DES
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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL
DAILY & SUNDAY 4,403

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New generation finds alternative to Peace Corps in own back yard

Associated Press 6297AT-1

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Whether slogging sandbags in marsh mud, repairing motels to house the homeless or sorting medical records, a new generation of Americans is helping others.

And unlike the Peace Corps, they are doing it at home.

At a soon-to-close Navy base, 233 young people have pledged a year of their lives to the National Civilian Community Corps. It's part of President Clinton's larger national service initiative, AmeriCorps.

They work for minimum wage; for free housing, uniforms and health care; and for a \$4,725 education grant. They also do it for themselves.

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Colton, 18, of Summerville, joined to put money away for college.

Congress created the \$21 million NCCC and AmeriCorps last year. About 1,000 youths, between 18 and 24, are attending four training camps in Maryland, Colorado, California and South Carolina for the NCCC.

They work for government or not-for-profit agencies in education, the environment, social services and public safety, and are trained in everything from landscaping to working with older people.

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"It's a new start for me, too, but this is something I believe in," he said. "There's a lot of motivation in these kids to change the world."

Ryan Land, 22, of Orlando, Fla., couldn't decide between the Peace Corps and law school after college, so he joined the NCCC.

"I've learned a lot about myself, although the first two or three weeks, I didn't think it was for me," he said as he worked on the Yorktown.

He has qualms about spending time repairing a tourist attraction and wonders if they could be doing something more worthwhile, but he's not discouraged.

"It's a first-year program and they're still working it out," Land said.

"I looked at this like the Peace Corps. It is a pioneer program and something we could be very proud of."

THE PLAIN DEALER

OH-91 CLEVELAND, OH
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NOV 2 1994

BURRELLE'S

A Peace Corps for home folks

6297AT
By BRUCE SMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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BURRELLE'S

6297AT
Youth join corps

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AUG 13 1994

CCC ghost rises in forest

By ANGELA HUCKER
Of The Post and Courier staff

Daryl Wiggins, morning in the Francis Marion National Forest took blood, sweat and tears.

"The blood and the tears are from the thorns," joked the 18-year-old Summerville resident after emerging from the forest in a sweat-soaked T-shirt.

Wiggins and 54 other young men and women from across the nation were on lunch break Friday afternoon from the grueling task of clearing trees in the Francis Marion National Forest.

This group is part of the first class of the National Civilian Community Corps, the modern reincarnation of the Civilian Conservation Corps of 60 years ago.

The CCC was a para-military organization created by the Roosevelt administration in the 1930s to provide useful work to young Americans unable to find work in the Depression-era economy.

One-fourth of the 1,000-member 1994 organization is based

See CORPS, Page 4-B



Staff photo by Angela Hucker

Members of the National Civilian Community Corps, part of the reincarnation of the Civilian Conservation Corps of 60 years ago, works in the Francis Marion Forest Friday.

CORPS

from Page 1-B

at the Charleston Naval Base. For the next 11 months, members will be on assignments throughout the Southeast.

Following a month of training, Wiggins' group spent Friday in the forest on one of three reforestation and improvement projects.

"I'm pretty used to hard work, but I haven't worked this hard for a long time," Wiggins said.

Participants constructed fire prevention signs, planted hardwoods and chopped medium size trees in areas where endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers nest.

"We want them to learn what their national forest is about and appreciate it," said James R. Brotherton, Witherbee District ranger for the Francis Marion National Forest. "We hope they can learn some skills and have some knowledge they can use for the rest of their lives."

This is the second time a national corps of young people have labored in the forest. In the the 1930s, the CCC helped build roads and other facilities at Francis Marion.

The latest group includes women

and draws its participants from throughout the country with varying experiences.

Many were worried about snakes, said Brotherton, who found the participants enthusiastic about the forest work despite the outdoor conditions.

That didn't mean there weren't complaints about the heat and humidity or requests for a ride to a bathroom.

"Some of them have probably never driven a nail," Brotherton said.

Jaime Summers, 18, of Fayetteville, fit that novice category.

"I never cut down anything," she said before heading back into the forest, machete in hand. The environmental component of the corps program matches her long-time interest in such issues.

Many of the participants, such as 28-year-old Susie Heyob, of Alaska, see their participation in the corps as an opportunity to give back to the community. Heyob, who has a degree in urban planning, is a team leader who directs 10 other participants.

"It's an opportunity to help rebuild America," said fellow team leader Julie Powell, of Little Rock.

A veteran of the Peace Corps and other community rebuilding ef-

forts, Powell, 27, wants to continue this sort of work once the program ends.

Others hope to save money for college or find direction in their lives.

At the end of their service, each participant will earn \$4,725 for college or training programs or \$2,362 in cash. The program pays for housing, meals, uniforms and health and child care.

Participants also get monthly allowances totaling \$8,000 during the 11-month period.

April Sheffield, 26, admitted she's used to being in an office setting rather than a forest.

"We don't have trees and grass in Philly," she said.

Since graduating from Temple University, Sheffield has worked as a social worker in Philadelphia with elderly or drug addicted clients.

As a team leader in the corps, she hopes to expand her skills to young adults.

"I'm a firm believer that education is the key and that doesn't necessarily mean you have to have a college degree," she said.

The Evening Sun.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1995

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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Civilian foot soldiers trying to do some good

AmeriCorps program in jeopardy

Associated Press

ABERDEEN — The new recruits at the military's Aberdeen Proving Ground carry no guns and don't salute. They are civilian foot soldiers of President Clinton's national service program, out to prove they can do some good.

Their enemy is a mucky stream, clogged with a junked love seat. Or a school with falling test scores. Or fire in a national forest. They share little with the soldiers who test munitions here, other than morning exercise and mess-hall food.

"You hear the bombs go off all hours of the morning," Kia Orphanidis complains from her dormitory. But these recruits tend to be stoic. The AmeriCorps ethic, drummed into them from Day 1, is "getting things done."

AmeriCorps is about halfway through its first year, just getting its legs but already endangered.

A House subcommittee voted last

week to cut \$210 million from AmeriCorps' previously approved budget of \$580 million for this year. Republicans would like to shut down the program entirely, and a vote by the House may come next month.

AmeriCorps is a new federal program in budget-cutting times, a Clinton idea to give Americans an opportunity to do what they're already pretty good at — community service — while getting something in return.

About 20,000 people are at work on its projects, devoting one or two years to it and getting money for education in return.

Most members work in the communities where they live. Aberdeen is one of four regional headquarters of a branch of AmeriCorps where members are drawn from scattered states and backgrounds and live away from home.

Sheryl Boone was cleaning

See CORPS, 4A



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sheryl Boone stands in a storm drain runoff near Herring Run Creek in Baltimore.

CORPS: Service program in jeopardy

From Page 1A

houses, wondering how she'd ever get to nursing school. University graduate Chris Welch was back from the Peace Corps, questioning how his experience helping people abroad could be used at home.

Their goals differ. But they're on the same route now, trudging along a meandering stream and mapping it for future erosion control and cleanup.

"I figured this was one way that I could earn a scholarship toward school but nobody would be handing it to me," said Ms. Boone, 23. "It wouldn't be like Mom and Dad scraping up the money or just applying for federal aid."

These are the new barn raisers, some say, people pulling together to help others.

"We think we go right to that tradition," said Eli Segal, the national service chief.

"I see kids being immunized in Texas, crack houses being closed in Kansas City [Mo.], reading scores increasing in Simpson County, Kentucky, homes being built in Miami and weatherized in New Haven [Conn.]."

Critics would say neighborly barn raisers don't get paid. The reward is food, fellowship and the understand-

ing the farmer who was helped will pitch in when someone else needs to raise the rafters.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich is "totally, unequivocally opposed to national service" that pays. Mr. Clinton calls it part of "our God-given responsibility to serve our fellow human beings" and rarely misses a chance to talk it up.

The program provides the rough equivalent of a minimum-wage job or better. Members get about \$600 a month, and after one year's work, a \$4,725 award for future tuition, or past debts for college, trade or vocational school.

The nearly 200 Aberdeen recruits get their food and housing free, take night courses on everything from car care to negotiating, and roam where they're needed.

Howard Hogan, 22, was preparing for a Washington career using his degree in international relations when he was stirred by the call to service.

"I went and fought fires in Idaho," he said. "I've worked installing fire alarms in Queens [in New York City]. We helped build a recreational center for children."

On this detour before graduate school, Mr. Welch leads the team mapping a suburban Maryland stream that flows into Baltimore and

the Chesapeake Bay.

The recruits scramble and slip down the banks, taking notes on the silt, exposed tree roots and other signs of destructive runoff, and shaking their heads at the garbage.

Mr. Welch taught school for the Peace Corps in Micronesia. His sponsor read about U.S. homelessness and AIDS and asked why his country had no Peace Corps for itself.

"I couldn't answer her because it was a really good question," he said. "And that ties in with my motivation for getting involved in this."

Already, AmeriCorps is bigger than the Peace Corps ever was. But it has been able to accept only one in 10 applicants.

AmeriCorps officials say the average graduate of a four-year public college emerges with a \$6,500 debt, a burden AmeriCorps can largely eliminate while making only a dent in the staggering costs of private universities.

Spokesman John Thomas of the Independent Sector said his coalition of 800 nonprofit groups has heard no complaints that AmeriCorps is robbing them of volunteers — a concern at the start.

"Any and all effort to foster service and volunteering in this country is good," he said.

Wetter is better as students build wildlife habitat

BY PATRICE A. DIRICAN (202) 747-1717

Barbara Lardieri knows that experience is the best teacher.

And transforming an unsightly storm management pond behind Seven Oaks Elementary School into a thriving wetlands area is just the kind of hands-on activity that the fourth-grade teacher had in mind when she wanted to make academics fun for her students.

"Just about every aspect of science and math can be taught out here," says Lardieri, surveying the wetlands under progress.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade have been working on the two-month project since the beginning of November under the direction of 12 volunteers from the National Civilian Community Corps. The corps is a branch of President Clinton's Americorps, which provides tuition money in exchange for volunteer service.

One morning last week, second-graders trudged through the mud to plant viburnum plants. They also hoped to get a glimpse of an elusive red-shouldered hawk which had been seen in the area.

"They love coming out here in the mud and digging and getting dirty," says Todd Quinn, the civilian community corps' team leader for the project.

Last year, Lardieri and other faculty members contacted Melvin Noland of the Baltimore County Forest Conservancy District Board. Noland not only arranged for trees and plants to be donated to the school by the county and Chapel Hills Nursery in Perry Hall, but also helped with proposals to be presented to the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Rick Leader, the trust's assistant director, says he was enthusiastic about the project.

"This is the first time we've gone in and done a comprehensive alteration to a storm water pond," says Leader.

According to Leader, the Seven Oaks wetlands project may prove to be the prototype for future projects at other schools.

With a \$6,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, four small pools have been dug out of the storm management pond.

The pools have been designed to create a wildlife habitat and provide the students with an on-site environmental laboratory, as well as filter sediment and pollution from rain water and run-off from surrounding areas.

Donnie Clark, a fourth-grader in Lardieri's class, is excited about all of the wildlife that could



STAFF PHOTO BY ED BUNYAN

Students at Seven Oaks Elementary School lace up their boots last week before sloshing out to the storm management pond that they are turning into a wetlands area.

be attracted to the wetlands.

"It's going to be a good habitat for lots of birds and turtles and insects," he says.

WEDNESDAY
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Answering the call to service

Woodbridge woman helps others as she saves for college

By USA GERRARD
of the Potomac News

6297AT

Woodbridge resident Amber Nightingale was enrolled in her local community college with sights set on becoming a history teacher when suddenly, she ran out of money.

So she decided to take some time out to serve her country.

Nightingale, 21, is one of 1,000 young women and men this year who are saving money for school while saying yes to President Clinton's call to national service.

So far the small army of 18- to 24-year-olds in Clinton's National Community Civilian Corps hasn't garnered much attention.

But for almost five months the idealistic workers have been building parks, fighting forest fires, providing flood relief and opening inner-city youth centers.

"It's been the best thing that's happened to me," Nightingale said. "I would recommend it to anyone. It's only 11 months, and you get so much out of it."

Like his idol John F. Kennedy before him, Clinton made a promise in his campaign to create a national service corps. Kennedy's pledge resulted in the Peace Corps in 1961.

Clinton's brought about NCCC, a program for young people willing to give a year of service in exchange for a small stipend and \$4,725 they can put toward college tuition, graduate school, job training or student loans.

Nightingale's muscles get sore just thinking about it, she said. The program has involved more manual labor than the 1991 Woodbridge High School graduate expected.

Living in Army barracks on Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland with about 220 other young adults, she and her nine teammates finished work several weeks ago on a 50-acre park in Bel Air, Md.

They built a trail and tilled the land for 10 gardens, and the townspeople will now complete.

Her team is now in Baltimore organizing a youth center.

Other teams are stationed on military bases in Denver, San Diego and Charleston, S.C.

Following in the tradition of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps, most of NCCC's projects have been environmental, but other goals include helping children in child care and Head Start centers and renovating and repairing low-income housing.

For their efforts, the young people make \$8,000 in 11 months — about \$4.55 an hour before taxes — plus health benefits and child care if needed. But the plum, Nightingale said, is the \$4,725 they get at the end of the program for school.

If they don't want to use the money for education, they get \$2,362 to use however they like.

Congress guaranteed funding for the program through 1996 and has already approved \$350 million for it and hundreds of similar national service groups for operation this year.

Next year, despite a Republican-led Congress, the Corporation for National Service hopes to receive even more for NCCC and its other service organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, VISTA, and the I Have A Dream Foundation.

"We've always enjoyed bipartisan support. There's no reason why we feel that wouldn't continue," corporation spokeswoman Wendy Grassi said.

The program may help students save for school, but it can be an education in itself, Nightingale said.

Already NCCC has helped her understand more about the environment and inner-city poverty.

"I was in total culture shock," she said about her inner-city experience in Baltimore recently.

The young woman was talking to an 11-year-old boy



By Rick Bethem-Potomac News

Amber Nightingale talks about her work with the National Community Civilian Corps on a visit home. She is the daughter of Catherine Nightingale of Woodbridge.

"It's been the best thing that's happened to me. I would recommend it to anyone. It's only 11 months, and you get so much out of it."

