

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Americorps
Series/Staff Member: General Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 24240
FolderID:

Folder Title:
USDA/AmeriCorps - Clinton Library Copies - FY96 4th Quarter Progress Reports - VT-WA
[Vermont-Washington] [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	66	1	2	1

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: SSNs [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (3 pages)	08/15/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

USDA/AmeriCorps - Clinton Library Copies - FY 96 4th Quarter Progress Reports -
VT-WA [Vermont - Washington] [1]

2013-0661-F
rc3039

RESTRICTION CODES**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

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.

VT

Divider Title: _____



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

August 28, 1996

TO: Bari Gladstone, AmeriCorps Project Director, VT Anti-Hunger Corps **JB**

FROM: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service

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
C50A	15	11			4	

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. **Double counting.** Please do NOT double count your accomplishments..

6. **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 the following form is missing:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TYPE OF FORM</u>
Jennifer Ames	End of Term Form

Also include any End of Term forms for members who have now completed their term of service.

If we are to have all our records in order and insure that those AmeriCorps Members who are entitled to benefits receive them and that those who are not entitled to benefits do not receive them, all forms must be submitted to this office. If you have previously submitted the forms requested above, please send in a copy of that form.

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.

cc:
Donna Hines, AmeriCorps Project Director, FNS

USDA AMERICORPS - 95ADFDC047XXXX

8/27/96
2:11 pm

FIRST THREE QUARTERS' PROGRESS TOWARDS ACOMPLISHING 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
VT	C50A	2	EN-E005B	Develop school gardens	8	gardens - planted	11	137.50 %
VT	C50A	1	EN-E005B	Community gardens improved	10	gardens - planted	20	310.00 %
VT	C50A	2	EN-E005C	Involve correctional facilities in food production	15000	pounds - food	0	0.00 %
VT	C50A	2	EN-E007B	Increase number of participants in share holder community supported agriculture	50	groups	528	1056.00 %
VT	C50A	3	EN-H015A	Nutrition education	500	people - nutrition education	4518	903.60 %
VT	C50A		EN-H023A	Outreach provided on Commodity Supplemental Food Program	5	sites	23	460.00 %
VT	C50A	4	EN-H031A	Develop new school breakfast sites	4	sites - new school breakfast	0	0.00 %
VT	C50A	1	EN-H035A	Increased number of food shelves	15	food sites created	3	20.00 %
VT	C50A	4	EN-H036A	Improve existing community meal sites	5	food sites restored	33	660.00 %
VT	C50A	1	EN-H036A	Improved food shelves	15	food sites restored	27	400.00 %
VT	C50A		EN-H038A	Recruit volunteers for youth anti-hunger clubs	20	volunteers	193	965.00 %
VT	C50A	4	EN-H040A	Develop new summer food program sites	7	sites - summer food sites	2	28.57 %
VT	C50A	4	EN-H042	Improve existing school breakfast sites	5	sites - school breakfast	8	160.00 %
VT	C50A	4	EN-H043	Improve existing summer food sites	5	sites - summer food sites	16	320.00 %
VT	C50A	4	EN-H044A	Improve home delivered meals program capacity	4	sites - meal sites	15	375.00 %

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: SSNs [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (3 pages)	08/15/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

USDA/AmeriCorps - Clinton Library Copies - FY 96 4th Quarter Progress Reports -
VT-WA [Vermont - Washington] [1]

2013-0661-F
rc3039

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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.

8/15/96

10. MEMBER DATA:

OP SITE ID: C50A

Site Supervisor: Barki Gladstone
Agency/Org Name: Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps
City: Waterbury, VT

PHONE: 802-241-2462

FAX: 8022412593

STATE: VT

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 31

Member Name	[001]	SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	HOURS				Total
						1st Rpt	2nd Rpt	3rd Rpt	4th Rpt	
IRIS, SUZANNE		D.	F	A	I	483	552	478	<u>220</u>	1733
JESSUP, JOHN		P.	F	A	I	469	523	432	<u>297</u>	1721
KEOUGH, ELIZABETH		J.	F	A	I	472	527	439	<u>282</u>	1720
LESNIAK, ERICA		L.	F	A	I	371	584	495	<u>251</u>	1701
MAY, SHAWN		R.	F	A	I	470	522	453	<u>275</u>	1719
MCCARTHY, CAROL		A.	F	E	II	439	0	0	<u>0</u>	439
NELSON, ROBERT		I.	F	A	I	439	545	535	<u>202</u>	1721
PALMER, GRACE		M.	F	E	II	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	0
PEARSE, MARGERY		S.	F	A	I	484	499	493	<u>279</u>	1755
PETOT, JULIA		G.	F	A	I	423	529	462	<u>294</u>	1708
RUBDI, VICTOR		W.	F	A	I	146	470	573	<u>511</u>	1700
SCHECHTER, JAMES		A.	F	E	II	478	77	0	<u>0</u>	555
SMITH, BRIAN		R.	F	A	I	490	537	457	<u>244</u>	1708
SPENCER, GORDON		A.	F	E	II	241	497	0	<u>0</u>	738
ST. JEAN, JOYCE		A.	F	A	I	483	540	445	<u>265</u>	1733
TANNER, JESSICA		E.	F	A	I	483	513	443	<u>268</u>	1707
WARD, SUE		A.	F	A	I	246	550	529	<u>383</u>	1707

8/15/96

10. MEMBER DATA:

DP SITE ID: C50A

Site Supervisor: Barxi Gladstone
Agency/Org Name: Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps
City: Waterbury, VT

PHONE: 802-241-2462

FAX: 8022412593

STATE: VT

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 31

Member Name	SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	HOURS				Total
					1st Rpt	2nd Rpt	3rd Rpt	4th Rpt	
AMES, JENNIFER	M.	F	A	I	447	425	17	<u>0</u>	889
ASHTON, MICHAEL	S.	F	A	I	327	548	481	<u>344</u>	1700
BALLINGER, JOHANNA	M.	F	A	I	475	501	463	<u>268</u>	1707
BILL, DEBORAH	D.	F	A	I	390	496	455	<u>373</u>	1714
BODKINS, ALEXANDRA	.	F	A	I	460	550	429	<u>302</u>	1741
BROWN, SAMANTHA	L.	F	E	II	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	0
BUSH, RICHARD	E.	F	A	I	474	532	460	<u>250</u>	1716
CASSAN, PETER	C.	F	E	II	146	0	0	<u>0</u>	146
CHALIDZE, FRANCESKA	N.	F	A	I	457	530	453	<u>266</u>	1706
ELWERT, CATHERINE	.	F	A	I	472	525	425	<u>283</u>	1705
GIBSON, ERICA	J.	F	A	I	470	541	425	<u>264</u>	1700
HALL, MARY	E.	F	A	I	480	508	590	<u>129</u>	1707
HEMMINGS, DOUGLAS	C.	F	A	I	450	576	497	<u>214</u>	1737
HICKS, ALLISON	K.	F	A	I	448	530	425	<u>297</u>	1700
HOWARD, LYNNE	F.	F	E	II	131	0	0	<u>0</u>	131
HUARD, FRANK	B.	F	A	I	452	530	424	<u>301</u>	1707
LYNES, ROWIAN	J.	F	A	I	466	546	425	<u>275</u>	12

(b)(6)

4
8/15/96

10. MEMBER DATA:

OP SITE ID: C50A

Site Supervisor: Barxi Gladstone
Agency/Org Name: Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps
City: Waterbury, VT

PHONE: 802-241-2462
FAX: 8022412593

STATE: VT

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 31

Member Name	SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	HOURS				Total
					1st Rpt	2nd Rpt	3rd Rpt	4th Rpt	
WHITEHILL, AUDREY	A. (b)(6)	F	A	I	256	591	505	<u>354</u>	1707
WILLARD, ERIN	E. (b)(6)	F	A	I	466	535	446	<u>253</u>	1700
									Total Hours: 50890

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 31

No. of Active Members Whose Enrollment Forms were recieved at USDA (not including terminations): 36

No. of Members for Whom Forms Have NOT Been Recieved*: -5

REMEMBER THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS FOR EACH MEMBER SHOULD BE THE HOURS SERVED AND NOT INCLUDE THE HOURS FOR PERSONAL LEAVE (40) AND HOLIDAYS (72). IF YOU HAVE BEEN COUNTING THESE IN THE FIRST 3 QUARTERS, PLEASE ADJUST THE 4TH QUARTERS HOURS SO THAT THE TOTAL IS AT LEAST 1700 OF SERVICE (assuming the person was full-time and successfully completed the program.) You can have more than 1700 hrs for a total just be sure all the hours were service hours. Thank You

If the number of Members allocated is greater than the number of forms received, there are four options: 1. There are Members enrolled in programs whose forms have not been submitted to the USDA Director of National Service. If that is the case, list the names, SSN, Status and hours of the missing members on the back of this sheet and send the enrollment forms to the USDA Director of National Service. 2. The enrollment forms were sent directly to the Corporation. If that is the case, send copies to the USDA Director of National Service immediately. 3. There are vacancies in your program you intend to fill in the next reporting period. If that is the case, enter the number of vacancies on the appropriate line. 4. There are vacancies that you can not fill and you are relinquishing them.

REMEMBER, MEMBERS WHOSE FORMS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AT USDA ARE NOT CONSIDERED ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM AND THEIR BENEFITS (EDUCATION AWARD, ETC.) ARE JEOPARDIZED!!!

If the number of members for whom forms have been received is greater than the number of members allocated resulting in a negative number appearing in the "No. of Members for Whom Forms Have NOT Been Received" line, you have enrolled more members in your program than authorized. Please explain this over enrollment. It may be that some members have terminated, in which case, change their status on this form and submit the proper end of term of service form to the USDA Director of National Service.

11. Total Number of Volunteers	1st Qtr. 491 vol.	2nd Qtr 464 vol.	3rd Qtr 436 vol.	4th Qtr 737 vol.	Total 2,128 vol
---------------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	--------------------

12. Total Number of Volunteer Hours	1st Qtr 2334 hrs	2nd Qtr 2394 hrs	3rd Qtr 2854 hrs	4th Qtr 3967 hrs	Total 11,549 hrs
--------------------------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------

13. Progress Towards Accomplishing Original Community Service Objectives:

State: Vermont

see ATTACHMENTS
#13A, B, C, D, E

State	Op Site	Obj No.	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	Year's QTY Target	Qty Unit of Measure	4th Qtr / Yr Quan- / Total tity	Year's Success Target	Success Unit of Measure	4th Qtr Success
Vt	C50A	1	EN-E005	Community Gardens improved	10	gardens	12 [this qtr.] 16 total gardens 2,272 people	500 people	number of people newly committed and/or involved	1177 people gleaned & winterized gdns
Vt.	C50A	1	EN-H036A	Improved food shelves	15	shelves	2 [this qtr] 10 total food shelves improved 4,178 people served	...5,000 new people ...75% of programs report improved capacity	...number of additional people served ...% of programs report satisfactory improvement	...72 people served ...100% improved
Vt.	C50A	1	EN-H035A	Increased number of new food shelves	15	shelves	1 [this qtr] 4 total new fd shelves 100% self-sustaining	75% of new programs are sustainable	% of programs report capacity to sustain	100 % of programs report capacity to sustain
Vt.	C50A	2	EN-E005B	Develop school gardens	8	sch gardens	0 new [this qtr] 11 total school gardens 808 new kids 100% teachers involved	...400 children involved in school gdns ...75% of teachers commit to continue	...# of new children ...% of teachers involved	0 new children this qtr 0 % new teachers this qtr

Vt.	C50A	2	EN-E007B	Increase number of participants in share holder community supported agriculture	50	families	193 families [this qtr]	721 total new fam 2,358 new people	200 new people	# of new people participating	720 people new this qtr
Vt.	C50A	2	EN-E005C	Involve correctional facilities in food production	15,000	pounds of food produced and distributed	21,500 pounds of food [this qtr]	21,500 total pounds 2 of 7 facilities or 28%	50% of state correctional facilities establish community grdn prgms	% of facilities participating	2 of 7 facilities or 28% particip.
Vt.	C50A	3	EN-H015A	Nutrition education	500	people	1,439 people [this qtr]	4,447 total people 85% gained info	75% of participants report increased knowledge	% of people w/ increased knowledge	85% reported increase
Vt.	C50A	4	EN-H035A	Develop new community meal sites	3	sites	eliminated objective		50% of sites report sustainable capacity	# of sites	
Vt.	C50A	4	EN-H036A	Improve existing community meal sites	5	sites	3 sites [this qtr]	15 total sites 5,843 new people	2,500 new participants recruited	number of additional people served	156 new people
Vt.	C50A	4	EN-H042	Improve existing school breakfast sites	5	sites	0 sites [this qtr]	8 total sites 920 more kids eating	750 new children eating	# of additional children participating	0 kids this qtr
Vt.	C50A	4	EN-H043	Improve existing summer food sites	5	sites	13 sites [this qtr]	16 total sites 1,017 new kids eating	100 new children participating	# of additional people participating	616 kids this qtr
Vt.	C50A	4	EN-H031A	Develop new school breakfast sites	4	sites	0 sites [this qtr]	1 site total 80 kids eating	100 children participating	Number of children participating	0 kids this qtr

Vt.	C50A	4	EN-H040A	Develop new summer food program sites	7	sites	1 site [this qtr]	3 total sites dev. 345 kids eat	200 people enrolled	# of people enrolled	150 kids newly enrolled this qtr
Vt.	C50A	4	EN-H044A	Improve home delivered meals program capacity	4	sites	7 sites [this qtr]	10 total sites 2,436 people served	a minimum of 550 folks get regular home delivered fd	number of people served	514 people served this qtr
Vt.	C50A		EN-H023A	Improve local commodities program management	5	sites	6 sites [this qtr]	19 total sites served 5,440 households served	serve and enroll minimum of 750 households	# of households served	413 households served this qtr

14 Progress Towards Accomplishing Additional Community Service Objectives:

State	Op Site	Obj. No.	PGM Code	Obj./Impact Statement	Year's QTY Target	Qty Unit of Measure	4th Qtr/ Quantity	Year Total	Year's Success Target	Success Unit of Measure	4th Qtr Success
Vt	C50A		H038	Recruit volunteers for youth anti-hunger clubs	20	youth volunteers recruited	304 youth	497 total youth	100	hours of anti-hunger service by youth recruited	175 hours

Northeast Team Final Project Summaries

August '96

Increasing School Meal Awareness and Participation--Barnet, Canaan, Troy Schools

The goal of this project was to increase school meal participation by dispelling some of the myths surrounding school meals. Through a parent survey, NE team members and food service coordinators found that some parents did not know that the meals served comply with U.S.D.A. nutrition guidelines. Others did not know that the school gets reimbursed by the government for all free and reduced meals. Getting the survey results back took longer than expected, and one school did not return them at all. In addition, most of the parents who returned the survey already participate in the meals program. For these reasons, this project was only partially effective and results will not be able to be accurately measured. The Canaan school will print an article, written by NE team member as a result of the surveys, in the September '96 school newsletter. The principal of the Troy school wrote his own article about the program in his school newsletter. Our partnership with Barnet did not come to fruition. In the 96-97 service year, the NE team will check in with the two schools again to discuss measurable results.

