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Folder Title:

USDA/AmeriCorps - Clinton Library Copies - FY96 4th Quarter Progress Reports - PA-TN
[Pennsylvania-Tennessee] [1]

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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. report	[Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (2 pages)	00/00/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
AmeriCorps
General Files
OA/Box Number: 24240

FOLDER TITLE:

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[Pennsylvania-Tennessee] [1]

2013-0661-F
rs3825

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- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
- PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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

PA

Divider Title: _____

Corrected Third Quarter Report

Stat

OP SITE: R42A

8/27/96

2:11 pm

USDA AMERICORPS - 95ADFD047XXXX

FIRST THREE QUARTERS' PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING ORIGINAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

BY STATE AND PROGRAM (OBJECTIVE) CODE

State	OP Site	Obj No.	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	Year's QTY Target	QTY Unit of Measure	FIRST 3 QTR's Quantity	PERCENT COMPLETE
PA	R42A	13	EN-E004F	Clean-up junkyards on National Road	14	lots - cleaned	1	7.14 %
PA	R42A	2	EN-E017A	Organize Educational Summit for teachers	25	adults - educated	0	0.00 %
PA	R42A	1	EN-E038A	Survey National Road property owners/use	90	miles - surveyed	85	94.44 %
PA	R42A	6	EN-E043B	Develop architectural renderings for Auto -Era National Road Visitor Center	1	plans - developed	10	60.25.00 %
PA	R42A	15	EN-E079B	Legal research toward acquisition of rail line for sheepskin trail	34	miles - researched	40	117.65 %
PA	R42A	7	EN-E084B	Develop signage for the National Road	90	miles - signs installed	0	0.00 %
PA	R42A	11	EN-E090B	Rehabilitate Community Center	1000	square feet - rehabilitated	1000	100.00 %
PA	R42A	14	EN-E091A	Develop Adopt-the-National Road program		volunteers - recruited	0	0.00 %
PA	R42A	23	EN-E091A	Organize volunteers to staff National Road visitor center	5	volunteers - recruited	16	320.00 %
PA	R42A	16	EN-E094B	Establish Fayette County Watershed Association	10	volunteers - water quality	26	260.00 %
PA	R42A	3	EN-E121A	Organize/assist with Trail clean-ups	10	miles - cleaned	9	90.00 %
PA	R42A	21	EN-E130A	Small community water quality conference	40	people attending	0	0.00 %
PA	R42A	19	EN-E156A	Develop maintenance guide for rail trails	190	groups - surveyed	85	44.74 %
PA	R42A	18	EN-E164A	Develop interpretive signage for YRT historic sites	5	sites - signs installed	0	0.00 %
PA	R42A	5	EN-E169A	Nominate National Road historic districts to National Register of Historic Places	2	sites - identified as historic	2	100.00 %
PA	R42A	4	EN-E169A	nominate historic taverns to National Register of Historic Places	3	sites - identified as historic	3	266.67 ¹⁰⁰ %

Stat

OP SITE: R42A

8/27/96

2:11 pm

USDA AMERICORPS - 95ADFC047XXXX
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PA	R42A	17	EN-R001A	Historic resources survey of Yough River Trail	30	sites - historical	40 35	133.33 % 116.67 %
PA	R42A	10	EN-R026A	Assist homeowners to apply for USDA hshg loans	7	applications - processed	5	0.00 %
PA	R42A	8	EN-R041A	Low-interest loan program for National Road	4	applications - processed	0	0.00 %
PA	R42A	9	EN-R073B	Create driving tour guide for National Road	30	sites - researched	5	16.67 %



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

August 27, 1996

TO: F. Lee Patterson, AmeriCorps Project Director, RD, Pennsylvania

FROM: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service *JB*

SUBJECT: Year-to-Date Data on Objectives and Member Forms

Attached is a "year-to-date" progress report showing accomplishments on objectives through the third quarter report. **This data, plus the fourth quarter data, will be provided to members of Congress representing your state and to your agency leaders. It is imperative that the information reflected in this report be as accurate as possible.** The report also shows the degree to which you have accomplished your objectives which were agreed to at the beginning of this program year.

I ask that you carefully review this report. Review each objective with the following items in mind:

1. **Accuracy of the data.** This information will be shared with many different groups, and it is important to be accurate in our reporting as well as getting credit for all the great work you have done during the year.

2. **Completion of community service objectives.** One way to determine the successful completion of objectives is to measure accomplishments against the target quantity measurement which you established at the beginning of the year. The table below gives you a snapshot picture of your accomplishments through the third quarter. The last five columns reflects your work measured against the target quantity.

SITE #	NUMBER OF OBJECTIVES	NUMBER OF OBJECTIVES EXCEEDED	NUMBER OF OBJECTIVES AT 100%	NUMBER OF OBJECTIVES 50-100% COMPLETE	NUMBER OF OBJECTIVES 0-50% COMPLETE	NO TARGET QUANTITY
R42A	21	6*	2	3	7	3

* Objective 6, unit of measure is 1 plan but total quantity is 60. Is this 60 plans?

3. **Program codes.** Review the program code for each of your objectives. Please be sure that the data you are recording for quantity matches the quantity for that program code. If you are counting something other than the quantity measurement for the code, please indicate exactly what you are counting.

4. **Congressional Districts.** Please indicate in which Congressional District(s) the work was actually accomplished. This will let us be very specific to Members of Congress as to what work was done in their district.

5. **Volunteers.** Please explain what the volunteers have done with your AmeriCorps members. Also ensure that the volunteer numbers you have been providing to us each quarter is for the quarter **only**, not cumulative for the year.

Your assistance in this reporting enables us to meet our legal obligations as well as providing us with the necessary information to promote our USDA AmeriCorps program to all interested parties. Providing this data in an accurate and timely manner is one of your most important duties as an AmeriCorps Project Director.

Member Forms

A review of your member forms reveals that all your enrollment forms have been submitted. Great job!

If you have any questions or problems, please contact Dee DiFiore at (202) 690-3051 or Ron DeMunbrun at (202) 690-3894.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Attachment

cc:

Dave Gibson, AmeriCorps Project Director, RD

USDA AMERICORPS - 95ADFD047XXXX

8/27/96
2:11 pm

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AmeriCorps *USA

USDA Summer of Gleaning
State Progress Report
(CNS Grant No. 95ADFDC047)

1. Check this reporting period: Mid-Term ____ Final X

SECTION I - STATE INFORMATION

2. State: Pennsylvania

3. Agency: ARS o NRCS o Forest Service o RECD X FSA o FCS o

SECTION II - STATE CONTACT INFORMATION:
(Make Corrections if Necessary)

4. Contact Name: Frank Lee Patterson
First Middle Last

5. Title: Rural Development Manager

6. Address: 602 Evans City Road, Suite 101
Butler PA 16001-8701
City State Zip

7. Telephone number: 4 1 2 - 4 8 2 - 4 8 8 8

8. Fax number: 4 1 2 - 4 8 2 - 4 8 2 6

9. E-Mail Address (if any): lpatters@rurdev.usda.gov

SECTION IV - PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING SERVICE OBJECTIVES:

9/04/96

13. Progress towards accomplishing original community service objectives R42
 (Under "Second Half Quantity" enter the amount of work done since the mid-year report. Do the same for "Second Half Success".)

State	OP Site	Obj. #	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	YR. QTY Target	QTY Unit of Meas.	Second Half Quantity	Proj Suc. Target	Success Unit of Meas.	Second Half Success
PA	⁹ R 42A		EN-E007A	Groups and/or Individuals trained to create and maintain gardens	29	volunteers - trained	30 ✓	29	% of people who create gardens	103%
PA	⁹ R 42A	1	EN-H009A	Food rescue program expanded	22400	#of additional lbs of food rescued	10420 ✓	200	# of individuals fed with rescued food	93 people

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

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SECTION III - MEMBER DATA:

10. Member Data

No. of Members Allocated by USDA:		5			Hrs	Hrs	Hrs
Name	SSN	SerStat	Prgm. Stat	Trust Stat	3 rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
Lawson, Natalie A.	(b)(6)	S	A	I	296	184 ✓	480
Marko, Kensie L.		S	A	I	288	192 ✓	480
Orslene, Louis E.		S	A	I	324	196 ✓	520
Rhodes, Holly A.		S	A	I	294	186 ✓	480
Rosick, Ronald A.		S	A	I	266	214 ✓	480

11. Please list the total number of volunteers who took part in activities which were sponsored or organized by all the Members in the state during this period.

1st half	2nd half	Total
13	_same_	_13_

12. Please list the total number of hours of community service completed by the volunteers cited above during this period.

1st half	2nd half	Total
130	_70_	_200_

15. Community Service Objectives Narrative: Use this space to describe in more detail accomplishments towards the original community service objectives reported in question 13 and/or your additional community service objectives reported in question 14. Please make sure you include the Operating Site ID Number in each narrative description so we can be clear which accomplishment is matched to which site.

All members worked from the same site with the same Operating Site ID. In the course of events to rescue food in Fayette County, the members became aware of a need to show children at two low income housing projects how to start a community garden and how to plant and maintain plants in the garden. This service enabled more than 30 children to receive gardening skills and a sense of responsibility for the plants that had their names on them. The members also provided volunteer assistance to the area meals on wheels, and the Farmstand program which is operated by the community action agency to enable low income tenants to take donated food and sell it at farmstands at their housing projects to earn money.

16. Community Building Objectives Narrative: Briefly describe how projects have brought together diverse groups of people, empowered communities to solve their own problems, built long term structures that will last beyond each AmeriCorps Member's term of service, and generally improved the abilities of local citizens to help improve their own lives.

Through the efforts of the AmeriCorps members connections were made with Penn State student volunteers and Interfaith Caregivers to leave permanent volunteer linkages in the community. Five permanent linkages have been accomplished between food establishment donors and anti-hunger agencies

17. AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives Narrative: Briefly describe how the AmeriCorps Members themselves have benefited from serving in the program, particularly in regard to expanding their own educational opportunity and increasing their own ethic of personal responsibility. Describe specific skills learned by Members through either their service or training. Describe any Members that earned a GED or otherwise advanced their education. Describe any Members that left public assistance to join AmeriCorps. Relate how AmeriCorps allowed Members to continue college or graduate school. Describe how Members may have changed their ethic of work, citizenship, or community volunteerism.

The food rescue program allowed the members, who previously did not know each other, to be involved in a team project that they must cooperate in completing their duties. The work exposed them to a basic problem in their own community that they

were not aware as existing before their service started. They will be enabled to further their education which may not have been afforded without this program.

SECTION V - SUCCESS STORIES:

18. Unique Successes or Great Stories : Briefly describe one or two unique and/or exceptional success stories, a program highlight, or a great story from your state. Please explain any instance in which AmeriCorps Members recruited non-AmeriCorps community volunteers for projects. Please include all media coverage, including original newspaper clips, videotapes of TV coverage, and cassette tapes of radio coverage; any letters of support or thank you letters; "before and after" photographs, brochures, posters, and newsletters created by the project; and other types of creative documentation.

The members choose to have their graduation ceremony held during a picnic they organized for patrons of the Fayette County soup kitchens. All of the food served at the picnic was gleaned from restaurants in the county. Even at a time chosen to honor the AmeriCorps members, they chose to serve others.

SECTION VI - CHALLENGES

19. Overall Difficulties Faced by the Program: Use this section to report on any problems your Members have encountered in the program this period. These should be significant issues which were related to achieving objectives, significant delays in implementation, administrative problems, or any other expectations, events or incidents that have caused the Members concern. State the problem concisely and how the issue has, or has not been resolved. Be sure to outline the steps taken and identify any resources needed to assist in resolving the problem.

With five members working together out of a very small office space with only one telephone created opportunities for the members to step on each others toes. There was also an age problem as the age differential was quite large. The younger members felt that the minimum age for service should be raised above 17 to overcome this problem. These problems were real but they did not contribute to not meeting the goal of feeding 200 people as much as the following two reasons: People, regardless of the good Samaritan laws, did not feel less liable. Their decision not to participate in the project really hurt the program in the earliest weeks. The database of donors was terribly out of date and had to be completely started from scratch.

SECTION V - GENERAL INFORMATION

20. National Identity Activities: Please describe any activities undertaken by Members that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. These could include joint service activities, meetings with other AmeriCorps projects, national telephone conference calls, use of Internet to communicate with other sites, etc.

We were able to have the two Fayette County teams, the Rural Development Team and the Anti-Hunger Team together at the Food Rescue Team's swearing in ceremony and again at the combined Graduation Ceremony. The program was too short to be able to make connections with other AmeriCorps teams in the State.

21. Organizational Changes: Please outline and describe any changes in your program's organization and/or structure during the quarter.

No changes took place during the 12 week program.

22. Organizational Improvements: Please write any suggestions by you, your Members, site managers, or anyone else regarding ways in which the USDA or CNS AmeriCorps program could be improved.

The report format and schedule of completion needs to be set at the beginning of the program so the members and managers can work together to document the information needed from the start. There is not enough time to go back and gather information that could have easily be collected daily.

Each member should be given a handbook that includes all of the forms needed. This would be handed out at the start of the program and training provided about each form and what it means to the member and when it must be completed.

23. Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs: Please specify precisely what kind of staff or Member training or other technical assistance can be provided by USDA, the Corporation for National Service, or other sources to improve your projects.

Concerning Summer Gleaning and Food Rescue, all of the information learned this summer should not be allowed to go to waste. It should be collected and issued to other groups that are interested in developing a summer gleaning or a food rescue project to enable them to avoid some problems already identified by previous efforts.

SECTION VI - FOOD RECOVERY SPECIFICS

24. Partnerships - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Please explain how your project identified its partners:

The Fayette County Community Action Agency operates the Food Bank in Fayette County. In this effort they have identified those organizations that have an interest in providing food to needy individuals and families. It was from this list that the team started their food rescue efforts.

b) Please provide a final, updated, list of partner organizations:

Foodchain
Second Harvest
State Department of Agriculture
Three Rivers Table
United Parcel Post
Meals on Wheels
Housing Authority of the County of Fayette
Interfaith Caregivers

c) Please detail contributions to the project, both financial and in-kind, provided by partners.

The partners provided only advice, technical assistance, information regarding referrals, and encouragement for the project. The in-kind contribution had value but could not easily be quantified by a dollar figure.

d) If partners raised funds specifically for this project, please explain how.

The partners did not raise funds for the project.

e) Please explain specifically what concrete assistance was provided by each partner organization.

Foodchain - technical assistance on the needs of food banks.

Second Harvest - technical assistance on the needs of food banks and rescuing food.