**Amber Nightingale
National Community Civilian Corps**

there when the child told her he knew how make crack cocaine.

"It's opened my eyes up to a lot more than I would have seen in Woodbridge," she said.

Nightingale encourages anyone interested in joining NCCC or any community that might need NCCC assistance to call organization headquarters at (800) 942-2677.

Applications are processed continuously, and

President Clinton encourages people from diverse backgrounds to apply.

Some of the workers in Nightingale's group come from Ivy League schools, while others still haven't gotten their high school equivalency certificates, the Woodbridge woman said.

NCCC is similar to Roosevelt's CCC of the 1930s, but with a few important differences. The CCC took only unemployed young men, and more than 2 million served in the corps before Congress dissolved it in 1942.

NCCC employs both men and women, including young people with children, and it expects to operate on a much smaller scale, employing just 1,000 people a year.

But even a few can make a difference, Nightingale believes.

"It's a good way to serve your country," she said. "You would be surprised how many people want to do community work, they just don't know how to do it."

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By Renee Fischer

Community Resources Coordinator Mary W. Chance, who recruited volunteers for Community Services Day in October and Kids Voting, which culminated at the polls last week, is the Harford County Government Employee of the Month for November.

Chance demonstrated her commitment recently when she turned down an invitation to the White House for a ceremony honoring the National Civilian Community Corps, a one-year AmeriCorps service program for 18- through 24-year-olds. Chance has been working with the NCCC on projects like Community Services Day.

However, there was a reception at Fallston High School that same night for the Harford "You Are Beautiful" program, another project Chance oversees, according to Kathleen Morse, a county clerk who nominated Chance for the monthly award.

"[Chance] takes her tasks very seriously and wanted the evening to be perfect," Morse said.

"I have never known Mary to say no when asked, and know Mary to jump in when she hears of an opportunity to serve," Morse said. "One example is her involvement in the Compassionate Friends Support Group. She has taken calls made to her home in the middle of the night to console those parents whose children had died suddenly."

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Hempfield grad serves in 1st wave of new Civilian Community Corps

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Scot D. Celley
Neighbors Correspondent

Nicole Wallace was about to graduate from Georgetown University last spring when she met with a recruiter from the National Civilian Community Corps.

The 1990 Hempfield graduate said, "I've been doing service since high school, and it was emphasized at Georgetown. But it was good to give something back and not starve in the process."

Last April, she signed papers for an 11-month commitment; by May she was accepted. By doing so, Wallace became one of the first of 20,000 volunteers nationwide in a new federal program called AmeriCorps. In return for community service, she has the potential to earn \$4,725 to offset money borrowed for college.

"It's a great trade-off," she said. "It's something more meaningful than going into deeper debt."

Wallace began in July when she arrived at the Aberdeen (Md.) Proving Grounds. After a month-long "basic training," she worked with a crew of 10 to 12 volunteers in a ward of elderly schizophrenic patients at a veterans hospital in Perryville, Md.

"I never saw myself in that situation," said Wallace, the daughter of Mary Charles Wallace of 4062 Columbia Ave. and Wilmer Wall-

"I want to point out things to my grandchildren and how we made a difference."

Nicole Wallace
AmeriCorps volunteer

ace of Mountville.. Yet, in the short time she's been there, the group improved and made a miniature golf course accessible to wheelchairs.

This month, she'll join a group working on urban stream restoration in the Baltimore area. It includes helping community groups turn vacant lots into community gardens. "We're trying to take a more integrated look at the environment," she said.

The Aberdeen Proving Grounds, slated for closing by the Pentagon, is one of four bases in the country that hosts NCCC workers. The others are in San Diego, Denver and Charleston, S.C.

The NCCC divides its work into four areas: education, environment, public safety and unmet human needs. In addition to help-

ing out in those areas, some participants also help out with disaster relief, such as firefighting in the mountains of Idaho or helping recent flood victims in Houston.

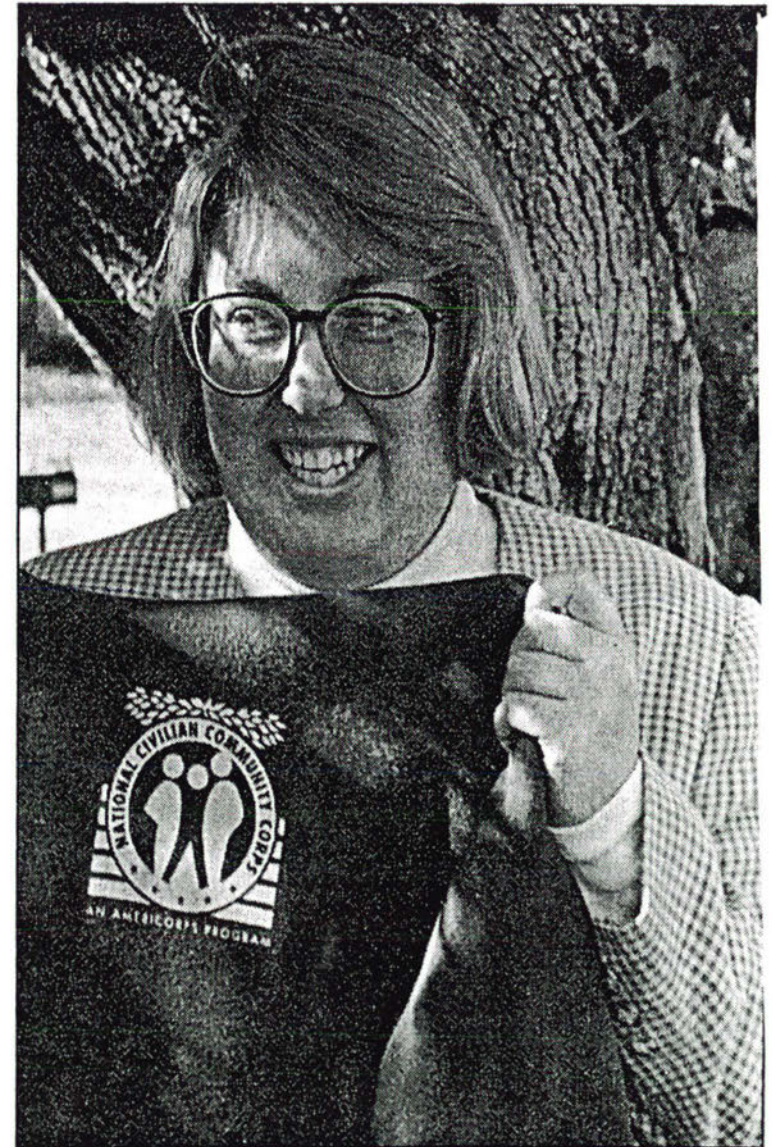
Besides the NCCC, AmeriCorps includes VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) and Teach For America. The latter allows recent college graduates to teach in inner-city or rural area schools.

Her work with urban streams or the veterans' hospital is not the only work she does for the NCCC. She also edits the NCCC national newsletter.

She hopes the editing will lead to a career in editing and publishing in the non-profit field. While she still remains very interested in her major, international affairs, she said she's "become more committed to service. There's a lot we can do here, closer to home."

The NCCC is modeled on the Civilian Conservation Corps, which was created during the Depression to provide jobs to the unemployed. Recently, Wallace had the opportunity to attend a reunion of those who worked in CCC camps in Maryland. There, she recalled, the men proudly pointed out to their families the buildings and the trails which are their legacy.

She hopes that will be one of the rewards for working in the NCCC. "I want to point out things to my grandchildren," Wallace said, "and how we made a difference."



Neighbors photo by Scot D. Celley

Nicole Wallace displays a shirt with the artwork for National Civilian Community Corps, the new program helping the college grad retire her tuition debt and delivering community services nationwide.

APG group is sent to Texas to give help to flood victims

By Karl Lasher

Seventeen members of the National Community Corps stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground have been sent to Houston, Texas, to provide food and clothing to flood victims, a spokesman for the Red Cross said.

The members, all 18 to 25, will spend three weeks manning emergency shelters and touring the areas near the 28 counties effected by the floods which started after 30 inches of rain fell in three days, said Gonzalo Hernandez, emergency response coordinator for the Central Maryland Chapter of the Red Cross.

So far, 13,858 houses have received some kind of damage while 8,276 have been destroyed, said Hernandez.

About 13,000 families have been displaced, and 800 volunteers from across the country have provided over 16,700 meals in 62 shelters.

The community corps is an organization in which members live in dormitories for 11 months, receive leadership and physical training and take part in conservation and community service projects.

"They'll come back different people," said Hernandez of the community corps members. Hernandez is a veteran of 19 national and one international disaster relief campaigns with the American Red Cross.

"It can be really thrilling, being there to help people. But it's hard work. When you go, you either love it or you hate it."

In a briefing Friday, Hernandez

told the group to expect 12-to-14-hour work days followed by a long ride back to a motel if they're not staying at a shelter.

"I told them to help people and to be flexible, because they might go expecting they'll do one thing and they'll find themselves doing something else," Hernandez said.

The volunteers left Saturday.

"I also told them to expect some really bad stuff. They'll have people come up to their trucks crying and saying how they lost a family member or lost their homes. Some victims will just

need someone to talk to and they could be that person."

Hernandez said floods are very tough assignments because of the physical and mental damage that occurs when houses are covered by water for weeks at a time.

"When a house is hit by a tornado or a hurricane, at least the clean-up process can begin right away," Hernandez said.

"But in a flood, a victim sees the water rising until finally only the roof is showing, and the water could stay there for weeks. It's a very depressing situation."

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1994

THE AEGIS

Volunteers find a satisfying task at park

Rockfield in Bel Air gets a hometown touch from the people who will be using it

By Carl Hamilton

Standing beside a hole that would soon be filled with a Colorado Blue Spruce, Jay Torian paused from his latest chore at Rockfield Park in Bel Air on Saturday afternoon and reflected on progress made during the past two months.

"This was just a field with an old farm fence around it when we got here," said Torian, 21, a member of a 10-person crew that has invested its time, labor and skills into a project to transform the 46-acre parcel of land off Route 22 into a park.

On Saturday, Torian and his crew received a helping hand from dozens of workers who took part in Rockfield Park Volunteer Day. Joining in the planting and a variety of other landscaping jobs were high school students, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and numerous other organizations, in addition to several residents. Organizers stopped counting after 100 volunteers, said Carol Diebold, director of planning and community development for the town of Bel Air.

"I think this is just great. I'm delighted with the turnout for this," said Jack Beyer, a Bel Air resident who, armed with his gasoline-powered tiller, helped plant hundreds of perennials. "There's a preponderance of teenagers here, and it makes me feel good about the future."

The special work day was scheduled to run from 1:30 to 4 p.m., but, according to Diebold, some high school students began immersing themselves in chores by 10 a.m. because they didn't want to miss Homecoming football games in the afternoon. Nor did they want to miss an opportunity to help at the park.

"The turnout has just been outstanding," Diebold said, as small groups scattered throughout the property were diligently digging, tilling, raking, planting, carting soil in wheel barrows and performing numerous other jobs.

This community effort came two months after Torian and his group arrived in Harford County and began working 11 out of every 14 days to turn the former Hoza property into a bona fide park that will feature a 1,800-foot-long trail designed to wind through a five-acre garden, one that will be broken into sections for specific types of plants, such as, for example, herbs and perennials. By next fall, there also will be a playground.

"These kids are incredible," Diebold said. "They are ingenious. I suggest an idea, and they find a way to make it happen. They take work home with them, and sometimes I even have to tell them to go home."

Torian, who graduated from Dartmouth College with a philosophy degree in May, elected to take part in President Clinton's National Civilian Community Corp,

which is part of the federal Americorp program.

Under the program, young adults between 18 and 24 dedicate 11 months on projects designed to serve human comfort, public safety, education and environment while stationed in various parts of the country, usually living in dormitory settings.

In return, aside from each program worker earning \$8,000 in living expenses during his or her stint, each receives an educational credit award of \$4,725 that can be applied to tuition costs or repayment of student loans.

There are four National Civilian Community Corp groups in the U.S., with the 208 members stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground representing the first created. About 25 members of the corps are from Harford County. The group is broken down into crews that are assigned to various projects within a 90-mile radius of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"This is historical," Torian said. "We're doing the first project in the first year of the new Americorp. It shows that young people want to do positive things with their time and, to borrow from what President Clinton said, that we're not a bunch of 'slackers.'"

With money from the state Open Space Program, the county bought the property from the Hoza family in 1990 and then hired LDR International of Colum-

bia to develop a master plan for the 46-acre parcel. It has four areas: Garden, playground, conservation and two ball fields.

Afterward, the county transferred the property to Town of Bel Air.

In keeping with the community spirit of the project, Katherine Adams of Bel Air, a landscape architect, improved on the original garden plans "as a gift" to the town, Diebold reported.

"I took it one level further in detail. Now it's a theme garden," Adams said, noting that seven to nine special gardens will be featured.

And then Adams' garden plans were modified slightly by Julie Collins, 22, Binghamton, N.Y., who joined the National Civilian Community Corp after graduating from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania with a geology degree in May. Her stint on the Rockfield Park project gave Collins an opportunity to apply her college education.

"[Diebold] got me a topography map and, when I put it on top of the [garden] plans, I found a lot of places where it would be hard to walk," Collins said, adding, "So we moved parts of the trail."

In addition to contributions from citizens, the trees, shrubs and other plants used in the project were purchased by the Town of Bel Air.

CINCINNATI POST

CINCINNATI, OH
DAILY 98,520

THURSDAY

JAN 26 1995

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Clinton salutes Kentucky mom in AmeriCorps

By Bill Straub

Kentucky Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Cindy Perry's story doesn't sound all that unusual in many parts of rural Kentucky — a teen bride, her first child at age 15, three more to follow and no high school diploma.

But after sending her youngest child off to kindergarten last August, the 31-year-old Simpson County woman decided that she "wanted to do some good work."

That decision started Mrs. Perry on an unlikely journey that culminated Tuesday when she sat with first lady

Hillary Clinton in the chambers of the U.S. House of Representatives during President Clinton's State of the Union address.

Clinton asked her to stand toward the end of his speech and identified her as a person who "gains when she gives," a woman with four children who nonetheless "had time to serve other people."

Mrs. Perry serves in AmeriCorps, the national service program championed by Clinton and approved by the 103rd Congress.