Coordinators: Jessica Tanner, Gordon Spencer

Status: Project completed

Kingdom Community Lunch (Caledonia County)

The goal of this project was to assist the current volunteer base for the Wednesday lunch in establishing a permanent coordinator/s, to ensure its long term continuation. A coordinator was recruited and other enhancements, such as prepared food donations from St. Johnsbury Academy, were achieved for the running of the meal site to make it sustainable. A project book including hints on volunteer recruitment and maintenance was given to the coordinator and left at the church site. Although the coordinator did not continue to volunteer her time after a couple of months, the Wednesday meal site was officially added to the Kingdom Community Shelter, Inc. thanks to the efforts of the NE team and willingness of community partner Mike McCoy. The board now oversees this site along with the Monday and Friday meal sites.

Coordinators: Mary Hall, Gordon Spencer Members: Jessica, Sue, Audrey

Status: Project completed

Earned Income Tax Credit and Tax Assistance (Caledonia, Orleans, Essex)

With this project, members set out to provide low income people with tax assistance and increase awareness of the Earned Income Credit. A second goal of the project was to teach people how to do their own taxes in the future. Since the NE team members were not the only ones in the Kingdom providing this service, we were able to focus on areas that seemed to need the most help. Through PSA's, posters, sign up sheets and help from various town clerks, tax assistance was provided at section 8 housing and/or NEKCA offices in Canaan, Island Pond, Hardwick, Wells River and St. Johnsbury. Assistance was offered in other towns, such as Barton and West Burke, however, no one signed up for help at those sites. A total of 95 tax forms were filed, and approximately 50 people used our services.

Food Resource Flyer (Essex, Caledonia, Orleans)

NE team member created a comprehensive list of food resources in each county (and some in NH in areas that Vermonters have easier access to them), including senior meal sites, community meal sites, food shelves and SHARE sites. These lists are used by the Department of Social Welfare, NEKCA, People Helping People, local food shelves and were also made available at the St. Johnsbury Nutrition Fair.

Coordinator: Mary Hall Members: Jessica Tanner
Status: Project Completed.

Food Drive for the Canaan Food Shelf (Essex County)

Working with Roberta Noyes of Canaan NEKCA, a NE team member approached this project in two directions. First, Rural Mail Carriers of the US Post Office do a food drive every year for local food shelves through their mail carriers. The Canaan Post Office planned to participate for the first time this year. Post offices in Beecher Falls and West Stewartstown do not do rural delivery, but they agreed to have food drop boxes near the post office boxes. (W. Stewartstown is in NH, and people from that area often use some of Canaan's food resources.) The main goal of this part of the project was to build enthusiasm and encourage participation in this project so that the post offices and community members will participate yearly; 100 lbs of food was collected. Secondly, the member helped to develop a tool and strategy for raising funds for the food shelf. A letter was written to be sent out to several large, local employers (including Ethan Allen Mills) asking their employees to donate \$1.00 a month to a Food/Fuel Assistance fund. The letter was finalized in July and Roberta plans to send it out.

Coordinator: Sue
Status: Project Completed. Follow up this fall to find out results of letter.

Starting a Summer Feeding Program in the Groton Area (Caledonia County)

After about a month of looking into this, much support was found for the Summer Feeding project, but no organization showed an interest in sponsoring a site there. Instead of dropping the project idea, a member wrote an informational article about what a Summer Feeding site offers the children in a community, and where to send for information and assistance in starting one. The article was printed in several local papers. We have several different people to contact next year who said they would be interested in coordinating the site, but felt that they did not have enough time to organize it for this summer. The NE team will be getting in touch with them.

Coordinator: Audrey Whitehill Members: Jessica
Status: Altered version of project completed. Follow up this winter.

Newport Town School Community Oven (Orleans County)

Students in the eighth grade and their math teacher, along with NE and Central team members planned, gathered materials for, and built a Quebec style, wood-fired clay oven. The members involved in this project researched the oven making tradition thoroughly and spent much time identifying local resources. The oven, built in the garden area on school grounds, will be a tool in

connecting the plants and vegetables the students grow in their gardens with what eventually ends up on their tables. This year the focus was on getting the students interested and involved in building the oven. They used local resources to collect clay from the river, helped to build the cribbing, build the oven base, mix the bricks and build the oven dome. Before the end of their school year, students put the oven to use and helped to bake pizzas for the whole school. During the 96-97 school year, teachers will keep the ball rolling by incorporating related history, math, science and art lessons into their curriculum. The oven will be used by the food service coordinator and students alike on different occasions.

Coordinators: Audrey, Mary, Bob, Doug

Status: Project Complete. Will probably continue some involvement in 96-97.

Sutton School Youth Service Day (Caledonia County)

The goal of this project was to involve students at the Sutton School in community service. In honor of National Volunteer Day, members organized several different clean up/green up activities in the community. Students spent several hours outdoors raking, moving brush, picking up garbage and planting, and then returned to their classrooms to discuss what service means. Later that month, the students were awarded certificates signed by Governor Dean, presented to them by Jane Williams of the Vermont Commission on National and Community Service. Mr. LeFavre, the principal, plans to do this on a yearly basis and is interested in integrating community service into their curriculum more closely. The VAHC NE Anti-Hunger Corps team was able to connect Mr. LeFavre with someone from the Commission who will work with the Principal to accomplish this.

Coordinator: Mary

Members: Jessica, Sue, Audrey

Status: Project Complete.

Danville/Walden School Garden (Caledonia County)

An average of 12 students participated in this garden through out the summer. The goals of this project, made possible by a School-to-Work grant, were to teach students the business aspects of gardening (from seed to table) and to teach the value and importance of volunteerism in their community. Working with community partner Jim Graves, members organized students working in the garden three days a week, community field trips, in-class instruction, a farm stand and guest speakers. Students delivered fresh produce to three food shelves, a senior meal site, and a community meal site: 26 lbs. donated to Danville Food Shelf; 95 lbs. to St. Johnsbury Kingdom Community Meals and Food Shelf; 20 lbs. to Danville Senior Meal site; 16 lbs. to St. Johnsbury NEKCA food shelf; 93 lbs. used to create specialty food product, for nutrition and cooking lessons, and for sale at the farm stand. Produce will continue to be harvested and donated through October. Another product of this project is an extensive "how to" book including explanations all of the garden activities, trips, etc.

Coordinators: Jessica, Sue

Status: Project Completed. Will follow up to help identify another teacher who will continue the garden next year because our community partner there will be working at a different school.

Food To Learn Garden, Hardwick (Caledonia County)

An average of 12 students participated in this garden throughout the summer. The goal of this project, funded through a grant of Food Works and the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, was to get students involved in growing their own vegetables from seed to learn more about the food cycle. Through this experiential learning experience, students would also be taught about good nutrition and what food resources are available in their community. The garden project worked in conjunction with the Hardwick Summer Feeding Program; children ate their lunch at this site, and three days a week they would participate in the garden. The children's garden plot was part of the community garden, so they learned about planting, weeding, watering, mulching and harvesting while seeing other adults from their community do the same thing in their own gardens. NE team members actively participated in the preliminary organizing of the garden, and shortly after its start, community partner and coordinator of the garden, Allison Martin, took on all the planning. Members continued to support her by being extra hands with the children. Although the harvest came late this year, Allison Martin will continue to donate the harvest to the Hardwick Community Dinner and to the Hardwick Food Pantry.

Coordinators: Mary, Audrey
Status: Project Complete.

Newport SHARE (Orleans County)

Members worked with community partners in Orleans County to start a SHARE site in Newport by providing organizational structure and promotion for the site. Some people in this area were getting SHARE packages through the St. Johnsbury site and CFDP who also got there packages from St. Johnsbury. Now the community in Newport comes together at least once a month to box their own food and to do community service locally. The community members who showed interest at the start, Rev. Sean Quinn and Thomas Turcotte are now coordinating the site with several other volunteers.

Coordinators: Audrey, Mary Members: Jessica, Sue
Status: Project Complete. Will check in with them this Fall.

Food Group, Daily Servings Game Board

NE team member worked with staff from the Newport Department of Health, EFNEP (Extended Food and Nutrition Education Program) and volunteers to create an easily duplicated game board that teaches the players how many servings from each food group they should eat a day to stay healthy. Heidi Cooperstein from the Department of Health has a copy that she plans to use with WIC children and Carlene Briggs has a copy that she will use with children of the families that she visits. The NE team also has a copy to use next year.

Coordinator: Jessica
Status: Game board is complete, but information on how often it is being used and if it is successful at teaching what it is meant to is not.

Kingdom Community Food Shelf, St. Johnsbury (Caledonia County)

The goal of this project was to create a new food shelf in St. Johnsbury in anticipation of NEKCA having to move away from providing food to their clients. Working with community partner Mike McCoy, members helped to design policies and procedures, set up the shelf space for easy access, did some intake of clients while recruiting and training other volunteers, and came up with ideas for the development of ongoing resources. Since some of the intake involved discussing what is necessary to make a healthy meal, what alternative food options there are, and local food resources such as SHARE and Farm to Family Coupons, this project increases local food resources along with providing nutrition education. Resource referral lists are also handed out. 107 people were served at this new food shelf between March and July. The goals of this project have been met; Mike McCoy and Amy Broderick continue to run the food shelf with volunteers.

Coordinators: Audrey, Mary

Status: Project Complete.

Celebrity Car Wash, St. Johnsbury (Caledonia County)

This was a fundraiser for the Kingdom Community Food Shelf that evolved from one of the brainstormings on how to develop ongoing resources. Local "celebrities"--reverends, state attorney, school board members, school headmaster, VT Commission on National and Community Serviceto support the food shelf and to wash cars at Quality Motors, the company that donated parking lot space, water and hoses. The food shelf and car wash got a lot of coverage over several radio stations. Over \$100 was raised for the food shelf.

Coordinators: Mary, Audrey Members: Jessica

Status: Project complete.

96 Statewide AmeriCorps Conference

Members participated in the planning, organizing and implementation of this conference run by the VT Commission on National and Community Service (VTCNCS). The conference provided the opportunity for all Vermont AmeriCorps and VISTA members to meet, participate in service projects together, attend workshops, hear from people on the Commission, and learn about the many programs in Vermont.

Coordinators: Mary, Sue, Audrey

Status: Project Completed

**VAHC CENTRAL TEAM
Project Development List**

July 7, 1996

I. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

1. Duxbury Town Garden - Washington County

Beginning a garden venture at the State-owned Old Duxbury Farm. Labor will be provided by various community groups and the Central Team and produce will be grown for local food resources.

Update: The garden has been planted and is growing. The first of weekly community workdays is planned. The project has received an award from the America the Beautiful fund and will be awarded a "Peace Pole" at a ceremony in August. An arrangement for the distribution of the produce has been agreed upon by the Waterbury Food Shelf and the Waterbury Senior Center. Use of a root cellar has been donated for storage of the vegetables. WCAX TV News is planning a spotlight of the Garden on July 11.

2. FoodWorks Youth Waste Management Project (SCRAPPS/ The Wonderful World of Wigglers) - Orange, Washington Counties

Assisting in the post-survey of twelve classrooms participating in the FoodWorks indoor composting project in order to assess interest in and encourage the development of both indoor and outdoor classroom garden projects.

Update: The Member has successfully completed the SCRAPPS project and was able to begin small scale gardening projects with four Elementary schools in the Central Vermont area including Berlin Elementary, Marion Cross School in Windsor, Union Elementary School in Montpelier and East Montpelier. A total of 109 fourth grade students participated in the gardening projects.

3. Highgate Resident's Association Social Service Task Force - Community Gardening Project Washington County

Assisting in the creation of agricultural opportunities for individuals in the complex and teaching nutrition education through art to children enrolled in the Washington County Youth Services Bureau Highgate Project.