State Department of Agriculture - technical assistance on standards for maintaining food quality in rescuing and transporting food.

Three Rivers Table - technical assistance by sharing their information about how they operate a food rescue program in Pittsburgh.

United Parcel Post - considering funding food rescue efforts in the future by form of a grant.

Meals on Wheels - Provided an outlet for food that was rescued by the program.

Housing Authority of the County of Fayette - cooperated with the AmeriCorps members efforts at teaching community garden skills to children from the housing projects and helping tenants in the Farmstand project, sell produce to earn money for community uses.

Interfaith Caregivers - the entity that will provide volunteers to continue the food rescue program started by the AmeriCorps members.

f) Please explain what worked best in the partnerships.

Sharing information and being willing to serve others.

g) Please explain what your greatest challenges were in forging and implementing your partnerships.

Time management. For a short program (12 weeks) as this, starting late, after people started to spend their summer's vacation, it was difficult to meet people and discuss the program early enough to rescue enough food to meet the goal.

25. Donors -On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Please detail how many food donors there were to your project and name all donors other than individual farmers.

The project started with an old data base of 104 food establishments that had shown interest in donating food, and 95 were visited by the team to update information and provide information about the program. Within the first four weeks it was recognized that establishments that were not on the main highways would not be a reliable source of donations and those well known restaurants (Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, etc.) were locally owned and did not have the same feelings about donating foods. The

donors that provided the food rescued by the project were Super K-mart, County Market, Chez Gerard, Sheehan's Grocery in Brownsville, and Fraizer High School.

b) Please detail how the donors were contacted.

Initially, the team made visits to the potential donors (95), and once it was determined that many donors were not able or willing to donate food, then the team developed a plan to mass canvas decision makers in the larger organizations and in some instances this resulted in pilot linkages between food establishments and food serving agencies.

c) Explain how, precisely, the donors provided food and what oversight, if any, they provided in the process.

Once the donors agreed to donate food, they placed calls to the AmeriCorps members and arrangements were made for either volunteers or the members to pick up the food and deliver it to an established meal provider. The donors provided no oversight in this process.

d) Detail the greatest success your project faced in dealing with donors.

Those organizations where the members were able to discuss the project face-to-face with decision makers, they were able to convince them to participate in the program. This was most effective where they had a local decision maker who was aware of local food needs.

e) Detail the greatest challenges faced in your dealings with donors.

No matter what the members did, most of the well known restaurants would not donate food to the project. They reported to the members that their regional manager must make any decisions and the members could not effectively meet or discuss this with the regional managers.

f) Detail any instance in which an anti-hunger organization believed, correctly or incorrectly, that your project was competing with them for the same donor. Explain how you overcame this potential conflict.

There were no episodes of this occurring as there were no other food rescuing projects or organizations in Fayette County.

26. Collection, Transportation, and Storage - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Explain in detail the physical process for collecting the food, delivering it to a distribution site, and storing it.

Once the donors agreed to donate food, they placed calls to the AmeriCorps members and arrangements were made for either volunteers or the members to pick up the food and deliver it to an established meal provider. The donors provided no oversight in this process.

b) How did you obtain adequate resources to collect the food?

AmeriCorps members found out what the food consisted of and determined how it must be protected from loss. They needed to calculate the size of the donation and how to transport it safely. Community Action assisted them with resources and volunteers provided resources to accept the donations.

c) How did you obtain adequate resources to transport the food?

Community Action had their own fleet of trucks that would transport food at \$6.00/day, the members used their own vehicles when the donations were small, and volunteers provided their own transport vehicles. The travel funds provided for the members were adequate to pay for transportation costs on a reimbursable basis.

d) How did you obtain adequate resources to store the food?

The members purchased containers and ice to transport the food. This was also paid by the travel funds on a reimbursement basis.

e) How did you obtain bushels and/or containers to hold and transport the food?

The members purchased containers and ice to transport the food. This was also paid by the travel funds on a reimbursement basis.

f) Explain any special steps you took to ensure food safety.

Special containers and ice were needed to safely transport the food. The members were taught how to transport the food safely by the State Department of Agriculture to safely handle and transport food at the beginning of the project.

g) Detail your greatest challenges in the area of food safety.

Time and heat were the two biggest challenges. The food could be donated at odd or late hours and it had to be safely packed until the food provider was ready to take the food.

27. Recipients - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Please list the names and numbers that helped identify food recipients and helped distribute the food to recipients.

There were 75 different organizations that were identified as potentially available to participate in the project. The members concentrated on the 10 largest organizations. These were: the Food Bank, Bethel House, Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, City Mission Men's Shelter, City Mission Women's Shelter, City Parks Summer Feeding Program.

b) Explain how the families in need were identified.

The need of the families were determined by the ultimate recipients of the food, and not the AmeriCorps members. In most cases the food providers have provided meals to those who come into there facility.

c) Explain how the food was physically distributed.

Linkages were made between donors and food providers. Super K-mart donated food to Bethel House and the Food Bank, County Market donated food to the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen and the Food Bank, Chez Gerard donated food to the City Mission Men's and Women's Shelters, City Parks Summer Feeding program.

d) Explain what your greatest success was in identifying those in need and distributing the food.

Making the linkages between the donors and the food providers was the greatest success. A visual connection helped to encourage participation in the program.

e) Explain your greatest challenge in identifying families in need and/or distributing the food to such families.

The greatest challenge was to get potential donors to participate in the program.

f) Please explain any ways in which you enabled recipients themselves to help collect their own food.

This was not done because of food safety concerns.

28. Liability:

a) Did liability issues have a significant impact upon your project?

Yes, this was a major impact in policy making in potential food donors. Regardless what the law said and who would transport the food, they did not wish to take any chances.

b) Were your states' "Good Samaritan" laws sufficient to provide adequate protection and comfort to your project's partners?

No they were not.

29. Volunteers - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Provide detailed specifics about the tasks performed by non-compensated community volunteers.

Non-compensated community volunteers picked up food from the organizations donating food and transported it to the food recipients to provide to the needy. Interfaith Caregivers will be providing this transportation of food as the basis organization that will keep the program alive after the AmeriCorps members are gone.

b) Detail the methods that were most successful in recruiting volunteers.

Mass canvassing to community service groups and making connections with those who have demonstrated an interest in participating in the food rescue program.

c) Explain the greatest challenges you faced in recruiting volunteers.

Time management. With a short program (12 weeks) and a sense of urgency to accomplish the goal, plus starting at a very poor time to make appropriate contacts before local decision makers are on vacation, this provided many challenges to the members.

d) Detail the time and other resources that were required to recruit, supervise, train, and motivate volunteers.

The first four weeks of the program were spent in this regard.

e) Detail the effectiveness of any other sources of labor, such as alternative sentencing youth, that were utilized by your project.

Did not use these programs.

f) Detail how much and the nature of the training your project provided to volunteers and other workers.

Before volunteers could be used they must be trained in the proper food handling standards required by the State Department of Agriculture. Each volunteer had to be aware of the location of the donor, working hours of the recipient of the food rescued.

g) Explain which types of service were most suitable to which age-groups of volunteers.

This service can be done by all ages of volunteers unless a person could not lift moderate sized packages.

30. Budget - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Detail any items on your budget for which you needed less money than originally anticipated.

We needed every cent that was provided.

- b) Detail any items on your budget for which you required more money than originally anticipated.

Travel costs could have been more, but not critical for a 12 week program.

31. Replicability and Sustainability :

- a) Could your project be replicated in other locations? Explain.

Yes. Wherever linkages can be made between potential food donors and food providers and community volunteers are present, this program can be replicated.

- b) Detail what steps you and/or your partners have taken to sustain the project beyond November.

This program will continue by using Interfaith Caregivers as the volunteers to transport food between the linked organizations established by the Bridges to Nourishment program. In addition, Community Action expects to hear by November 1996 if they win a grant from UPS to provide resources to expand this program.

32. Community support: Please detail any support you have received from local, state, and national political, religious, business, and/or community leaders. (Please attach any letters of support)

Support was given to this program by all levels of government and community leaders. Religious organizations have joined with the program and will be the backbone of it's continued efforts.

33. Media coverage: Please explain what efforts were most effective and least effective in securing media coverage for your projects.

The members held four media events during the course of the program. Coverage by local press and radio stations informed the general public about the project's efforts. Television coverage of these events was planned for but did not occur because of conflicting "higher priority stories".

34. Project Milestones - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Please lay-out, with specific dates, the specific milestones your project achieved.

Please see the file Journal that is included on this disk. This file compiles the progress of the project on a weekly basis as recorded by the AmeriCorps team.

b) Please provide a list of the top dozen or so steps you believe would be critical for anyone in the future attempting to implement a project such as yours.

Collect all known information about potential food donors, but do not consider them to be accurate.

Identify the largest organizations in the area to be potential food donors.

Identify the largest organizations that would be recipients of donated food.

Make linkages between the two groups based upon similar hours of operation and distances to transport food.

Canvas community service groups and religious groups to see who would be interested in providing volunteer transportation of the food.

Make a connection between the volunteers and the linkages of donors and recipients.

Plan for a safe, consistent handling of food.

{END OF REPORT}

USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue

Project Name: Bridges to Nourishment



Fayette County PA

Rural Development Partner is the Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc. The Site Supervisor is Sheryl Pepiot, Food Resources Coordinator

Five AmeriCorps Members were selected and started their summer project on May 29, 1996. The members are Natalie Lawson, Kensie Marko, Holly Rhodes, Ron Rosiek, and Lou Orslene who is the team leader. All of the members are residents of Fayette County. On June 7th, the Fayette County Community Action Agency sponsored a media event to announce this partnership with USDA Rural Development and State Senator Richard A. Kasunic (D-32nd) had the AmeriCorp team take the AmeriCorp Pledge on June 7, 1996 at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in Uniontown, PA. The members also completed the government forms and were sworn into to service under USDA Rural Development regulations.

The AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America to make people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps Member and I'm going to get things done.

The members will be working out of a rented office area at 25 Morgantown Street in Uniontown, and each will be servicing at maximum of 480 hours in completing the program. For their efforts, they will receive a \$2,242 living allowance and a \$1,000 educational award that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training, or to pay back existing student loans. The objective of the program is to:

- To take food which has been prepared for use and not sold and transfer it to agencies that provide it to needy, hungry people in the community
- Contact food providers to participate in the program's food rescue efforts
- Organizing food pick-up from food providers and delivery of food to the Food Bank and its agencies
- Conducting surveys to assess quality of services provided
- Establish a permanent program for perishable food rescue in Fayette County that will continue once the program ends in August

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Progress Report for
May 29, 1996 - June 7, 1996

Wednesday May 29, 1996

The members were oriented to the Food Bank programs and the food rescue project goals. AmeriCorps members also reviewed materials concerning food handling regulations, tax-deductible donations, and other prepared and perishable food program models. AmeriCorps members enrollment forms and agreement forms were discussed, completed, and submitted as required by the Department of Agriculture.

Thursday, May 30th

The members began discussing the orientation materials and began detailing steps necessary to reach the project goal within the 12 week deadline. The list of prospective recipient agencies and preliminary donors was also discussed. Next the AmeriCorps members visited the Uniontown Salvation Army, Brownsville Soup Kitchen, and the Connellsville Community Ministries to begin initial fact finding. This fact finding will be used in order to create recipient/donor surveys. The team also went to the local USDA office to familiarize themselves with those who administrate the Department of Agriculture programs. Later, the team gleaned donor and recipient information from the phone books and other sources. These will be used to create the program database.

Friday, May 31st

The team members attended an inservice at Community Action with other Community Action employees. Later that afternoon, Rosemary Hardy, Volunteer Coordinator of Community Action, met with the team to review volunteer activity at Community Action as well as the county anti-hunger programs in which she has been involved. The team also visited the Morgantown Street office which will be used for the Food Rescue project. Team members reviewed additional information on other gleaning/food rescue projects and discussed the project office use. The team contacted Food Chain, the national organization for Prepared and Perishable Food Rescue Programs (PPFRP) for additional information. The team also contacted the Pittsburgh area PPFRP "Three Rivers Table", to setup an informational tour, and scheduled an appointment with the local Health Department. Lou Orslen, team leader, gave the team members materials concerning surveying techniques and community organizing to be read over the weekend.

Saturday, June 3rd

The AmeriCorps team picked up the office supplies necessary and setup the Morgantown Street office for usage. Members discussed initial survey form to be required of the program, and discussed the operational details of creating a gleaning/rescue project. In the afternoon, members visited the Brownsville Soup Kitchen to do fact finding. By the day's end, team members agreed on the name for the local food rescue effort, and had developed a letterhead for correspondence.

Tuesday, June 4th

The team used consensus methods to establish the goals, objectives, and action steps to develop the PPFRP program. The team also began to develop a detailed list of potential project donors and recipients, and develop a list on Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) which potentially could serve as intermediary project participants. The members also had an open discussion of the overall goals and proposed timeline.

Wednesday, June 5th

The team visited "The Three Rivers Table", a PPFRP at the Pittsburgh Food Bank in McKeesport. At "The Three Rivers Table", the team received an orientation packet and interviewed both program Administrative staff and program transportation staff on their daily routines. After reviewing the program materials and speaking with the staff, the team accompanied a driver on a typical route to rescue perishable foods from local establishments (Boston Chicken, Pizza Hut, Co-Go's, Upper St. Clair Hospital). At the end of the route, the team accompanied the driver to deliver the rescued food to a recipient agency (a children's center). The team returned to the Pittsburgh Food Bank, where they reviewed other food bank anti-hunger programs, toured the facilities, and received PPFRP equipment information.

Thursday, June 6th

The team debriefed concerning their visit to "The Three Rivers Table"; and finalized the local project logo. The team also met with Sheryl Pepiot and Jaime Fecek concerning Media Day events and discussed AmeriCorps program. The team then made signs and banners for Media Day, and visited the Salvation Army to prepare for Media Day activities. The team also finalized donor/recipient surveys.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Friday, June 7th (MEDIA DAY!)

The AmeriCorps Team set-up the Salvation Army in preparation for the event, assisted Sheryl Pepiot and Jaime Fecek in carrying out necessary details, and greeted guests for the press conference. The event culminated with Department of Agriculture officials, team members, and Sheryl Pepiot returning to the Morgantown Street office to discuss program details and complete team enlistment paperwork. Afterwards, the team traveled to the USDA office to pickup travel record books required for team member reimbursement.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Progress Report for
June 10, 1996 - June 14, 1996

Monday, June 10th

AmeriCorps members visited the State Health Department Office and spoke with Arlene Miller. Members educated Arlene as to the purpose of the program and solicited information concerning food safety. She then referred the members to Bob Redinger the Department of Agriculture health inspector. It was Arlene's belief that her department wouldn't be in charge of inspecting a program such as ours. Upon our returning from the meeting with Arlene, we inquired as to who does the food bank inspections. Sheryl Pepiot affirmed that their inspections were conducted by the Department of Agriculture. For the remainder of the day, the team comprised and completed our weekly narrative report for Lee Patterson.

