

A Monthly Serving of Service – Missouri Community Service Commission Newsletter

Missouri Community Service Commission Staff: **Linda Thompson**, Executive Director, **Kevin Edwards**, Chief Field Program Officer, **Andre Grinston**, Program Officer, **Vicky Thomann**, Program Officer, **Katie Bellers**, Events Planner and Program Development Coordinator

JANUARY 2012 CALENDAR:

- 2
New Year's Day
(Observed) – MCSC
OFFICE CLOSED
- 4
Drawdowns
- 12
Linda Thompson's
Birthday
- 16
Dr. Martin Luther King
Day – MCSC OFFICE
CLOSED
- 17
Staff Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- 18
Legislative Education
Committee Conference
Call – 10:00 a.m.
- Competitive and
Planning Grant
Applications Due to
Corporation
- Drawdowns
- 19
Program Committee
Conference Call – 9:00
a.m.
- Service and
Development Committee
Conference Call – 12:00
p.m.
- 20
Executive Committee
Conference Call – 9:00
a.m.
- 23
Monthly Check-in with
CNCS Program Officer
- 24
Commissioner Quarterly
Meeting (Conference
Call) – 9:00 a.m.
- 30
MCSC Staff Meeting

2011 – 2012 MCSC Strategic Calendar

The Missouri Community Service Commission sent out the annual MCSC Strategic Calendar to all Commissioners, Program Directors and Staff in November. From this strategic calendar, A Monthly Serving of Service was born.

The purpose of this newsletter is to quickly inform you of upcoming dates and events, as well as highlight Programs' outstanding service

across our great state of Missouri. The calendar was sent in an excel form and will hopefully allow everyone to adequately mark their calendars for the coming year.

If you have any questions, concerns or additions for the calendar, please contact one of the members of the Missouri Community Service Commission Staff and we will do our best to make this calendar as accurate

as possible. All of the site visit dates will be added to the calendar, and featured in our newsletter, as they are planned.

We encourage Commissioners to attend as many local site visits as you can to see all of the impressive service that our AmeriCorps Members are executing across Missouri. For more information about site visits, please contact a Program Officer

Governor Nixon visits Harvesters

Missouri Governor, Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon visited Harvesters Community Food Network in November and spent some time with the AmeriCorps Members who were there that day.

Though the main purpose of his visit was to highlight the Share the Harvest program (for hunters who want to donate processed deer meat), and to announce additional funding for Missouri food banks, he took several minutes to talk with the members who were available.

Governor Nixon specifically mentioned what a great thing he thought they were doing here in Kansas City by serving for a year; and then reiterated how valuable AmeriCorps Members were, and continue to be, in Joplin.



Pictured (l to r): Ann Van Zee, Audrey Merz, Teresa Scalard, Caroline Gurney, Sara Hazan, Gov. Jay Nixon, VISTA Jennifer Recer (in back), Rachel Ibok, Katelynn Evans, Kacey Kellum

Bootheel Youth Museum Partners for Award



We have some of the best programs in the country and we are thrilled when they are recognized.

Malden Elementary School, in partnership with Bootheel Youth Museum AmeriCorps after-school Program received the Outstanding School Age Care Program Award 2010/2011 from the after school division at the Department for Elementary and

Secondary Education. (award is pictured left)

With an average of 220 participants weekly, the Members present at science workshops each evening helped Malden Elementary School win this award.

Patsy Reublin is the Program Director for the Bootheel Youth Museum.

The goal of the Bootheel Youth Museum (BYM)

Southeast Missouri Project Learning Experiences (SMPL) AmeriCorps program is to provide hands-on activities which strengthen the educational foundation of children. BYM SMPL AmeriCorps Members provide educational enrichment activities throughout Southeast Missouri in area schools, with community organizations and for museum guests.

"We have some of the best programs in the country and we are thrilled when they are recognized"



Daphney Partridge, Program Director for PAVE AmeriCorps Program in Eldon, Missouri, and Kim Hawk, Program Director in Waynesville, Missouri were nominated and selected to attend the American Express Leadership Academy in Washington D.C.

Developed in June 2008, the American Express Leadership Academy is a

week-long program created by American Express in partnership with the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL), highly regarded as a leading practitioner of leadership education and research. The purpose of the program is to develop dedicated emerging leaders ready to serve at the helm of the country's nonprofit sector.

The 2011 Leadership

Academy, in collaboration with the Corporation for National and Community Service took place in the Washington, DC, area, November 14-18, 2011, focusing on the national service priorities of education and veterans and military families.