Update: Members built 12 container gardens and 11 smaller planters for 22 residential units and the Washington County Youth Services Bureau unit. Members have facilitated the first of three workshops in garden starting, maintaining, and harvesting, offered to residents through the assistance of a Master Gardener and 4-H. The first of three nutrition education activities has also taken place with the WCYSB kids: A veggie pizza cooking class, a vegetable doll craft class, and an art activity focused on the garden. All of the residents gardens are planted and Members will now serve as mentors for individual residents.

4. Laraway School Garden Project - Lamoille County

Following up with a successful garden project of last program year, Member's will assist the School Staff in strengthening the connections to the local community and identifying appropriate individual families for receipt of the garden produce.

Update: Two members may be assisting with the garden on a very limited basis, although the boys are able to do the majority of the work. Central team assisted in connecting Laraway with both LENS and the Johnson food shelf and identifying two individual families for produce distribution.

5. NOFA Farm Share Program - Orange, Lamoille, Washington

Expanding the '94-'95 Farm Share Program (which connects low-income families with local CSA farm produce shares) into the NW and SE regions, expanding the Central region fundraiser, and

strengthening the nutrition education component required of the recipients.

Update: The Farm Share Team has succeeded in connecting 12 households with four CSA's in the Central Vermont area. Participants are picking up their produce weekly. A survey has been distributed to evaluate the participants reactions and learning so far. Members are coordinating with the CSA Farmers and are planning for the Nutrition Education workshops which will be offered to the participants in the program.

6. Gardens For Learning - Washington County

Assisting with the garden centered activities at the Barre City School Summer Food Service Program Site.

Update: Members assisted in building the garden, planting and participate three times each week in planning and leading garden activities with the kids.

II. NUTRITION EDUCATION

1. Central VT Council on Aging Healthy Living Wellness Program - Orange, Lamoille, Washington

Training Seniors to teach nutrition and exercise to seniors in Orange, Washington and Lamoille counties.

Update: Members have begun a pilot program at the Waterbury Senior Center and will be working one day a week for five weeks. The success of this pilot will determine the programs feasibility for other senior centers and will hopefully be a beginning to a project that year three members will be able to step into.

2. Good Samaritan Haven Homeless Shelter Project - Washington County

Providing food safety information, improving food safety procedures and policy, and enhancing the meal program at this homeless shelter in Barre.

Update: Members have built a compost, a large container garden and are thoroughly cleaning the foodshelf, disposing of old food and building new shelves.

3. Highgate Resident's Association Social Service Task Force - Community Gardening Project Washington County

(See Above)

4. Newport Town School Community Oven - Orleans County

Collaborating with the NE Team to build an outdoor, clay community oven in conjunction with the FoodWorks Common Roots Program in Newport. Incorporating the building and use of the oven with nutrition education and local history.

Update: Members have successfully completed the Community Oven project and will be compiling a thorough replication manual.

5. NOFA Farm Share Program - Orange, Lamoille, Washington

(See Above)

6. WIC Clinic Farm to Family Coupon Distribution - Washington County

Planning and conducting food demonstrations and farmers market demonstrations for Farm to Family" Coupon distribution dates at WIC clinics in Washington County in an effort to increase coupon utilization and client knowledge base of Farmer's Markets.

Update: Members have conducted the first three food demos and will continue through August.

II. FOOD RESOURCES

Central VT Council on Aging Twin Valley Survey - Washington County

Outreach Project to inform seniors in the area about services available to them and to encourage the use of Meals on Wheels and the Plainfield Senior Center.

Update: The Council on aging has decided to focus on East Montpelier as a pilot activity for this survey. The start date is planned for August. Members are currently awaiting both the funding for mileage reimbursement and the survey questions from Council on Aging. The CoA is working to assess the location of the target population and are evaluating the most effective outreach methods.

2. Duxbury Town Garden - Washington County

(See Above)

3. NOFA Farm Share Program - Orange, Lamoille, Washington

(See Above)

4. Northfield Senior Center Reminiscence Group - Washington County

Conducting weekly discussion groups with Northfield Seniors, following lunch. The discussion topics revolve around the agrarian history and traditions of Central Vermont. Efforts will be made to connect local youth to these discussion groups. This project will encourage broader participation at the congregate meal site.

Update: The discussion group is going smoothly and participation rates at the Wednesday meal have begun to rise. Members are also planning for the sustainability of the program after they leave and are beginning work on a replicability guide.

5. VT Foodbank Agency Assistance - Orange, Lamoille, Washington Counties

Assisting agencies of the VT Foodbank in our three counties through provision of information and resources for food safety and nutrition education, addressing the physical needs, increasing the organization's food supply and assisting in volunteer recruiting and training.

Update: A letter was sent to 52 Foodshelves throughout the State, offering VAHC assistance. Central Team has yet to receive a response.

IV. SCHOOL BREAKFAST

1. VT Campaign To End Childhood Hunger Barre School Breakfast Promotion - Washington County

Collaborated with the CECH to conduct a City wide breakfast promotion in Barre.

Update: Events included a four week publicity series with local newspapers and radio stations and staffing tables at two local WIC clinics, a community event at the Berlin Mall and the local Howard's Market. A breakfast promotion event was also held in the Barre High School. The Barre Town School has agreed to begin a pilot breakfast program.

V. SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

1. VT Campaign To End Childhood Hunger Summer Feeding Service Program Site Development -
Washington, Lamoille County

Collaborating with the CECH to contact the current SFSP sponsors in the Central VT region to ensure that all are preparing to renew their sponsorship of the program.

Update: The Team Leader had no luck in finding a replacement sponsor for the Lamoille County SFSP sites and the deadline has passed. A new SFSP site has been established at the Barre Town School and will have a FoodWorks "Gardens to Learn" program (see above "Gardens For Learning") which Members will assist on a weekly basis. The Highgate Complex in Barre has decided to discontinue their SFP this year due to lack of support and volunteers from within the Highgate Community.

VI. ONGOING ACTIVITIES

1. Marshfield Community Supper - Menu planning and food preparation for weekly community supper. Second Wednesday of the Month.

2. Waterbury Senior Center - Food preparation and service for Congregate Meal Site and Meals on Wheels. Thursday mornings.

3. TEFAP Commodities Distribution - Assisting the VT Foodbank in commodities distribution in three counties.

Second week of alternate months.

SOUTHEAST TEAM
FINAL PROJECT REPORT
1996 PROGRAM YEAR

1. Sustainable Agriculture

Westminster Center School Garden

The team organized a school garden kick-off celebration to which community members were invited. Volunteers were recruited to maintain the garden during the summer months at the celebration. Peggy prepared grant materials for the teachers of the East Wing making it easier for them to apply for funding for a greenhouse. Members also attended summer garden maintenance days on four different Saturday mornings.

Coordinator: Peggy and Joyce

Status: Completed

Future: Potential project site. Goals need to be clearly defined.

Teachers continue to praise our work and hope for future involvement.

NOFA Farm Share Program

The Southeast Team participated in the project for the first time this year and raised \$2200.00 which translated into nine sponsored shares. Thirty low income people received fresh organic produce all summer long. Money was raised through a variety of means: Share Our Harvest fundraiser, Car Wash, Raffle, and direct solicitation to Vermont National Bank's Socially Responsible Banking Fund-- which contributed \$1200.00 to the cause.

Coordinators: Ali and Joyce

Status: Completed

Future: NOFA may coordinate the project next year and we may provide assistance. We will await word from Julie (Central Team) or NOFA.

Southeastern Vermont Correctional Facility Garden

Our role, this year, was to design a distribution system wherein produce recipients were actively involved. Each agency receiving produce from the correctional facility sent a representative to the prison on a designated day of the week. Agencies receiving produce included: A senior center and Meals On Wheels Provider, two low income housing developments, a summer lunch program, a foodshelf and community meal site. Approximately 2,500 pounds of produce had been distributed when the VAHC program year ended.

Coordinator: Brian

Status: Completed

Future: Check-in with the facility in early Spring to assess what is needed.

Norwich Community Garden

This was a new project done in conjunction with the Hanover Food Coop. They oversee a community garden in Norwich and donated nine plots to the Anti-Hunger Corps and low income community members. The vegetables grown in the garden were distributed to local food assistance programs, shelters, Meals On Wheels providers, and to those contributing to garden maintenance. The project was the recipient of a Peace Pole. Victor recruited volunteers from Dartmouth College, Interlocken summer camp, the Bugbee Senior Center, and the community at large.

Coordinator: Victor

Status: Victor was given an extension to finish documentation

Future: We will need to be involved next year to firm-up community ownership and participation.

Rockingham Central Elementary School Garden

We assisted the school in maintaining their gardens throughout the summer.

Coordinator: Ali

Status: Completed

Westminster Family Housing Garden

The team assisted with the initial planting of the garden and ongoing maintenance days.

Coordinators: Dhyana and Rick

Status: Completed

Future: Contact tenants early in the Spring to organize garden plan.

Springfield Community Garden

We were involved to a lesser extent this year with garden meetings, planting day, and maintenance days. This was a project from last year which was taken over by community members.

Coordinator: Brian

Status: Completed

Future: May need to be involved again next year to a greater degree as the garden did not have enough community support this year.

Veterans Hospital Garden

Brian and team assisted with the creation of a garden at the hospital by building ten raised beds. The garden will be planted and fully utilized next year.

Coordinator: Brian Smith

Status: Completed

2. NUTRITION EDUCATION

Early Education Cooking and Nutrition Workshops

Early Ed. requested our return this year and we provided four cooking and nutrition workshops for women in recovery. The emphasis was on the preparation of healthy, affordable, food and making mealtime enjoyable.

Coordinators: Ali, Peggy, and Joyce

Status: Completed

Future: They have been given names of people/institutions willing to help in the future so our assistance may not be needed.

Department of Corrections Lifeskills/Nutrition Workshops

This was a new project wherein we worked with young men who are in a court diversion program in Brattleboro. We developed a curriculum focusing on cooking and nutrition which included four one and a half hour workshops.

Coordinators: Brian and Joyce

Status: Completed

Future: Corrections would like us to repeat classes and become involved with numerous other projects next year.

3. FOOD RESOURCES/EMPOWERMENT

High School Hunger Coalition

The purpose of this project was to link high school students with community programs in need of volunteers and to empower students to develop their own projects to fight hunger on the local level. Dhyana and Rick organized three workshops for Wellness day (April 26, 1996) at Bellows Falls Union High School and invited students to become involved in an array of community food projects. Eight students signed-up to work at local elementary school gardens.

As an offshoot of this project the SE team conducted a hunger banquet for Rockingham Central Elementary School's fourth grade class. Also, a traveling photo exhibit on Hunger in Vermont was created and was displayed at several locations throughout August.

Coordinators: Dhyana and Rick

Status: Completed

Future: Hunger Exhibit needs to be utilized and high schools need to be mobilized.

Springfield Family Center

Brian worked with the SFC on developing new data collection systems in order for the Family Center to run more efficiently. Brian acquired several used computers for the Family Center, installed them and, trained all staff to use them.

Coordinator: Brian Smith

Status: Completed

Windsor Area Meals on Wheels

Victor assisted the Windsor area M.O.W. coordinator in recruiting volunteers for meal deliveries. He also assisted in securing volunteers for the area's monthly congregate meals.

Coordinator: Victor

Status: Completed

Farm to Family Coupon Distribution

The Southeast Team was asked by SEVCA to handle the distribution of Farm to Family Coupons in the Springfield and Brattleboro areas. Over two hundred books were distributed benefiting over three hundred individuals.

Coordinator: Peggy

Status: Complete

4. SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Rockingham Elementary Schools' Breakfast Celebration

The team assisted parents in organizing school breakfast celebrations at three elementary schools. The SE team helped with breakfast preparation, set-up, and offered a nutrition education activity in each of the three schools.

Coordinator: Entire team

Status: Completed

5. SUMMER LUNCH

Brian assisted the Springfield Community Partnership in organizing a summer lunch and recreation program for school aged children in Springfield. The lunch was non-subsidized and Brian acquired several food donations to keep program costs down.

Coordinator: Brian

Status: Completed

See attached list of direct service activities

DIRECT SERVICE WORK--- 1996 PROGRAM YEAR

Community Meals:

Loaves and Fishes

Location: Center Congregational Church, Brattleboro

Contact: Dele --

Description of work: Meal preparation, serving, clean-up.

Great Falls Community Meal

Location: Emanuel Church, Bellows Falls

Contact: Mary Haas

Description of work: Assist with meal prep, serving, clean-up.

Canal House Community Meal

Location: Canal House, Bellows Falls

Contact: Irene Ayer-- 463-9863

Description of work -- Assist with meal prep, serving, clean-up. Mingling and socializing with people.

Windsor and Ascutney Congregate Meals

Contact: Pauline Perron-- 436-2179

Description of work: Set-up, meal prep, serving, clean-up, entertainment if possible.

Wilmington Middle High School Monthly Senior Meal

Contact: Kitchen Staff-- 464-5255

Description of work: Assistance with meal prep, serving and clean-up during the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

Drop-In Centers and Food Shelves

Brattleboro Area Drop-In Center

Contact: Melinda Doyle (Director) or Deb Duff (Food Shelf Coordinator) 257-2005

Description of work: Thanksgiving Holiday Basket Distribution, Christmas Food and Gift Drive pick-ups and distribution, Food drives as needed, participation in Farm and Food Coalition Meetings, Gleaning.

Our Place Drop-In Center

Contact: Donna Stevens (Director) -- 463-2217

Description of work -- Foodshelf assistance, food drives as needed, rural/home delivery assistance, visiting with people who drop-in.

Springfield Family Center

Contact: Deb Luce (Director) -- 885-3646

Description of work-- Holiday food distributions, Food buying club distribution assistance, and gleaning.