Tuesday, June 11th

The team members attended Community Action Orientation required for all new employees. As part of the orientation we toured various Community Action facilities around the county - Adult Day Care Center in Brownsville, Bridgehouse women and children's shelter in Masontown, and the Second Family Personal Care Home in Uniontown.

Wednesday, June 12th

Part of the team went to Smithfield Firehall and helped Jamie from the Food Bank update forms needed to establish eligibility for emergency food boxes to increase their knowledge of other anti-hungry programs. The rest of the team reworked the weekly narrative, composed a list of Fayette County zip codes from the Uniontown Post Office which will be used to acquire a database from the Pittsburgh Food Bank and inquired about E-mail at Community Action. When the team regrouped, members Holly Rhodes and Ron Rosiek went to Romeo & Sons Wholesale to inquire and get information on Cambros and insulated containers for transportation of food. Members also met with Sherri Walters to discuss the use of Community Actions E-mail account. She spoke to the group for a few minutes about scheduling time to use the account and modem and then set-up a meeting for Monday to discuss further details.

Thursday, June 13th

Team members met with Bob Redinger, from the Department of Agriculture and a Pennsylvania Health Inspector, whom gave us the names of a caterers and other enablers to help us with our mission. Mr. Redinger strongly expressed the concern that the most important issue with the food transportation was the time and temperature. A few members assisted the Food Bank in updating the "penny per gallon" signs for their upcoming project, revised the letterhead, faxed out the narrative to Lee Patterson, & devised a fact sheet for the orientation packet. Lou spoke to many enablers and brokers nationwide, questioning them about precautions, UPS grant, tax deductible information, and liability information. This list stemmed from contact with Foodchain. Member contacts were very helpful with liability and food safety issues.

Friday, June 14th

The team met with Sheryl Pepiot for our weekly meeting to discuss our progress. We also drafted our weekly progress narrative, contacted other agencies referred by Foodchain for advice, contacted local caterers to set-up information meetings, set-up times to interview potential recipient agencies, and delivered "penny per gallon" banners to gas stations.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Progress Report for
June 17, 1996 - June 24, 1996

Monday June 17th

The team met with Carol Mangold from the City Mission, and conducted a recipient survey and toured the facility. Carol was positive concerning the need of such a program as ours. The Missions, Men's and Women's, provide housing for 13 and 8 people respectively. In the afternoon we visited Mr. Piccolomini the president of the Laurel Highlands Restaurant Association. We described our effort in detail to Mr. Piccolomini and scheduled to speak at the local restaurant association meeting in August. He also offered us information regarding food transport equipment. We also began looking at additional information received from other PPFRP's. Members of the Team also helped buy materials for and deliver the last of the signs for their Penny-Per-Gallon program. Additional office supplies were also purchased.

Tuesday June 18th

Members of the team participated in cash register and food handling training with Rose Hardy at Fort Mason Village. This training is to help us assist the summer Farmstand program. We also picked up surplus food from a local supermarket, County Market, and delivered the food to the Food Bank. The Team also began developing information necessary to assist the planners in developing the UPS proposal. Members also consolidated the data collected over the past couple of weeks to formalize it into a more concise data base. This information was then printed and information binders were created for members to carry as they visit with donors or recipients.

Wednesday June 19th

The team met with the Salvation Army and conducted a recipient survey. They were very responsive. We found out much like at the Mission that the Salvation Army had transportation to pick up food if donated. We also got word that a nursery had donated plants and another person had offered a plot of land on which to plant. We then began deliberating about the possibility of us developing a garden. Trozzo's Florist donated around 80 dozen vegetable and flowering plants. We made several trips to pick up the plants and delivered them to the Food Bank. The plants could be given out tomorrow as this was the regular pickup for the local soup kitchens. We then met with Abeth Elias from Community Action and discussed the UPS grant proposal. We were able to supply much information about the ducts and the model to be used for the PPFRP. We received a phone call from Sheila Orlandy from the Fayette County Vocational Technical School, she is operating a summer brown bag lunch program. She informed us that she will be having surplus food from time to time and would like us to arrange for the food to be distributed to those in need.

Thursday June 20th

The team went to look at land that was donated by a local farmer, Mr. Biggs. We felt that the land was too overgrown to be feasible for farming the donated plants. We then dropped off Penny Per Gallon signs in Mt. Pleasant and Champion. The Team stopped at the rural development AmeriCorps office in Farmington. We also stopped at County Market to pick-up surplus bakery items. In the afternoon, we went with Rose Hardy to Dunlap Creek for Farm Stand training. We distributed donated plants to members of the housing community. After returning to the office, we completed our bi-weekly time sheets and faxed them to the local USDA office. We also spoke with Carol at the City Mission to see if they could use the surplus brown bag lunches offered from the Summer Feeding Program. We then returned to Sheila Orlandy's call and told her that the Mission could use their excess lunches. Thus we arranged our first linkage between a donor and recipient.

Friday June 21st

The Team met with Sherri Walters and learned how to E-mail our progress notes. We also made more copies for the donor/recipient packets. The packets were then put together for later use. Team members also distributed dozens of donated mugs given from a local bank to the short term residential facilities in the County. The donated coffee mugs were delivered to Second Family Home Care and Brownsville Soup Kitchen. We called Bob Redinger to request a letter of support to send with our UPS Grant Proposal. Next, we completed our progress narrative for the week. Finally, we visited Brownsville Soup Kitchen and completed a survey.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Progress Report for
June 24, 1996 - July 1, 1996

Monday June 24th

The team completed the weekly narrative and sent it out via E-mail. We visited a prominent local catering business, Myers' Catering. Darin Myers provided us with informational and price lists for less expensive (catalogs) Cambros for food transportation, discussed simple food handling techniques, and informed us of the risk of using catering businesses as donors. Mr. Myers was our first enthusiastic donor contact. However after extensive discussion concerning the pros and cons of receiving food from local caterers, Mr. Myers almost convinced us that we may not want to pursue the caterers of Fayette County. It seems most are Mom and Pop type places that possibly do not follow the proper food handling techniques. Therefore, the food we may be picking up may be "dirty" food - food from bowls or chafing dishes which has been around along time. He said also that many times he gets a decorating contract even though he does not get a catering contract for an event. When he does he finds that local caterers bring their food in hours before events and leave them unrefrigerated. Mr. Myers came highly recommended from Bob Redinger, the health inspector, who said he is the caterer who uses the best food handling techniques. Mr. Myers said we should only take "clean" food - that which has only been handled by the food preparation people and that which has remained refrigerated. Mr. Myers stated that people may not only use the best food handling techniques but also they may not tell the truth if asked if it is dirty food. By the end of the meeting, both the Team and Mr. Myers had doubt as to whether caterers should be included in the PPFRP. We also received an informational packet from a model PPFRP in Orange County California.

Terri Miller from California was particularly helpful by sending their donor information packet and a number of their forms. We spent some time gleaning the information enclosed and also viewed a video tape, "Understanding Prepared Foods" concerning food handling which was created by the Chef and Child Foundation. The Food Chain Technical Assistance Manual that we had requested arrived, and we were able to find many sample documents and valuable information enclosed. All of us converged on this Manual (as it is hundreds of pages long) and read bits and pieces. Much of this we will be able to use as it is very practical. We gleaned the information and used the language within the Manual to compose some tips for the UPS grant proposal from Community Action. From reading the Manual and adapting its language, we find that we are setting up a low-structure program - one with one paid coordinator and the rest of the work done by volunteers. Thus we, Bridges to Nourishment are a low structure enabler/broker PPFRP. The Team also completed AmeriCorps forms as requested by Jill the Butler office, and began calling donors to find out first if they had excess food then if we could meet with them to explain the program.

Tuesday June 25th

We visited and surveyed the Food Fellowship facility in Belle Vernon and found that their kitchen and food pantry very well equipped. It seems that they had a fire not to long ago and since have had a new kitchen built and new equipment installed. During our visit, we concluded that their program would not be one of our main recipient agency targets. It seems their schedule is limited, congregate feeding one day a week, and they serve a lot more senior citizens in the area than low income people. They did tell us of one such place in the area that fed low income folks but it seems this place closed six months ago since it was not well managed. Bridgehouse in Masontown was our next stop. We found that their residents receive foodstamps and are responsible for preparing their own meals. Again, this will not be one of our main priority facilities. After debriefing concerning the days meetings, we organized and updated our AmeriCorps database and compiled files. We also updated our informational binders that we carry with us when we are away from the office. Team members also called Dolly at the local USDA. We are experiencing problems with our paychecks, so we made an inquiry. She then directed us to the Harrisburg office. We were able to correct the errors that were made and hopefully everything will be back on schedule. Calls also continued to prospective donors.

Wednesday June 26th

Early in the morning we met with Sheryl Pepiot and assisted her in compiling figures needed for the UPS grant proposal. We continued our calls to prospective donor agencies. We then worked on a rough draft of a donation poundage form and also worked on a rough draft of a hold harmless agreement. In the afternoon we picked up more vegetable and flowering plants from Trozzo's florist to be distributed to public housing communities. We also spoke on the phone with Terry in Harrisburg about questions concerning some Team members paychecks and also made him aware that one of the members who did not receive their paycheck.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Thursday June 27th

Lou and Kensie went to pick up excess bakery items at County Market. This pick-up to save these perishable goods will be done by the AmeriCorps volunteers throughout the rest of summer. We may as of next week begin picking up the excess from Super Kmart as well. Again today, we continued calls to prospective donor agencies, though with little luck. The Team members attended the (press conference) Penny Per Gallon Kick-Off at one of the participating gas stations. We had planned to go to the Family Abuse Shelter to do a recipient survey, but Gloria Mickens was too busy to keep the appointment. We rescheduled the visit for another time. We picked up the remaining plants from Trozzo's florist and thanked them again for their generosity. The telephone man came and installed our own phone line. In the afternoon, we went to the Connellsville Salvation Army to do a recipient survey. We composed several thank-you letters to send to Trozzo's Florist and the various agencies we visited. We also are going to develop a follow-up packet for recipient agencies to let them know where we are in the project. Today, we started contacting the larger potential donors - Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, Eat-n-Park etc.. It does not look good. Unfortunately, the local Pizza Huts are not those controlled by Pizza Hut International thus do not participate in their Harvest Program. Our Pizza Huts are locally owned. We did however speak with the folks at the Pizza Hut International to enlist their help in persuading the local Pizza Hut owner to participate. They did give us some tips. We finished the day by working with the planners at Community Action to ensure that they had the information they needed to finish the UPS proposal.

Friday, June 28th

When the group arrived to work, we were surprised to find that we were going to participate in a Radio Broadcast on WPQR. Lou spoke of our project, and other projects we are participating in. We also reviewed the UPS proposal and suggested changes to the benefit of the proposal. This went well and the group members learned much about the media and the necessity of media events such as the one with the local radio station. We decided that with the lack of definite progress recruiting donors that we may need to conduct more public relations - possibly another article in the local newspaper. Next, we visited Fort Mason Village to speak to the local Kid's Club and the people who run it about their participation in a "Community Garden" project. We explained how we would do it, and discussed any needs or obstacles that the project will face. After returning, Ron visited the Uniontown Salvation Army about parking matters. He also ventured to Fayette County Community Action to use the Web Browsing facilities to find information about gardening for the "Community Garden" project. His time, Holly went to the local library to also gather information on gardening for this project. When the group reconvened, we decided to put together a packet for the "Community Garden" project. All during this, we continued making calls to prospective donors to attempt to schedule appointments to educate them about our program. We also scheduled a Monday meeting with Sheryl to discuss our progress and the obstacles we were facing.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Progress Report for
July 1, 1996 - July 5, 1996

Monday, July 1st

We began the morning by E-mailing our project narrative from the previous week to Lee Patterson. The AmeriCorps Team met with the kid's club at Dunlap Creek Village to discuss planting a community garden. The kids were enthusiastic and can't wait until we begin the project. The Team also went to a local lumber company, O.C. Cluss, to see if they would donate some items needed for the community garden. They donated: 2 bags of peat moss, 2 bags of top soil, 2 bags of sand, and 2 bags of cow manure. We also began planning for a new strategy in order to recruit donors. We have written a one page business-oriented information sheet to be used in a massive business to business campaign beginning next week. We hope this will counter the less than enthusiastic we have received so far from the food industry in Fayette County. We also plan to meet with business community groups and do more radio and newspaper spots in order to get more interest going for this type of program.

Tuesday, July 2nd

The Team rescued the surplus bakery items from County market and delivered them to the Food Bank. For the rest of the morning we put together packets for the kid's club at Dunlap Creek Village and Fort Mason Village. The booklets were illustrated by Natalie and contained all the basic information for starting a garden. In the afternoon, the team went to Gibbison Terrace to pass out flyers for the Food Bank. Lou, Natalie and Ron returned to Uniontown to meet with Sheryl about the progress of our project. Kensie and Holly went to pick-up the remaining Penny-Per-Gallon signs for Jamie and the Food Bank.

Wednesday, July 3rd

We began the morning by helping the Salvation Army unload the supply truck from the food bank. The Team went to Fort Mason Village to plant the community garden with the kid's club. The children range in ages from three to twelve. We met the kids in front of the community building and showed them all of the plants. There were also several of the parents present and the president of the tenant council. We brought thirteen flats of assorted vegetable and flowering plants. We then broke the kids down into two groups: planners and diggers. The planners arranged the flowers around the building and trees, while the diggers removed the top layer of soil from the garden. The ground was very hard but everyone was having a good time. Lou demonstrated how to properly plant a seedling. All the children took turns planting a variety of vegetable plants in the garden. The children were very excited that they were able to put their names on a stick beside their plant. We also put what kind of plant it was on the back of the stick to give the some familiarity with the different plant name and type. We then went to the front of the building to finish the flower beds. This turned out to be a difficult yet rewarding project. Next week we mulch the garden then show the kids how to make "cow manure tea" to feed the plants and then the next week we will do a photo opportunity with the local newspaper and the kids from the communities.