Under the \$375 million program, volunteers engage in educational, environmental, public safety and human

service programs for minimum wage and a chance to earn awards of about \$5,000 per year to help pay for college or job training.

The program has attracted 20,000 people — more than the Peace Corps had in any single year. Northern Kentucky Abuse Prevention is developing a plan to become involved in AmeriCorps. The project, coordinated by the Northern Kentucky United Way and Community Chest, would work to reduce abuse of children and the elderly.

AmeriCorps has attracted the attention of congressional budget-cutters looking to balance the budget by 2002. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga.,

has referred to AmeriCorps as "forced volunteerism."

In response, Clinton cited AmeriCorps as "the essence of the new covenant" and invited four participants, including Mrs. Perry, to attend the address with the first lady.

Last September, the self-described "stay-at-home-mom" went to Franklin Elementary School to volunteer as a nurse. Instead, she got involved in the SLICE Corps — Service Learning Impacting Children's Education — which participates in the AmeriCorps program.

"I wanted to do some kind of work to help people, but I didn't know how,"

she said outside the Capitol Tuesday as her husband, Wade, ran a video camera.

As a SLICE participant, Mrs. Perry serves as a mentor, working with five to six second-graders on a one-on-one basis to improve their reading scores. Her students' proficiency in spelling has jumped 22 percent.

To qualify for AmeriCorps, she agreed to earn a General Education Development certificate.

Now Mrs. Perry wants to go to college, probably Western Kentucky University, with hopes of becoming a teacher or a social worker.

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

STATEN ISLAND, NY
DAILY 78-155

WEDNESDAY
JAN 25 1995

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Brighton native Philip Wu Jr. (arrow) applauds as first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton acknowledges the House gallery before her husband's State of the Union speech.

Night of a lifetime

Islander at Clinton's speech as Hillary's guest

6297AT
By JUDY L. RANDALL
ADVANCE POLITICAL WRITER

FRONT PAGE

WASHINGTON — West Brighton native Philip Wu Jr. — a member of AmeriCorps — said he felt like he "won the lottery" last night as the national service program he works for took center stage during President Clinton's State of the Union address.

Wu, 29, a Susan Wagner High School graduate who works with Habitat for

Humanity in conjunction with AmeriCorps, was among those selected by the White House to sit with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton during the president's address.

Wu, who wore his work clothes of jeans, boots, a sweatshirt and cap to the State of the Union, said he was "amazed" at having been selected to appear as a guest of the first lady.

(See WU, Page A 8)



President Clinton begins his State of the Union speech.



ADVANCE PHOTO / AAR BOBBIA

Philip Wu Jr., a member of AmeriCorps, meets Rep. Susan Molinari in her Capitol Hill office. Ms. Molinari has opposed funding AmeriCorps because she believes it is not cost-effective.

Wu

(From Page A 1)

The 20,000-person AmeriCorps was a centerpiece of Clinton's first year in office. Last night before introducing some of its members the president called it "citizenship at its best."

Participants get up to \$4,725 for college or vocational school tuition in return for doing two years of service in community programs. They live on an allowance of \$600 a month plus room and board and health care coverage.

Now a resident of Miami, Wu said he plans to spend his money on tuition to finish his college education. The one-time College of Staten Island student said he wants to get a degree in social work.

"I enjoy building homes and I enjoy building relationships with the community," said Wu of his current stint helping to rebuild Homestead, Fla., which was devastated by Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Wu, who yesterday paid an unscheduled visit to the office of Rep. Susan Molinari, said the program has given him "on-the-job training as a carpenter, supervisor and team leader." He said he and 20 others are working to produce a 10-home development.

Ms. Molinari has opposed funding AmeriCorps because she believes it is not cost-effective. While she said she was pleased Wu was recognized for his work, she said those who belong to the program should be paid through educational vouchers to ensure that they use the money they earn to go to college.

She said the \$2.8 billion that funds the program could be "stretched out" to benefit more youths simply by allocating it as straight tuition aid and requiring recipients to do volunteer work in their own community.

"I think what [President Clinton] calls volunteerism is providing people with a full-time job," the congresswoman said, estimating that when health care costs were included, the cost of putting a participant in the field was about \$20,000 a year.

The once-popular national volunteer plan also has come under fire from top Republicans, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich, as just another wasteful and overreaching government spending program.

Wu said he heard about AmeriCorps through the church he attends in Miami.

Just hours before the president's

address Wu said he still couldn't believe he had been selected to appear.

"I feel like I won the lottery," Wu said. "Working with Habitat is great stuff. We just moved in 16 families. We developed relationships with them. They even invited us to spend Christmas with them."

Wu's parents still live on Staten Island. His father, Philip Sr., is an accountant with Shamrock Bus Co. in Mariners Harbor. His mother, Myriam, also works for Shamrock, as a manager.

Staff writer Terence J. Kizian contributed to this report.

ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

ATLANTA, GA
DAILY 449,027

WEDNESDAY
JAN 25 1995

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First lady's guest list sends many messages

Invitees cast spotlight on White House priorities

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Washington — The White House sought to showcase its national service program and the U.S. military operation in Haiti by inviting AmeriCorps workers and a Haitian-born Marine to sit with Hillary Rodham Clinton during the State of the Union speech.

Cpl. Gregory Depestre, a 24-year-old soldier who served in his native Haiti, was invited to sit on Mrs. Clinton's left in the House gallery. Four AmeriCorps members also were invited to join the first lady, demonstrating the administration's determination to preserve the program that is on House Speaker Newt Gingrich's hit list. AmeriCorps allows Americans to pay off college loans through community service.

In addition, Kansas City Police Chief Steven Bishop, a strong supporter of the program, was to join the group.

Mrs. Clinton's guest list also included the Lucas family from Hattiesburg, Miss. Jack Lucas was the youngest Marine ever and the youngest man in this century to be given the Medal of Honor, receiving the award at the age of 17 for throwing himself on a grenade to protect his buddies on Iwo Jima during World War II. Lucas' son, Jimmy, a veterinarian from North Carolina who served in Vietnam, and his grandson, Matthew, a high school student, also were invited guests.

Also invited to sit with Mrs. Clinton were 2nd Lt. Mary Kay McLean, 31, who recently re-

turned from Air Force duty in Kuwait.

The first lady's guests also included the Rev. John Cherry and his wife, Rev. Diana Cherry, of AME Zion Church in Temple Hills, Md. Their congregation is active in promoting personal responsibility among community members, a favorite Clinton theme. Clinton spoke at the church last year.

The AmeriCorps members invited to sit with Mrs. Clinton were:

► Cindy Perry, 31, serving as a tutor to second-graders in rural Kentucky.

► Philip Wu, 28, working with Habitat for Humanity in Miami.

► Colin Yost, 24, working in Portland, Ore., with Green Corps to weatherize houses, teach energy conservation and combat lead poisoning.

► Laron Field, 22, working in Kansas City's Blue Hill neighborhood on anti-crime initiatives.

RICHMOND REGISTER

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Kentucky mom attends Clinton speech

U297AT
WASHINGTON (AP) — A Franklin, Ky., mother of four attended Tuesday night's State of the Union speech by President Clinton as a guest of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Cindy Perry, 31, is a participant in the new AmeriCorps national-service program.

Mrs. Clinton invited her to attend the speech to give a "personal face" to the president's promise to help save the program from Republican budget cuts.

AmeriCorps was created by Congress in 1993 at Clinton's urging. Volunteers are assigned to local public service programs.

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The real heroes



James Robbins, a Seaboard Conservation Corps member from Katy, talks with Eli Segal, president of AmeriCorps, as corps members carry logs to be shipped at Challenger Park in Friendswood Tuesday. Corps members were repairing a nature trail. (Photo by Marc Pesetsky)

AmeriCorps chief praises students

by JANICE SIMON
The Daily News

GALVESTON — AmeriCorps' survival depends on the differences the young corps members make in their communities, the president of the national program said Tuesday. Eli Segal, president of AmeriCorps, visited the site of the Galveston's Seaboard Conservation Corps, one of the first job-training programs started by President Clinton. Segal came to the Texas A&M University at Galveston campus as part of a two-day trip to Texas.

"We have to focus on the real heroes, the kids themselves," Segal said. "We have to focus on the young people and the benefits for everyone."

The AmeriCorps program is facing the budget cut from the Republican-controlled Congress. House Speaker Newt Gingrich has criticized the cost of the program, but Segal said he was confident the program would be spared. "Over time, this program will not only survive, it will prevail," Segal said.

In Galveston, the members of the Seaboard Conservation Corps have been cleaning up the shoreline and restoring nature trails in Friendswood's Challenger Park. The Galveston corps has given 11 high school youths a second chance to earn a high school diploma and to do community service work. The students live aboard the Texas Clipper training ship at TAMUG's Pelican Island camp.

Conservation Corps

The Seaboard Conservation Corps' three-year pilot program began in September, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Guard and AmeriCorps.

Each student must complete 900 hours of community service before training ends.

Students spend four hours a day in school at Galveston College and on the Texas Clipper studying for their General Equivalency Diplomas.

New classes will convene every nine months. During the program, students are given a weekly stipend of \$15. Uniforms, room and board and training are provided.

Each student will receive \$2,375 after the completion of nine months. The money can be used for college education or an approved technical training course.

Segal toured the park where the students were working on their latest environmental project.

Corps members receive small stipends and money for college.

They also are required to do community service work, ranging from tutoring children to building houses for the homeless.

"Our young people will get things done," Segal said, adding that the program has been good nationally. "They've closed crack houses, immunized children and cleaned up the shoreline."

Finding a fresh start

Federal program helps abuse victim end cycle of defeat

By Anne Gasior
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

WENT AT

Her drunken, abusive, husband ruined Sheryl Taylor's surprise birthday party last year when he hit one of Taylor's children. That was when Taylor finally realized she had had enough.

After 10 years, the Vandalia woman would no longer subject herself or her children to the pain, anger and upheaval that came with the abuse.

"I always thought I could make it better, but I finally realized that no matter what I did, it wasn't good enough," says Taylor, 38.

She broke free, divorced her husband, and set herself on an uphill course. Taylor's story is one of survival, of the truest kind of determination that led a woman — from a prison of abuse to a world of freedom and opportunity. It's a story that began at rock bottom and, through sheer will, moved steadily upward.

Much has happened to Taylor and her three children — ages 16, 13, and 11 — in the 12 months since Taylor left her husband.

They spent four months in the YWCA shelter for battered women and children.

Then Taylor moved her family to a subsidized apartment. She learned to take care of herself and her kids, to pay her bills, to put food on the table. She received her high school equivalency degree. She hounded the manager at another apartment complex and finally was accepted into the townhouse where she now lives.

But most important, Taylor applied for and was accepted to Americorps, an ini-

tiative started by President Clinton and designed to be a type of new domestic Peace Corps. Taylor is one of 20 Miami Valley residents chosen to take part in the Serve With Energy and Talent (SWEAT) program.

For the next year, Taylor will give back to the YWCA, working with Housekeys, the program that helped her get back on her feet. Through this community service, she will earn a \$7,662 stipend for the year and \$4,725 in college scholarship money. When her Americorps service is finished, Taylor plans to work toward a two-year degree as a mental health technician.

"I couldn't stand just sitting in the shelter, moaning and groaning about my fate," Taylor says. "I've been told I jumped up a lot faster than a lot of people, but I just wanted to start this life with my kids."

Ann Howard is an outreach worker at Housekeys and has worked with Taylor, first as a client and now alongside her as Taylor embarks on the SWEAT program.

"She has a lot of personal strength," Howard says of Taylor. "She has a real thirst for knowledge. She wants to know every possible way to do something. She



JIM RUTLEDGE/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

In the Serve With Energy and Talent program, Taylor earns a stipend and scholarship money.

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has a sense of self-esteem that I don't even have. I don't know where that comes from, but she's got it."

Maybe it came from her step-sister, a role model of sorts for Taylor. Becky Trzeciak, 28, was in a bad marriage and had a young child. But she got out of the marriage, earned her high school diploma and went on to nursing school. Trzeciak says Taylor saw her move on and knew she could do it, too.

Now Taylor, through her SWEAT assignment, hopes to be a role model for other women. Taylor will work to fulfill the Americorps motto, "Getting Things Done," by helping abused women who are trying to get back on their feet.

Taylor knows just how hard that can be.

"I'm scared every single day," Taylor says. "I'm depending on me now and I have three kids who've got no one but me."

But Taylor has been a fighter all her life. Don't look here for the picture of a Peace Corps volunteer of the 1960s. Taylor is no bright-eyed, middle-class college student. She came from a broken family where an alcoholic mother left five daughters in the care of a father who was addicted to gambling.

Eventually, a family services agency took the children away and scattered them. Taylor ended up in a juvenile home. When she was 17, she left the home and went to live with her mother.

Taylor married three times, the first time at 19, the last time to the abuser.

"I went from one man to another. I've never been on my own," Taylor says.

"Now, I'm allowed to be who I want to be. I finally realize I love my kids more than anything. When my mom left us, I said I would take care of my kids until the day I died. I forgot my promise for a while when I was in that abusive relationship."

The kids made all the difference.

"I'm sure if he hadn't started in on the kids, I'd still be there."

But Taylor isn't still there. In fact, she's nowhere close to where she was just a few months ago.

AMERICORPS

■ **WHAT:** President Clinton's national service program, a domestic Peace Corps.

■ **WHO:** The program is open to U.S. citizens or permanent residents, 17 or older. Participants must have a high school diploma or agree to earn one.

■ **LOCAL PROGRAM:** Serve With Energy and Talent (SWEAT) is one of nine Americorps projects in Ohio and the only one in the Miami Valley. There are 20 participants who will be working on programs that include truancy prevention, alternative dispute resolution, adult literacy, the environment, women in transition and neighborhood recreation, all in the Dayton area's most needy areas.

■ **PAY:** Participants receive a living allowance for the year of \$7,662. At the end of the service period, they receive \$4,725 to be applied to college tuition costs.

■ **INFORMATION:** Dayton's Americorps program is being overseen by the University of Dayton. For information, call 229-4641.

"I have been very impressed with all of the people but I am excited to see someone with Sheryl's background," says SWEAT director Brother Ed Zamierowski says. "The hand she was dealt was lousy, but she has made a lot out of it and is very enthusiastic."