Ludlow Community Foodshelf at Black River Good Neighbor Center

Contact: Patti Leblanc -- 228-3663

Description of work: Food drives as needed.

Meals On Wheels

Brattleboro Senior Center

Contact: Lisa-- 257-7570

Description of work: Meal delivery, handing out flyers to recruit meals on wheels drivers, serving at congregate meal.

Windsor Meals on Wheels

Contact: Pauline Perron -- 436-2179

Description of work: Meal Delivery, Handing out flyers to recruit drivers.

Commodities Distribution (Now defunct)

Contact: Martha Leinoff (SEVCA Outreach)-- 295-5215

Description of work: Assistance with commodities delivery and distribution days in the Springfield, Jacksonville, White River Junction, and Townshend areas.

Other Direct Service Activities

Whetstone Brook Clean-Up

Contact -- Bonnyvale Environmental and Education Center -- 254-3989

Description of work: As a part of National Volunteer Service Day in April, we joined together with the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center to clean-up the Whetstone Brook. Volunteers from the Brattleboro Teen Center joined us.

VLIAC Conference

Contact: Todd Farnsworth

Description of work: Assistance with food prep, serving, and clean-up. Leading teen outdoor activities, face painting.

New Hampshire Americorps Conference

Contact: NH. Commission on National and Community Service

Description of Service: Participation in direct service projects set up by the conference organizers. Service projects included-- planting vegetables at a CSA and trail maintenance.

Continued from

This past spring, corps member Peggy Pearse of Brattleboro worked with the Westminster Center School garden project. More than 70 students and community members put in the garden, which is now feeding town families.

"It was a very joyful experience," Pearse said. "There's something that happens when children and the earth join together. All creation rejoices."

This is the fifth year of the school garden, which included a spring fund-raiser selling marigold seedlings and using computer software to plan the garden layout.

"They're learning commerce, biology, math and agriculture," Pearse said. "It originally was started to grow healthy snacks."

Also this spring, the corps held a car wash to buy produce shares from three local organic farms.

Ali Bodkins, a corps member from Westminster West, said around 50 people are fed through this effort.

"I wanted to try to help people be aware of what's available and to help people help themselves," she said of her involvement in the anti-hunger group.

"There's such misuse of resources," she said. "People sometimes get to a point where they have to ask for help, even though they're afraid."

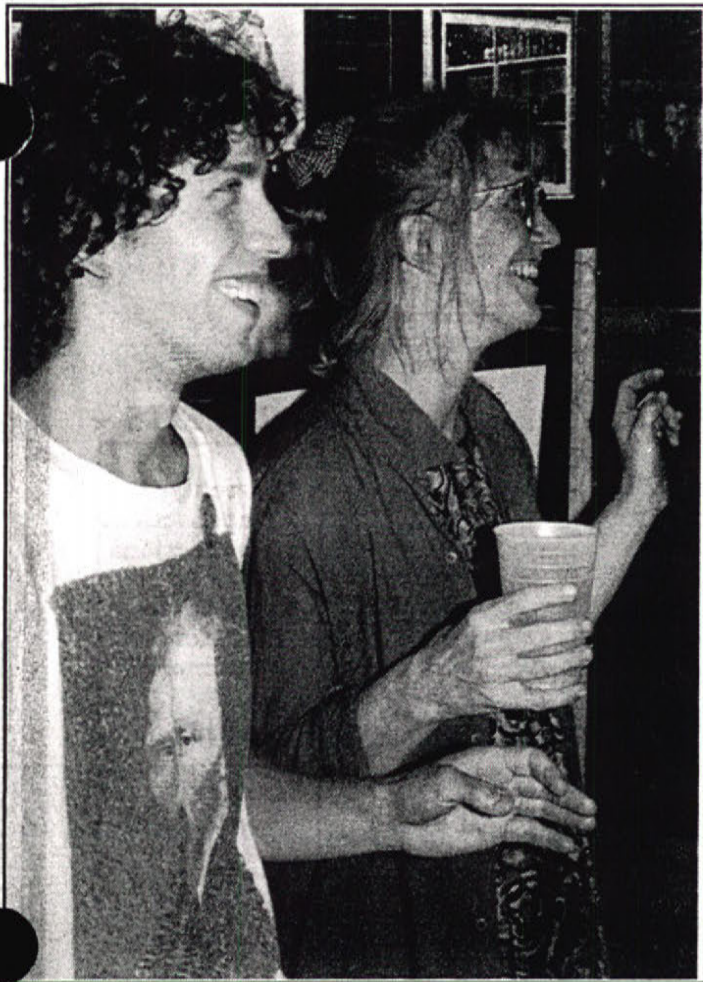
Holly Hammond, this year's

team leader, said plans for the next round of corps activities, which start in October, are already coming together. She said they expect to be involved in more Meals on Wheels and food-shelf stocking as opposed to community organizing.

The local anti-hunger corps is part of President Clinton's national service initiative under the AmeriCorps banner. Members make a 1-year commitment to give more than 1,800 hours of service in exchange for a living stipend of \$8,000.

Hammond said the southern Vermont corps will also expand to cover Bennington and Rutland counties in addition to Windham and Windsor.

"What we want to avoid is the lag time," she said of the corps' focus. "We want people to get into service right away. Project development is very time consuming. We're into getting things done."



Annette Larson

VERMONT ANTI-HUNGER CORPS members Richard Bush and Dhyana Iris describe their photo exhibit which was featured at a reception Friday. Corps members have spent the last 10 months on various projects to feed southern Vermont's hungry citizens and raise awareness about the problems of hunger in the area.

Anti-hunger team works to educate and raise funds

By ANNETTE LARSON

Reformer Staff

BELLOWS FALLS - The words "hunger" and "Vermont" rarely go together in most people's minds. But the seven-member Southern Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps knows differently. One of every six children in Vermont is hungry or at risk of being hungry, according to state figures.

"I had a personal interest from growing up in poverty," said Richard Bush, one team member who has spent the last 10 months dedicating his life to fighting hunger in southern Vermont. He spoke Friday at a reception sponsored by the corps.

"I wanted to see what I could do to help break the cycle," Bush said. One of his projects was a photo exhibit to increase local awareness about the problems of hunger in this area.

Bush and Dhyana Iris assembled the exhibit for the Bellows Falls Union High School "wellness days," during which they also gave three workshops on hunger in Vermont. The exhibit has also been shown at a conference at the Statehouse in Montpelier and

the railroad station and Parks Place, both in Bellows Falls.

The photos, donated by local photographers Maia McNeill of Putney, Jessica Dolan of Brattleboro and Peter Field Peck of Brattleboro, were stark black-and-white images intermingled with literary quotes on hunger and poems by Vermont poet David Budbill.

Hunger, as one placard read, is "The painful sensation or state of weakness caused by the need for food."

Photographs of weed-choked lots, chipped plaster walls, local food-shelf volunteers and an area homeless woman were mounted on cardboard from pizza and vegetable boxes on chicken wire frames.

"We had no budget at all," said Iris. "Everything we used we had to salvage."

She and Bush scavenged the recycling center and local backyards for materials. In addition to educating area residents about hunger, the corps also planted gardens, held fundraisers to buy fresh vegetables for local families and gave workshops on nutrition and healthful cooking.

See HUNGER, Page 20

VAHC NORTHWEST TEAM
Project Development List
July 18, 1996

I. FOOD SAFETY NET (Food Resources and Food Assistance)

1. SARA HOLBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER HOLIDAY BASKETS

Planning, soliciting donations, matching recipients, and packing 200 food packages for Thanksgiving and an additional 400 food packages including gifts for the Channukah/Christmas/Kwanzaa holiday. The sustainable portion of this experience is that we are leaving an extensive "How To" manual for Sara Holbrook for next year's effort.

Status: Completed. Evaluation Completed. Final documentation being polished.

Point person: Erica Gibson

Planning group: Francheska Chalidze, Erica Gibson, Jack Jessup.

Workers/support: Johanna Ballinger, Catherine Elwert, Ron Hynes and Shawn May.

2. CHITTENDEN EMERGENCY FOODSHELF SUPPORT

**Substituting for student workers in the distribution room while they're gone for the holiday break. Wrapping Christmas/Channukah/Kwanzaa gifts for foodshelf recipients in need.*

** Constructing and supplying a children's playspace corner. We are also offering a six-month "maintenance contract" on the space while we train several volunteers to continue in this capacity in a more sustainable way.*

**Creating some training materials for future distribution room workers about certain special diets, and creating some brochures for non-English speaking foodshelf recipients who read Russian, Serbian and Vietnamese. These would list what items of information are necessary to make application to use the foodshelf.*

Status: All of these projects are completed, with the exception of the playspace "maintenance contract". Evaluations are being written currently.

Point persons: Elizabeth Keough for holiday project, Ron Hynes for childcare space, and Francheska Chalidze for brochure translation and special diet information.

Workers: Entire team for holiday project, Elizabeth Keough for childcare space.

3. CVAA MEALS ON WHEELS RECIPIENT NUTRITIONAL INTAKE AND REFERRAL
(approved by Bari)

Working in the Champlain Valley to evaluate qualifications, nutritional behaviors and associated needs of elder recipients of Meals on Wheels. Ensuring sustainability of this project through partnering with UVM MSW and BSW internship program, as well as creating a file of all applicable intern possibilities for all Champlain Valley colleges.

Status: Intakes are ongoing. Future intern replacements from the UVM BSW program are being interviewed and matched for Fall 1996. A file of intern possibilities in the Champlain Valley is being compiled for CVAA.

C

Related Activities:

1. EXPANSION of S.H.A.R.E. PROGRAM in NORTHWEST VT.

Community organizing in Vergennes as a result of our Climate Survey work resulted in the creation of a new community organization, "SOAR"(Share Our Area Resources), which accomplished as one of their first tasks the establishment of a new SHARE site. Joining with CVOEO/FGICA as a community partner, several members have done outreach in Franklin and Grand Isle counties to create interest around the potential establishment of another site in that region.

Status: This is an ongoing effort. To date several key community members have been consolidated in Franklin county to continue this work.

Involved members: Shawn May, Jack Jessup, Francheska Chalidze, et al.

2. ASSORTED TRAINING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING MEALS on WHEELS ASSISTANCE.
Status: Completed. Point person: Elizabeth Keough. Members: Entire Team.

3. FOOD DRIVES in ADDISON and WASHINGTON COUNTIES. Also: PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE in CHITTENDEN COUNTY.

Status: Completed. Members involved: Catherine Elwert, Johanna Ballinger et al.

4. REPAIRING CVAA FOODCART for SUMMER DISTRIBUTION to ELDERS.

Status: Repairs, painting and papering nearly completed. Members: Ron Hynes and Catherine Elwert.

5. For MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY of DIRECT SERVICE: PAINT FOODSHELF FLOOR for ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION/CVOEO. ALSO CLEANED FOODSHELF.

Status: Completed. Members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Jack Jessup, Erica Gibson, Shawn May and Johanna Ballinger.

6. DISTRIBUTED VAHC IN-KIND DONATION OF 343 FAMILY TURKEY DINNERS to: BURLINGTON MOW (MEALS ON WHEELS)--22, CEFS (CHITTENDEN EMERGENCY FOODSHELF)--300, FGICA/CVOEO FOODSHELF--15 AND ASHAI (ABENAKI SELF-HELP ASSOCIATION) FOODSHELF--6.

Status: Completed. Members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, and Jack Jessup..

7. COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANCE

Helping CVOEO in all four counties with key distribution sites. We are working with all four counties to make the transition experienced by recipients due to the termination of this program as smooth as possible. We are doing more fact-finding at this stage, and expect to combine some survey techniques of recipients with some type of referral system.

Status: Completed. Program has terminated.

Point person: Jack Jessup. Members involved: Entire team.

This project involves assisting members of the community garden in FGI to garden most effectively, and also to provide a demonstration garden at the community site, the produce of which will be donated to the house-bound elder who donates his yard to make the garden possible. We are currently exploring what needs the gardeners involved have.

Point person: Francheska Chalidze.

Members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Jack Jessup and Elizabeth Keough.

8. VALLEY VIEW REMINISCENCE PROJECT IN VERGENNES

This potential project involves gardening activities with the residents of Valley View, as well as doing a creative/documentation piece with the participants recording their food and agricultural memories.

Status: The garden has been planted including a demonstration plot. Remiscence groups are planned, using the video medium to focus the discussion.

Point person: Elizabeth Keough.

Other members involved: Francheska Chalidze and Ron Hynes.

9. WAKE ROBIN CONTAINER GARDENING

This project involves container gardening with the elderly residents of this congregate housing project.

Status: The gardens are planted and ongoing meetings with residents are happening.

Point person: Elizabeth Keough.

Interested members: Erica Gibson and Jack Jessup.

Related Activities:

1. DIGGING IRRIGATION DITCH FOR THE INTERVALE FOUNDATION BERRY PROJECT

Status: Completed. Involvement: Entire Corps.

2. HELPING THE NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION BUILD A CHILDREN'S MULTI-CULTURAL GARDEN at ETHAN ALLEN HOMESTEAD.

Status: Completed. Involvement: Francheska Chalidze, Jack Jessup and Ron Hynes.

3. STAFFED DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BOOTH at CHEW CHEW FESTIVAL and DISTRIBUTED INFORMATION on CSA'S and the FARMSHARE PROGRAM.

V. NUTRITION EDUCATION

1. LIFESKILLS for YO'S (approved by Bari)

Working with Ellen Sklar at Probation and Parole in the Dept. of Corrections in Burlington.