Friday, July 5th

We cleaned up our files and made our first food rescue at SuperKmart. We got 150 pounds of food or enough to feed 225 people (by using the formula given to us by Foodchain which supposedly used by Second Harvest. This formula uses 1.5 people served for each pound of food). We will begin reporting all of our food gleaned by this formula in the future. We also picked up the last of the Penny-Per-Gallon signs and almost completed passing out the flyers at Gibson Terrace. We also put the finishing touches on the flyers to be taken to donors and began a list of business groups which will be offered a presentation by our group.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Progress Report for
July 8, 1996 to July 12, 1996

Monday July 8th

Kensie and Ron picked up excess bakery goods at K-mart and delivered them to the Fayette County Food Bank. There was a huge surplus of buns and bread from the SuperK-mart (probably due to the holiday) which necessitated us renting a truck for \$6.00 to do the pick up. Holly and Natalie received surplus baked goods at the County Market. Each of these pickup's will not be of our regular schedule. SuperKmart surplus will be picked up daily while the County Market surplus will be picked up Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Kmart's excess will be stored at the Food Bank for distribution - County Market's excess will go to the Food Bank on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with Saturday's food going to the Bethel House Soup Kitchen and Sunday's food going to the Uniontown Salvation Army. After the food pick-ups, Lou, Natalie, Ron and Kensie facilitated the planting of another community, children's flower and vegetable garden. This time at Dunlap Creek Village in Republic. After a LONG day of planting with the children, part of the AmeriCorps team went to the USDA office at Nickman's Plaza to sought information concerning inaccuracies on Lou, Kensie, and Holly's pay stubs.

Tuesday, July 9th

Natalie stayed back at the office and collected information relating to the addresses, contact people, and phone numbers of various clubs and business organizations while the other members completed the SuperKmart and County Market pickups. While Natalie was in the office, Holly, Lou, Ron, and Kensie went to the Fort Mason Village Farm Stand to assist community volunteers in the operations of the farm stand. Realizing the overabundance of volunteer help, Lou and Ron went on their own way. They journeyed through Masontown and along Route 21 delivering Bridges to Nourishment fliers and donor packets to local food establishments and grocers. The reception was somewhat warmer than had been during our phone attempts to schedule meetings with establishment owners or managers. After assisting with the Fort Mason Village Farmstead, Holly and Kensie went to the Community Action building to mail mass copies of the fliers and to put together more donor packets. As soon as Ron and Lou returned from delivering fliers, they went to Community Action and E-mailed last week's progress narrative to Lee Patterson.

Wednesday, July 10th

Kensie and Holly picked up the surplus food at Super Kmart while Lou picked up the County Market surplus. After returning from this pick-up, Natalie and Holly went to Dunlap Creek Village Farmstand. to assist the volunteers in the operations of the Farmstand. Meanwhile, Lou and Ron went to Fort Mason Village to tend to the vegetable garden. While there, they watered the plants, made manure tea and applied it to plants, laid straw down to help keep moisture, and put up fencing around the area. The Team also continued to input donor information expanding the data base for the future Program Coordinator. We began with a donor list of approximately 104. With each visit to establishments, we determined whether the donor has product regularity or occasionally, desires to participate in the program, or whether we need to follow-up with another person in the organization. If the establishment has no product or does not want to participate then we drop them from the donor data list (A:\dondat). For those who agree to participate and who have product at least occasionally, we note the progress of contacts with them. Thus the final data base will only contain participating donors (the long list will be available on another file). At the end of the day and before going home, Kensie delivered the remainder of the food bank fliers to Gibson Terrace.

Thursday July 11th

Ron started his day by scouting the Brownsville area and Route 40 area for viable food establishments and grocers, and handed out fliers and donor packets, when appropriate, to those establishments. Kensie and Natalie picked up excess foodstuffs at Kmart and delivered those to the Food Bank while other members pick up the excess at County Market. After this, the team split up and canvassed the Smithfield/Fairchance area educating and seeking donors for the program. Natalie stayed back at the office to answer calls and to call various office equipment establishments to find prices on fold-up display boards for the convention in August. She also visited the office equipment stores in Uniontown but to no avail. We will probably go have to go to Office Max in Greensburg or Pittsburgh. After returning from Smithfield, Holly and Kensie made more copies of program information for the donor/recipient packets. At the end of the day, the AmeriCorps team filed out their travel vouchers for the first half of the program, made copies of these, and prepared to send them out to Jill at Lee Patterson's office. We also have had problems with the phone - we found that while we could call out, many times people were not able to call in. We also somehow were linked to the neighbors phone so that we heard her conversations and she ours. This was repaired today, and hopefully no more problems will occur with the phone. And finally, we called contact people at the Housing Communities in which we helped to create community gardens so that we could soon schedule a photo opportunity with the children and local newspaper.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Friday, July 12th

Upon arrival, Natalie, Ron, Kensie and Holly picked up baked good from Super Kmart and delivered them to the Food Bank. After returning, the group sat down for a discussion about the program, and also did the planning for the rest of the summer. The conclusion of the planning was that by the end of July we will have completely canvassed Fayette County for donors. Just to note, few establishments large enough to be donors are being found off of the main routes. Thus, we are canvassing along all of the major routes - 40, 857, 119, 70, 31, 711, 166, etc.. We discussed the goals for August as well. We hope to use this month to educate community groups concerning the program. We also discussed that we may not yet want to find an organization to provide transport linkages. As the UPS grant receipt of rejection will not be known until November with moneys being released in January, we fear building too much expectation with an organization (only for them to then wait months for action) may not be the best way to go. We think education and feelers may be the best way to approach this. If the program is funded and sufficient amounts of donated product are found, the Coordinator later could follow up with a volunteer organization to recruit their assistance. Until more of this is worked out, we will continue to attempt to create direct linkages from the recipient to the donor (such as the Sunday SuperKmart pickup by the Salvation Army) with other pick ups being done via our help or volunteers at the Food Bank. After the planning session Natalie and Ron ventured to the Route 51 area to hand out fliers to restaurants and grocers. Meanwhile, Kensie and Holly went to Community Action to help with the "Meals on Wheels" program for the day. Lou stayed back at the office and wrote thank you letters to several people for their help and/or participation in the "Summer of Gleaning" project and again update the data. Also, he reviewed the list of community groups compiled earlier in the week. These will be the groups who we will need to educate about the program. This list will include potential organizations who could provide volunteers and transport. Soon will be included on the agenda of Laurel Highlands Restaurateurs Association for their August meeting and we plan to schedule the other meeting dates by the end of this month. Upon returning from the Route 51 trip, Ron and Lou wrote the narrative for the week while the others in the Team completed calls and began planning work details for the five Penn State students who have volunteered to help.

This week we rescued 3,035 pounds of food from Super Kmart and 175 pounds from the County Market. Outstanding yet are the numbers for the direct linkage formed between the Summer Park feeding program and the City Mission. We hope you get those next week.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Progress Report for
July 15, 1996 - July 19, 1996

Monday, July 15th

Holly and Kensie picked up excess bakery products at K-Mart and delivered them to the Fayette County Food Bank. AmeriCorps participants then continued with the direct canvassing of Fayette County communities for the food rescue program. Lou, Holly, Ron and Kensie canvassed the Belle Vernon area (Route 51, 201, 70) and Point Marion (Route 166) area to drum up interest in the Food Rescue program and hopefully sign up donors. This direct canvassing is one component of our revised strategy. Our first strategy included phoning establishments (104 identified) in order to set-up appointments to discuss the program. We felt this was necessary as most places have off-site managers. This strategy did not work as on-site managers did not have the authority to give information or make decisions. Most establishment employees quickly said they could not give food and in some cases refused to give information over the phone concerning off-site or regional managers etc. information. Our strategy has now shifted to direct community canvassing and education. After which we follow-up via phone or visit according to what is indicated after the initial meeting. Meanwhile, Natalie stayed back and called Piccolomini's to get on the agenda for the August Laurel Highlands Restaurateur's Association meeting. She was unsuccessful as Mr. Piccolomini who previously said this was possible now said the Association may not meet. We do recognize Summer is a difficult time to get on the agenda of any community or business group. We are however pursuing the Uniontown and Connellsville Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis groups in our attempt to educate the public concerning hunger and Bridges to Nourishment.

Tuesday, July 16th

Holly and Kensie participated in the Fayette County Community Action's "Meals-On-Wheels" program for the elderly. This will no doubt give them some idea of the numbers of people who are home bound and need foodstuffs. Meanwhile, team leader Lou gleaned an assortment of bakery items from County Market and delivered them to the Fayette County Food Bank. After participating in "Meals-On-Wheels", Holly and Kensie received surplus bakery items from K-Mart and took them to the Fayette County Food Bank. Lou, Natalie, Holly, and Kensie continued canvassing the communities of Smithfield and Fairchance etc. to educate food establishments concerning our program. Meanwhile, Ron updated the data base including our Monday canvassing. The last thing of the day was meeting with the Penn State students who called to say they were interested in using their public speaking class to assist our project. We believe they may be able to help with public relations. We are asking them to create a brochure, a radio spot, and posters which could be placed at establishments who donate to Bridges to Nourishment.

Wednesday, July 17th

Lou, Kensie, Natalie, and Ron went to Office Max in Westmoreland County to find fold-up display boards and other supplies for the upcoming Rural Development Conference in Lancaster, PA. After this, the group canvassed the Route 119 Connellsville area educating establishments all along way. This large area took a greater part of the day even though we split into groups. Meanwhile, Holly called local service organizations to collect data that is pertinent to the PPFRP program. In addition, Holly faxed our two-paged fact sheet to Bill Harper who is the director of Connellsville School District and President of the Connellsville Rotary. Our team also received messages from Sheryl Pepiot regarding Chez Gerard's interest in donating food. Furthermore, Jill Taylor called our office to solicit corrections to inaccuracies on our travel vouchers. Our team also developed information packets for the five Penn State student volunteers who are interested in assisting with the Summer of Gleaning Project.

Thursday, July 18th

Holly, Ron, Lou, and Natalie split up into groups to canvass the Uniontown area - again to determine if local donors are willing to participate in the Bridges to Nourishment project. This canvassing took all day for the groups. Meanwhile, Kensie typed a thank you letter to local legislators and included the photos from the Media Day event; she also called Dunlap Creek and Fort Mason Villages to set up a photo opportunity with the 12 children at Dunlap and 17 children at Fort Mason Village who participated in the community gardening. We are hoping to do a media event to present certificates to the children for participating in the "Basic Gardening Techniques" training. We are somewhat disappointed with the way the gardens look (as they did get started late) but the experience and education for the children we believe made it worthwhile. The children were educated on the "no dig" soil tilling gardening technique, basic planting techniques, plant care techniques, mulching techniques, and an organic manure tea feeding technique. Of course they most enjoyed the manure tea feeding technique. There was no doubt that the children at both housing communities were very interested in growing some of their own food. At Ft. Mason, three adults were very interested and helped us immensely. Unfortunately at Dunlap Village only one adult helped - mainly a mediator between the kids. She did however ask for plants to use near home and we were able to give these to her.

USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue

Friday, July 19th

Lou and Natalie picked up excess food stuffs from K-Mart and delivered it the Fayette County Food Bank. Afterwards, Natalie faxed the teams time sheets to the USDA office in the Nickman Plaza. In addition, Lou and Natalie went to Chez Gerard to glean meat shavings and assorted fruits. We also met for a time with Terry the Chef at Chez Gerard. He was very cooperative and suggested we meet with Mr. and Mrs. Meyers the owners. He also offered containers and much advice. This excess food was immediately transported (in a cooler with ice) to the City Mission by Lou and Ron. This food (15 pounds of high quality meat and 15 pounds of fruit) will be split between the women's and men's shelters. The people at the City Mission were so appreciative of the food and we too were happy that it was meat. Thus far, we have collected much bakery items which are plentiful but low in protein. Meat/protein is much more of what people need. The Chez Gerard rescue will occur every Friday we believe. Meanwhile, Holly, and Kensie delivered lunches on behalf of the Fayette County Community Action's "Meals-on-Wheels" for the elderly. We also revised our data base to include the mid-week canvassing completed by the group. In all we completed our action steps for this week - we have now canvassed 89 out of the 104 original food establishments in Fayette County. While we have few commitments for food donations, we are hopeful that once more of the larger or more well known establishments come on board others will follow. We have learned one major item from our canvassing - locally owned, independent stores and restaurants have little to offer as they keep things tight. It is the large chains that have waste; however these chain stores take a bit more time to educate and maneuver within.

Food Rescue for this week:

SuperKmart = 875 pounds

County Market = 260 pounds

Chez Gerard = 30 pounds

Summer Feeding Program = yet undetermined, numbers will be forthcoming.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Progress Report
July 22, 1996 - July 26, 1996

Monday, July 22nd

Kensie and Holly picked up the surplus from SuperKmart and transported it to the Foodbank. Much of the rest of the day was used to update our data base from last week's donor contacts and visits. As we updated the database, we discussed the information as a group and also discussed the implications of our work. Team members also met with Chez Gerard owners and chef in order to work out the logistics and liability issues surrounding relationship or linkage. Mr. Meyer was concerned about liability as many donors. Thus, we offered to sign a hold harmless agreement with him and also we will create a form to be signed with every pickup by a volunteer. As requested, this form will state the date and time of pickup and will give additional security to the Chez Gerard owners.

Tuesday, July 23rd

The team did their regular pickups at County Market and SuperKmart. Kensie and Holly also assisted in the Meals-on Wheels program. This was followed by a discussion of our list of donors; after which we divided the donor list up amongst members for phone or face-to-face follow-up. Team members then began to do follow-ups in which they ask if donors need clarification concerning the program, ask if they would consider being a donor, and ask if they would participate in a donor survey. Later we met with Sheryl Pepiot to discuss our progress, receive information from a conference call held between other USDA gleaning teams, and to discuss the mid-term report. Sheryl made us aware of an idea which had been suggested to her that of gleaning the food from the August Leadership Conference. Our research indicates that the Lancaster area is covered by the Channels food rescue program so we will call them.

Wednesday, July 24th

The regular pick-up was done at County Market. We also reviewed information received from various PPFRPs and determined which information or forms could be used by our project. This information and forms will be added to the data base for use. As a considerable amount of this information was gleaned, it was determined that input could be done at home. Kensie, as she needs to head back to school before the rest of us, and Ron, who started a little behind us, agreed to do this inputting at home at their leisure. This way there will be no impact as to everyone completing the number of hours required of team members. The team also worked on the mid-term report - revising it numerous times to ensure the reporting criteria was met. Members also continued calling donors and scheduled meeting times. We have now included schools to our donor list and this is taking some time to get through to the right people. Team members throughout this week have been calling community groups to schedule an educational session between the group and the team. This effort is being thwarted due to many groups lack of summer meetings. We also attempted to again contact adult leaders of the Kids Club in order to do a community gardens media event. We have been having trouble getting people to return our calls to schedule these events.