Of the other 19 SWEAT participants, 18 have had at least some college, four have advanced degrees.

"A lot of the people in the program are more educated than she is and that bothered her at first," caseworker Ann Howard says of Taylor.

Quickly, however, Taylor saw just how much she had to offer and now that she has hit her stride, she is hoping to some day return to the YMCA shelter, but this time as a case manager.

"I want to be there when these women come in with their kids. I want to talk to them, to help them," Taylor says. "I want to change the world."

'I couldn't stand just sitting in the shelter, moaning and groaning about my fate. I've been told I jumped up a lot faster than a lot of people, but I just wanted to start this life with my kids.'

Sheryl Taylor



JAN UNDERWOOD/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

At their new Vandalia apartment, Tanya Ely (left), Robert Ely, their mother, Sheryl Taylor, and Tonya Ely page through photo albums and make plans for the future.

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AmeriCorps workers are helping landowners enroll in wetlands program

By KEN SWEENEY *6297AT*

A new volunteer organization initiated by President Clinton is making its presence felt in Iowa County.

Five young adults, all AmeriCorps volunteers from throughout the Midwest, set up shop in early October in the former Soil Conservation Service office on the west side of the square in downtown Williamsburg.

The main purpose of this group, according to Paul Heffron, public information officer, is to help get landowners along the Iowa River basin apply for and get enrolled in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program (EWRP).

Heffron and Jeff Chase, another group member, explained that the primary goal of the project is flood control on bottom land that has been cropped periodically, interspersed by years when the land is under water.

Landowners enrolled in EWRP do not contribute any of their own funds to restoration. In exchange for a perpetual wetlands easement, landowners receive \$837 an acre, with 75 percent payable at the start of the project and the remainder when restoration is completed.

Heffron said landowners have until Dec. 31 to sign up for the latest round of EWRP.

UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION

Heffron explained that AmeriCorps is an umbrella organization that puts a number of domestic volunteer service organizations under one agency. Although AmeriCorps volunteers are not federal employees, the program is administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

According to a USDA/AmeriCorps publication, the purpose of the AmeriCorps program "is to 'get things done,' using the concept of national service as a vehicle. It offers opportunities to Americans to serve their country and earn education awards in return. It is a grassroots effort to solve the problems facing communities across the nation.

More simply, Heffron said, it can best be described as a "domestic Peace Corps."

AmeriCorps volunteers must be high school graduates, but Heffron said college graduates are preferred. During their terms of service, members are paid a living allowance which amounts to about \$6.60 an hour. Members must perform 1,812 hours of service in no less than nine months and no more than 12 months.

At the end of their terms, members are given an educational award worth \$4,725 which can be used for college, job training or repayment of student loans.

Both public agencies and private, non-profit organizations can apply for AmeriCorps projects. The projects vary widely from conservation to domestic violence to historic preservation.

VARIETY OF EXPERIENCE

Members of the Williamsburg-based group have a wide variety of experience and education.

Heffron, 22, the public information officer for the group, is from Centerville and is a graduate of Creighton University, Omaha, with a degree in history. He said last summer he did



AmeriCorps volunteers working in Iowa County are: front, Jeff Chase; back, Terri Abbett, Ezana Habte-Gabr, Patrick Lake and Paul Heffron.

some work in the Dominican Republic for the Institute for Latin American Concern and this service made him decide to volunteer for AmeriCorps duty.

Chase, 25, of Cedar Rapids, is a graduate of Upper Iowa University,

Fayette, with a degree in conservation management. While at Upper Iowa, he volunteered for the Committee for the National Wild Turkey Federation and was a leader with Wetlands for Iowa. He also was heavily involved in outdoor

pursuits, especially archery.

Terri Abbett, 31, is from Kansas and holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Missouri State University, Warrensburg, and a master's degree in environmental biology from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kan.

She spent this summer working with the University of Missouri, researching the Indiana bat in northern Missouri. Her specialty, however, is songbirds, having studied songbird diversity at Emporia. While at Warrensburg, she studied songbirds and mammals of Nevada and was attacked while attempting to count eggs in an owl's nest.

Patrick Lake, 23, is from Fort Madison and will graduate from the University of Iowa in December with a major in geography with emphasis on environmental studies. He also spent two years at Western Illinois University, Macomb, where he studied geography and wetlands.

Ezana Habte-Gabr, 27, is from Eritrea, a country which gained its Independence from Ethiopia in 1991, but has spent most of his life in Iowa. He has a degree in geography from the University of Iowa and is currently working toward a master's degree in geography from the University of Northern Iowa. He is engaged to be married to a Colombian citizen from Bogota.

Habte-Gabr said giving service to AmeriCorps while acquiring experience on GIS (Geographic Information System) is a great way to learn about GIS as well as giving something back to the State of Iowa.

Heffron said the project the five will be working on was proposed by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). It involves nearly 50,000 acres of the Iowa River flood plain, spanning nearly 45 river miles from the Mesquakie Indian Reservation near Tama to the Mississippi River. Their work will be coordinated with the SCS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

For their project, the AmeriCorps members will be:

- Restoring wetlands by helping landowners in the basin enroll in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program;
- Developing and implementing an inventory of existing wetland easements and other potential sites using a GIS layer;
- Assisting the Iowa River Corridor coordinator in implementing the objectives of the IRC vision statement;
- Developing and implementing an inventory of special water quality/wetland restoration projects; and
- Developing and implementing a public information program on wetlands, alternative flood plain management and water quality.

The project proposal indicates there are approximately 400 landowners in the nine counties of the Iowa River basin. The AmeriCorps members will be helping with applications and helping landowners do the plans and convert the lands back to wetlands.

AmeriCorps helps single mother pay college education expenses

6297BT

Southeast Missourian

As a single mother of two, Teresa Hale recently faced an uphill battle. How would she repay the nearly \$10,000 in student loans?

Hale, a senior at Southeast Missouri State University, considered military service for the educational benefits it offered.

But she failed to qualify because of eyesight problems, a rejection Hale found hard to swallow, she said.

Determined to find a way finance her college education, Hale wrote to President Bill Clinton. No response. She wrote again and received a form letter.

Determined to get a response from the President himself, Hale

tried an innovative approach.

She wrote a letter on recycled paper, crafted at the hands of several Girl Scouts for whom she served as a counselor during a camping outing last summer.

In June, Clinton sent Hale a message she hopes will change her life. Clinton told Hale about a program called "AmeriCorps," in which volunteers could work for educational awards to be used for college or training.

In September, Hale learned an AmeriCorps program was being started at Southeast. After hearing a local news broadcast announcing that area volunteers for the program were being sought, she wanted to join.

Today, Hale is a member of the Southeast Missouri Partners for Community Service, the AmeriCorps program serving eight counties in Southeast Missouri — Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Mississippi, Scott, Stoddard, New Madrid, Dunklin and Pemiscot.

She already has begun her volunteer work on a six-member health impact team based in Stoddard County, and has been working with the Stoddard County Health Department in Bloomfield.

She plans to talk to school officials in Stoddard County to expand or establish programs for at-risk students, including a support group or program for school dropouts.

"It's really a good learning experience," she said. "I'm learning things I need for my field of psychology. I want to work with youths when I graduate. It's really a lot of fun for me. The experience I'm getting is really important. But the educational grant is the big thing."

Under the plan, Hale and other full-time AmeriCorps workers will perform 1,700 hours of community service a year in return for \$7,400 in annual wages plus child care and health insurance.

After each year of service, workers will receive a \$4,725 educational award to attend college or a postsecondary vocational school. Participation of full-time workers is limited to two years.

Based on those figures, Hale says she will be able to repay nearly all of her \$10,000 educational debt by the end of 1996.

Seventeen part-time workers have been sworn in and will perform 900 hours of community service over a two-year period.

In return for their service, they will receive an educational award of \$2,362.50.

Part-time workers who are full-time students may extend their period of service to three years.

The Southeast Missouri Partners for Community Service has received \$390,000 in August and was one of three in the state to receive funding.

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AmeriCorps volunteers make big difference in area towns

6297AT
By STACY Y. CHINA

Children in Hillside and Plainfield are benefiting from the work of two determined volunteers who are getting things done in the country's domestic Peace Corps.

Barbara Harmon and Samantha Kanner are volunteers in the AmeriCorps program, initiated by President Clinton as a way for people to give back to communities.

Workers are enlisted for a year and receive a living expenses stipend, a health care package and money to use toward undergraduate college loans or tuition for a higher degree.

Each volunteer must donate 1,700 hours to one of four major priorities—education, public safety, human needs or the environment.

After their cycle is complete, workers can reapply for a second year of service. There are about 20,000 participants nationwide.

Harmon and Kanner are sponsored through a grant called Action for Children Today (ACT), which is given to Community Coordinated Child Care (CCCC) in Hillside.

Since September, they have worked at the after-school programs of Hurden-Looker, George Washington, A.P. Morris and Calvin Coolidge schools with workers from the YMCA of Eastern Union County.

Kanner, a 26-year-old Manalapan resident, is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University and Kean College who received her teacher's certification in Connecticut.

She is pursuing a master's degree in art therapy at New York University's School of Education. Kanner said she found out about AmeriCorps in a magazine ad.

Harmon, 24, graduated from Trenton State College in May 1993 with a communications degree. The Orange resident heard about AmeriCorps in school.



Barbara Harmon of Orange, an AmeriCorps volunteer, works with children during a first aid exercise at the Hurden-Looker School in Hillside

"It's a great opportunity to give back to the community, and it's great to have someone behind us. We would be doing this kind of work anyway, but AmeriCorps gives us the added incentive to do what we want to do," she said.

Between 30 to 35 children attend the after-school program at Hurden-Looker School daily, said Dorothy Driscoll, CCCC spokeswoman.

In addition to helping YMCA workers with supervision, arts and crafts and tutoring, Harmon and

Kanner also implement their own programs with the children.

For example, they are teaching First Aid for Children Today (FACT), an American Red Cross program. Harmon is a certified first aid instructor.

"The satisfaction comes in when you see a child remembers what you taught him two weeks ago," she said. "I hope nothing happens to them, but if an emergency does happen, they will be prepared."

On Fridays, Harmon and Kan-

ner travel to the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County in Plainfield, where they teach at the Even Start Family Literacy Program.

Evelyn Leverett, program director, said they have been a welcome addition to the group.

"Samantha has an art background, which none of the other workers has. Her ideas have helped both the parents and the children," she said.

Kanner is organizing a recycling resource center for the art pro-

grams in the Hillside schools.

She is asking various local companies to donate shredded paper, stickers, cardboard tubes, scrap wood, plastic spools, wall-paper, sample books and tiles.

"It's hard for kids to let go with just the traditional art materials," Kanner said.

If parents and students respond well to the idea, Kanner hopes to open a center twice a month on Saturdays at a Hillside location.

"I planned for it to be for children, but if parents want to get involved that's great. It would provide for real quality time for families," she said.

Harmon is working on offering free CPR classes to adults, and on organizing a parent center at the after-school programs.

Both volunteers are working on a monthly parent newsletter to be continued by the district after the AmeriCorps year is complete.

Diane Genco, AmeriCorps coordinator for central New Jersey, praised the enthusiasm Harmon and Kanner bring to their work.

"They have to be real self-starters," she said.

There are six other workers in the state under the ACT grant, and about 75 AmeriCorps workers in the state overall.

After completing her AmeriCorps year, Harmon plans to attend graduate school to become a college professor in communications, while Kanner will study to become a special education art teacher for elementary school children.

Harmon said the AmeriCorps experience has allowed her to receive more than she has given.

"Working with these kids, you have to keep your energy level high. After teaching a class, I feel much better. It uplifts you," she said.

TELEGRAPH HERALD

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Americorps volunteer defends program

6297AT
By Seth Hettner
of the Telegraph Herald

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, thinks the Americorps volunteer program, the national Peace Corps created by President Clinton, is flawed. Without saying the program should be shelved, in a speech that was picked up by several newspapers, Grassley said Americorps' costs are too high, it doesn't screen out millionaires, and its volunteers do little work.

Grassley's remarks got Lara Frankenberg pretty steamed.

Frankenberg, 23, from Toledo, Ohio, is an Americorps volunteer at the YWCA's Battered Women's Program in Dubuque.

She's not a millionaire, she says, in fact she comes from a family that hovers around the poverty line.

If the program does cost \$30,000 per volunteer, which is a figure Grassley cites, Frankenberg doesn't see much of it. She makes \$800 a month before taxes.

She said she works hard — 40 hours a week — more if needed.

Frankenberg serves as a court advocate for abused women who need help filling out court forms. She also handles calls on the program's crisis line and the rest of the time she works in the YWCA's shelter.

"There are some days that are great," she said. "There are some days that just put my stomach in knots."

A bad day is when a woman walks into

the shelter with bruises and leaves the same day "and there's nothing you can do about it," she said.

She gets two days off a week but patting her beeper, she said that she is never too far from work.

"When I believe in something I go all the way," Frankenberg said.

She applied late to the Americorps program and was worried that there weren't any openings left. So when she heard about the position at the YWCA, "I was halfway to Iowa," she said.

After a week of training in Des Moines, Frankenberg came to Dubuque Oct. 10.

The program has given her hands-on experience that she could never get in college, she said.

"For me and a lot of people a college degree isn't a ticket to a job," she said.

And she can't forget Grassley.

"I'm sure that there's nothing that's perfect," Frankenberg said, "but this is the first program since the Peace Corps that I have honestly felt pride in my government."

"If you see a problem, fix it, don't kill it," she said. "Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater."



Frankenberg

NOV 24 1994

A Second Chance at the American Dream

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AFTER BEING OUT of work for almost three years, Richard Torres will begin a new job soon, but it's not just any job. For him, it will be a stepping stone to a second chance in life.

It is a step toward achieving his American Dream — and he is doing it with the help of Goodwill's Job Club program and the Clinton administration.

Torres has beaten out almost 300 applicants to become only one of five team leaders position in the local AmeriCorps program, President Bill Clinton's national service program modeled after the Peace Corps.

"There were people with M.A. degrees lined up for the team leader jobs," says Paul Primm, Goodwill's Job Club coordinator who helped guide Torres in

landing his high-profile job in the AmeriCorps' anti-hunger and empowerment program. "The competition was very tough."