**Expanding and improving upon last year's team's nutrition education curriculum, and piloting with 2 (larger) groups of youthful offenders.*

**Identifying and procuring a gardening site for YO's.*

Status: The classes are completed and evaluated. The gardensite has been located. We have been asked to conduct a mini-version of the nutrition class with a third group of YO's, and are negotiating potential appropriate involvement.

Point person: Shawn May.

Members involved: Instructors: Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes and Shawn May. Curriculum Development: Johanna Ballinger and Elizabeth Keough.

Support: Jack Jessup.

2. OLD NORTH END FOOD PROJECT NUTRITION CURRICULUM REPLICATION AND PILOTING BEYOND BURLINGTON'S OLD NORTH END

This project involves doing nutrition education activities at various summer food service program sites, and finding a volunteer base to continue this work in the future. Possible sites are located in all four counties of the northwest region. A second involvement in this project includes distributing nutritional education materials and recipe samples at the Old North End Farmer's Market.

Status: Four county schedule is complete, and many sessions with kids have successfully occurred.

Point person: Johanna Ballinger.

Other members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes, Jack Jessup and Shawn May.

VI. EMPOWERMENT

1. EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT OUTREACH AND PROMOTION

(directed by Bari)

After identifying where free tax assistance is available, we worked to identify how much this has been advertised, who is not being served with the existing outreach, how to measure/quantify the numbers of people taking advantage of the EIC, and how we can fill in these gaps through postering, PSA production, door-to-door outreach, and interviewing various tax assistance groups. Information was also distributed at March commodities distribution.

Status: Completed postering, PSA's and other outreach. Evaluation completed.

Point person: Jack Jessup.

Members involved: Entire team.

2. UVM FOODSHED COALITION to DEVELOP MODEL FOOD POLICY for VT. MUNICIPALITIES

Status: Team Leader Lisa Guccione has taken over the networking with this project. Members Francheska Chalidze and Elizabeth Keough attended the last meeting with her.

DIRECT SERVICE COMPLETED

1. NCCC ASSISTANCE in TRAILBUILDING for RIVERWALK TRAIL. (Catherine Elwert

and Ron Hynes).

2. SERVICE DAYS with TEAMMEMBERS from OTHER TEAMS: ASSISTANCE for ELDERS at LENS in JOHNSON for the HOLIDAYS. (Entire Team).
3. For MLK DAY: CLEANED, SORTED AND ORGANIZED the STORAGE LOFT for THE VERMONT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CENTER. (Johanna Ballinger, Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes, Jack Jessup and Elizabeth Keough).
4. NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE: TUNE-UP FOR GREEN-UP. Cleaning up the Dog River in Northfield and the railroad bed by the Winooski River in Montpelier. (Entire Team).
5. REPRESENTATION AT THE CHAMPLAIN INITIATIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY MEETINGS. (Jack Jessup and Shawn May).
6. FACE-PAINTING for the "HANDS ARE NOT FOR HITTING" COMMUNITY EVENT. (Johanna Ballinger and Jack Jessup).
7. WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST: WILDLIFE CLEARING CLEANING (Francheska Chalidze and Erica Gibson) and ORGANIZING FOREST-CENTER FILES (Johanna Ballinger).
8. CVOEO DOOR-TO-DOOR OUTREACH for THE OLD NORTH END FOOD PROJECT. This project includes the Old North End Farmer's Market, WIC outreach for Farm to Family Coupons, and nutritional information for kids involved in local day camps. (Ron Hynes, Jack Jessup, Elizabeth Keough, and Shawn May).
9. VT. LOW INCOME ADVOCACY COUNCIL'S FAMILY CAMPING EXPERIENCE SUPPORT. Catherine Elwert did a workshop on recycling. Johanna Ballinger, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes and Jack Jessup did kitchen shifts.

**Southwest Team Project Status
March 1996**

Underway:

**Southwest Council on Aging
Meals on Wheels Needs Assessments
Erica Lesniak & Jen Ames**

Members spend approximately 16 hours per week each conducting needs assessment in recipients' homes or (infrequently) over the phone. When they began, the SWCOA was behind approximately 300 assessments in Bennington and Rutland counties. To date, Erica and Jen have done 73. The information they collect is used to evaluate the appropriateness of services for each of the recipients and in some cases lead to referrals to advocates, changes in menus or referral to additional social service agencies.

**Area High Schools
High School Hunger Coalition Project
Erin Willard & Erica Lesniak**

Meetings have been held with eight area high schools and presentations have been scheduled with three, the rest are likely to follow shortly. Erin and Erica had their first presentation at Proctor High School to the Learn & Serve class, 20 students. They developed a curriculum for the presentations which includes a fact sheet about the project, hunger/poverty statistics, a budgeting and a community assessment exercise for the students, and a brainstorm session on what type of service opportunities are available. Two projects are likely at this time: one with Proctor and one with Burr & Burton High School.

**BROC
Purple Spaghetti Nutrition Education Workshops
Erica Lesniak & Erin Willard**

As part of Purple Spaghetti, and art and nutrition education program run by BROC, Erica and Erin are developing a workshop for kindergarten students. The theme is Native American foods and they are planning activities with blue corn products. There will also be follow-up activities that the kids can do at home. They will also be presenting the Food Groupies to Head Start classes.

**Head Start
Annual Conference
Erica Lesniak, Jen Ames, Erin Willard**

Working in partnership with one of the Head Start mothers, the members are developing a booth for the conference which deals with food budgeting.

Developing:

**BROC and VNA
Rutland Farmer's Market Gleaning
Jen Ames**

Jen has been doing preliminary research for the logistics of setting up the Gleaning Program which last year's team had been part of developing and which benefitted Rutland area senior housing residents. Our role is yet to be defined for this year; BROC and VNA seem to have things under control. We may possibly be active in volunteer recruitment.

**UVM Extension, 4-H, VNA, BROC
Forest Park Community Garden
Jen Ames, Erica Lesniak, Erin Willard**

Forest Park is a low-income housing development with a very active community center. This will be the first community garden they have had and UVM Extension and 4-H are taking the lead. Most likely our involvement will be in recruiting students from Rutland High School to work at the garden. There is the possibility of us helping BROC with the nutrition education piece and/or planning community events around the garden.

**Manchester Interfaith Council, Burr & Burton Seminary High School
Interfaith Garden
Jen Ames, Erin Willard, Erica Lesniak**

Working with the students we are exploring several possibilities for the garden including marketing it to people who utilize the food cupboard and cultivating a plot for the senior meal site, both of which are next door to the garden.

**Southwest Council on Aging
One-Day Service Project
Jen Ames**

In response to a need perceived during a needs assessment, Jen is exploring the possibility of a one-day project cleaning and fixing up the home of an older, disabled couple. The project could possibly include students from Rutland High School and may be replicated if successful.

USDA State Progress Report Operating Site ID.# C50A

15. Community Service Objectives Narrative:

While we are well aware of the obligation to stated objections, our model of service involves a matching of the interests, resources, and needs in the communities, as well as the interests, training and team commitment to specific projects. Each of our teams serves a large geographic region, and has to respond to all the needs and requirements of the grant within each team, sort of like regional mini-programs, as opposed to some anti-hunger programs which are more geographically succinct, where the teams are each targeted or singularly defined, such as the "gardening team".

Another component of our model is the desire to create sustainable efforts that are not dependent on AmeriCorps to function. That means to us, that we may spend more time on some individual projects, with both a service outcome *and* a product outcome wherever possible. For example, for everything in which we have a development role, such as a new garden developed with low income housing residents, an interactive nutrition/life skills curriculum with and for youthful offenders, or an innovative french Canadian oven and elementary school-wide garden project that involves culture, nutrition, building/construction, cooking, gardening, and interacting with curriculum, we do the service *and* produce a complete manual that documents the whole process so that it can be replicated and sustained by the community partners. Part of our project service, as opposed to direct service such as serving meals, gardening, doing utensil, cookbook, and food drives, is to attempt to leave the community partner stronger and better able to sustain the effort. The "product", for example was a volunteer manual we created for a mealsite that kept loosing volunteers because the program didn't provide adequate information for the comfort level of their volunteers. It also means that we produced a completely documented how-to manual for a huge community holiday food drive that was perpetually disorganized and in crisis, so that this year there is a list of contacts and a timeline of activity defined up until the day of food delivery, and the VAHC just gets to "help out" as opposed to our critical organizational role last year.

I am mentioning all this by way of background in reviewing our performance on our stated objectives. We encountered some resistance to and lack of interest and/or perhaps energy in the development of new programs such as new food shelves, new breakfast sites, and new summer

food sites. What we learned from our first year of service, now looking back from the end of the second year of service, is that new development requires a longer, more persistent, and skilled approach. Some of the seeds that we planted last year while doing community surveys of breakfast programs, schools, food shelves, etc. in during which we asked about interest in developing new programs, finally began to gather momentum *this* year. This year we went back and worked with new and somewhat shaky programs started last year, to become more stable and self-sufficient, which also felt more responsible and respectful of their efforts than putting significant focus on starting many more new programs.

This year we worked very closely with the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger and the Vermont Department of Education which administers the school and summer food programs. Because of the significant training required to set up these paper intensive programs, our role became defined as more of the outreach, program stabilizers as opposed to the developers, in which the Campaign took a larger role. We were trained to monitor summer food programs and in that role, was able to also evaluate program needs and provide such improvements as enrollment booster campaigns, nutrition education activities, and affiliation of these programs with other resources in the community such as recreation programs.

While we perceived a growing demand for emergency food for people with traditionally low incomes, those working families on the edge, the elderly person, and the person with a disability who lives on a low income, community movers and shakers were not always sure they had hungry people, or if they did they took care of their own. Consequently, we were often surprised at the level of denial or disinterest in developing a food shelf, or community meal, or summer food program in areas that strongly appeared to have needs because of the distance to services, or large populations of families with children eligible for free and/or reduced lunch. What we did find working in our favor, was the value of publicity and success. When we did develop or improve a program, we always tried to get lots of press and recognition for the effort and achievement of the community organizers. Consequently, community "development by coveting" became a significant, but longer range tool. One community that developed a successful garden, attracted the interest of another community that up until this time didn't see the need for one in their town.

Another example, was that last year we attempted to start a garden at the request of some tenant families in a low income housing complex. After significant effort, 3 families attempted some gardening, and we felt relatively unhelpful and not successful in bringing the skills and maintaining interest. This year we were invited back, and 25 families signed on, with a waiting list for next year, and brought all their gardens to fruition, attended all the Master Gardener classes provided, and participated in the family pre-garden and nutrition activities with their children. They are organizing a Harvest supper, in a community of residents who have never suppered together before.

Schools here, as most everywhere, are suffering under the weight of tight budgets, more mandates, and a highly taxed populous. They are reluctant to take on another program, such as breakfast, when they aren't sure they can afford it or sustain it. We have been working to identify different successful school breakfast programs that have overcome significant challenges, such as the lack of a kitchen, for example, and will be sharing that information to build a network of internal program technical assistance to support schools that are interested but want to observe successful strategy, from another school, rather than hear it from us alone.

We always exceed our goals in nutrition education and food safety, because there both seems to be much interest, and because we choose to interpret this objective to mean providing information, skills, knowledge and/or tools. While spending time at food shelves talking to customers, we found that many people fried their food because they simply didn't have other cooking utensils, or didn't know other ways to prepare foods. In response, we conducted utensil and cookbook drives, cooking classes, gave out recipes at farmers markets in conjunction with the WIC Farm to Family coupon program, at Commodities distributions, as part of the Farm Share community supported agriculture program we developed with the Northeastern Organic Farmers Association, providing subsidized shares for low income families, and at food shelves.

I also have to confess to educated guessing for some of the original target objective numerical goals, having written them not too far along into our first year. We started without the benefit of any base organization, or experience specifically in anti-hunger work, or in service, so our knowledge base was gathered from limited experience, and scattered pockets of information

about poverty, hunger, and community activity. I believe we have learned fast, and have accomplished much of which we feel proud and that has enabled us to demonstrate measurable anti-hunger service accomplishment.

16. Community Building Objectives Narrative:

We have found that an important aspect of "fighting hunger" is building organizational and/or community skills, knowledge, access to resources and capacity to get the most from their resources, just as we do with those who are customers of services. To that end we have developed how-to documentation of almost every collaboration we have with community partner organizations, and give them a copy of that developed manual. We have also found that organizations need regular, dependable help, so we have been and will increase the level of training our members get in volunteer recruitment, management, training, and support so as to provide that kind of in-demand assistance to build organizational capacity to meet needs. We have gone in to help clean out a community mealsite, and continue to work with the program to develop a volunteer manual, or an affiliation with a new, area high school community service initiative.

There continues to be a perception that if there was only enough money, than all needs could be met. Our approach is to go into a community "in need" and look for its unique resources. In some communities in which we hadn't served in the first year, we did a community survey that identified community resources such as local organizations, community traditions, pockets of people in close proximity [a resource in rural areas], schools, festivals, etc. In Waterbury, Vermont, where the majority of the State Offices are, the state owns land which has been unused since it was abandoned from farming. A community garden was started from a collaboration with the State Division of Lands, the senior center, the area food shelf, local church members, and community members helping to cultivate and use the produce, a local farmer donated plowing, area greenhouses donated plants, and students from the area elementary school helped plant the seedlings. The garden was such a great blend of that community's resources and with AmeriCorps extra hands, it was successful, yielded much appreciated fresh produce and won an America the

#16 cont'd USDA State Progress Report Operating Site ID.# C50A

Beautiful Award.

