# Missouri Community Service Commission

2010-2011 Annual Report

# The AmeriCorps Pledge

A

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

### Letter from the Governor



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON GOVERNOR Jefferson City 65102

P.O. Box 720 (573) 751-3222

Dear Friends:

The roots of volunteerism extend deep into the rocks, bluffs and valleys of Missouri. As you review this annual report of the Missouri Community Service Commission, you will see exactly what I mean. Missourians are some of the most giving people on the planet. The report demonstrates that AmeriCorps is working in Missouri to build our communities. AmeriCorps members throughout the state serve as tutors in schools, assist at food banks, provide disaster relief, protect our streams and contribute other services in order to get things done for Missouri.

AmeriCorps Missouri is a means by which the Missouri Community Service Commission connects Missourians of all ages and backgrounds in an effort to improve unmet community needs through direct and tangible service. AmeriCorps Members give one to two years of their lives to address the most pressing needs in their communities. They reach out to their fellow citizens and recruit others to join them in their fight against illiteracy, poverty, crime, homelessness and other social problems. Members help change lifestyles and build healthy futures. These members see a society that has hope and they want to be a part of strengthening their own communities.

I invite you to review this annual report and learn how the Missouri Community Service Commission is helping people change the lives of those around them for the better.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah W. (Jac) Nixon Governor



www.governor.mo.gov

# Letter from the Missouri Community Service Commission

Dear Friends,

Since 1994 the Missouri Community Service Commission (MCSC) has helped build a sense of community and volunteerism throughout the state of Missouri by encouraging volunteerism and by providing grants to local communities.

The MCSC receives its funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service in Washington, DC. The purpose of these funds is to enable local communities and 501(c) 3 not-forprofit organizations the ability to implement AmeriCorps programs in their geographical areas. AmeriCorps Members serve to address the most pressing local civic needs in their communities and neighborhoods in areas of Education, Disaster Services, Veterans and Military Families, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures and other human needs.

We hope that you enjoy reviewing the MCSC's annual report for 2010-2011. If you have questions or comments, you may contact us at (573) 751-7488 or toll-free at (877) 210-7611.

Sincerely,

Linda Thompson

Linda Thompson Executive Director *Janis Van Meter* Janis Van Meter Chair

# **OVERVIEW**

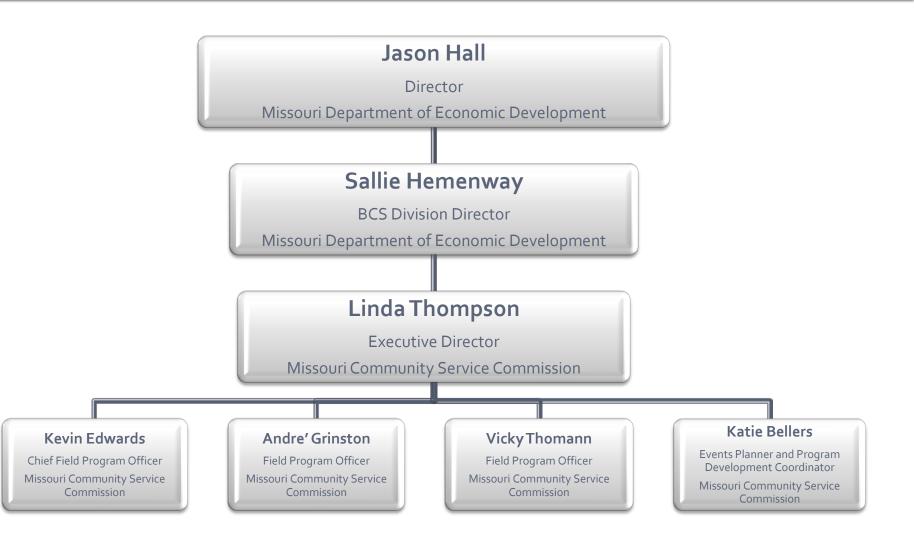
The Missouri Community Service Commission was created as a result of the National and Community Service Act drafted under the Clinton administration by a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress in June of 1993. The bill was signed into law on September 21, 1993. The legislation created the Corporation for National and Community Service to administer AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the existing national service programs of VISTA and SeniorCorps.

The Missouri Community Service Commission was created by the Missouri Legislature in 1994 during the Carnahan administration.