So tough, in fact, that to prepare for interviews with prospective employers and find a good job match, job developers worked one-on-one with Torres for a period of two months. Primm worked with him to develop a resumé and conducted videotaped mock interviews.

After he applied to AmeriCorps, Torres then went through an exhaustive interview and evaluation process, but not without Primm's support and encouragement.

Primm would call Torres to remind him of appointments, and he even drove him to his interview with AmeriCorps representatives.

"Paul went out of his way to help me," says Torres. "It made me feel good. He encouraged me a lot. I saw how much Paul cared for me. It made me try harder."

Primm believes Torres will excel at his job because "Richard has worked hard on Richard." Specifically, Primm cites Torres' communication skills, his ability to relate to others, intense eye contact and listening skills.

"When he's working with the homeless, Rich-

ard will know how to discern what they say and need because he knows street talk and how bad it is out there," says Primm.

Primm also said that Torres' life experiences are assets to his new job because he's overcome some major obstacles — including gang involvement, alcohol and drug abuse, and incarceration — and will encounter others who may be in the same situation.

"Those life experiences will come in handy when he's out on Skid Row finding people temporary housing or setting up a farmer's market that teachers families about nutrition," says Primm.

Along with the farmer's market, Torres and his seven team members will set up a community garden. Their goals are to reduce the number of Americans suffering from hunger, improve the nutritional

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A Continued From Page A3
content of family diets, and give citizens the tools to help themselves out of poverty.

Torres' work history includes a series of construction-related jobs and volunteer community service. He has first-hand counseling experience as a substance abuse counselor at a mid-Wilshire recovery home.

After 10 months of AmeriCorps service, Torres will receive a \$4,725 education award. He says he will use this scholarship toward an Associate of Arts degree from Glendale College in substance abuse counseling. Ten months will be extended to a lifetime of service when he becomes a counselor for people recovering from substance abuse.

"No matter your past," says Torres, "you can do it if you want it."

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D. ROSS CAMERON — Staff

Sean McGuire of Hayward pushes his way through the underbrush that he and his fellow Americorps workers are clearing at the East Bay Regional Park at Lake Temescal in Oakland.

Domestic corps teaches teen-agers to be good citizens

By Meredith May
STAFF WRITER

6297AT
Anissa Nunez spent all day Tuesday at Oakland's Lake Temescal digging a ditch and pulling weeds as part of President Bill Clinton's idea of revitalizing America.

The Castro Valley teen-ager is one of eight young people who signed up for Americorps, the president's domestic peace corps program. She and her crew will spend the next 11 months on conservation projects in the East Bay Regional Park District.

The workers will get \$4.25 an hour — or a total of \$4,750 to put toward college tuition or loans, health benefits and child care. They also will attend classes on leadership skills, community service and self-esteem.

"It's a lot of work, but I like it," 18-year-old Nunez said as she stomped her shovel into the ground.

"I'm learning how to communicate with people and I'm also learning about trees and how they grow. Like, did you know there are long and short pine needles? I just thought a pine needle was a pine needle," she said.

Nunez isn't quite sure which college she will apply to, or which major she'll study. But she doesn't want to sit around in a cafe or in front of the TV trying to figure it out, either. She wants to serve her community, she said.

"Americorps is a great opportunity for young people who are trying to decide on a career or maybe lost their enthusiasm for school. Besides, there's nothing like physical labor to make you decide to go back to school," said Lake Temescal Park Supervisor Frances Heath.

For the past three weeks the Americorps crew has been planting trees and cleaning the beach of Lake Temescal. The workers show up at the lake about 8:30 a.m., chat with each other for awhile and then get to work, chopping down non-native acacia bushes and trying to stay out of the poison oak.

On Dec. 1, each worker will take on an ecological internship at various parks throughout the East Bay.

Nicole Egger of Berkeley will

“I just thought a pine needle was a pine needle.”

Anissa Nunez

Castro Valley teen-ager in Americorps

go to Anthony Chabot Regional Park in Castro Valley to help rip out non-native eucalyptus trees and replant the grounds with native shrubs and flowers.

Sean McGuire of Hayward will enter hiking trail coordinates into a portable computer as he walks along district trails. The information he gathers will be downloaded into the district's new computer mapping system, which will be used to make accurate park maps and eventually allow visitors to get park information on-line.

"I guess you could say I've got a whole new code of ethics now," said McGuire, who dropped out of high school into the beer commercial lifestyle before finding his passion for ecological conservation.

McGuire had spent one year with the East Bay Conservation Corps, which oversees Americorps. When his stint was up with the East Bay group, he signed up for Clinton's corps. Now he dreams of becoming a forest ranger.

The eight young people assigned by the East Bay Conservation Corps to the park district say they're learning a lot about ecology, but even more from long conversations with one another during eight-hour seeding and weeding sessions.

They describe their job as MTV's Real World meets the environment — a group of people with completely different backgrounds who found themselves sharing 40 hours a week together out in the outdoors.

"They've got to work together all day long, and they've done a remarkable job of solidifying as a group while at the same time learning to respect each other's voices. If they can solve those kind of problems, then they can solve the problems of America because that's what we're all about, respect," said Americorps Supervisor Mike Smith.

NEW HAMPSHIRE WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 20, 1994

LOIS SHEA

AmeriCorps worker makes a difference

It's 8:30 a.m. and Nashua District Court is teeming with people who look like they just walked out of a Tom Waits song.

A handcuffed man with no shoelaces and dried blood on his face is led into Courtroom 1. A woman with black heels, a long black trench coat and a very, very short skirt roams the building. Lawyers wearing expensive ties and too much aging gel strut with exaggerated purpose.

Before the clock has a chance to strike 9, two women have already showed up to fill out petitions for temporary restraining orders against their abusive husbands or boyfriends. To greet them at the door is a 22-year-old woman who, unbeknownst to them, is about to make their day in court a whole lot easier.

Debbie is an AmeriCorps worker. She is stationed in Nashua District Court for the next 10 months to help women — and a few men — through the labyrinthine process of securing restraining orders against abusive partners.

She explains the legal process, answers questions, helps with paperwork, appears with victims before the judge. She is present at final hearings and is armed with a list of referrals for everything from food stamps to free health care and pro bono divorce lawyers.

Debbie, who uses just her first name for safety, has given a year of her life to public service. Through the AmeriCorps program, started by President Clinton last year, this aspiring law student will receive an educational stipend — and a priceless courthouse education.

The state AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program has 30 workers stationed in district courts, prosecutor's offices and crisis centers. Nearly 200 more AmeriCorps workers take part in educational and environmental programs in New Hampshire.

Debbie is tall and blonde and well-spoken, a self-described "idealist." She contradicts every Generation X stereotype.

"I think I can get a lot accomplished by being idealistic," she says.

This morning at the courthouse, she is wasting no time. The two women who arrived before 9 looking tense and scared are relieved when she appears at their side to explain the process and help with the paperwork.

While Debbie waits for court to be called into session, she stands in the corner of the lobby with "Louise." Louise's troubles pour out like a waterfall — the history of abusive relationships, her husband's violent outbursts, the stalking, the struggle to care for her young child.

Debbie hears her out. Then she says, "But look how far you've come. You got out." Louise hadn't really looked at it that way. She brightens a bit. When it is time to go before the judge, Debbie walks alongside Louise down the center court aisle.

The temporary order is issued. When she leaves the courtroom, Louise thanks God out loud that she didn't have to go before the judge alone.

AmeriCorps was a natural for Debbie. A New Hampshire native, she graduated last spring from UNH with a major in political science and minors in

women's studies and justice studies. In college, she worked as a rape crisis counselor. In law, she wants to specialize in women's issues. She considered joining the Peace Corps, but decided AmeriCorps was better for her.

"I think the Peace Corps is great, but I think the United States has a lot of problems that it has to deal with. And I think domestic violence is a major problem on the agenda," she says.

Proof of that enters the courthouse in a steady stream. Shortly after 10 a.m., a woman Debbie helped last week rushes in. When Debbie last saw "Amy," her face was so black and blue that Debbie could not recognize her from her driver's license picture. Now Amy wants the restraining order against her boyfriend dropped.

Debbie asks why.

"I love him and I want to get married."

Debbie and Amy confer in hushed tones. Amy says she provoked the beating. Debbie tries, to no avail, to convince Amy that it was not her fault. She tells Amy that she can come back and get another order if she wants to, and gives her referrals to social service agencies. Then she watches Amy walk out the door.

"I'm really upset right now," Debbie says, sitting down on a court bench. Amy will probably land back in court or in the back of an ambulance.

But when "Jill" walks into the courthouse, Debbie's upset momentarily vanishes. Jill had been in a violent relationship, dependent and down and out. Debbie helped her get a restraining order. Jill got out of the relationship, got a job, got herself some new clothes and came back to Debbie to say thanks.

Seeing women transform their lives makes Debbie's service worthwhile. Referring to Jill, Debbie says, "She's got a job, she's dressed up, she's... she's... happy."

Debbie walks the halls of the courthouse like a pro. The clerks page "Miss Debbie" if she is upstairs and a woman needs help. By guiding people through the process, Debbie makes judges' jobs easier. The bailiffs keep her posted on the court schedule, and, in return, she bakes cookies for the bailiffs.

Debbie got some of her inspiration to serve from the guy who started AmeriCorps.

"I think he's an important figure," Debbie says of Bill Clinton. "He's very idealistic, too... I think it's good that he's gotten this started. I hope it's given a chance."

Debbie could have gotten a job at an insurance agency, like some of her friends, and made a lot more money for law school. But that wasn't really the point.

"That wouldn't have meant as much to me," Debbie says. She doesn't have designs on becoming a high-priced lawyer. She chose law because she believes in the law's awesome power to do good.

The Nashua court breaks for a late lunch. Debbie eats her sandwich in her car, then stations herself back at the courthouse doors, waiting for women who need her help.

While a lot of people in her generation whine that there are no more heroes, Debbie is busy becoming one.

Iowa View/ SANDRA TIBBETTS MURPHY

How AmeriCorps is helping Iowans

The cost of supporting an AmeriCorps member is an investment wisely made.

What is AmeriCorps? According to Senator Charles Grassley, whose condemnation of the program appeared in The Register on Nov. 4, AmeriCorps is an inefficient and ineffective program, doomed by bureaucracy and misguided principles, and which will have little, if any, effect on lower and middle-class Americans.

This picture does not provide the truth.

The cost of supporting an AmeriCorps member is an investment wisely made. (The senator said it costs \$30,000, but the actual cost is less than half that amount and includes a \$4,725 post-service award to help pay for college.)

According to the Family Violence Prevention Fund, every nine seconds in this country a woman is beaten by her partner.

With this AmeriCorps grant, the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence has hired and trained 20 AmeriCorps members to work as victim advocates in domestic-violence projects across the state. Despite Grassley's allegations, the people joining this program are not the children of millionaires who are looking to pad their

resumes while getting easy help with college bills. AmeriCorps members serving in the domestic-violence project will receive less than \$8,000 for their year of service.

Many have joined this program with little regard for the minimal benefits provided. They have joined because AmeriCorps represents an opportunity to give back to their communities and to work for a cause in which they strongly believe.

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence is not the only Iowa program strengthened by AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps members with the Department of Public Health are conducting an immunization drive for Iowa families of modest means. Others with the "I Have A Dream" program have "adopted" Des Moines schoolchildren at risk of dropping out to help them stay in school. More AmeriCorps members working with 17 Iowa colleges will fix up homes of older Iowans who are hit by hard times and teach kids how to talk things out rather than shoot it out.

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence's AmeriCorps members represent a wonderful diversity among the people of Iowa and the Mid-

west. They range in age from 20 to 57, and many are survivors of some form of domestic violence. They come from different backgrounds and from various types of families. Several are single mothers looking to set examples for their own children as well as working to create opportunities for themselves. Most AmeriCorps members are working toward college degrees or holding other part-time jobs, carrying the 1,700-hour service requirement in addition to these other demands.

In operation since Oct. 1, 1994, the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence has set very specific goals for AmeriCorps members. These 20 members will provide 8,000 contacts with victims of domestic violence, assist more than 1,000 battered women to obtain protective orders, and provide a minimum of 2,080 hours of educational programs to their communities.

Such results do not begin to touch upon the effect of this work on the AmeriCorps members themselves. Because of this program, 20 people will have a chance to create their own opportunities through the skills they learn, the contacts they make, and the educational stipend. The most important result of this program occurs

when a battered woman has found her voice, speaks about her abuse, and is believed.

One of the coalition's AmeriCorps members said: "Someone once said, when asked if she really thought she could save the world, 'No, but I hope to at least be able to tip the scale.' " This represents the ultimate goal of AmeriCorps: to tip the scale by getting things done that can be seen and felt by others.

I strongly encourage every reader to find one such AmeriCorps member and to ask them about their commitment to this year of service. I doubt their answers would fail to touch and inspire every reader in some way.

In the few minutes that it took to read this, at least 20 more women have been beaten by their partners somewhere in this country. With the help of the AmeriCorps program, maybe one woman has been helped, and the scale has been tipped, at least by a small margin.

SANDRA TIBBETTS MURPHY is AmeriCorps program coordinator, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines.

THE DALLAS DAILY
CHRONICLE

THE DALLAS, OF
DATE 7 SEPTEMBER 1990

THE PRICE

Clinton project benefits college

FRONT PAGE

■ The AmeriCorps project leaves its mark in The Dalles

6297AT

By TOM STEVENSON
Managing Editor

There is much work to be done on the grounds of the new Columbia Gorge Community College campus.

Projects are backed up, waiting for the time, money and manpower to become available to get them done.

One of those projects — a new retaining wall that holds back a bank along the main driveway — has been done thanks to a cooperative agreement between the college and the new AmeriCorps Program.

The AmeriCorps Program was designed and implemented by President Clinton as an opportunity for those who want to go to college — but for financial reasons cannot afford to. Under the program's rules, participants sign up for a year, work on a number of different projects for a minimal weekly salary, and at the end of the year get a \$5,000 education voucher.

For many the commitment is one year, for others it can be two.

It takes quite a commitment for someone to step outside each day to work in all kinds of conditions, doing work to benefit the environment, all for only \$156 a week. There is a carrot dangling at the end, however, and it is that, along with an opportunity to learn many skills, that has attracted a wide assortment of people to the program, according to Jerry Gabay.