Thursday, July 25th

Team members conducted their regular pick-ups. Lou continued the mid-term report to be given to Sheryl for her review. Kensie formulated the food handling standards for potential donors and recipient agencies. Kensie also developed the volunteer job description and application forms and inputted them into our data base. Holly, Kensie, and Natalie canvassed a few more food establishments. These establishments were discovered to have been left off our original lists during discussions earlier in the week. Team members then split up to visit the community gardens communities in an effort to schedule a media event. Lou and Ron traveled to Bethel House in Brownsville to conduct a recipient survey. Bethel House currently conducts a soup kitchen on Saturday's and we have targeted them to receive County Market surplus. They would like to expand their program and food from our program will no doubt help. Next we gleaned some 80 pounds of food from the Farmstand program and took it to the Brownsville Soup Kitchen. We also met with Sheryl to discuss her comments concerning the mid-term draft.

Friday, July 26th

Regular pick-ups were done. The mid-term report was revised to include Sheryl's comments and then e-mailed out to Lee Patterson. Natalie, Kensie, Holly went to Chez Gerard to do the pickup and then delivered it to City Mission. Holly and Kensie also did the Meals-on-Wheels. Lou also had a call from Lee Patterson to discuss the mid-term report and team progress. The team also finalized their schedule for the community education booth at the Fayette County Fair. Contact was made between the group and the volunteers from Penn-State. The volunteers had made up a sample brochure and signs to advertise the program. Natalie has been working on a brochure and signs as well and we will use the best ideas from each. And finally, the team made reservations for the Rural Development Leadership Conference and spoke with Channels(the PPFRP in the Lancaster area) to arrange the gleaning of conference excess.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Progress Report
July 29, 1996 - August 2, 1996

Monday, July the 29th

Kensie and Holly picked up the surplus from SuperKmart and transported it to the Foodbank. Lou worked to complete the progress narrative while Natalie worked on the Bridges to Nourishment brochure. Ron, Kensie, and Holly did two donor surveys today - Sheehan's grocery in Brownsville and the Fraiser High School down in the Mon-Valley. The rest of the day much like last week was used to update our data base from last week's donor contacts and visits. As we updated the database, we discussed the information as a group and also discussed the implications of our work. Our contact lists were then updated and the latest list was shared with Sheryl. We also contacted the Pittsburgh Food Bank who offered to share a computer program with us. This program will facilitate the monitoring of the food program. Also over the weekend, Kensie, Holly and Natalie volunteered to man the Community Action Booth at the Fayette County Fair.

Tuesday, July the 30th

The team did their regular pickups at County Market and SuperKmart. Kensie and Holly also assisted in the Meals-on Wheels program. Members also went out to the Farmstands program to assist. Members of the AmeriCorps Team will be managing the Farmstands next week while Rose Hardy from the Food Bank is on vacation. The rest of the day was spent doing follow-up with donors. This follow-up entailed mailing additional information or calls to off-site managers. Recipients were also called as we attempted to coordinate a food handling workshop for soup kitchen volunteers.

Wednesday, July the 31st

The regular pick-up was done at County Market and then taken to the food bank. Members also continued calling donors as follow-up to the previous mailings and contacts. Holly who has championed the effort to contact school districts and hospitals has now completed contacting those on the list. It seems schools will not be a very good source for food rescue. We also made contact with adult leaders of the Kiwanis Club in order to do a community gardens media event - it is scheduled for the 8th of August. We have been having trouble getting people to return our calls to schedule these events. And, so the one we had hoped for at Dunlap Creek Village may not occur.

Thursday, August the 1st

Team members conducted their regular pick-ups. We revised the Hold Harmless agreement. We also reviewed all of the information in our files (both information received and created) to ensure we would leave the future coordinator of this program with the information needed to continue the program. We also began revising our data base once again in order to make it as friendly as possible for anyone in the future. We came up with a table of contents for our floppy disks which should make it easier for the future food rescue program coordinator. Ron went to glean the excess produce from the Farmstands. On Thursday, we also did our first educational program for a community group - the Uniontown Kiwanis Club - at the country club. This went well, the group was interested and two members asked for donor packets after the meeting. Future community meetings scheduled are Connellsville Lion's Monday the 5th, Uniontown Lion's Tuesday the 6th, and Connellsville Kiwanis on Wednesday the 14th.

Friday, August the 2nd

Regular pick-ups were done. We also did the Chez Gerard pickup and City Mission delivery. Kensie and Holly started a new Meals-On-Wheels route in the west area of Uniontown. The team also worked on the presentation for the Leadership Conference. We delivered the rescued produce from the Farmstands to the Brownsville Soup Kitchen. While we were in Brownsville, we prepared for the painting of the soup kitchen. The walls and pipes were washed, the tables and chairs taken down and the cracks in the walls were patched. Next week we have our meeting with Bob Redinger the Department of Agriculture inspector to finalize the standards for our program. We also have meetings with Nemaquin Woodlands, a donor, the Rural Development Team (Tuesday at 1pm) in order to schedule a media day, Red Lobster, a donor, and the Media event at Ft. Mason Village with the Masontown Sentinel and the village Kid's Club. Vickie Vrable, with which we are scheduling the food handling in-service, is now on vacation so we will have to wait until next Wednesday to schedule the workshop. And finally, we finished the arrangements for gleaning the food from the national Rural Development Leadership Conference. The Chef from the Holiday Inn and Jean from the local Food Rescue program, Channels, will cooperate. Media coverage, however, will need to be arranged by us.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Progress Report
August 5, 1996 - August 9, 1996

Monday, August the 5th

Kensie and Holly picked up the surplus from SuperKmart and transported it to the Foodbank. Natalie worked on the Bridges to Nourishment brochure and display for the Leadership Conference. Ron helped out with the "Food Pantry" at Uniontown Salvation Army from 8:30 to 11:30 (they are short staffed this week and are hoping we can help out), and Lou worked wrote the first draft of the previous week's Progress Narrative. Also over the weekend, Ron picked up the excess bakery items at County Market and transported them to The City Mission, and Kensie picked up the excess bakery on Sunday and transported it to the Uniontown Salvation Army. The rest of the day much like last week was used to update our data base from last week's donor contacts and visits. As we updated the database, we discussed the information as a group and began planning for the end of our term of service. We will now put our energies into preparing linkage groups for direct pick-ups. This had been discussed with these groups all along so it should not be that problematic. We also have a meeting this Friday with Rabbi Sion David who directs the Interfaith Caregivers organization. Our hope is that volunteers from the Caregivers will provide transport for rescued foods to receiving agencies who have no way to do the rescue. Kensie and Lou met this evening with The Connellsville Lion's Club to do an educational presentation. The presentation went well.

Tuesday, August the 6th

Team did their regular pickups at County Market and SuperKmart. Kensie and Holly also assisted in the Meals-on Wheels program. Members also went out to the Farmstands program to manage the Fort Mason Village Farmstand, while Rose Hardy was on vacation. Meanwhile, Ron and Natalie went to the Brownsville to work on finishing the painting of the dining area. Lou had a 11am meeting with the Food and Beverage Manager at Nemaquin Woodlands. Lou educated the manager concerning the program, gave him a donors packet, and conducted a survey. It seems that Nemaquin does not have excess on a regular basis but does have large amounts (over 100 servings) occasionally. The Manager, Steve was enthusiastic about the program and spoke of his experience in Chicago and Miami. In both places the local Chefs at times (once a year for a day) prepared meals for the soup kitchens and shelters. This enabled the Chefs to give service while educating the public about hunger and homelessness. I made him aware that Chefs nationwide do this sort of thing and that I had mentioned this to Terry the Chef at Chez Gerard. Terry too was very interested. Steve will get back with us after speaking with his boss clearing the Hold Harmless Agreement with their lawyer. Lou also mentioned that an obstacle in the food rescue exchange was containers and that this was how some of the UPS grant moneys would be used. He at that point said we would have to bring containers there as their kitchen equipment is very expensive. He did however give us some plastic containers (just like the ones we are getting from Chez Gerard) that we could use. We are now stockpiling these which will no doubt come in handy later. At 1 pm., Lou met with the AmeriCorps Rural Development team to discuss the next media day event. This event is to be called "Picnic in the Park." We will use this event to offer a free meal for the poor and low income in Uniontown. This also will serve as our graduation event.

Wednesday, August the 7th

The regular pick-up was done at County Market and then taken to the food bank. At 8:30 am., Lou met with Bob Redinger thus completing the standards for our program. Frankly, the program standards we have been using and which are included in a manual (developed by a Food Rescue program in California and adapted by us) were more than sufficient. Bob informed us that the model, an enabling model, would not require regular inspection from his department. He said each of our recipient agencies and each restaurant must be licensed and/or inspected. Hence, the only time we would hear from him is if we requested a meeting or there was a formal complaint made (someone got sick from rescued food). Lou supplied Bob with loads of information received from other sources regarding food handling. He was especially happy to receive a booklet published by the folks in California. Bob will be conducting our food handling training class scheduled for recipient agencies and food bank staff to be held next Thursday. Meanwhile, Ron and Natalie went out to the Dunlap Creek Village Farmstand to manage it while Rose Hardy was on vacation. Also Holly and Kensie went to the Salvation Army to man their food pantry. At 3:00, Lou went to Red Lobster to meet with Don Ciatti about the food rescue program. Lou offered a donor packet and discussed the possibility of Red Lobster's participation. We have had preliminary discussions with the local manager. Steve the District Manager and Don the local manager agreed to participate. They are thinking that since they have no real excess that they will prepare one day a month for a local soup kitchen. The closest kitchen and most convenient is the Uniontown Salvation Army. Lou will schedule a meeting with them before the project ends and hopefully get the two parties together. The Red Lobster folks also agreed, pending their lawyers agreement to our hold harmless letter, to help us on the 23rd for our "Picnic in the Park". The Rural Development AmeriCorps group called and Marshall Park is available for the event. We began making calls to local businesses for donations for "Picnic in the Park."

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Thursday, August the 8th

Team members conducted their regular pick-ups. At 10:30, the team met to talk about all of the events that were occurring and to catch up on the progress of the food rescue program. At 1:00, the team went to Fort Mason Village to meet with the Kid's Club for a photo opportunity with The Sentinel, a Masontown newspaper. After going here, Ron went to Brownsville to observe the Brownsville Farmer's Market. Meanwhile, group members gleaned food from Luigi's for the "Picnic in the Park" project. We also made plans to finish painting the Brownsville Soup Kitchen - Monday afternoon will complete the project. The day was concluded to calls to various people to begin to bring closure to this project.

Friday, August the 9th

Regular pick-ups were done. We also did the Chez Gerard pickup and City Mission delivery. While there, Lou went over the Hold Harmless Agreement with Terry, the cook, and got it signed. Kensie and Holly did the Meals-On-Wheels route in the west area of Uniontown. We delivered the rescued Cauliflower from the Chez Gerard pickup to the Brownsville Soup Kitchen, because it was too much for the City Mission to handle. While at the soup kitchen, Ron and a volunteer helped clean the soup kitchen to prepare for painting on Monday. Next, Lou met with Cheryl and Rabbi David about being an intermediary. This meeting was successful in two respects. We educated Rabbi David who is a member of the Uniontown Rotary and director of the Interfaith Caregivers concerning our program. Also by the end of the meeting he thought that this is one of the projects many of his volunteers might be interested in doing. So we may have found our intermediary 501(c)(3) to assist the program now and in the future. As far as the Team completing their term of service, most members finish-up next week. Most have completed their twelve weeks/480 hours of service. Some members finish up early due to the 16 hours of personal time they did not take during the term. Also four members will return to go to the Leadership Conference and the Media Day event so their hours will be completed as of August 28th. We have, however, planned all along for the end so we believe everything is in place for us to leave, for the Food Bank to temporarily take over our rescues, and for the program to grow as money and personnel are found.

**USDA AmeriCorps
Summer of Gleaning - Food Rescue**

Final Report
September 1, 1996

In the later part of May 1996, the USDA, the Fayette County Community Action Food Bank, and the AmeriCorps National Service Corporation embarked on a project to create a food rescue program in Fayette County. The initial 12 week project is now complete.

Within this twelve week period, five AmeriCorps members educated and surveyed more than 104 food establishments, educated and surveyed 8 of the largest soup kitchens and homeless shelters, solicited information and technical assistance from Foodchain (the national coalition of Foodbanks), educated and collaborated with the state Department of Agriculture inspector to establish standards for local food rescue efforts, solicited information and technical assistance from a numerous other food rescue programs including a day-long site visit to Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Table food rescue program, created the organizational structure for the Bridges to Nourishment food rescue program, conducted four media events to get the word out about food rescue, educated five community volunteer organizations concerning food rescue, provided information and cost estimates for a United Parcel Post grant proposal to perpetuate the food rescue project, created five pilot food rescue linkages between donor food establishments and recipient anti-hunger agencies, created a thorough data base for latter use by program staff, coordinated a group of Penn State student volunteers who assisted with public relations, created a linkage with the Interfaith Caregivers (a community group with a large pool of potential program volunteers), conducted food handling services for volunteers of the anti-hunger recipient agencies, worked with the local Community Action food bank to ensure continuity as the food rescue AmeriCorps project became the food bank program, and attended a National Rural Development Leadership Conference in an effort to educate development experts concerning food rescue.

In addition, AmeriCorps members also provided direct service to the community by volunteering to develop community gardens and educated children in basic gardening techniques at two public housing communities, assist with the delivery of Meals-on-Wheels program, paint a local soup kitchen, assist with a self-sufficiency program - called Farmstands - which enables people living in public housing communities to learn to sell local farm products to other community people and supplied the Community Action food bank with assistance in their efforts.

The monetary and people power costs of this twelve week project enabled the feasibility study for and the creation of a food rescue program in Fayette County amongst other aforementioned direct service activities. The monetary cost of this start-up project amounted to approximately \$19,984.50 and provided for more than 2,440 hours of AmeriCorps member effort. Over two hundred hours of volunteer effort complimented the AmeriCorps members while the future promises a considerable amount more as the Community Action Foodbank builds the relationship between the Bridges to Nourishment program and the hundreds of volunteers of Interfaith Caregivers. Along with the initiation of this volunteer linkage, the AmeriCorps members also created five permanent linkages between food establishment donors and anti-hunger agencies. Between July 1st and August 22nd, these five pilot food rescue linkages rescued over 10,420 pounds of food. Using the Second Harvest formula provided by Foodchain, we estimate that the food rescued provided over 15,630 meals for homeless and low-income people throughout Fayette County.