We have been working to replicate the Northwestern Correctional Facility Garden project in other facilities, and working with the Department of Corrections, the National Gardening Association, and area community action agencies to set up a garden and food processing program with an education component for the inmates, and the opportunity to preserve some of the produce from the prison gardens for more flexible use which will cut down some of the demands for immediate transportation at harvest. It would also teach food preservation skills, math, food safety, and allow the inmates to present their families with food they preserved, allowing them to make a positive contribution to their family, and take with them new knowledge and skills about nutrition, food safety, and gardening.

17. AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

If our approach in the community is to offer the opportunity to learn skills, knowledge, information and understandings to allow people to get the most from their resources, than we have to model that within our organization for the members as customers. Without exception, all our members characterized their year of service, [we conduct member self-evaluation surveys, and surveys on the program, the staff, and their projects] as one of tremendous personal growth, skill building, confidence building, learning and empowerment. One of our members said that he was prepared to get things done and feel good hopefully, about what he could accomplish, but he wasn't prepared for the powerful response he felt the day he realized that the residents of a low income housing complex with whom he was building gardens, welcomed him into their homes as a friend, one of the "garden boys" [he is 42] not as an outsider. He felt profoundly moved by that experience. He wasn't doing for, he was joining as an equal partner.

To the members credit, they continually sought out opportunities to push themselves, to learn new skills, to try activities that had been somewhat intimidating for them such as public speaking, writing articles and/or speaking to the press, and planning the statewide AmeriCorps conference with the Vermont Commission on National and Community Service. The VAHC program provided a variety of trainings,[see attachment 17A] and provided the opportunity for members to

#17 cont'd USDA State Progress Report Operating Site ID.# C50A

attend other related trainings and share their learning with their team members. For example one of our members was accepted into the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener program, and did several workshops for members as well as allowed her manual to be duplicated as a program resource. Another member who was accepted into medical school at the completion of her service year, worked with the WIC program staff providing nutrition education at WIC clinics, during her year of service, and was trained to do some of the routine health screening activities by the nurses.

In our closing member surveys, *all* members stated that they expected to continue community service in some form. One responded, "Duh, how could you ask that? How could we not, after this year!" One of our members, in fact a former correctional inmate and recovering alcoholic, served a second year and is now running for state office as a representative who has gained a strong knowledge of community needs, strengths, and the power of service and community development from his years of service, and has paid for most of the cost of his associate degree at the Community College of Vermont.

Another of our members, used this year as a transition from work to retirement, and learned how to bring her skills without asserting them or feeling she had to be "the professional" all the time. She brought consideration of the issues of aging to her team of members from age 19 through her 64 years, and was involved in several projects benefiting seniors, such as wheelchair height raised beds for gardeners with limits at several convalescent homes, and a meals to go for seniors lunch cart, in the city of Burlington.

Still another of our members, a fairly new citizen originally from Russia, took on the task of better serving the growing multi-cultural immigrant population in the Burlington area, by translating community resource information into Bosnian, Russian, and arranging for translations in Vietnamese, so people could better help themselves to take advantage of community resources such as the buses, language classes, the community gardens, food buying clubs, education, health resources, etc.

V.A.H.C. MEMBER TRAINING 1995-96

Orientation: Opening remarks - Avram	10-10-95
Service overview	10-10-95
Discussion of Community	10-10-95
Structure of the Vt. Anti-Hunger Corps	10-10-95
Introduce staff, relationship to other offices, job descriptions, expectations, how roles all fit together	10-10-95
Administrative Packets walk-thru	10-10-95
In-Kind Donation Discussion	10-10-95
Vermont History c/o Michael Sherman at the Vt. Historical Society	10-10-95
General Poverty / Hunger / Food Policy Overview - Linda Lyons & Mary Carlson	10-11-95
Member manual - policies re: professionalism, identity, harassment, etc	10-11-95
Calendar overview - walk thru the year	10-11-95
Informing vs Lobbying - Avram Patt	10-11-95
Honoring Diversity - Carol Frenier	10-11-95
Hardscrabble Kids Video - over interactive TV	10-13-95
Presentation of 5 objective areas	10-13-95
Teleconference at UVM c/o Wisconsin	
Ropes Course	
Agriculture Focused Training: c/o Joseph Kiefer and Food Works	10-17-95
& Anthony Polina - the Political Landscape	10-17-95
Suzanne Long and Clotilde Hryshko - Growing Locally	10-17-95
Lindsey Ketchel - the Vermont Department of Agriculture	10-17-95
Regional visits to a local CSA Farms, food producers, dairy farms	
Regional participation during a community meeting re: Arlington CSA's	
Local gardening classes: "Your Organic Garden" c/o Merck Forest or UVM's Master Gardener course	
Regional visits to UVM Extension offices, Food Works, Rural VT, etc.	
Barre Farm Show	
NOFA Winter Conference at Goddard	2-17-96
PEAS Conference at Plymouth (Farm & Wilderness Camp)	3-9-96

School Meals Focused Training: c/o Sue Steinhurst of Vt School Food Service Association	10-24-95
& Melanie Putz of VT Campaign to End Childhood Hunger	10-24-95
Shirley Stewart of Randolph Elementary Schools	10-24-95
Discussion among Members who have children in school systems	10-24-95
Jo Busha of Child Nutrition Programs, Dept. of Education	10-31-95
Regional visit to schools: meals, met w/ cooks & food service coordinators	
Fundamentals of Community and Service Project Development c/o Linda Lyons	10-31-95
Food Assistance Programs: c/o Mary Carlson, OEO, Emergency Food Assistance	11-7-95
& Vicky Wheeler of TEFAP	11-7-95
Donna Bister and Mary Woodruff, WIC	11-21-95
Rachel Senechal, Ctrl Vt Council on the Aging on Meals on Wheels, Congregate Meals	11-21-95
Ed Day, Food Bank	11-21-95
Mary Carlson, Farm to Family Program	11-21-95
Regional meeting with Don Carrigan of the USDA Food Stamp program	
Regional visits to CAP agency, Council on Aging, VT Food Bank, Area Sr. Ctrs	
" to community kitchens / Food Shelves / Congregate Meal Site	
Regional participation in Meals on Wheels delivery	
Regional training on "what is the Salvation Army"	
Regional training on "what is commodities distribution"	
Regional training in WIC Intakes/ Hematocrit	
Regional training on Council on Aging Intake Surveys	
SHARE Program intro by Peter Kim	11-14-95
Regional Training with Peter Kim	
Nutrition Education : c/o Karen DeFuria, Senior Nutrition	11-14-95
& Dale Steen of UVM Extension - food safety	11-14-95
Alison Gardener of Dept. of Health - resources available	11-14-95
Linda Lyons of UVM Extension - EFNEP	11-28-95
Lisa Hodgson of Dept. of Health - Nutrition Education & Training	11-28-95
Donna Bister of WIC	11-28-95
Regional meetings with Head Start, Council on Aging, WIC, CACFP and EFNEP	
Regional trainings on Child Development for Early Education Services	

Regional training c/o Melanie Putz of VCECH	
Regional training c/o Sarah Burczy on Food Labels	
Planning Meeting of Farmers' Market Managers	11-4-95
Project Worksheet Day	12-5-95
Conflict Resolution	1-16 & 23-96
HIV /AIDS Awareness c/o Peggy Pearse	1-30-96
Summer Food Service Program Specialized Training @ Berlin	1-31-96
regional training c/o local school meal/summer feeding coordinators	
regional visit by Melanie Putz	
regional introduction at CAP agency	
Defensive Driving Training	2-7-96
Legislative Process at the State House	2-13-96
CPR	
Conference c/o VT Commission re: Connecting the Dots: Nat'l, State & Local Perspectives	3-18-96
Public Relations 101	3-18-96
How to Run an Effective Meeting	3-18-96
Computer Training c/o Brian Smith	April, 1996
Career Planning Workshop c/o Vt. Student Assistance Corp (VSAC)	
Local College resources: seminar on "Welfare Reform" c/o Castleton College Meeting with "Nutrition & Sustainable Ag." person from Sterling College	
Other local resources: Ann Fiedler of SE Dept. of Corrections re: volunteering w/ corrections ALANA: Diversity Training Western Massachusetts Food Bank Community Service Learning Center: Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges (in Mass.) Community Prevention Partnership Sara Holbrook Center - Family Center Services	

NECI: Vermont Fresh Food Network Conference, Essex

2-5-96

USDA State Progress Report Operating Site ID.# C50A

18. Unique Successes or Great Stories:

Where to begin. Do I describe the Manchester Community Garden that involved nursery school children, an area Master Gardener, and the area senior mealsite. The kids learned about gardening, had a "Rock Out" day joined by area teens to prepare the site for tilling, and planted seeds with the seniors. They also learned about AmeriCorps and President Clinton, and decided to name the garden scarecrow Bill Clinton, a photo of which was sent to the Whitehouse.

The projects of which I am the most impressed are the ones that were true partnerships, accomplishing multiple goals. An example is a new summer food program we helped with in Milton, Vermont where we and other community members and area teens used their summer break to learn nutrition, management, and organizational skills and *they* ran the summer food program. They were the recreation staff who ran the meal program along with some adult partners.

Still another project of which I am impressed, is the Northfield Senior Reminiscence Project. The problem posed to us was dwindling enrollment at the congregate senior meal, and the concern that there were many seniors who would from the hot meal and companionship, and the danger that lowering enrollment might cause the site to be eliminated. Our task was to work with the senior center members and mealsite staff to come up with strategies to boost enrollment. We considered the seniors themselves a resource that wasn't fully explored. Many seniors had stories and experiences to share about such things as previous disasters survived, the flood of '27, the hurricane of '38, past occupations such as blacksmiths, folk remedies, home births, ice harvesting, the transition from the town general store to the supermarket, growing up on the farm, etc. We worked with the seniors to develop a list of topics, and we set up a schedule with them which we publicized. Senior enrollment started to increase with each discussion group. Some came for the discussion, but began to come early to eat lunch. Our members learned a lot about Vermont history, and wisdom from experiences of another time.

The Highgate Community Garden Project developed with the residents of that housing complex was an excellent example of people helping themselves when treated as partners as opposed to "clients". We did nothing for them, we did all with them and with the support of area

18 cont'd USDA State Progress Report Operating Site ID.# C50A

businesses, the skeptical approval of the housing management company, and other community resource people and programs. Everyone from parents to kids were involved, acting like a "real" community, to their own surprise. It wasn't perfect, there was some vandalism, but the overwhelming sentiment was that this was too important and as a community they would work to maintain the success and identify the problems and work on them and not give up, as widely expected.

Section VI Challenges

19. Difficulties Faced by the Program:

Previous difficulties such as suspicious and/or hesitant community response to our efforts, have been diminishing as our record of successful collaborations has grown. Most of the challenges we face are financial, how do we serve a geographically large state area in a cost effective manner. How do we afford to give our members a stipend they can live on without putting them into poverty, raise the funds to cover the extra costs of a higher living allowance, and not be in competition for those dollars with other important community organizations with whom we serve. Our strategy is to work on developing collaborations, so that when grant funding is pursued, our partner organizations will write us in for some of the grant funds to support our part of the collaborative effort as opposed to us competing for the same dollars.

Another challenge we face is managing our huge transportation budget, necessary if we are to serve the whole state with people living all over. We have developed team planning techniques that incorporate practices such as carpooling and excessive planning as a group to maximize transportation resources in an area with minimal public transportation. This past year, each team was required to monitor their own transportation budgets, and the members participated in managing those limited resources and integrated it with their project planning. Again, we are trying to model what we do in the community with what we do in the program.

A third difficulty the program encountered was with the reasonable stability of the program this year, as compared to last year, the staff had the time to look at their organizational team and

19 cont'd USDA State Progress Report Operating Site ID.# C50A

realized that group and that aspect of the program had not been attended to well. After several retreats, personnel policies were fully improved, and best practices documented and adopted. An internal staff support/evaluation system was designed and planned with specific tools developed for this third year.

20. National Identity Activities:

As a corps, with participated in the organization of a statewide AmeriCorps conference in partnership with our state Commission, and participated in a three day service AmeriCorps conference, with the New Hampshire AmeriCorps programs. The Southwest team and the Program Director attended a New York State AmeriCorps conference in Albany, representing Vermont AmeriCorps. Also, a member of our program developed a state HIV/Aids training for our members, which we opened to other Vermont AmeriCorps programs to attend.

21. and 22. Organization Changes and Improvements:

The only way we found to cut the ten percent costs from last year, was to cut staff. Most of our costs are fixed, or necessary for the support of the members such as mileage. Consequently, we took this challenge as an opportunity to provide new leadership opportunities for returning members, and to support staff who were ready to move on. We downsized, somewhat painfully, from 3 administrative staff and 5 staff team leaders, to a Director and Business/Administrative Manager, and 4 teams with 4 staff Regional Supervisors, and 5 Member Coordinators. We also went to four regional teams, with a new challenge of combining the southern region into one.

We also contacted Project Starr to get professional assistance in developing tools to capture our actual impact on hunger, as opposed to the emphasis we currently have on activities realized. Are we making a difference, how do we find out, and how can that guide our future efforts. Those are the questions we will be addressing in the next service year with some tools we are presently developing to capture some of that information.

We also hope to be more active in the community working on food security both within Vermont, and through the efforts of our new, National Anti-Hunger Consortium.

USDA State Progress Report Operating Site ID.# C50A

23. Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs

We have been able to find trainers for most of our Member training needs within the resources in Vermont. The exception, is Conflict Resolution training which is an important need that we have had to seek at a cost, with the exception of last year when we received subsidized training through the Corporation Technical Assistance Program from a Mediation Program in Massachusetts who came up to Vermont for a day and a half, and provided excellent and helpful training. We continue to have this need and find that in-state resources are available at a significant cost which we may not be able to afford. We continue to look for ways to meet this need, as it represents important team and program operating skills for Members.