Gabay is the director of the Mt. Adams Center of the Northwest Service Academy, which is a part of the AmeriCorps program. He was on hand last week to watch six members of one of his three nine-people crews work on the



AMERICORPS IN ACTION — Brent Force (left) and Carl Lampman were two team members from the AmeriCorps Program who were working recently on a new retaining wall at Columbia Gorge Community College. Both work through the Northwest Service Academy's Mt. Adams Center. (Staff photo by Tom Stevenson)

new retaining wall at Columbia Gorge Community College.

"It is a diverse group," said Gabay. "We have three grandmothers in the program, and we have people right out of high school."

Under the guidelines of the AmeriCorps program, all of the projects the teams work on have to be environmentally related. The team that was working at CGCC had earlier been building a fence around a water project in

Washington before being snowed out. Near Estacada, they built about five miles of trail in the Mt. Hood National Forest. At the same time the crew was working in The Dalles, another group was

See AmeriCorps, page 7



THE WHOLE CREW — Crew members from the AmeriCorps Program who took part in building a new retaining wall at Columbia Gorge Community College include (from left) Christina Wellman, Jennifer Glowacki, Brent Force, Kim Pope, Carl Lampman, and John Duff, the Team Steward. (Staff photo by Tom Stevenson)

AmeriCorps

Continued from page 1 A

enhancing habitat for waterfowl on Wells Island at Hood River.

Yet another team recently finished working three weeks dismantling Hope's Place, a women's shelter in White Salmon that burned. The environmental connection there, Gabay noted, is that the new Hope's Place will be a solar building and will have a state-of-the-art recycling program.

The work is not easy, as Jennifer Glowacki, a recent high graduate from Timber noted.

"The work is hard," said Glowacki. "The first project we did was trail building and it took a lot out of you. But we got used to it, and we have a good time working together, so that helps."

Glowacki joked that the team had recently took a week off for training, and then moved to Columbia Gorge Community College to begin the latest project and the sore muscles quickly returned. But to her, it is certainly worth it.

"The scholarship at the end makes it all worth while," she said. "But I just graduated and this is giving me a chance to figure out what I want to do."

Carl Lampman, a 23-year-old from White Salmon, had worked construction since he graduated from high school, but has wanted to go to college to study engineering. It was his mother who handed him the application for the AmeriCorps program.

"If you're looking to further your education and looking for a challenge in your life, then I would say 'yes, do this,'" Lampman said. "It's also nice to know that what we're doing is

going to affect future generations."

John Duff, a 26-year-old former resident of the east coast who came to the program via Seattle, was the "team steward" on duty at the college. He was quick to note that the program was off to a good start.

"Things are going well," he said. "There have been a lot of things we had not anticipated, but that is part of it being the first year. What I'm enjoying seeing is the success people are having. They are sticking with the program, setting goals and reaching them."

Because he is a member of the actual "management staff," Duff will not get the \$5,000 education voucher at the end of the year. He said he chose to become a part of the AmeriCorps team because he "wanted to do something for the environment, something outdoors and to work with people."

"It's been a great experience so far," said Duff, who has his Bachelor's Degree in English and plans on furthering his education. "The dynamics of working in a group like this are really interesting."

Since the program began late last summer, only four people have dropped out, Gabay said. One was asked to leave, while the other three chose to depart for personal reasons.

The Northwest Service Academy is one of similar programs created as part of AmeriCorps. Some of those involved live on site at Trout Lake, and their room and board is deducted from their \$156 per week. Others live at home or in other private residences.

Those from the Mt. Adams

Center work throughout the Mid-Columbia region, and Gabay said he is hearing from a number of groups and agencies who are interested in having groups do work.

"We met (last week) with some people who want us to do some riparian work on Fifteen Mile Creek," Gabay said. "The BPA also wants us to do riparian work on other creeks. The Dufur Historical Society has talked to us. All of those are in the conceptual stage. We would also really like to do some work on the Riverfront Trail in The Dalles."

The projects being accomplished by those in AmeriCorps are quite likely projects that would not get done otherwise — at least not as quickly, Gabay noted.

"We are going out and working in the communities," said Gabay. "We hope people will see what can get done."

Those who have work done by AmeriCorps workers pay for it in various ways. In the case of the college, CGCC officials agreed to give tuition grants for participants of \$200 per day that the crew is working on the campus.

Gabay said that he is uncertain how the grants will be used, but different options are being explored, ranging from a class being taught to all in the Mt. Adams Center, to individuals getting further training.

"It is a cooperative effort that works," Gabay said.

The Northwest Service Academy is currently recruiting for new crew members to begin working in January. For additional information about the program contact Leigh Hancock at (509) 395-3467.

KEENE SENTINEL

November 3, 1994

AmeriCorps lends a hand

Work traded for tuition help

By ERIC ALDRICH
Sentinel Staff

JAFFREY — By day they're fixing trails, helping at the Community Kitchen in Keene or working at other projects around the region.

By night, 20 AmeriCorps crew members live in tents at the base of Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey.

They're quickly getting acquainted with the region.

At an average age of 22, they're participating in President Clinton's new national service initiative — better known as AmeriCorps — so they can earn money for college or pay back school loans.

This group is among dozens of other AmeriCorps crews nationwide getting started this fall.

Now in its third week, the Monadnock crew will spend 11 months doing an array of conservation and community service projects in the region. A public reception will be held for the crew and its organizers Thursday morning at the park.

"I'm really enjoying this. It's been pretty interesting," said Matt McLane, 22, of Syracuse, N.Y.

McLane was among other AmeriCorps crew members building a trail bridge Monday at Rhododendron State Park in Fitzwilliam.

"Before this, I had no idea how to build a timber bridge," McLane said as he prepared to start a chain saw.

McLane likes the program for its flexibility and because it's a new way of life for him. He recently graduated from college with a geography degree; AmeriCorps will help him pay off his student loans.

"I wasn't looking to go out and get a professional job right away," McLane said. "I was vacillating whether to go back to school for teaching. But I also wanted to do some community service."

McLane said the AmeriCorps program will give him a taste of all sorts of careers to try out, like possibly park management.

Workday

Twelve men and eight women are in the Monadnock corps; all but five are from New Hampshire. Project Director David Grimmer and five crew leaders coordinate the work and also live and work with the corps.

The day starts about 6 a.m. when crew members are awakened in tents clustered at the state park. Some stay in a big canvas tent with a wood stove while others stay in nylon tents.



A weekly column about the environment

Breakfast is served in a small cabin at the park converted into a dining hall, where a cook, who's not a corps member makes breakfast and dinner on camping stoves.

After breakfast and morning chores, they split into crews of four or five people and work at various sites until sunset.

So far, crews have done extensive trail work on the mountain and at Rhododendron, renovated nearby Boy Scout and Girl Scout camps, and worked at the Community Kitchen in Keene. Eventually, crews will take on projects with the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock and winterize houses through Southwestern (N.H.) Community Services, among many other tasks.

Back at the park they wolf down a hearty dinner, do the dishes and more chores and end the evening studying or entertaining themselves.

By 9 or 10 p.m., after a full day of work, they go to bed.

Living conditions "aren't posh, but we do fine," said Brian Jerosse, a recent political science graduate who also lives near Syracuse. "We've had some great food. They feed us well."

Some crews are fixing cabins at Camp Wanocksett in Jaffrey where they can sleep in relative warmth starting this week. But several AmeriCorps members scoff at the notion of sleeping in a heated cabin and are determined to see how long they can stay in tents as the weather gets cold.

There are no showers at Monadnock State Park. So they've arranged to take showers at the Keene Family YMCA two or three times a week. In return, Monadnock's AmeriCorps will help the YMCA develop an environmental education program.

Conservation work

Most of Monadnock's AmeriCorps members have an interest in natural resources or the environment. All love the outdoors.

Alyson Lesniak of Manchester, for instance, graduated in May from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in wildlife management.

"It's nice to have something like

this for a year," Lesniak said during a break from chipping bark from a massive log that will be part of the bridge at Rhododendron State Park.

The bridge project is part of the crew's effort to make a loop trail at Rhododendron State Park accessible to people in wheelchairs.

Like all of Monadnock's AmeriCorps members, Lesniak will develop an individual service plan, in which she will concentrate on a community service project of her own. Lesniak's not sure yet what it will be — maybe something to do with environmental education.

AmeriCorps members will concentrate on their own plans this winter, when it gets too cold to work outside.

The Monadnock program was put together by the Charlestown-based Student Conservation Association and its statewide arm, the N.H. Conservation Corps. Approving the non-profit groups' proposal was the government office that administers AmeriCorps, the Corporation for National Service.

For an 11 month commitment, AmeriCorps members get nominal living expenses and \$4,725 toward their college tuition or loans. The Monadnock program is now full with its 20 members.

Officials at Monadnock State Park say they're thrilled to have a dedicated corps of people taking on all sorts of projects.

"We have a long list of things they can do at the parks around here," said Ben P. Haubrich, supervisor of the state parks in southwestern New Hampshire.

Aside from fixing trails, AmeriCorps members will be trained in first aid and search and rescue, said Grimmer, the corps' project director. He'd like to see the AmeriCorps crew be able to help set up relief efforts in the event of a natural disaster, such as a flood.

Community work

Melinda Cambiar, director of Keene's Community Kitchen, is also pleased with AmeriCorps.

"It's really nice having a group of volunteers coming in on a regular basis who bring so much enthusiasm to their work," Cambiar said. "They just jump right into everything."

The work isn't glamorous, and it's not outside — as most corps members prefer.

On Monday afternoon, four of Monadnock's AmeriCorps members were in the Community Kitchen's food pantry in Keene. While two packed boxes of food for families needing Thanksgiving dinners, two others scooped peanut

butter from 6-pound government containers into smaller cartons for the food boxes.

kinton as she scooped peanut butter. "Everyone should do something like this sometime in their

Truesdale, who graduated this year from high school, said the work lets her reflect on things that many people take for granted — like having enough food for their family.

Helping Truesdale was Iva Small of New Jersey, who's applying his AmeriCorps money toward graduate school.

"This is great because we're doing conservation and community service," Small said.

Most of the 500 or so Thanksgiving food boxes already packed at the Community Kitchen were

"This is an incredible, fantastic opportunity," said AmeriCorps member Katie Truesdale of Hopewell, N.J., who's preparing by the AmeriCorps members.

Cambiar said their work has helped other volunteers and staff prepare the kitchen's weekly volume of food boxes instead of the holiday boxes. AmeriCorps members will probably work at the Community Kitchen until Christmas, she said.

On Thursday, the N.H. Division of Parks and Recreation and the N.H. Conservation Corps hosts a celebration to kick off Monadnock AmeriCorps program. At the public reception will be AmeriCorps members and Heather Merriam, wife of Gov. Stephen E. Merrill. The event starts at 10 a.m. at Monadnock State Park.

Stunning view rewards hikers who venture to Cutler Coast

By TUX TURKEL
Staff Writer

CUTLER — Visitors to the state's new Cutler Coast reserve may wonder why they came so far to tramp through the dense, swampy woods south of Holmes Cove.

In about a mile, however, the spruce-fir thicket falls away like a curtain. The hiker is left standing 100 feet above the ocean's edge, atop bedrock cliffs that unfold into the horizon.

On a clear autumn day, this is one of the most spectacular views in Maine. It's also a vista that few Mainers have seen from land, without enduring a rugged bushwhack.

Now the state's Bureau of Public Lands is creating access to the 2,174-acre parcel. Work crews are building a well-crafted trail system that will feature a handful of remote campsites. Planners say it will be Maine's longest coastal footpath.

"It's a spectacular piece," says Stephen Spencer, the bureau's recreation planner, as he scrambles onto the headlands and gazes across the sun-dazzled water. "I've been working on it for two years and every time I come down here I get that rush."

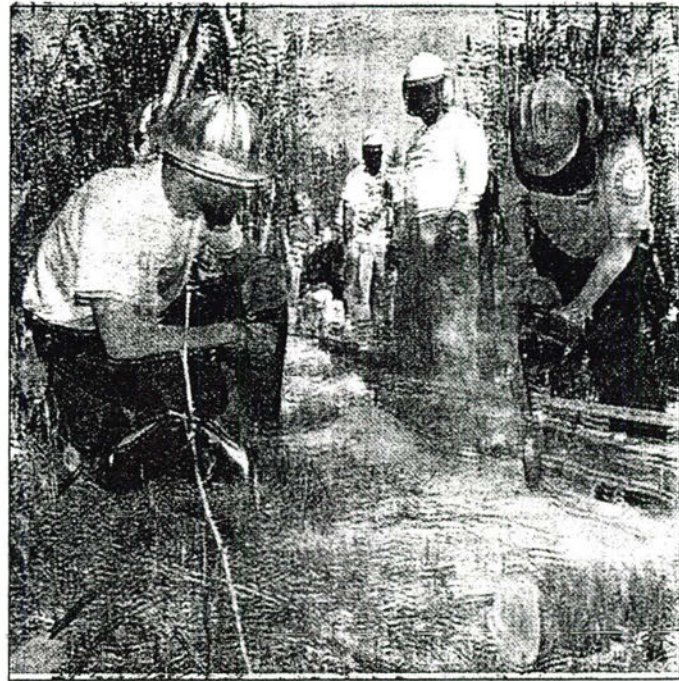
Spencer expects the first phase of the trail to be finished before snow flies. A recent hike through the reserve shows how planners are trying to give visitors a prime back-country experience while protecting one of Maine's most stunning natural landscapes.

The Cutler Coast is part of a unique section of Maine shoreline. Isolated and stark, it is defined by towering headlands punctuated by cobble coves. Away from the water, grassland barrens give the land a rolling, carpet-like quality.

The reserve is the centerpiece of conservation purchases made during the 1980s along the so-called bold coast, a rocky stretch from Cutler to the Canadian border that has been threatened by vacation home development. The reserve includes 4.5 miles of coastline north of the fishing village.

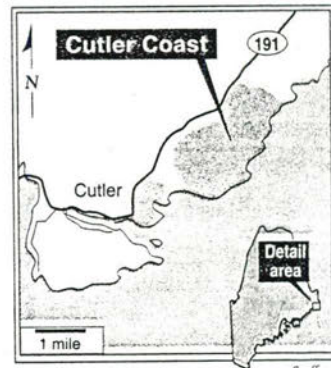
Cutler's boggy soil and fragile grasslands presented a challenge for trail builders.