In summary, the Bridges to Nourishment collaboration project enabled five young adults to build their capacities whiles creating a low-input, high out-put food rescue program, enabled more than 30 children to receive gardening skills through a community garden project, provided volunteer assistance to the meals-on-wheels and Farmstand programs, whiles providing 15,630 meals. If one alone balances the monetary in-put to the output of meals generated, the cost of each meal provided by the efforts of this AmeriCorps Team stands at approximately \$1.28 compared to the projected cost of \$0.93 per meal when the project was proposed.

The AmeriCorps members documented the problems they faced in meeting or exceeding the project goal. To many established food providers did not wish to contribute to the program because of potential of liability. Even though the Good Samaritan laws of the state protects them, they just did not wish to take any chances. Because the program did not start until after the first of June, many managers were away from work on vacation or traveling and the AmeriCorps members were not able to hit the ground running in food collection and rescue. This total cost per meal would have been lowered if established food processors in the area had contributed to the program as was expected.



AmeriCorps * USA

**USDA State Progress Report
(CNS Grant No. 95ADFDC047)**

1. Check this reporting period: ☐ First ☐ Second ☒ Third ☐ Fourth

SECTION I - STATE INFORMATION

2. State: Pennsylvania
3. Agency: USDA Rural Development

SECTION II - STATE CONTACT INFORMATION

4. Contact Name: **F. Lee Patterson**
5. Title: **Rural Development Manager**
6. Address: **602 Evans City Road, Suite 101
Butler, PA 16001-8701**
7. Telephone Number: **412-482-4888**
8. FAX Number: **412-482-4826**
9. E-Mail Address: **lpatters@rurdev.usda.gov**

6/04/96

SECTION III - MEMBER DATA

OP SITE ID: R42A

Site Supervisor:

Dr. Allen Comp

Phone: 814-696-9380

Agency/Org Name:

SW PA Heritage Preservation Commission

FAX: 814-696-9569

STATE: PA

City:

Hollidaysburg, PA

10. Member Data

No. of Members Allocated by USDA:

5

Name	SSN	SerType	Prgm. Stat	Trust Stat	Hrs 3 rd Qtr	Total
Adam Baacke	(b)(6)	F	A	A	622.5	1521.5
Jaime Fecek		F	A	A	631.0	1202.0
Craig Kelso		F	A	A	554.25	1362.50
Amy Myers		F	A	A	614.75	1235.5
Susan Thagard		F	A	A	584.0	1431.25

3rd Qtr

11. Number of Volunteers Involved in activities sponsored or organized by members: 422 volunteers

12. Total hours of community service completed by volunteers cited above: 2,008 hours

6/04/96

13. Progress towards accomplishing original community service objectives
(Under "3rd QTR Quantity" enter the amount of work done in the third quarter. Do the same for "3rd QTR Success".)

R42

State	OP Site	Obj. #	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	YR. QTY Target	Unit of Meas. Success	3rd 1/4 QTY	Yr Success Target	Unit of Meas.	3rd 1/4 Success
PA	R42A	1	EN-R038A	Survey National Road property owners/use	90	miles surveyed	5	50	% used for implementation	75
PA	R42A	2	EN-E017A	Organize Educational Summit for teachers	25	teachers attending	0	50	% of teachers using materials	0
PA	R42A	3	EN-E121A	Organize/assist with Trail Clean-ups	90	miles of trail cleaned	4	50	volunteers involved	85
PA	R42A	4	EN-E011C	Nominate historic taverns to National Register of Historic Places	3	# of sites documented	0	67	% of owners committed to enhancement/preserv.	100
PA	R42A	5	EN-E011C	Nominate National Road historic districts to National Register of Historic Places	2	# of districts documented	0	100	% of owners committed to enhancement/preserv.	100
PA	R42A	6	EN-E043B	Plan and Develop Auto-Era National Road visitor center	1	plans - developed	60	100	% of work meeting prof. standards	100
PA	R42A	7	EN-E084B	Develop signage for the National Road	90	miles - signs installed	0	100	% of work meeting professional standards	0
PA	R42A	8	EN-R041A	Low-interest loan program for National Road	4	# of banks participating	2	\$400,000	capitl contribution	100
PA	R42A	9	EN-R073B	Create driving tour guide for National Road	30	sites - researched	3	100	% of guide completed	10
PA	R42A	10	EN-R026A	Assist homeowners to apply for USDA hsnng. loans	7	homes - housing loans	5	100	% processed by USDA	71

6/04/96

R42

State	OP Site	Obj. #	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	YR. QTY Target	Unit of Meas. Success	3rd 1/4 QTY	Yr Success Target	Unit of Meas.	3rd 1/4 Success
PA	R42A	11	EN-E090B	Rehab. East End Comm Ctr	1000	# of square feet	1000	30	# of people using the facility per day	65
PA	R42A	12	EN-E155A	Acid mine drainage site reclamation and clean up	90	acreage impacted	0	100	% meeting professional standards	0
PA	R42A	13	EN-E004B	Cleanup junkyards on National Road	14	lots - cleaned	1	100	tonnage removed/ trees planted	20/0
PA	R42A	14	EN-E121A	Develop Adopt-the-National Road program	10	miles adopted	0	5	# volunteers involved	0
PA	R42A	15	EN-E079B	Legal research toward acquisition of rail line for sheepskin trail	34	miles - researched	20	34	% meeting professional work standards	59
PA	R42A	16	EN-E094B	Establish Fayette County Watershed Association	10	# of volunteers	13	4	# of conservation measures adopted	0
PA	R42A	17	EN-R001A	Historic resources survey of Yough River Trail	43	# miles surveyed	35	30	# sites identified	33
PA	R42A	18	EN-E164A	Develop interpretive signage for YRT historic sites	5	# of site enhancements designed	0	100	% of work meeting professional standards	70
PA	R42A	19	EN-E156A	Develop maintenance guide for rail trails	65	# groups - surveyed	65	20	# of trail groups using guide	0
PA	R42A	21	EN-E130A	Small Community Sewage Conference	40	# people attending	0	75	% of people committed to improvements	0

6/04/96

R42

State	OP Site	Obj. #	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	YR. QTY Target	Unit of Meas. Success	3rd 1/4 QTY	Yr Success Target	Unit of Meas.	3rd 1/4 Success
PA	R42A	23	EN-E091A	Organize interns to staff National Road visitor center	5	# of volun. - recruited	12	1000	# of hours service	400
PA	R42A	24	EN-E170A	Elementary or Jr High Student Art Essay Contest	200	# of students participating	100	67	% with increased knowledge of local history	75

14. Progress towards accomplishing additional community service objectives

State	OP Site	Obj. #	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	YR. QTY Target	Unit of Meas. Success	3rd 1/4 QTY	Yr Success Target	Unit of Meas.	3rd 1/4 Success
PA	R42A	1	?	Develop a Food Rescue Program	1	program developed	1	100	% meeting standards	100%
PA	R42A	2	?	Operation of a visitor center	1	US Army Corps to assume control	1	100	% meeting standards	100%
PA	R42A	3	?	Organize and Promote National Pike Festival	1	Organize two evenings of education and enter.	2	100	% meeting standards	100%
PA	R42A	4	R072	Flatiron Bldg Brochures	10,000	Number of brochures published	0	100	% meeting prof standards	95%

15. Community Service Objectives Narrative (optional):

Objective #1 Survey National Road property owners to determine the extent of commercial activity. Information gathered will be used as a baseline for economic and community development activities. The majority of this survey was completed during the first quarter of fiscal year 1996. In the third quarter, information obtained in the survey was used by the National Road Heritage Park in implementing community and economic development programs, including the low-interest loan fund. Additionally, survey information was gathered for a portion of the road which had not been completed in the first quarter. Information from the survey was used to facilitate volunteerism in the National Pike Festival and to make the festival more influential in the area's economy. Information from the survey was compiled into a database for use by the National Road Heritage Park (NRHP). Of the property owners, 60% of the properties were available for questioning and 361 entries were made in the computer.

Objective #2 Organize educational summit for history, humanities, physical education, and science teachers in the six Fayette County school districts to encourage usage and teaching of the natural, cultural, and historical resources located along the National Road and Youghiogheny River Trail in Fayette County. Due to uncompromising events that occurred during the winter months, which was mentioned in the second quarter's report, this activity is planned for the 1996-1997 school term.

Objective #3 Organize and assist with trash and debris clean-ups along the Youghiogheny River Trail and the National Road. On April 20th, 53 students from the Frazer School District were organized with other volunteers to clean up the Yough River Trail North of Connellsville near Perryopolis. In preparation for the clean-up day, an assembly at the high school was organized to interest the students in the project. It was arranged for a state geologist to give a slide show presentation on the environment and geology of the areas and why it is important to take care of our environment. A slide show presentation was given at the assembly to show the students what area they would be cleaning up. Flyers were created and press releases were issued announcing the clean-up to the local newspapers and the local radio stations. This work was done in cooperation with the Regional Trails Corp., Pennsylvania Clean Ways, and the Perryopolis Area Heritage Society to clean 5 miles of the future trail and cleared 60 acres of George Washington Grist Mill Park in Perryopolis. This project showed what can happen when groups of people who have a common interest pull together to do a job. Six dump truck loads of debris, over 15 tons of trash, was hauled away. The school students received community service credits from the Frazer School District for this project. The students that participated had a first hand knowledge of the destructive affects of illegal dumping. Many of the students were heard to proclaim after 5 hours of picking up trash, they were never going to throw another piece of trash on the ground again. If the students complete a certain number of hours they receive a certificate and are invited to a banquet. The local historical society obtained much needed help on a large section of their property at no cost to their organization. At it's conclusion, the community received a cleaner recreational area that many did not know existed until this project.

Objective #4 Nominated three National Road taverns to the National Register of Historic Places to aid in the preservation of these resources and their development as assets to the viability of the NRHP corridor as a tourist attraction. The three taverns are the Thomas Brown Tavern in Markleys burg, the Josiah Frost Tavern in Menallen Township, and the Dougherty Tavern in Donegal Township. The nominations of the three taverns was completed in the first quarter of fiscal year 1996, were finalized and submitted to the State Historical Preservation Office in February 1996. After the initial review by SHPO, they were revised and submitted back to SHPO this quarter. Two will be reviewed by the board at their September meeting. The tavern owners have committed themselves to the preservation and conservation of their buildings now that they have been identified as historically significant.

Objective #5

Objective #6 Plan for the development of an automobile-era interpretive center of the National Road Heritage Park (NRHP) using an historic auto showroom and garage which today sits vacant and is deteriorating. The completed facility will provide visitors with information and exhibits addressing the twentieth-century uses of the National Road. This will compliment the taverns, tollhouses and other visitor resources which illustrate the nineteenth-century history of the corridor. The project will also contribute to the remediation

of visual and environmental pollution in the corridor as a result of deteriorating buildings and illegal dumping. During the third quarter a notice of funding support for the first phase (acquisition and stabilization) of the project from three sources totaling \$235,000. With this money secured, focus has begun on beginning the documentation and design work for this project. With the assistance of two interns from the SWPHPC during this quarter, the existing condition of the building was made and measured drawings of the buildings were taken. Also written and oral source materials on the history of the facility and the related stories of the development of the automobile tourism and its impact on the National Road was gathered for use in exhibits in the facility. Final contract of sale was prepared for the facility and the official transfer to the NRHP will take place in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Contact with architects for the final design of the facility has begun.

Objective #7 Develop a signage program for the National Road Heritage Park to identify the corridor and accompany the driving guide, information center, and sites on the road in enhancing the visitor's experience. Proper illustration of the corridor is integral to developing the area as a viable tourist destination and encouraging economic revitalization based on appropriate heritage tourism. This project has not advanced this quarter. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is still reviewing the application and proposed program. Once they approve the project, the work will continue with PennDOT's crews installing wayfinding signage as outlined in the AmeriCorps application.

Objective #8 In partnership with a number of local financial institutions, build a pool of money to assist private property owners along the National Road with rehabilitating their homes and businesses in a historically sensitive manner. This money will be distributed in the form of primarily low-interest loans, which encourage community revitalization as well as improve the visual desirability of the National Road Heritage Park. This has been an active objective during this quarter. The first loans will be made to property owners beginning in July and August. Written commitments of \$100,000 each from two additional banks, bring the total pool to \$400,000 were received. Qualified community volunteers were contacted to serve on the design review committee for the program and their activities of this role was outlined for them. Project applications were prepared and assembled for distribution and a press campaign to announce the program was launched.

Objective #9 Create a driving tour guide for the National Road in Pennsylvania to help make the National Road a desirable tourist destination thereby increasing the economic and community development which will follow. Research was completed on several sites in preparation for writing the guide, however, this project has ceased to be an AmeriCorps project because a community member came forward expressing interest in creating a driving tour guide for the National Road. Since this was an opportunity to create a short-term job for this individual, the project was stopped. The AmeriCorps research and examples collected will still aid in this effort in completion of the objective.

Objective #10 Assist the Rural Housing Service (RHS) in Uniontown by helping low income home owners complete applications for repair and mortgage loans. The goal of this objective is to complete 7 applications. Three town meetings were attended to explain to citizens the loan and grant programs of the RHS. Flyers were created and passed out announcing the meetings in each community. The meetings were a success and resulted in 5 new applications for loans.

Objective #11 Rehabilitate East End Community Center using 25-30 volunteers. The Center serves 30 students in the after-school program and 60 students during the summer. This objective was accomplished on May 11 as a community volunteer day to work on the community center. There were 30 volunteers from the community that helped in the rehabilitation of the center. Workers from community service work programs and welfare were inspired to help in the project and the interior of the center was painted, fixed a leaky roof, and replaced ceiling panels. Several other days have seen continuing repair work since May 11th and the exterior of the building was repainted. Donations were received to improve the center. A local craftsman created a new sign for the center, curtains were donated as well. The only remaining work needed is to replace the worn out carpet.

Objective #12 Locate and remediate acid mine drainage from the rivers and streams in Fayette County. This objective can be eliminated as it overlaps Objective #16.

Objective #13 Clean up junkyards on the National Road. Sites will be identified and surveyed. Success will be measured by the number of sites cleaned and/or screened. Two property owners have been encouraged to clear the site of an old junkyard. They intend to convert the site into a used car lot. At this time, one half of the lot has been cleared. All the tires, freon and gas tanks have been removed from the site. The National Road Heritage Park (NRHP) received a grant for Highway Beautification. The AmeriCorps members have worked an agreement between the new junkyard owners and the NRHP which provides financial assistance to the new owners for their clean up of the site. A local vo-tech teacher's assist was recruited for help with screening another junkyard site. A project utilizing the vo-tech schools "school to work" program was developed. In September the students will put up the fence and receive work experience and school credits for their efforts. Additionally, with the help of local school children and community organizations, a mural will be painted on the fence, depicting the history of the National Road.