For the program we have two technical assistance needs; one is for assistance in the development of tools, a process, and training for that process, in evaluating the impact of our service on hunger. Our goals have been geared to meeting target goals which represent accomplishment, but not impact. To this end, we have contacted Project Star, the Corporation Consultant on evaluation strategies, and they are currently working with us to address these needs for Program Year 3. Developmentally, this seems like the right time to pursue this analysis, as our project development process has evolved to a more mature level. We, as a Program need and want to know if we are making any difference addressing hunger, not just that we did what we said we'd do.

The other technical assistance need we have is in organizational support. So much of our energy has gone into the program development and management, that the staff group training, team building and support needs have been neglected. Not only do we need, I think, technical assistance in this area, but I believe that we also need the opportunity to have outside facilitation and training to work with the *whole* staff group. This group has also undergone several changes in personnel, as well as some organizational reduction, so coupled with the stress of building a program while operating it, there has also been more change than stability as the norm. Our budget is extremely tight and we have had to use the available funds for project costs which require payment, such as team office space, while we look for training resources that are in-kind. Overall, we are pleased with the accomplishment of both building a program, and a productive community resource that also provides excellent training and experience for its members.

INSIDE...

UNDER SECRETARY HAAS SPEAKS AT JOHNSON & WALES 2
 JOHNSON & WALES: MAKING BETTER SCHOOL MEALS A REALITY 3
 TEAM NUTRITION IN TRUE VERMONT STYLE 4
 SHARE OUR STRENGTH TEAMS UP WITH USDA 6
 TEAM SPIRIT IN CHARLESTOWN, MA 7

Chef Todd English and Site Manager Peggy Lynch discuss a special meal at the Edwards School in Charlestown, MA. The collaboration of chefs and school food service personnel has proven to be extremely popular in the Northeast. (Please see pages 6 & 7.)



SCHOOL-WIDE SUPPORT FOR NUTRITION: QUINCY, MA 8
 NUTRITION AS A PRIORITY FOR EDUCATION IN SPRINGFIELD, MA 9
 EBT STATUS REPORT 10
 FOOD STAMP NEWS 11 - 13
 •Secretary Glickman honors top New York City issuers
 •Supporting welfare program work requirements
 •Finger and facial imaging comes to Massachusetts
 •Seniors on food stamps
 WIC AND TEAM NUTRITION PURSUE COMMON GOALS 14
 NEW HAMPSHIRE WIC PROGRAM HAS HEARTS 15
 RESEARCH PROVES WIC WORKS 16
 1996 FARM BILL NUTRITION TITLE 17
 HAPPY 50TH, SCHOOL LUNCH! 18
 FARMERS' MARKETS JOIN THE NUTRITION TEAM AT USDA 19
 VTCECH DISHES OUT FOOD TO LEARN 20
 NEW WIC MATERIALS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS 21
 USDA GLEANING UPDATE
 VERMONT AMERICORPS 22
 SOMEONE NEW IN THE NORTHEAST 24
A message from the Regional Administrator

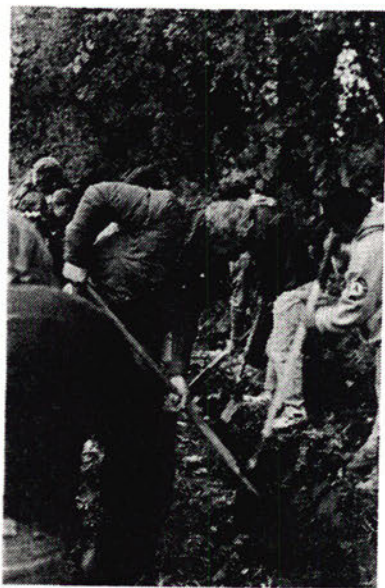
Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps Challenges Hunger in Vermont



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

The Vermont AntiHunger, Nutrition and Empowerment AmeriCorps (VAHC) project works with Vermont communities to ensure that safe, nutritious food is available to hungry Vermonters on a consistent basis through increasing utilization of existing public food programs, enhancing community and individual involvement in reducing hunger and addressing the root causes of hunger. This program operates as a unique partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity, AmeriCorps and local anti-hunger groups.

This is no small task, as VAHC Program Director Bari Gladstone will admit, but through careful evaluation of existing programs and needs, activities are carefully designed and targeted. "One of our first activities was to map out social services in the state," she said. The results showed unlimited opportunities for the contributions of AmeriCorps members, particularly in some rural areas where services are few and far between. "Therefore it is important for us to target our efforts. Our principle objective is to provide *sustainable* services to communities that are willing to have and support us."



Living Proof: VAHC members make a big difference by actively supporting community gardening efforts.

Organized in five teams of eight members, Vermont AntiHunger Corps partners with communities that want extra hands and technical assistance. Together they create or improve sustainable strategies reducing hunger and increasing the availability and use of nutritional resources. After evaluating the needs and resources of a community, members design projects related to school breakfast programs, summer feeding programs, sustainable gardens, increased access for those eligible for food assistance programs or specialized projects.

In an effort to promote sustainable agriculture, VAHC aims to develop and improve community gardens and to begin school gardens. To develop and improve community resources, VAHC will focus on food shelves, community meal sites, home-delivered meal programs, summer food sites and school breakfast programs.

While there are too many projects to mention, VAHC activities include a wide range of permanent resource improvement that will foster community food security for years to come, and targeted campaigns that meet specific needs. These activities include:

School Breakfast and Summer Food Programs. By supporting the activities of the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger and other established organizations, VAHC members have been instrumental in starting new breakfast programs and launching new summer food sites. VAHC activities also encourage participation in established programs.

Elementary Nutrition Education Program. Members have put together a food pyramid activity that has been implemented in Craftsbury Elementary in Orleans County. The program includes music, trips to the cafeteria and preparation of healthy snacks.

High School Hunger Coalitions. VAHC members work to link high school students with community programs in need of volunteers. It is also intended to empower students to develop their own projects to fight hunger on the local level.

WIC. VAHC members assisted WIC professionals by setting up nutritionally sensitive waiting room activities, assisting with the Farm to Family program in a four-county region, providing language assistance for refugees and creating a post-partum weight-loss/nutrition class.

Community gardening. In communities across the state, VAHC members are assisting in the creation and improvement of community gardens that serve as centers for community-supported agriculture, agricultural arts and therapeutic and educational farm activities. Many of the projects benefit local food assistance providers.

Westminster Center School gardening project. VAHC members are continuing work on a school gardening project, focusing on expansion and sustainability by working with teachers on applying for grants to build a greenhouse; presenting nutrition education and cooking workshops for students; and inviting community members into the classroom to present an area of expertise as it relates to cooking, nutrition and community service.

Northwest State Correctional Facility Garden. For a second year, VAHC members will continue working with the Northwest State Correctional Facility with a greater focus on long-term sustainability. Activities include soliciting seeds, seedlings and supplies; networking with a school agriculture class to involve students in providing seedlings; and establishing an on-site well and irrigation system. Work with the Southeastern Vermont Correctional Facility Garden will also continue with an emphasis on finding community partners to sustain distribution.

Support to the Chittenden Emergency Foodshelf. VAHC members provided a variety of services, including staff support, materials which address special diets and the translation of brochures for recipients who read Russian, Serbian and Vietnamese.

Utensil drive. In several locations, VAHC members collect pots, pans and kitchen utensils from restaurants, housing cooperatives and church congregations for distribution to youth in transition, needy families and individuals.

Lifeskills for Offenders. VAHC members will expand last year's nutrition education curriculum for youthful offenders, and will include a new gardening component. Also, a new program focusing on cooking and nutrition curriculum will be provided to men in a court diversion program in Brattleboro.

Nutrition Services for Champlain Valley Meals on Wheels Recipients. Members evaluate qualifications, nutritional behaviors and associated needs of elder recipients. Sustainability of the project is ensured through partnership with the University of Vermont.

Food Resource List. Encompassing three counties, this comprehensive list includes days, hours and other information for community meals, food shelves and congregate meal sites.

Commodities Distribution Assistance. In preparation for the termination of this program, VAHC members are working in four counties in central Vermont to make the transition away from commodity-based assistance as smooth as possible through fact-finding and referrals.

These outstanding accomplishments - constituting only a portion of the activities of the Vermont AmeriCorps program - place in perspective the impact such grassroots organizations can have on the health and well-being of the nation. USDA, in fact, is running AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of approximately 1350 members addressing issues of public lands and environment and rural development as well as hunger. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done while boosting community, opportunity and responsibility.

The accomplishments of all AmeriCorps/USDA members during the program's inaugural year are outlined in "AmeriCorps/USDA ... at work." The report details service provided during nearly 2 million hours of service by the 1200 AmeriCorps members sponsored by USDA in anti-hunger and other projects.

Copies of the report can be obtained by calling (202) 720-4369, sending an e-mail message to kgibney@usda.gov, or writing to AmeriCorps, Room 538-A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300.



Accomplishing so much with so little: Vermont's AntiHunger Corps have devoted many hours to developing sustainable programs, including USDA food and nutrition assistance programs.

103 South Main Street,
Waterbury, VT 05671-1801
Phone: (800) 360-2577
(802) 241-2577
Fax: (802) 241-2593



A project of the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity



Team USDA

NEWS FROM THE CORPS

Yearbook Edition

1995/96 Program Year

It's hard to believe that the program year is over. It seems like yesterday (well, almost) that we all met at the orientation at Vermont College. Now, after months of training, service, challenges, and successes, we are moving on. Actually, only some of us are moving on.

VAHC is fortunate to have as returning members: **Bob Nelson, Jules Petot, Sue Ward, Audrey Whitehill, Ron Hynes, Jack Jessup, Shawn May, and Joyce St. Jean.** Of course, **Doug Hemmings** will still be with us, but in a new role: Regional Supervisor for the Central Team. **Erin Willard** may be leaving VAHC, but she's sticking with national service and joining the South Carolina NCCC team. The staff will be seeing some changes as well; **Gina Purtell, Lisa Guccione** and **Nina Mandel** are leaving, though each will be continuing in a service-related field.

All of this goes to show that a commitment to service may be one of the most meaningful steps we will all take in our lives (naturally, those who aren't staying on are sure to be involved in service in one way or another.)

Because we all want to know what our VAHC buddies will be up to next, this Yearbook Edition asked all members and staff two simple questions: *What are your plans after the program is over?* and *What is your favorite memory or accomplishment from this year?* We got responses from almost everybody and you'll find the answers below, in everyone's own words.

Finally, the work we do is only possible with the support of Vermont's many caring communities. We are all deeply grateful to the community partners, concerned citizens, state and federal agencies, and private businesses who have enabled us to be successful this year.



Central Team

Lisa Duccione

I will be returning to community service in the capacity of AmeriCorps VISTA Leader with the Community and Economic Development Office in Burlington. I will be supporting 22 VISTA volunteers in their work with the Burlington, North End Enterprise Community. I will hopefully be attending graduate school to earn a Ph.D. in African Studies for the fall of 1997.

My favorite accomplishment has been to see a group of 8 strangers turn into a Team who truly care about each other and have worked to have many successful projects.

Doug Hemmings

Gainful employment! {Doug will be returning as the Central Team's Regional Supervisor}

The look on Bob Nelson's face when he destroyed a fence with the Bobcat Mini Loader at Highgate Apartments while we were working on the Highgate Backyard Gardening Project in Barre. We replaced the fence.

Julia Petot

My plans are to be acting as a Member Coordinator for the VAHC Central Team. Pending acceptance, I plan to attend Tufts University in Boston enrolled as a graduate student in the Agriculture, Food and Environment Program.

My greatest pleasure has been in watching the Farm Share Program grow. The interest in ensuring that this program succeeds is so inspiring.

Bob Nelson

A number of possible career avenues appeal to me: 1) Home Health; 2) Agriculture or animal care; 3) VAHC Member Coordinator - Central Team {Bob will be returning as a Member Coordinator}

Helping 22 low-income folks to grow their own veggies in their backyards.

Frank Huard

To run an election for state representative, Stowe/Morrisville. Return to school to finish associates degree.

My favorite accomplishment is getting the garden project up and running.

Allison Hicks

Continue into University of Vermont for completion of degree.

Was meeting everyone during first training week!

Stevan Ashton

To work as a nurse's assistant.

Working in the Duxbury Garden.



Southwest Team

Nina Mandel

The first step on my journey towards becoming a rabbi will be a year-long internship at a Jewish spiritual retreat center near Woodstock, New York. Then it's off to Philadelphia for rabbinical school for the next 6 years!!

The memory I will take with me for a long time is watching Erica and Erin lead a workshop for high school students on hunger and poverty. They were so inspiring and I knew that if I was only going to have two members, I definitely had the right two.

Erica Lesniak

Up to my neck in fish -- working in Alaska for a few months.

Being welcomed by community members into their schools, gardens, homes, to help work on projects they too felt were important.

Erin Willard

Southbound to Charleston, SC with the NCCC. It will be a big adjustment living with 270 Corpsmembers, compared to this year!

I cannot choose between the small children, young adults, or seniors we've worked with and learned from this year. They were all wonderful.



Northeast Kingdom Team

Sandy Kingsley

My plan is to spend a second year as a regional supervisor in the Northeast.

Getting to know -- really well -- a great team of women!

Sue Ward

I've learned so much and done so much and yet really only feel like I'm getting good at this now, so I'm doing a second year!