In late September, teams from the College Conservation Corps of Maine at Unity College and the National Civilian Community Corps in Maryland were spanning an alder swamp. Chainsaws whined as workers turned hackmatack logs into long sections of bog bridging. On steep grades, the crews had assembled sturdy rock staircases to check erosion. With limited money available for maintenance, the trails are being built to last.



Staff photo by John Patriquin

Conservation crews were hard at work last month turning logs into a bridge to span swamp land, part of the hiking trail system they are building in the Cutler Coast reserve. A job supervisor, Tom Bradbury of Mars Hill, watches Eva Hawes of Stoneham as she fashions cedar planks with a chain saw.



Staff art

To showcase the work, Spencer led an early-morning trek along the half-done trail's initial four-mile loop.

Sunlight filters through voids in the spruce-fir canopy. Mooseprints are evident in the soft mud. As the trail emerges onto the headlands, hikers can enjoy a panorama of open ocean, with Black Point to the south and the distant cliffs of Grand Manan Island shimmering in the northeast.

The trail then follows the coast south, breaking out at times from the forest and traversing the tundra-like headlands. At Black Point Cove the trail descends to a stony beach before heading inland across grassland, forest and bog to the trailhead

on Route 191.

At one point near the trailhead, the proposed route crosses a brook and presents a sightline to a far-away home and gravel pit on the highway. Spencer considers the view. Then he decides to reroute the trail behind a cluster of trees, ir- keeping with the journey's wild feel.

Construction of the trail's western loop will wait until next year. It will lead to primitive campsites, discretely set back from the headlands. A three-mile walk through difficult terrain and a ban on open fires are designed to discourage beer-toting camping parties, Spencer says.

"The campsites are an experiment," he says. "I don't know any place like this on the coast where you can backpack in and set up a tent. I don't know how popular it will be, but I suspect it will be very popular."

In time, Spencer expects the Cutler Coast to draw day-hikers from nearby Cobscook Bay State Park, Canadian tourists and eastern Maine residents. But planners hope the lack of land-based improvements and the often-dangerous conditions for small boats will help limit use.

Inaccessible for so long, the Cutler Coast is about to be discovered. It's a tall order for a trail: Reveal the magic without diluting the power of this wild place.

1995 Priorities

EDUCATION

- **School Success** -- Broaden or coordinate the range of services available through schools such as tutoring, after-school enrichment programs, service-learning, health and child care services and efforts to involve parents in their children's education as part of a comprehensive strategy to improve school achievement and retention.

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
 SERVICE

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Community Policing** -- Support community policing efforts through building partnerships with neighborhood residents, identifying community problems, and working with police officers and others preserving public safety. This broadens the possibilities for service activities and includes a way to connect with other obvious constituencies.
- **Victim Assistance** -- Work with programs in public agencies or community-based organizations to provide a wide range of support services to victims of crime and to help link victims to other providers of information and services within the justice system and community.

HUMAN NEEDS

- **Early Childhood Development** -- Improve the health and school readiness of young children through child care, Head Start, and other pre-school programs; programs to improve parenting skills, and community-based efforts to provide comprehensive services to families with young children (including pregnant women).

ENVIRONMENT

- **Neighborhood/Community Environment** -- Initiate innovative programs in low-income areas that promote sustainable communities by reducing environmental risks and conserving natural resources.

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1995 Grant Application Deadlines



Learn and Serve, K-12:

Renewals	February 23, 1995
New Applications	March 21, 1995

Learn and Serve, Higher Education:

Renewals	February 28, 1995
New Applications	April 12, 1995

AmeriCorps State (new and renewals)	May 16, 1995
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AmeriCorps Direct:

Renewals and Expansion	May 1, 1995
New Applications	May 9, 1995

1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000
Fax 202-606-4928

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HOPE VI URBAN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Self-Help in Public Housing



Authorized under the 1990 National Affordable Housing Act, HOPE VI is a major urban revitalization demonstration program targeted to severely distressed public housing properties throughout the United States. The goals of HOPE VI are to eliminate dilapidated and dangerous structures, to create safe and decent public housing, to provide residents with the opportunity to learn and acquire skills needed to achieve self sufficiency, and to instill in residents the belief that with economic self sufficiency comes a responsibility to help rebuild one's community. Housing authorities are encouraged to use revitalization to create more linkages and interaction between public housing residents and the surrounding residential and business communities.

To achieve these goals, public housing authorities developed plans which included major construction/redevelopment components, a supportive services plan to help residents achieve self sufficiency, and a community service plan to encourage residents of all ages to use their talents and skills toward the improvement of quality of life in their communities. Thirty-two public housing authorities have been selected on a competitive basis to receive up to \$50 million each to implement their community revitalization plans.

In order to ensure resident involvement, self sufficiency, and commitment to community service, up to twenty percent of HOPE VI funds are authorized for a supportive services plan and a community service plan while eighty percent is earmarked for the physical revitalization of the target developments. Because the participation of residents is critical to the success and sustainability of the revitalized communities, the legislation mandates active resident involvement in the creation and implementation of all three components of the HOPE VI plans.

The Corporation for National Service, in partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, assists housing authorities and residents to create viable community service plans, provides technical assistance during the implementation of these plans, and monitors the success of community service programs. Each HOPE VI implementation grantee must achieve Corporation approval of its community service implementation plan.

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

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Corporation staff have made site visits to provide hands-on assistance to HOPE VI grantees developing their community service implementation plans. Some housing authorities have a variety of partners involved with their community service and supportive services plans and substantial resident participation. Others need to create a new, viable plan with strong resident and community participation. Corporation staff have encouraged housing authorities to integrate their community service and supportive services plans to better enable residents to build their communities and, through community service experiences, to gain skills and access to concrete career and educational opportunities.

Technical assistance is provided to public housing tenant leadership and housing authorities by Corporation headquarters staff, State Directors, consultants, and national non-profit resource providers. Written and video resource materials are under development and the first of the Corporation's bi-annual HOPE VI technical assistance and training conferences is being planned for June 1995.

The complete list of HOPE VI grantees includes the housing authorities of: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Camden, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Memphis, Milwaukee, New Haven, New Orleans, New York, Newark, Oakland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Puerto Rico, San Antonio, San Francisco, Seattle, Springfield, St. Louis, and Washington, DC.

HOPE VI is an opportunity for national and local non-profits, government agencies at the federal, state, and local level, private enterprises, and others to support community self-sufficiency for residents of public housing. For more information about individual HOPE VI programs, please contact the appropriate housing authority and/or your Corporation State Program Director. Information is also available from Corporation Urban Revitalization Program Directors Barbara Nabors-Glass and Tim Silard at (202) 606-5000.

Hope VI on the Move

Investing In Public Housing Across the Nation



HOPE VI Urban Revitalization Demonstration Program
Implementation Grants Selected to Participate • FY 1993, FY 1994, and FY 1995

	City	Housing Development	Number of Units	Amount Requested	Housing Authority Contact
CALIFORNIA	Oakland	Lockwood Gardens	372	\$25,510,020	Harold Davis 510-874-1520
		Coliseum Gardens	178		
		Lower Fruitvale	66		
	Los Angeles	Pico Gardens	352	\$50,000,000	Don Smith 213-252-2500
		Aliso South	78		
		Aliso North	147		
COLORADO	San Francisco	Bernal Dwellings	208	\$49,992,377	Felipe Floresca 415-554-1296
		Yerba Buena Plaza East	455		
	Denver	Quigg Newton Homes	375	\$20,189,288	Sal Carpio 303-534-0821
CONNECTICUT	New Haven	Elm Haven	380	\$45,331,593	Bryan Anderson 203-773-2800
D.C.	Washington, DC	Ellen Wilson Dwellings	134	\$15,671,911	Jasper Burnett 202-535-1500
GEORGIA	Atlanta	Techwood/Clarke Howell	492	\$42,412,635	Rod Solomon 404-892-2014
ILLINOIS	Chicago	Cabrini Green	500	\$50,000,000	Vince Lane 312-791-8401
	Springfield	John Hay Homes	596	\$19,775,000	Kenneth Crutcher 217-753-5757
		Charles Grandon Apt's	76		
		Johnson Park	56		

INDIANA	Indianapolis	Concord Village	200	\$29,999,010	John Nelson 317-634-2361
LOUISIANA	New Orleans	Desire	500	\$44,255,908	NA 504-582-7776
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Lafayette Courts	807	\$49,663,600	Daniel Henson 410-396-3232
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	Mission Main	486	\$49,992,350	David Cortiella 617-451-1250
MICHIGAN	Detroit	Jeffries Homes Parkside Homes	505 NA	\$39,807,342 \$47,620,227	Betty Turner 313-224-6251
MISSOURI	Kansas City	Guinotte Manor	418	\$47,579,800	Phil Olson 816-842-2440
	St. Louis	Darst-Webbe	1,000	\$46,771,000	Victor De LaCruz 314-531-4770
NEW JERSEY	Camden	McGuire Gardens	367	\$42,177,229	Ben Quattlebaum 609-968-6100
	Newark	Walsh Homes	495	\$49,996,000	Harold Lucas 201-430-2430
NEW YORK	New York	Beach 41st Street	712	\$47,700,952	Ruben Franco 212-306-3440
NORTH CAROLINA	Charlotte	Earle Village	409	\$34,685,155	Harrison Shannon 704-336-9995

OHIO	Cleveland	Outhwaite Homes King Kennedy	364 126	\$50,000,000	Claire Freeman 216-348-5000
	Columbus	Windsor Terrace	442	\$41,053,408	Dennis Guest 614-421-4401
PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia	Richard Allen Homes	376	\$50,000,000	John White 215-684-4000
	Pittsburgh	Allequippae Terrace	483	\$31,564,190	David Washington 412-456-5000
PUERTO RICO	Puerto Rico	Crisantimos M.A. Perez	224 268	\$50,000,000	Miguel Rodriguez 809-759-9407
TENNESSEE	Memphis	Le Moyne Gardens	842	\$47,281,182	Jerome Ryans 901-544-1102
TEXAS	Dallas	Lakewest	500	\$26,600,000	Alphonso Jackson 214-951-8301
	El Paso	Kennedy Brothers Apt's	364	\$35,224,644	Roberto Alvarado 915-542-0758
	Houston	Allen Parkway Village	1,000	\$36,302,761	Joy Fitzgerald 713-260-0800
	San Antonio	Springview Apt's	421	\$48,810,294	Apolonio Flores 210-220-3210
		Mirasol Homes	500	\$48,285,500	
WASHINGTON	Seattle	Holly Park Apt's	893	\$47,116,503	David Gilmore 206-443-4400

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Hillside Terrace

540

\$40,003,646

Ricardo Diaz
414-286-5678

To: Board of Directors
From: Eli J. Segal
Re: National Day of Service - April 25, 1995
Da: January 30, 1995

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
 SERVICE

In response to several inquiries about the Corporation's plans for National Volunteer Week, I would like to share our preliminary ideas with you. Our plan is to hold an intergenerational National Day of Service on Tuesday, April 25th.

We have entered into an exciting partnership with Youth Service America, as well as with the Points of Light Foundation to promote and expand volunteerism and service opportunities, and we have designated Tuesday, April 25th as a National Day of Service.

The 20,000 AmeriCorps Members and hundreds of thousands of National Senior Service Corps and Learn & Serve America participants offer an unprecedented infrastructure to attract current and new volunteers to service sites on that day. Based on state determinations, we will be encouraging states to attract volunteers to current AmeriCorps, Learn & Serve or National Senior Service Corps sites as their participation for that day.

As a member of our Board, we welcome your response to this service day initiative and will be in contact with you soon to determine your interest in participating and your preliminary ideas regarding what activities you might undertake on a National Day of Service. Corporation State Offices and State Commissions have been encouraged to collaborate with each other and with our service partners to ensure successful planning for April 25. Different programs would come together to do the extraordinary work they do each day, but on this day, the entire community could hopefully be involved.

If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch with our staff at (202) 606-5000. Janet V. Green can be reached at x167 and will be your primary contact at the Corporation for this event. Diana Aldridge, will be coordinating public relations for the event and can be reached at x182.

I am very enthusiastic about working with you on this exciting service initiative and know that through our cooperative efforts this day will be a great success!

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

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Summer of Safety Accomplishments

50 Reasons Why the Corporation for National Service Can Be Proud of Its First Corporation-Wide, National Program

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 SERVICE

The following list reports part of what the 1994 Summer of Safety Program got done in American communities. These outcomes resulted from the combined effort of more than 7,000 national service participants in thirty-five states and the District of Columbia. The data come from end-of-summer reports from the local programs' directors, following strict procedures laid down by the Corporation. Many items on this list have been confirmed by CNS program officers and researchers. While some items have not been verified, our experience from the summer programs in 1993 and reports this year tell us that, if anything, local programs under estimate what they achieve.

Community Policing

1. Freed up 26,413 hours of police officers time.
2. Opened 11 new police mini-stations, expanded or revitalized 23.
3. Began 47 citizen patrols; expanded or revitalized 63.
4. Identified 1,864 code violations.

Neighborhood Watch or Block Watch

5. Opened 976 new watch programs.
6. Revitalized 265 watch programs.
7. Started 863 neighborhood watch, telephone networks.

Improvement of Household Security

8. Performed 13,513 household security surveys or audits.
9. Installed 1,001 new window and door locks.
10. Identified 866 unsafe areas for local police.

Crime Awareness and Crime Avoidance

11. Provided 6,322 persons with escort services.
12. Trained 4,626 persons to recognize and avoid scams and confidence games.
13. Fingerprinted 4,968 persons.
14. Trained 1,360 persons in tourist safety.
15. Organized 1,313 neighborhood watch, telephone networks.

Safe Places, Safe Houses and Safe Havens

16. Created 99 safe houses.
17. Established 40 safe play streets.
18. Renovated or expanded 156 safe corridors or havens.
19. Trained 1,549 adults and 1,336 youth on the creation and use of safe places.