Objective #14 Develop adopt-the-National Road program in conjunction wit existing Adopt-A-Highway program. Recruit volunteers to adopt portions of the National Road. Award those who have already adopted part of the National Road. No activity on this at this time.

Objective #15 Legal research toward acquisition of rail line for sheepskin trail. Research railroad deeds to determine the interest which the railroad holds for 34 miles of the trail. There has been about 20 miles worth of deeds have been researched and categorized. This entailed about 500 deeds in this process. No further activity has occurred because the AmeriCorps members are still trying to get the railroad maps of the rail line.

Objective #16 Establish watershed associations for streams in Fayette County. As a result of a watershed conference attending in March, the AmeriCorps members and concerned citizens of Fayette County formed the Fayette Abandoned Mine Effort (FAME) to attack abandoned mine problems, including acid mine drainage and clean up of the land where mines used to be located. Members of FAME's steering committee visited several sites in Fayette County that need to be cleaned-up. Members of DCNR, DEP, and Penn's Corner RC&D also attended the site visit. FAME is in its beginning stages and AmeriCorps members will continue their involvement with Federal, State, and local agencies in this cause. The AmeriCorps members are working with FAME to locate acid mine drainage sites that would be suitable for a demonstration project that will improve water quality while increasing tourism. The demonstration project would provide an educational facility for students as well. The initial research has identified Glade Run of the Dunbar Creek Watershed as a problem area. Work has begun to determine what can and what should be done to clean up the watershed.

Objective #17 Complete a historic resources survey of the 43 mile Youghiogheny River Trail North to promote heritage tourism in the region. An average of 10,000 people a week are expected to use the trail once completed. At least 30 sites will be identified for interpretation. A brochure with a map will be created for trail users. A total of 40 of the 43 miles survey has been completed. The other 3 miles are still under private ownership at this time and will not be surveyed. A total of 36 sites were established in the initial survey. Local historical societies have been called upon to help locate several sites along the trail that are documented and not found. The map and brochure are in the beginning stages.

Objective #18 Develop uniform interpretive signage for a selected number of historic sites on the Youghiogheny River Trail and develop 5 models to be used for future interpretation. Information is being gathered from various organizations and businesses. Contact has been made with the National Park Service Interpretive Guides about the National Park Service signage regulations and specifications. A uniform interpretive signage is expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of this fiscal year.

Objective #19 Develop a maintenance guide for rail-trails. Trail groups throughout this region and the nation consider maintenance and management the greatest concern in the success and future of rail-trails. The maintenance study being completed will enable newer and even experienced trails to plan for future budgets and stewardship of their trails. This preparation of trail groups will ensure the positive impact that trails have been proven to have in rural areas. It will specifically assist the Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. trail that runs through Fayette County and will draw tourist dollars into the area upon its completion. Resources have continued to be collected and cataloged that will be placed at a central location to area trails. Trail groups or interested citizens will be able to refer to the documentation's of other trails when forwarding trail efforts. The collection holds maintenance, greenway, and economic impact resources. The survey work for the maintenance study was completed and a database was developed for the survey that will be

compatible with the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy system and most trail groups. The report has been outlined and the preliminary findings will be presented to the Pittsburgh to Washington DC trail groups. The AmeriCorps member has acted as a liaison between the regional trail efforts and the Pennsylvania Director of the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy. Assistance has been provided to the Director with a greenery implementation strategy that will allow for trail groups to prioritize their actions in advancing trail systems.

Objective #21 Working with three local agencies and the Rural Utility Service (RUS) to organize a conference on financing a sewage treatment facility. Three municipalities near the Youghiogheny River belong to the Yough Sewage Authority which encompasses approximately 1,200 homes and 3,200 people. These communities have had plans for 20 years to install a sewage facility but never acted on them because of the expense involved. No one in the area was aware of the RUS program. These distressed communities will benefit economically from the Youghiogheny River Trail once it is complete. But without a sewage facility the true economic potential may not be realized. AmeriCorps members plans have come to a standstill. The idea of a conference was presented to one community council meeting and mixed reactions were received. The sewer authority is reluctant to move on the issue and if more support is not given from the community, it will turn out to be a disaster. This is still being pursued with the sewer authority.

Objective #23 The National Road Heritage Park has entered into an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers to take over a visitor center along the National Road which has been unused for two years. Avenues of staffing the facility with volunteers and student interns for the summer has been explored. A commitment for a dozen volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has been obtained. Arrangements have been made for a local college student to run the center for the summer as a volunteer intern working for credits through the tourism and marketing programs at California University of Pennsylvania. These individuals will contribute a combined 300 hours each month from mid-May through Labor Day for the National Road information center.

Objective #24 Organize and promote a National Road art and essay contest for area elementary and junior high school students. The purpose of the contest is to raise student awareness of and interest in the area's heritage and historic resources. By highlighting the area's assets rather than the usual barrage of negative statistics (high poverty, crime, unemployment, etc.), community pride will be enhanced. This will hopefully translate indirectly into an interest in active community service in some cases. There were 100 entries to the contest and more than 75% demonstrated clear knowledge of local history and the National Road. One middle school informed the team that a teacher had used the essay contest as a vehicle for adding a local history segment to her lesson plans. Winner were selected and published in the National Road Heritage Park's June newspaper. Winning art was also hung in a local gallery and prizes were awarded. Arrangements were made for all contest entrants to regularly receive copies of the National Road's newspaper which includes articles on local and community history.

Objective #25 Develop a proposal for a Summer Gleaning - Food Rescue program. The AmeriCorps members in conjunction with the Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc. developed a 12 week program for rescuing prepared food that was not sold for serving to needy and hungry people while it is still in acceptable condition. This effort entailed meeting with the local food bank, restaurant owners and caterers in order to complete the proposal and determine how to measure the program's success. A budget was prepared and submitted for approval. After the proposal was accepted, recruitment efforts were made in conjunction with Congressman Murtha's office. There were 30 applications issued and 13 received. This effort resulted in 5 AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger members being placed in service at the food bank and they started their duties on May 29, 1996.

Objective #26 Organize and promote National Pike Festival activities and entertainment in an effort to enhance the overall success of this potentially economically viable festival. Two evenings of entertainment that was educational and interesting to the local community and visit tourists was organized. A storyteller told Early American and Pennsylvania History Folk stories and a four member musical group sang tavern songs and told stories of the road, and a gospel group sang which was quite popular. The entertainment was in the underutilized amphitheater and made more people aware of the resources that have potential to enhance the livability and economy of Fayette County.

Objective #27 Create a brochure for the Flatiron Building in Brownsville, PA. The Flatiron is a 160 year old building under renovation and will become a local interpretative and visitors welcome center. The goal was to produce a brochure that could be used both on site and in mailing packages. An estimated 10,000 will be printed for the opening of the

center in the Fall of 1996. Letters of consent were received for using the photographs in the brochure. The brochure was provided to the Brownsville Historical Society for review. The brochure will be ready for printing after the Society makes it's last review.

16. Community Building Objectives Narrative (optional):

17. AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives Narrative (optional):

18. Unique Successes or Great Stories: (These stories were compiled from newspaper articles and from the AmeriCorps member personal perspective of the accomplishments achieved in this county)

The East End Community Center was cosmetically improved on May 11, 1996 by community volunteers, the Fayette County AmeriCorps members, and members from the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps. Paint and other materials were donated by Farris Paints and K-Mart. This was a great example of how once you get started, people will pull together to help get things done. The volunteers working to repair the Center have come from all different organizations and backgrounds, the project snowballed from a simple paint job to repairing the whole building. It was wonderful to see people coming together to make a difference and to know that you had helped to create it all. There are about 65 people that use that center each day on the average. Now it can be used in a clean and safe condition.

On April 20th, 53 students from the Frazer School District were organized with other volunteers to clean up the Yough River Trail North of Connellsville near Perryopolis. This work was done in cooperation with the Regional Trails Corp., Pennsylvania Clean Ways, and the Perryopolis Area Heritage Society to clean 5 miles of the future trail and cleared 60 acres of George Washington Grist Mill Park in Perryopolis. This project showed what can happen when groups of people who have a common interest pull together to do a job. Six dump truck loads of debris, over 15 tons of trash, was hauled away. The school students received community service credits from the Frazer School District for this project. The students that participated had a first hand knowledge of the destructive affects of illegal dumping. Many of the students were heard to proclaim after 5 hours of picking up trash, they were never going to throw another piece of trash on the ground again. If the students complete a certain number of hours they receive a certificate and are invited to a banquet. The local historical society obtained much needed help on a large section of their property at no cost to their organization. At it's conclusion, the community received a cleaner recreational area that many did not know existed until this project.

Brownsville, PA is an old town that is in desperate need of economic revitalization. The Flat Iron Building is a uniquely constructed building in Brownsville, The Brownsville Area Revitalization Committee (BARC), a community group interested in improving the life in their town through revitalization of their historic and economic assets, has relied heavily upon the AmeriCorp members ability to capture the historical facts about this building and place it on a brochure that will be mailed to area people to promote this new feature in the neighborhood. The Flat Iron Building will be ready in the fall as an interpretive and information center for the National Road.

The AmeriCorps members brought together a group of people in a general focus group session to formulate plans to revitalize housing in Brownsville on April 23, 1996. Brownsville Area Revitalization Committee (BARC), Architur, a nonprofit revitalization organization, and USDA Rural Development met at the National Heritage Park office to

discuss the proposal. In addition to those at the meeting, Threshold Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing development organization, the Redevelopment Authority of Fayette County, Twin Rivers Habitat for Humanity will be involved to provide volunteer labor and donated materials. The AmeriCorps members will provide assistance in arranging for volunteers to collect information to serve very low and low income applicants that need affordable housing. The targeted site for this project is highly visible from the area as well as a having historical background for this community's development. This is the site of the employees who worked for Henry Clay Frick who supplied the coal for Andrew Carnegie's steel mills. This project is expected to begin in the fall of 1996.

The AmeriCorps members provided the initial effort in developing the food rescue program that will be operated by the Fayette County Community Action Agency's Food Bank during 12 weeks this summer. Jaime Fecek and Amy Myers arrived back to their office on April 1st and developed the proposal in conjunction with the Food Bank and submitted it to the USDA Director of National Service by April 3rd. When the proposal was accepted Jaime continued to supply support for the program's job announcements and during the hiring process and media event day on June 7th. The food rescue project would not have been possible without this effort.

When the AmeriCorps team first arrived in Fayette County with the mission to promote appropriate tourism-related heritage development along the National Road and Youghiogheny River corridors, both were toured to obtain initial impressions and potential courses of action. One of the most glaring needs identified was some form of financial assistance for private property owners to rehabilitate their homes and businesses. Without significant investment of this sort, the economically-induced neglect of the past several years would prevent the region from becoming a viable tourism destination. To address this issue, work began to develop a partnership with private financial institutions to provide low-interest loans to private property owners. This quarter, both National City Bank of Washington County and Washington Federal Savings and Loan have added to the program funds. With these contributions, the goal of \$400,000 for this program has been met. The program will soon be launched and the money from this program should start reaching directly into the community by the end of the summer.

The AmeriCorps team was challenged with establishing its own goals and projects in Fayette County, everything had to be learned about the area by the members before they could figure out what would be the most beneficial for them to accomplish. Few people had heard of the AmeriCorps program and therefore, did not know what to expect from the team. This made things more challenging for the team. Not wanting to duplicated efforts, they took the time to learn about every organization in the County. It has taken until the third quarter to start to see the results of their work and they have found it to be very rewarding. They have completed several projects and that have spurred further volunteerism. They have seen rural development begin to improve and they receive many calls from interested citizens that now know what to expect from the members and where to turn for help. The team has come along way this year and they look forward to seeing a dramatic impact from the next team that gets to continue and complete many of their projects.

SECTION VI - CHALLENGES

19. Difficulties Faced by the Program:

The team is encountering an unwillingness of the Yough Sewage Authority to move on the town meeting with the Rural Utility Service. The team is looking for local support so the meeting does not appear to be a strong armed tactic of the government to force a sewage facility upon the community. Resistance from the townspeople was expected but it was not expected from the authority members. The objective was to make the townspeople and authority members aware of the financial programs offered by RUS and this has been completed by newspaper articles, however, there has not been a town meeting and there have not been inquiries from the local citizens who have read the articles. Positive results maybe in the future because of the team's involvement here. A Greenways Study is being conducted along the Youghiogheny River where these communities are located. By addressing the sewage problem and bringing it out into the open for the first time, the communities might be more supportive of the study.

Noted Problems:

It is important to learn if the team can be extended until the end of the fiscal year. Two of the five members intend to finish early and that will leave only three members to conclude the team's objectives.

SECTION V - GENERAL INFORMATION

20. National Identity Activities (OPTIONAL):

21. Organizational Changes:

Nothing has changed with this project's organization.