*From teens to tots to seniors -- from working with community partners to working with my team (and the whole Vermont team)
From snow several inches deep to too much Burdock. How can I choose one -- Thanks everybody for a wonderful year!!*

Audrey Whitehill

Year 2 at VAHC. I'm looking forward to another year.

Building the clay oven had many great memories but I guess my most treasured moment was when we found out it actually worked. I was really worried when the green wood took so long, but it turned out okay. What a day!

Jessica Tanner

I would like to move back to Brattleboro, Vermont, so will be looking for work in that area. I may apply for the AmeriCorps program, Teach For America, which would begin next summer.

Completing the construction of a puppet stage and using it to both educate (about the Food Guide Pyramid) and at the same time entertain a group of young people at the Guildhall Elementary School.

Mary Hall

Go back to school full time and finish my Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. Then I'm getting married sometime in June of '97, moving to Rhode Island and then getting my B.A. in Human Services.

There are two things I'm really proud of. One is helping to open a food shelf in St. Johnsbury that was really needed and the other is being involved with building the Clay Oven with the Central Team and the students from Newport Town School.



Southeast Team

Holly Hammond

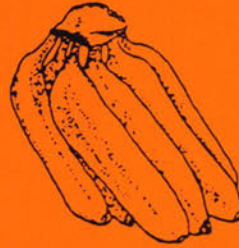
I'm continuing on as the Regional Supervisor with the Southern Team.

Dancing to the drummers with the children at the Westminster Garden Celebration.

Victor Rubdi

Explore ways to find ways to find a meaningful role in the community and continue to avail myself to all the members of the family.

Mastering bread and roll making at senior center in White River Junction with help of very supportive kitchen staff. And being asked to bake was fulfilling.



Alexandra Bodkins

Travel, find a new home, play, create, make a little money.

Early education workshops. VLIAC camp -- kitchen work, play, singing. Westminster Garden planting, eating, dancing.

Brian Smith

Right now things are a bit up in the air, but one plan is to go to India as a visiting professor in the graduate school of business at Goa University.

Favorite memory was having our team bring a plant to my home when I was convalescing from an operation.

Peggy Pearse

Planting Day at Westminster Center Elementary School with students, teachers, the VAHC Southeast team and other community members all working (and playing) together to plant the school garden.

Richard Bush

Artistic collaboration with Dhyana, power washing and CCV writing lab attendant.

Curry in the noon day sun.

Dhyana Iris

Art, travel, burning the trash, swinging through the trees, yeeehaw... and if you know about power washing, please contact me.

Oh, I love that paperwork -- it's replaced the NY Times for me.

Northwest Team

Laurie Larson

To keep working with VAHC for an awesome YEAR 3!!!

The team on a treasure hunt. Visiting the gardens and the direct service greening-up, gleaning. I love to get my hands dirty! Also... the day we cleaned the Refugee Resettlement Center Warehouse for MLK Day in an unheated space. P.S.S. The team jumping rope in the Huntington Center Library.

Johanna Ballinger

I would like to get a job in writing and research. I've applied for an internship at Vox/Vt. Times which would be a great opportunity for me.

My favorite memory besides all the skills I've learned and the friends I made, is my greatest accomplishment: writing and researching a nutrition curriculum.

Catherine Elwert

I'm going to travel cross-country with my bosom buddy, Raina. We've been planning this trip since we were 15!

My favorite accomplishment was when I started working in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clinic. The training was rough, but it gave me great experience (and the kids were wonderful.)

Ron Hynes

After this year's program I am having a little vacation and then I am coming back again next year for another term of service.

I have many favorite memories from this year. The food shelf playspace is my favorite accomplishment. I think my favorite memory is all the direct service days I spent working with the other teams on projects, Tune-Up for Green Up Day and my involvement with NCCC on the Salmon Hole project.

Erica Gibson

I will begin medical school at the University of Vermont on August 19th. It will be quite a career change for me after working in education and social services for the last six years! I am currently planning on specializing in pediatrics and I am eager to do some sort of public health or international work!

There are so many! I am very grateful to have served my community, met and made friends with so many great people, but also to have been so happy and satisfied with my work.

Elizabeth Keough

I'll be homeschooling an 8th grade daughter and completing my "new" 120 year old home renovation and completing my UVM Certificate in Gerontology.

The entire year will be a favorite memory

Jack Jessup

One more year of service on the NW Team, while I finish taking courses toward my MA in clinical psychology.

Stuffing 40 frozen turkeys into my new Dodge Neon, during the Sara Holbrook Holiday Basket Drive.



Shawn May

Either continuing as a member coordinator in Burlington or working with children at risk in Chittenden County, and dance performances. {Shawn will be returning for the next program year}

The early morning car rides -- cruising down I-89, car full of people inhaling coffee and bread, getting another hour of sleep-bonding, drooling on Johanna's shoulder as we are crashed in the back seat.

Francheska Chalidze

I am leaving for Alaska. I hope to find there a job in social services and develop in this direction.

My best memories from this year are about the day we did peer evaluations. I got an unexpected note from one of my peers which was very inspiring (not that I believed it, but anyway.) It raised my self-esteem enormously.



Waterbury Office

Bari Gladstone

Help my daughters pack up and move into college, take a deep breath and begin to do next year's program work.

My favorite memory was standing at the orientation and looking out at all the wonderful, anxious, excited faces of the new team.

Gina Purltell

To take my interest in community development and apply it to the issue of land use particularly in terms of conserving wildlife habitat within communities. I'll be working with an organization in this field called "Keeping Track" until I land a job doing it.

Tune Up For Green Up Day and the Dog River and in Montpelier. Great day out of the office working side by side with all of you members for a change!

Diane Girard-DiCarlo

My plan for next year will be to continue as Business Manager, take a vacation with family and try to consolidate the volumes of paperwork headquarters deals with on a daily basis.

Matching the faces with the many names I had been dealing with for weeks prior to orientation was probably the most exciting time for me this past year. Meeting and spending time with all the new members at orientation was a thrill since it put closure on the endless paperwork during recruitment. But more importantly, it gave the '95-'96 corps a living, breathing reality for someone who spends most of her time behind a desk. Thank you!





THANKS!

Did you know that VAHC Members statewide...

Worked in 17 community gardens alongside 1,095 Vermonters?

Served more than 4,100 people at 13 community food shelves?

Joined parents, children and senior citizens to provide nutrition education to 4,518 Vermonters?

Served over 5,700 meals at community meal sites?

Delivered 1,922 Meals-on-Wheels to homebound older adults?





INSIDE...

UNDER SECRETARY HAAS SPEAKS AT JOHNSON & WALES 2
 JOHNSON & WALES: MAKING BETTER SCHOOL MEALS A REALITY 3
 TEAM NUTRITION IN TRUE VERMONT STYLE 4
 SHARE OUR STRENGTH TEAMS UP WITH USDA 6
 TEAM SPIRIT IN CHARLESTOWN, MA 7

Chef Todd English and Site Manager Peggy Lynch discuss a special meal at the Edwards School in Charlestown, MA. The collaboration of chefs and school food service personnel has proven to be extremely popular in the Northeast. (Please see pages 6 & 7.)



SCHOOL-WIDE SUPPORT FOR NUTRITION: QUINCY, MA 8
 NUTRITION AS A PRIORITY FOR EDUCATION IN SPRINGFIELD, MA 9
 EBT STATUS REPORT 10
 FOOD STAMP NEWS 11 - 13
 •Secretary Glickman honors top New York City issuers
 •Supporting welfare program work requirements
 •Finger and facial imaging comes to Massachusetts
 •Seniors on food stamps
 WIC AND TEAM NUTRITION PURSUE COMMON GOALS 14
 NEW HAMPSHIRE WIC PROGRAM HAS HEARTS 15
 RESEARCH PROVES WIC WORKS 16
 1996 FARM BILL NUTRITION TITLE 17
 HAPPY 50TH, SCHOOL LUNCH! 18
 FARMERS' MARKETS JOIN THE NUTRITION TEAM AT USDA 19
 VTCECH DISHES OUT FOOD TO LEARN 20
 NEW WIC MATERIALS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS 21
 USDA GLEANING UPDATE
 VERMONT AMERICORPS 22
 SOMEONE NEW IN THE NORTHEAST 24
A message from the Regional Administrator

Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps Challenges Hunger in Vermont



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

The Vermont AntiHunger, Nutrition and Empowerment AmeriCorps (VAHC) project works with Vermont communities to ensure that safe, nutritious food is available to hungry Vermonters on a consistent basis through increasing utilization of existing public food programs, enhancing community and individual involvement in reducing hunger and addressing the root causes of hunger. This program operates as a unique partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity, AmeriCorps and local anti-hunger groups.

This is no small task, as VAHC Program Director Bari Gladstone will admit, but through careful evaluation of existing programs and needs, activities are carefully designed and targeted. "One of our first activities was to map out social services in the state," she said. The results showed unlimited opportunities for the contributions of AmeriCorps members, particularly in some rural areas where services are few and far between. "Therefore it is important for us to target our efforts. Our principle objective is to provide *sustainable* services to communities that are willing to have and support us."



Living Proof: VAHC members make a big difference by actively supporting community gardening efforts.

Organized in five teams of eight members, Vermont AntiHunger Corps partners with communities that want extra hands and technical assistance. Together they create or improve sustainable strategies reducing hunger and increasing the availability and use of nutritional resources. After evaluating the needs and resources of a community, members design projects related to school breakfast programs, summer feeding programs, sustainable gardens, increased access for those eligible for food assistance programs or specialized projects.

In an effort to promote sustainable agriculture, VAHC aims to develop and improve community gardens and to begin school gardens. To develop and improve community resources, VAHC will focus on food shelves, community meal sites, home-delivered meal programs, summer food sites and school breakfast programs.

While there are too many projects to mention, VAHC activities include a wide range of permanent resource improvement that will foster community food security for years to come, and targeted campaigns that meet specific needs. These activities include:

School Breakfast and Summer Food Programs. By supporting the activities of the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger and other established organizations, VAHC members have been instrumental in starting new breakfast programs and launching new summer food sites. VAHC activities also encourage participation in established programs.

Elementary Nutrition Education Program. Members have put together a food pyramid activity that has been implemented in Craftsbury Elementary in Orleans County. The program includes music, trips to the cafeteria and preparation of healthy snacks.

High School Hunger Coalitions. VAHC members work to link high school students with community programs in need of volunteers. It is also intended to empower students to develop their own projects to fight hunger on the local level.

WIC. VAHC members assisted WIC professionals by setting up nutritionally sensitive waiting room activities, assisting with the Farm to Family program in a four-county region, providing language assistance for refugees and creating a post-partum weight-loss/nutrition class.

Community gardening. In communities across the state, VAHC members are assisting in the creation and improvement of community gardens that serve as centers for community-supported agriculture, agricultural arts and therapeutic and educational farm activities. Many of the projects benefit local food assistance providers.

Westminster Center School gardening project. VAHC members are continuing work on a school gardening project, focusing on expansion and sustainability by working with teachers on applying for grants to build a greenhouse; presenting nutrition education and cooking workshops for students; and inviting community members into the classroom to present an area of expertise as it relates to cooking, nutrition and community service.

Northwest State Correctional Facility Garden. For a second year, VAHC members will continue working with the Northwest State Correctional Facility with a greater focus on long-term sustainability. Activities include soliciting seeds, seedlings and supplies; networking with a school agriculture class to involve students in providing seedlings; and establishing an on-site well and irrigation system. Work with the Southeastern Vermont Correctional Facility Garden will also continue with an emphasis on finding community partners to sustain distribution.

Support to the Chittenden Emergency Foodshelf. VAHC members provided a variety of services, including staff support, materials which address special diets and the translation of brochures for recipients who read Russian, Serbian and Vietnamese.

Utensil drive. In several locations, VAHC members collect pots, pans and kitchen utensils from restaurants, housing cooperatives and church congregations for distribution to youth in transition, needy families and individuals.

Lifeskills for Offenders. VAHC members will expand last year's nutrition education curriculum for youthful offenders, and will include a new gardening component. Also, a new program focusing on cooking and nutrition curriculum will be provided to men in a court diversion program in Brattleboro.

Nutrition Services for Champlain Valley Meals on Wheels Recipients. Members evaluate qualifications, nutritional behaviors and associated needs of elder recipients. Sustainability of the project is ensured through partnership with the University of Vermont.

Food Resource List. Encompassing three counties, this comprehensive list includes days, hours and other information for community meals, food shelves and congregate meal sites.

Commodities Distribution Assistance. In preparation for the termination of this program, VAHC members are working in four counties in central Vermont to make the transition away from commodity-based assistance as smooth as possible through fact-finding and referrals.

These outstanding accomplishments - constituting only a portion of the activities of the Vermont AmeriCorps program - place in perspective the impact such grassroots organizations can have on the health and well-being of the nation. USDA, in fact, is running AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of approximately 1350 members addressing issues of public lands and environment and rural development as well as hunger. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done while boosting community, opportunity and responsibility.

The accomplishments of all AmeriCorps/USDA members during the program's inaugural year are outlined in "AmeriCorps/USDA ... at work." The report details service provided during nearly 2 million hours of service by the 1200 AmeriCorps members sponsored by USDA in anti-hunger and other projects.

Copies of the report can be obtained by calling (202) 720-4369, sending an e-mail message to kgibney@usda.gov, or writing to AmeriCorps, Room 538-A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300.



Accomplishing so much with so little: Vermont's AntiHunger Corps have devoted many hours to developing sustainable programs, including USDA food and nutrition assistance programs.