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Conflict Resolution

- 20. Trained 11,785 persons in conflict resolution
- 21. Began 49 peer mediation programs.
- 22. Counseled 871 gang members.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse

- 23. Provided sexual abuse counseling to 638 persons.
- 24. Counseled 1,472 persons in how to respond to and deal with spouse abuse.
- 25. Counseled 674 survivors of domestic violence or rape.

Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention

- 26. Enrolled 1,765 persons in prevention programs.
- 27. Reported 139 drug hot spots to police.
- 28. Started 11 new prevention programs.
- 29. Provided prevention information to 13,999 young people.

Victim Assistance and Witness Assistance

- 30. Established 16 victims assistance programs.
- 31. Monitored 1,897 court cases.
- 32. Provided legal assistance to 422 persons.
- 33. Provided crisis assistance to 5,831 persons.

Alternative Youth Activities

- 34. Provided recreational activities to 50,225 children.
- 35. Provided educational opportunities for 31,293 youth.
- 36. Provided mentors to 7,295 children.

Building and Neighborhood Cleanup

- 37. Tagged 138 abandoned cars for removal.
- 38. Bagged and removed 18,632 bags of trash from neglected public areas.
- 39. Boarded up 711 abandoned buildings.
- 40. Started 86 community gardens.
- 41. Removed graffiti from 1,467 walls and fences.
- 42. Repaired 300 residences.

Environmental Restoration

- 43. Planted 74,329 trees.
- 44. Tested 50 sites for radon, 29 sites for lead, and six for water quality.
- 45. Built or renovated 44 miles of trails.

Park and Playground Restoration

- 46. Constructed 15 playgrounds.
- 47. Renovated 45 playgrounds.
- 48. Maintained 65 playgrounds.
- 49. Repaired or painted 242 pieces of playground equipment.
- 50. Bagged and removed 2,016 trash bags or barrels of debris from neglected park and playground areas.

An Overview of AmeriCorps Training and Technical Assistance

With a large percentage of Corporation grantees in a start-up phase, training and technical assistance (T/TA) are essential to building quality programs. Overall, the Corporation has taken a market-based approach to technical assistance, supporting a range of providers and encouraging grantees to request assistance as needs arise.

AmeriCorps Training and Technical Assistance is provided at three levels:

- **Within each program:**
Each program includes some T/TA in its proposal and in its budget. These can include funds for workshops and training, purchase of materials, the services of individual consultants, and the training of trainers among their own staff.
- **From the State Commissions:**
In accordance with the Corporation's entrepreneurial philosophy encouraging local people and programs to develop solutions to their unique challenges, \$4,000,000 in T/TA funds have been awarded directly to state commissions to build their capacity to address technical assistance needs they have identified among their local programs. Activities funded by the state commissions include workshops and trainings, materials, consultants, training of trainers among program directors and Commission staff.
- **From the Corporation for National Service:**
The Corporation provides T/TA in many different areas. Because we have many programs to support, the providers funded directly by the Corporation will be encouraged to offer T/TA reaching more than one grantee at a time. Services will emphasize trainings, workshops and conferences, materials in a variety of formats, telephone consultation and referral, and limited on-site consultation.

During this first year of AmeriCorps, our aim is to strengthen existing programs and develop successful models. While our overall strategy emphasizes the T/TA requirements of operating grants, we are also mindful of the special needs of planning grantees.

Services from Corporation-funded T/TA providers include:

- Assistance in organizational development and other managerial concerns: grievance procedures, fiscal management, evaluation, program management, and fundraising.

- Information about best practices, program models, training curricula, and lists of possible providers are available through the National Service Resource Center. Programs access the Center by mail, phone, or through electronic means.
- T/TA will strengthen essential program elements, including working with communities, designing service projects, training and supporting front line supervisors, training and supporting participants, and providing conflict resolution and mediation.
- Through curricula, meetings, and materials, T/TA providers will build AmeriCorps Members as active citizens.
- Programs will develop strength through diversity with the help of trainings and materials.
- National Priority Skills Development Centers will be established to provide grantees with assistance in meeting short-term, immediate training and technical assistance needs in areas designated as "national priorities" by the Corporation.
- The Corporation will provide T/TA to the State Commissions.
- On-site technical assistance will also be provided by a team of Master Program Advisors. The work of these consultants will be to build toward self-sufficiency, capacity, draw on local resources, and develop staff capacity. Consultants will work with staff on shared tasks, with the role of the consultant diminishing as time passes.

As of February 8, 1995, the Corporation for National Service has selected the following national Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) providers to strengthen AmeriCorps programs.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT/PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

United Way Of America (UWA), in partnership with four local United Way organizations and The Volunteerism Project (a United Way-funded organization), will provide T/TA in organizational development, program management, grievance procedures, fiscal management, and evaluation and continuous improvement for organizational practices. UWA will offer a variety of workshops in each cluster for AmeriCorps program directors and staff, with follow-up T/TA site visits and phone consultations. The collaborative will also provide a variety of written materials in its areas of concern, adapted from existing United Way resources. Workshops begin in Spring 1995. Services will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

United Way of America contacts:

Karen Heller Key, UWA/AmeriCorps Project Director

Michelle Russell, UWA/AmeriCorps Project Manager

United Way of America

701 North Fairfax Street

Alexandria, VA 22314-2045

Phone: (703)836-7112, extension 481

Fax: (703) 549-9152

United Way Cluster Contacts:

Atlantic:

Ms. Susan Hornbeck

Volunteer Development Director

United Way, Inc.

233 Oxford Street

Portland, ME 04101-3010

Ph: 207-874-1000

Fax: 207-874-1007

South:

Mr. Michael McGrady

AmeriCorps Project Director

United Way Services

224 E. Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23219-1736

Ph: 804-771-5866/5871

Fax: 804-225-7344

North Central:

Ms. Margarette Delgado

VP of Agency Services

Ms. Phyllis Bracey

Director of Training and Consulting

United Way of Chicago

221 N. La Salle, Suite 900

Chicago, IL 60601-1302

Ph: 312-580-2819/2810

Fax: 312-580-2860

Southwest:

Ms. Judy Milton

Project Coordinator

United Way of Greater St. Louis

1111 Olive Street

St. Louis, MO 63101-1908

Ph: 314-539-4061

Fax: 314-539-4154

Pacific:

Ms. Nora Silver, Director, The Volunteerism Project

50 California Street, Suite 200

San Francisco, CA 94111-4696

Ph: 415-772-7393

Fax: 415-391-8392

Please direct all Pacific Cluster questions and correspondence to:

Ms. Jackie Jordan-Davis

AmeriCorps T/TA Program Director, The Volunteerism Project

322 Grenadine Way

Hercules, CA 94547-2047

Ph: (510)245-0450

Fax: (510) 245-0453

FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising School at the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy will provide eight fundraising workshops, each one week long, each accommodating up to fifty program representatives. Trainings will be held in New York, The District of Columbia, Atlanta, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Dallas, Seattle and San Francisco.

These workshops will provide grantees with comprehensive skills and a strong foundation for a long-term fundraising program for their organizations.

Workshops will be held as follows:

Dallas	February 20 - 24
Seattle	February 27 - March 3
Indianapolis	March 6 - 10
San Francisco	March 6 - 10
White Plains, NY	March 13 - 17
Washington, DC	April 3 - 7
Atlanta	June 5 - 9
Minneapolis	June 26 - 30

Contacts:

Mr. Eugene R. Tempel, Executive Director, Fundraising School
Mr. Tim Seiler, Director, Fundraising School
Ms. Jennifer Staashelm
Indiana University Center on Philanthropy
550 West North Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Ph: 317-274-7063/800-962-6692
Fax: 317-684-8900

NATIONAL PRIORITY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Independent Living

The Visiting Nurses' Association of America will establish the Independent Living National Priority Skills Center to provide T/TA to programs focusing on independent living assistance and home-based health care.

Contact:

Ms. Jean Carroccio, Program Specialist
Visiting Nurses' Associations of America
3801 East Florida Avenue, Suite 900
Denver, CO 80210
Ph: 303-753-0218
Fax: 303-753-0258

Preventive Health Care

The American Medical Students' Association will establish the Preventive Health Care National Priority Skills Center to provide support for **preventive health care** programs.

Contacts:

Ms. Joan Hedgecock, Associate Director
Ms. Erin Fuller, Project Director
American Medical Students Association
1902 Association Drive
Reston, VA 22091
Ph: 703-620-6600
Fax: 703-620-5783
E-Mail: AMSAFDN@AOL.COM

School Success

At the site level, the **Southern Regional Council** will assist "school success" programs through e-mail, phone consultations, conferences, resource kits, publications and on-site assistance.

Contact:

Ms. Marcia Klenbort, Director of Education Programs
Southern Regional Council
134 Peachtree Street, NW., Suite 1900
Atlanta, GA 30303
Ph: 404-522-8764
Fax: 404-522-8791

Housing

In collaboration with the Cooperative Extension Services of the University of Cincinnati, Cornell University, University of Minnesota, and the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, **The Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing** will provide a network of housing experts for consultation through e-mail, telephone or in limited

numbers of on-site visits. They will also provide database on effective services of local county extension agents.

Contacts:

Dr. Robert C. Stroh, Director
Dr. Marc Smith, Associate Director
The Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing
Fine Arts Building, C - 103
University of Florida, FL 32611-2032
Ph: 904-392-7697
Fax: 904-392-4364

Public Safety

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) will support and enhance AmeriCorps programs in public safety by providing a wide range of training and other technical support services to grantees working in this sector.

Contact:

Ms. Maria T. Nagorski, Deputy Director
National Crime Prevention Council
1700 K Street, NW., 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20006-3817
Ph: 202-466-6272
Fax: 202-296-1356

NATIONAL SERVICE RESOURCE CENTER

ETR Associates will develop a responsive, comprehensive resource center that compiles, stores, retrieves and disseminates T/TA resources for grantees, State Commissions and the Corporation for National Service. Through toll-free "assistance" lines, on-line database searches, and a comprehensive electronic communications system, timely information on technical and process resources will be provided.

Contact:

Ms. Jennice M. Singer, MPH
Director of Clearinghouse Services
ETR Associates
P.O. Box 1830
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
Ph: 408-438-4060
Fax: 408-438-3618

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CREW-BASED PROGRAMS

The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC) will provide T/TA to new AmeriCorps corps through a comprehensive program through intensive assistance, regional training sessions, peer interaction, telephone support, and written materials, including tested forms, documents, and other materials used in operations and planning.

Contract under negotiation.

Contact:

Mr. Emilio Williams

NASCC

666 Eleventh Street, NW

Suite 500

Washington, DC 20001

Ph: (202)737-6272

Fx: (202)737-6277

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR FRONT-LINE SUPERVISORS

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) will provide training for front-line supervisors in four parts: a training of trainers workshop, regional training institutes for supervisors and team leaders, ongoing T/TA to sites, and a resource guide on effective supervision strategies for AmeriCorps grantees.

Contract under negotiation.

Contact:

Ms. Maria T. Nagorski, Deputy Director

National Crime Prevention Council

1700 K Street, NW., 2nd Floor

Washington, DC 20006-3817

Ph: 202-466-6272

Fax: 202-296-1356

THE BASICS OF NATIONAL SERVICE

The Catholic Network of Volunteer Service--including 163 full-time service programs throughout every state in the nation, among them the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, the Mennonite Voluntary Service, the Catholic Charities Volunteer Corps and the Inner City Teaching Corps--will develop

resource materials and coordinate, arrange, and provide TA in many basic areas, including project design, participant support, and community partnerships.

Contract pending final budget approval.

Contact:

Catholic Network of Volunteer Service

Ms. Maggie Fogarty

4121 Harewood Road, NE

Washington, DC 20017-1593

Ph: (800)543-5046

(202)529-1100

Fax: (202)526-1094

PEER EXCHANGE

Catholic Network of Volunteer Services provide opportunities for peer exchanges including site visits, on-line and telephone support among peers. They will also develop a directory of like programs.

Contract under negotiation.

Contact:

Catholic Network of Volunteer Service

Ms. Maggie Fogarty

4121 Harewood Road, NE

Washington, DC 20017-1593

Ph: (800) 543-5046

(202) 529-1100

Fax: (202) 526-1094

CITIZENSHIP TRAINING

The Constitutional Rights Foundation and Project Public Life at the University of Minnesota will develop Citizenship training materials through pilot programs during the first four months of 1995. The resulting materials will be tested and distributed to grantees in time for the second year launch in October 1995. In addition, both providers will make existing citizenship training materials available immediately, to support programs, team leaders, and AmeriCorps members in this first year of programming.

Contracts currently in negotiation.

Contact:

Mr. Harry Boyte
Center for Democracy and Citizenship
147 Humphrey Institute
301 - 19th Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Ph: (612) 625-0142
Fax: (612) 625-3513

Contact:

Mr. Todd Clark
Constitutional Rights Foundation
601 South Kingsley Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90005
Ph: (213) 487-5590
Fax: (213) 386-0459

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING

Mosaica, Inc. will assess the pre-service training needs and resources of Corporation grantees and develop and test an extensive loose-leaf, easy-to-update manual on **pre-service training**. The guide will include model training agendas, modules, approaches and supporting materials that will assure that grantees have the information they need to provide appropriate and effective pre-service training.

Contract currently under discussion.

Contact:

Ms. Emily Gantz McKay
Mosaica
1735 Eye Street, NW
Suite 501
Washington, DC 20006
Ph: (202)887-0620
Fax: (202)887-0812

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE COMMISSIONS

Youth Service America will work with state commissions to address their training and technical assistance needs. YSA will work with state commissions to improve the quality of state plans, to encourage broad participation and inclusion in outreach

and planning strategies, to convene conferences and meetings, and to provide individualized T/TA designed to meet state-specific needs.

Contact:

Mr. Frank Slobig
Director, Center for T/TA
Youth Service America
1001 15th Street, NW., Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005
Ph: 202-296-2992, extension 17
Fax: 202-296-4030

YSA Cluster Contacts:

Pacific:	Ms. Laura Hamasaka, Ph: 202-296-2992, extension 16
North Central:	Ms. Paula Mitchell, Ph: 202-296-2992, extension 31
South:	Mr. James Willie, Ph: 202-296-2992, extension 33
Southwest:	Ms. Marlene Zakai, Ph: 202-296-2992, extension 18
Atlantic:	Mr. Joe Riccardo, Ph: 202-296-2992, extension 15