Congratulations to Daphney and Kim (pictured left) on their selection to attend the Leadership Academy.



Recognition of Programs

The Missouri Community Service Commission is calling to all Programs across the state of Missouri to send us information on any awards or recognitions that you receive.

We will be highlighting at

least two programs a month in this newsletter, but we can only do that if you tell us about your achievements.

Please make sure that you include a description of the award/recognition, a photo to go in the

newsletter (with caption) and where/which organization the award/recognition is from.

Please send all award information to Katie Bellers, 573.526.1609 or send an e-mail to katie.bellers@ded.mo.gov

AmeriCorps Member Great Stories – Vanessa Webber

The Missouri Community Service Commission will be featuring a Great Story written by a current AmeriCorps Member each month. This month's featured Great Story was written by Vanessa Webber from the Waynesville AmeriCorps program.

“Turning Around A Rough Start”

By Vanessa Webber

On August 24th, just a few days after the start of the new school year, I was asked to sit in on a meeting concerning a child who was having difficulties. Another AmeriCorps Member, the assistant principal, teacher, school nurse, counselor, parents, and myself had all come together to troubleshoot and brainstorm options for this child. It was a true team meeting.

According to his teacher, the child had turned in only one piece of (incomplete) work in the first week of school. He had also had several office referrals for getting physical with the other children. While at his desk during work time, the child was very disruptive and often would sit under his desk and make animal noises or throw temper tantrums. The team decided, among other interventions, that he would be placed on Check & Connect so that I could

check in with him and try to keep him on task. This also gave him the opportunity to sit with me privately and achieve some of his work one-on-one without distractions.

This was a very complicated case, and one of the real issues was that the child was clearly not receiving the accommodations that seemed necessary to all of the school professionals involved. Due to a variety of stressful home dynamics, the family had not provided the school with the medical records that were required to move forward with providing the needed placements and interventions.

After the meeting, I began meeting with the student often. We worked on the class work that he had not completed, and we worked on the homework that he refused to complete at home. I asked the student to set some goals, and he decided that “See Mrs. Vanessa at Club Tiger” was a great goal to have. Club Tiger is the after school program that our AmeriCorps team runs each day after school. This involved not only getting cooperation from his grandmother, but also procuring a scholarship for him to attend the after school program. The child started Club Tiger the following Monday! He was

so excited to be there; we worked on his schoolwork, he played with the other children, and he had a great time. Having my Check & Connect child attend Club Tiger also gave me the opportunity to form a closer relationship with his grandmother, and as of yesterday...she brought me the medical paperwork that everyone has been requesting. I promised her that I would personally see to it that the paperwork went to the right person, and she seemed so relieved.

As of today his medical paperwork has been turned in, and hopefully he will be on the road to receiving further

services and accommodations. I couldn't stand to see this bright student on the verge of failing so early in the school year, and seeing the bleak outlook that has been held for this child broke my heart. I'm so proud to have been here with Waynesville AmeriCorps Check & Connect to support the school and family, and give this child a mentor; someone he knows is only concerned that he has the best possible outcome. We have given him someone to trust!



Waynesville AmeriCorps Member, Vanessa Webber (pictured above) wrote the accompanying Great Story. She is a tutor in the Waynesville School District.



Spotlight Program – American Red Cross: Prevent, Prepare, Respond

AmeriCorps Members:

- Melissa Fox
- Angela Gossett
- Bob Gruhn
- David Harbour
- David Horton
- Kristan Lee
- Jenny Schad
- Susan Tingstrom
- Billie Weaver

AmeriCorps Program Staff:

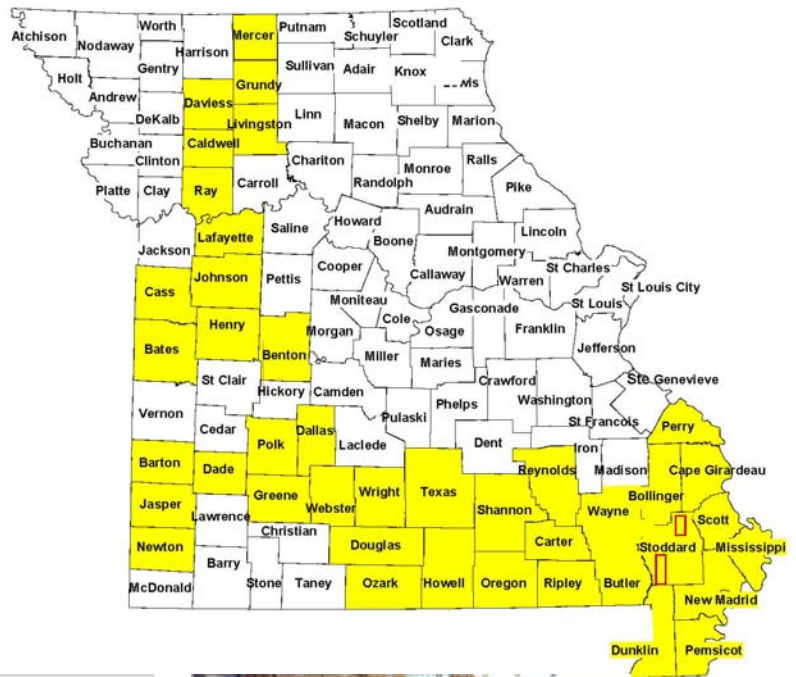
- Luke Bolz**, Program Director
- Anne Knopf**, Assistant Program Director
- Sara Loar**, Assistant Program Director

The American Red Cross “Prevent, Prepare, Respond” AmeriCorps program will meet the needs of underserved people in the rural areas of Missouri. Members will work within specific counties to: recruit new disaster relief volunteers to tend to the needs of those displaced by natural or man-made disasters;

teach life-saving skills such as CPR, First Aid, and Disaster Preparedness to their communities; and strengthen relationships and partnerships with many disaster related organizations to improve the services delivered to those affected by disasters. Through this program, communities in

Missouri will be revitalized with a spirit of service to their neighbors, and will be better prepared when disaster strikes.

The counties served by the American Red Cross AmeriCorps Program are highlighted in yellow on the map below.



“Our Members have saved lives, and made their communities a better place, both through their direct Service and through the Volunteers they have recruited and trained.”
 -Kristofer “Luke” Bolz, Program Director

Below: AmeriCorps Members with the Program help to coordinate blood drives across rural Southern and



Above: Disaster Training Specialist – Response AmeriCorps Member Kristan Lee gathers materials for a Disaster Frontline Supervisor Course, training 24 community volunteers how to be leaders during disaster

Recognize extraordinary volunteers — Drum Majors for Service — with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

"Yes, if you want to say that I a was drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice; say that I was a drum major for peace; I was a drum major for righteousness... We all have the drum major instinct."

Excerpt from Dr. King's "Drum Major Instinct" sermon, given on February 4, 1968

Martin Luther King Day of Service will be January 16, 2012. The Missouri Community Service Commission is encouraging each program to recognize this Day of Service.

For anyone who would

like to nominate a Member, a volunteer or a community member involved with your organization, please take a moment to visit <http://mlkday.gov/>.

The deadline for ordering this award is December 23, 2011. The recipient will receive an official President's Volunteer Service Awards lapel pin, a personalized Certificate of Achievement, and a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States.

To nominate for this award you will need the

following information:

- Name
- Volunteer hours
- Age Range (kids, young adult, adult)

You can share your MLK Drum Major for Service story by e-mailing MLKDay@cns.gov. Be sure to tell about the person who you would like to honor and the service they have done.

Please let the Commission know if you have any MLK Drum Major for Service Award recipients within your Program.



2012 Award Nominations

The 2012 Missouri Community Service Commission Annual Celebration of Service and Volunteerism is just around the corner.

All Programs are encouraged to nominate as many Members, community members, volunteers and even businesses who have served communities across the state.

There are several different categories of awards to choose from and to qualify for within the Nomination Form.

The deadline to submit award nominations is Friday, February 10, 2012, no later than 3:00 p.m.

Any nomination that does not follow the criteria listed on the nomination form, does not meet the qualifications for the award or does not arrive at the Missouri Community Service Commission office (with the exception of the High School Youth Community Service Award, see nomination form for details) by 3:00 p.m. on February 10, 2012 will not be accepted.

The nomination form can be found on the Missouri Community Service Commission website, www.movolunteers.org or contact Katie Bellers for more information or with any questions regarding the 2012 awards.

katie.bellers@ded.mo.gov

or 573.526.1609

The Service and Development Committee will score and choose the awards recipients. Recipients will be recognized at the Annual Celebration on April 19th.

"Yes, if you want to say that I a was drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice; say that I was a drum major for peace; I was a drum major for righteousness... We all have the drum major instinct"
Excerpt from Dr. King's "Drum Major Instinct" sermon, given on February 4, 1968