22. Organizational Improvements (OPTIONAL):

23. Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs (OPTIONAL):

{END OF REPORT}

13. Progress towards accomplishing additional community service objectives

State	OP Site	Obj. #	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	YR. QTY Target	Unit of Meas. Success	2nd 1/4 QTY	Yr Success Target	Unit of Meas.	2nd 1/4 Success
PA	R42A	20	EN-R072	Develop brochure for Flat Iron Building	10000	# brochures developed	0	100	% of work meeting prof. standards	0
PA	R42A	21	EN-E	Small Community Sewage Conference	40	# people attending	0	80	% of people committed to sewage	0
PA	R42A	22	EN-E	Develop brochure for teacher summit	1500	# brochures	0	33	% of teachers using brochures	0
PA	R42A	23	EN-E	Organize interns to staff National Road visitor center	5	# of interns	4	1000	# hours served	0
PA	R42A	24	EN-B	Elementary or Jr High Student Art Essay Contest	200	# of students participating	0	67	% entries measuring awareness of local history	0

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14. Progress towards accomplishing original community service objectives

State	OP Site	Obj. #	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	YR. QTY Target	Unit of Meas. Success	2nd 1/4 QTY	Yr Success Target	Unit of Meas.	2nd 1/4 Success
PA	R42A	1	EN-R038	Survey National Road property owners/use	90	miles surveyed	0	50	% used for implementation	50
PA	R42A	2	EN-E017	Organize Educational Summit for teachers	25	teachers attending	0	50	% of teachers using materials	0
PA	R42A	3	EN-E121a	Organize/assist with Trail Clean-ups	10	miles of trail cleaned	0	50	volunteers involved	0
PA	R42A	4	EN-E011 E169	Nominate historic taverns to National Register of Historic Places	3	# of sites documented	0	67	% of later enhanced or preserved	33
PA	R42A	5	EN-E011 E169	Nominate National Road historic districts to National Register of Historic Places	2	# of districts documented	2	100	% later enhanced of preserved	0
PA	R42A	6	EN-E043	Plan and Develop Auto-Bra National Road visitor center	5000	# of square feet	0	?	# of visitors	0
PA	R42A	7	EN-E084b	Develop signage for the National Road	90	miles of road	0	100	% of work meeting professional standards	0
PA	R42A	8	EN-R041	Low-interest loan program for National Road	5	# of people receiving loans	0	100	% of rehabilitation meeting prof. standards	0
PA	R42A	9	EN-R073	Create driving tour guide for National Road	30	# of sites researched	0	?	# of visitors using	0
PA	R42A	10	EN-R026	Assist homeowners to apply for USDA hsg. loans	7	complete applications	2	100	% processed by USDA	0
PA	R42A	11	EN-E090b	Rehab. East End Comm Ctr	1000	# of square feet	0	30	# of people using	0

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								the facility per day		
PA	R42A	12	EN-E155	Acid mine drainage site reclamation and clean up	90	acreage impacted	0	100	% improvement in soil and water	0
PA	R42A	13	EN-E004	Cleanup junkyards on	14	# of sites cleaned or screened	0	500 30	tonnage removed trees planted	0 0
PA	R42A	14	EN-E121a	Develop Adopt-the-National Road program	10	miles adopted	0	5	volunteers involved	0
PA	R42A	15	EN-E079	Legal research toward acquisition of rail line for sheepskin trail	34	<u>miles of trail</u>	10	34	miles of trails researched	39
PA	R42A	16	EN-E094	Establish Payette County Watershed Association	10	# of volunteers involved	13	4	# of conservation methods adopted	?
PA	R42A	17	EN-R001	Historic resources survey of Yough River Trail	30	# of sites identified	3	10000	people using trail per week	?
PA	R42A	18	EN-E010	Develop interpretive signage for YRT historic sites	5	# of sites enhanced	0	100	% of work meeting professional standards	0
PA	R42A	19	EN-E156	Develop maintenance guide for rail trails	65	# of trail groups surveyed	0	20	# of trail groups using guide	0

* project will not be completed or available to the public by October 1996 so this information cannot be determined during this year

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CHPA156-5

I -- Champion Communities**Preapplication for 1996 AmeriCorp Program Participation**

- a. Name of EZ/EC Applicant Entity: Fay-Penn Economic Development Council
- b. Name of Contact Person:
- c. Name of Person who will provide Supervision for AmeriCorps Member:
Allen Compt and Kimber Vanry
- d. Address of Entity: P.O. Box 2101, Uniontown, PA 15401-1701
- e. Counties in which the Work Will Take Place: Fayette County
- f. Congressional Districts in which the work will take Place: District 12 & 20
- g. Telephone: 412-437-7913 FAX: 412-437-7315

2. AmeriCorps Project Objective Statement:

Fayette County's primarily rural population of just over 145,000 residents faces some of the harshest economic realities in Pennsylvania. Since 1980 the county has experienced a 9% decline in population while the unemployment rate has hovered over 10%. Income levels rank as the lowest in the state with 20.7% of the county's residents and 17.6% of its families living below the poverty level. Nearly one-fifth of the county's residents and 17.6% of its families living below the poverty level. Nearly one-fifth of the county's population is elderly and more than 14% of the elderly live below the poverty level. Over 27% of the county's residents receive some form of public assistance.

Objective 1:

Encourage appropriate visitor related economic development within the Youghiogheny River Trail and the National Road Heritage Park (Route 40) corridor.

How the work will be done:

- Design and execute a survey of land owners in both corridors to determine development patterns associated with the two corridors and the potential for appropriate community projects.

ORIGINAL objectives Page 1 of 4

- Organize methods of gaining the most educational benefit for area school children from the YRT and the National Road and provide educational programs for both.

Outcomes:

Organize volunteer efforts to conduct three residential facade improvement projects that directly impact the access routes to the YRT the National Road. Increase visitor-related income in Fayette County by linking the various corridors and organize service efforts. Complete 16 school visits that educate students about the YRT and the National Road and create a curriculum to continue the education about these valuable resources and the job opportunities resulting from them.

Objective 2:

Support and coordinate local initiatives focused on the remediation of visual and environmental pollution of historic, trail and waterway corridors.

How the work will be done:

- Develop a comprehensive dump site clean-up for Fayette County by identifying priority project areas, volunteer groups, community resources, zoning ordinances and other regulations.
- Coordinate efforts with the local PA Cleanways association, Adopt-A-Highway sponsors, environmental agencies and community groups to organize volunteers and execute clean-up projects.
- Locate significant acid mine drainage (AMD) sites affecting the streams and rivers throughout Fayette County. Create educational program about AMD to teach students and visitors about the cause and effect of AMD and help organize volunteer remediation project.

Outcomes:

Organization of service clubs and volunteers to clean-up 5 dumping sites affecting 40 miles of trails, 40 miles of historic highway corridors and 100 miles of rivers and streams. Organize AMD clean-up project using volunteer services. Incorporate an educational program addressing AMD issues into the 16 school visits listed in Objective 1.

Objective 3:

Develop an historic interpretation program for the Youghioubeny River Trail.

- Complete a survey of historic resources within Fayette County promotion of the YRT corridor, including all structures, archaeological sites, historical events and natural landmarks.

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- Work with area school groups, community organizations and historical societies to develop a comprehensive interpretive plan for the Fayette County segment of the YRT based on the resource survey.

Outcomes:

Documentation of 12 significant sites and creation of interpretive materials and programs (brochures, signage, tours, etc.) for the YRT corridor. Creation of trail-based educational program for 500 school children, 250 community members and other visiting trail users.

Support and coordinate local initiatives focused on the remediation of visual and environmental pollution of historic, trail and waterway corridors.

How the work will be done:

- Develop a comprehensive dump site clean-up plan for Fayette County by identifying priority project areas, volunteer groups, community resources, zoning ordinances and other regulations.
- Coordinate efforts local the PA Cleanways association, Adopt-A-Highway sponsors, environmental agencies and community groups to organize volunteers and execute clean-up projects.

Outcomes:

Organization of 500 volunteers to clean-up 45 dumping sites affecting 50 miles of trails, 50 miles of historic highway corridors and 150 miles of rivers and streams. Creation of ongoing volunteer clean-up programs in 15 miles communities.

Objective 4;

Develop and coordinate trail corridor activity linking Washington D. C. to Pittsburgh through existing and proposed Fayette County trail corridors.

How the work will be done:

- Organize trail groups, local governments, economic development organizations and the Members of communities along the rail-trail corridor running through Fayette County from Washington D.C. to Pittsburgh.
- Work with community-based heritage organizations in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Washington D.C., to identify and develop tourist experience based on specific historic themes.

Outcomes:

Creation of new multi-state trail association of 75 member organizations—representing 250 miles of trails. Increase number of Fayette County visitor trail-users by 20% over a five-year period, resulting in increased job opportunities. Develop three cooperative trail clean-up projects that help build cross-boundary communication.

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III. accomplishing AmeriCorps Project Objectives,

AmeriCorps Members will be assigned to complete each of the four objectives listed above. The five-Member AmeriCorps Team will receive direction and supervision from an AmeriCorps Steering Committee comprised of designated representatives from Fay-Penn, SPJPC and Penn's Corner RC&D. Office space, equipment, supplies and technical support will be provided by Fay-Penn, SPHPC and Penn's Corner RC&D. Quarterly evaluation and monitoring of progress will be accomplished through Steering Committee review of completed planning documents and projects.

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15. Community Service Objectives Narrative (optional):

16. Community Building Objectives Narrative (optional):

17. AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives Narrative (optional):

18. Unique Successes or Great Stories:

SECTION VI - CHALLENGES

19. Difficulties Faced by the Program:

Noted Problems:

1. This program was developed by T. Allan Comp of the Southwest Pennsylvania Heritage Commission in conjunction with Penns Corner RC&D, and Fay-Penn Economic Development Council. The original objectives were developed and accepted prior to RECD involvement in the program. The objectives have been changed since the original objectives were listed. RECD in Pennsylvania is not being kept informed by either RECD National or the AmeriCorps Supervisor. This makes this very difficult to "supervise" the operations of this project.

2. Many of the objectives are not easily measured. Examples: Objectives 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. Some of the project's work will not result in an immediate measured result as the objective is written.

Obj 4 - number of taverns nominated for listing on the National Register of Historical Places do not immediately result in historic preservation or enhancements that may be finished within the remaining term of the project. Therefore the success measurement-Percentage of inventories later used for enhancing or preserving the site. When is later? How can this be measured if it falls after the project period ends? Do all this good effort go uncounted? Shouldn't the measurement be "the number of owners that have made a commitment to enhance their taverns to preserve the historical value of the property"?

New Code? E169

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Obj 5 - same as number four.

Obj 6 - Shouldn't this measurement read "completion of building rehabilitation plans and commitment to develop the Auto-Era National Road visitor center"? *rewrite?*

Obj 8 - Shouldn't this measurement read "the number of people of the target number that have received the low-interest loans for National Road"? *purpose?*

Obj 10 - Shouldn't this measurement read "the number of people of the target number that have received a loan commitment for their home repair"?

Obj 12 - I can not find this success measurement standard and it does not give a very good method of measurement. *- professional standards?*

Obj 13 - Shouldn't this measurement read "the number of tons of junk removed, and the number of trees planted"? *F = tons / E072 = trees planted*

Obj 14 - Shouldn't this measurement read "the number of volunteers involved"? *?*

Obj 15 - Shouldn't this measurement read "the number of miles of trail researched"? *pg 13 - give me something*

Obj 16 - Shouldn't this measurement read "the number of people that have joined the association"? *? pg 14*

3. I understand that the success measurements listed in the PGM code list describe long term success measures, but these can not be accomplished unless the short term success measures are completed. The long term success measurement will occur, in most cases, after the end of the project in Pennsylvania.

4. The communication method of this program is by fax machine. We do not receive all of the faxes that are sent. If the fax is longer than one page, we do not receive the other pages. We do not know who is on the distribution list of the faxes that have been sent. This has created additional duplications and telecommunication costs.

5. Deadlines are too short to be able to manage our duties and meet the AmeriCorps deadlines

SECTION V - GENERAL INFORMATION

20. National Identity Activities (OPTIONAL):

21. Organizational Changes:

Nothing has changed.

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6/04/96

QUESTION 13. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING ORIGINAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
 (Under "3rd QTR Quantity" enter the amount of work done in the third quarter. Do the same for "3rd QTR Success".)

State	OP Site	Obj No.	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	Year's QTY Target	QTY Unit of Measure	3rd QTR Quantity	Year's Success Target	Success Unit of Measure	3rd QTR Success
PA	R42A	1	EN-E036A	Survey National Road property owners/uses	90	miles - surveyed		50	% used for implementation	
PA	R42A	10	EN-R026A	Assist homeowners to apply for USDA housing loans		homes - housing loans			% of work meeting standards	
PA	R42A	11	EN-E090B	Rehabilitate Community Center	1000	square feet - rehabilitated		10	number of people using facility	
PA	R42A	12	EN-E155A	Acid mine drainage site reclamation & clean-up	90	acres - clean-up		100	% meeting professional standards	
PA	R42A	13	EN-E004B	Clean-up junkyards on National Road	14	lots - cleaned			% meeting professional standards	
PA	R42A	14	EN-E121A	Develop Adopt-the-National Road program	10	miles - cleaned		500	tons removed	
PA	R42A	15	EN-E079B	Legal research toward acquisition of rail line for sheepskin trail	34	miles - researched			% of miles converted to trail	
PA	R42A	16	EN-E094B	Establish Fayette County Watershed Association	10	volunteers - water quality		4	conservation measures adopted	
PA	R42A	17	EN-R001A	Historic resources survey of Yough River Trail	30	sites - historical		10000	people using trail	
PA	R42A	18	EN-E164A	Develop interpretive signage for YRT historic sites	5	sites - signs installed		100	% of work meeting professional standards	

Joel Berg's 3RD QTR
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5/04/96

42A

QUESTION 13. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING ORIGINAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
(Under "3rd QTR Quantity" enter the amount of work done in the third quarter. Do the same for "3rd QTR Success".)

State	Site	Obj No.	PCM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	Year's		3rd QTR Quantity	Year's		3rd QTR Success
					QTY Target	QTY Unit of Measure		Success Target	Success Unit of Measure	
PA	R42A	19	EN-E156A	Develop maintenance guide for rail trails	190	groups - surveyed		20	groups using guide	
PA	R42A	2	EN-E017A	Organize Educational Summit for teachers	26	adults - educated		50	% using materials	
PA	R42A	21	EN-E130A	Small community water quality conference	40	people attending		80	% of people committed to improvements	
PA	R42A	23	EN-E091A	Organize volunteers to staff National Road visitor center	5	volunteers - recruited			number of things aided	
PA	R42A	24	EN-E170A	Elementary or Jr. High Student Art Essay Contest	200	students - participating			% with increased knowledge	
PA	R42A	3	EN-E121A	Organize/assist with Trail clean-ups	10	miles - cleaned		60	volunteers involved	
PA	R42A	4	EN-E011C	nominate historic taverns to National Register of Historic Places	3	sites - identified as historic		67	% enhanced	
PA	R42A	5	EN-E011C	Nominate National Road historic districts to National Register of Historic Places	2	sites - identified as historic		100	% enhanced	
PA	R42A	6	EN-E043B	Develop plans for Auto-Era National Road Visitor Center	1	plans - developed			% of plan implemented	
PA	R42A	7	EN-E084B	Develop signage for the National Road	90	miles - signs installed		100	% of work meeting professional standards	

JB 3rd QTR
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6/04/96

QUESTION 13. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING ORIGINAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

(Under "3rd QTR Quantity" enter the amount of work done in the third quarter. Do the same for "3rd QTR Success".)

State	Site	Obj No.	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	Year's		3rd QTR Quantity	Year's		3rd QTR Success
					QTY Target	Unit of Measure		QTY Target	Unit of Measure	
PA	R42A	8	EN-R041A	low-interest loan program for National Road	5	people - loan program	100	% meeting prof standards		
PA	R42A	9	EN-R073B	Create driving tour guide for National Road	30	sites - researched	100	% of guide completed		