The Missouri Community Service Commission is housed within the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

The Commission, by Statute, is composed of 15-25 commissioners appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

# **Organizational Chart**



### Commissioners

Janis K. VanMeter, Chair Nina North Murphy, Vice Chair Michael Laverty, Ex Officio – CNCS Erika Brandl, Ex Officio – DESE Linda Duffy, Chair of Program Committee Forrest Miller, Chair of Public Relations Committee Lori Rasmussen, Chair of Service & Development Committee John Albright, Chair of Legislative Education Committee (LEC) Lt. Governor Peter Kinder (Jay Eastlick, Proxy) Chris Nicastro, DESE Director (Cindy Heislen, Proxy) Andres Dominguez **Randall McArthur** Amanda Shelton **Elaine Powers Russell Unger** Cheryl Hibbeler **Daniel Kappel** 

# Mission

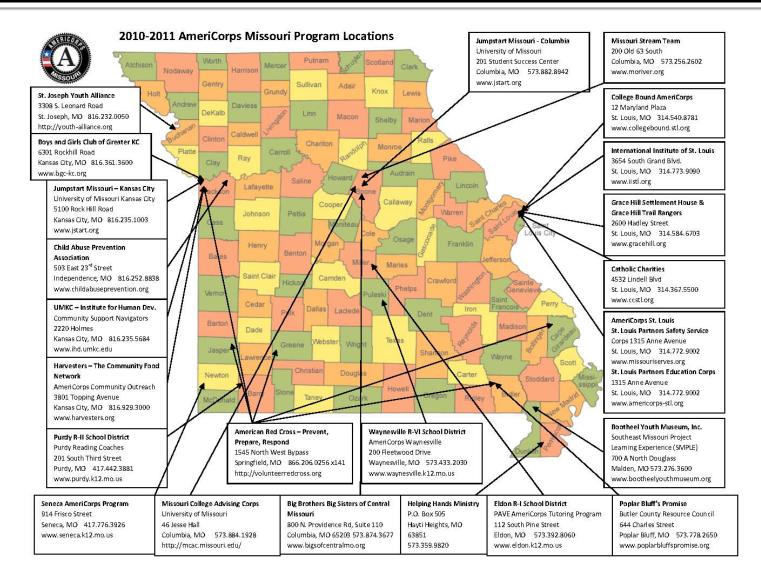
The Missouri Community Service Commission (MCSC) connects Missourians of all ages and backgrounds in an effort to improve unmet community needs through direct and tangible service. The MCSC serves as the administrator for AmeriCorps State funding in Missouri by awarding monetary grants and providing technical assistance and support to its sub-grantees.



# To Strengthen Missouri Communities Through Volunteerism and Service.



### 2010-2011 Portfolio of Programs



#### American Red Cross: Prevent, Prepare, Respond

This AmeriCorps program meets the needs of underserved people in the rural areas of Southern Missouri. Members 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 to strengthen relationships and partnerships with many disaster related organizations to improve the services delivered to those affected by disasters. Through this program, communities in Southern Missouri will be revitalized with a spirit of service to their neighbors, and will be better prepared when disaster strikes



Right: AmeriCorps Member from the American Red Cross: Prevent, Prepare Respond Program gathers supplies to teach a CPR Class in Southwest MO. Left: AmeriCorps Members from the American Red Cross: Prevent, Prepare Respond Program pose with an AmeriCorps sign during orientation.



#### AmeriCorps St. Louis Education Corps

Members serve as a team, partnered with teachers, in grades K-8 in the inner city of St. Louis. Teams focus on literacy and communication skills; often using experiential learning and service learning as tools. Members also address other issues i.e. – individual tutoring, developing peer tutoring systems, after-school and summer expanded learning, parental involvement, and assistance to ESL and bilingual students.

Program Director: Kathleen Becherer

Right: AmeriCorps Member from the Education Corps poses with a student who he tutored. This Member also volunteered to re-design the AmeriCorps St. Louis website.





Left: AmeriCorps Member from the Education Corps poses during a service project for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

#### AmeriCorps St. Louis Safety Service Corps

The Safety Service Corps, commonly known as the Emergency Response Team (ERT), addresses critical unmet needs in 2 areas: **Disaster Services and Conservation.** Since 1994, the ERT has assisted over 30 states and more than 65 of Missouri's 105 counties by quickly responding to underserved and overwhelmed disaster affected communities—leveraging coordinated volunteers and assisting emergency management and disaster relief organizations to address immediate unmet needs and to develop an enhanced capacity to recover, especially for vulnerable populations. When not involved in disaster response, the ERT conducts community preparedness projects and undertakes natural resource stewardship projects to benefit the environment.



Above: AmeriCorps Members from the Safety Service Corps share a group hug during disaster response in Joplin, Missouri following the devastating tornado in 2011.

Left: AmeriCorps Member from the Safety Service Corps utilizes his chainsaw skills during response to a disaster.

#### Program Director: Bruce Bailey

#### AmeriCorps Waynesville

The AmeriCorps Waynesville project is designed to provide academic support to struggling K-8 students at all district schools. The program is based on providing service to students who are at the greatest risk of school failure. The program provides tutoring intervention to students in communication arts, reading and math.





Above: AmeriCorps Members from AmeriCorps Waynesville pose with some of the students they tutor.

Left: AmeriCorps Members from AmeriCorps Waynesville serve through the Club TIGER program at the pet-parade in Waynesville, Missouri.

#### Program Director: Dr. Kim Hawk

#### AmeriCorps Poplar Bluff's Promise

Members address two primary areas of community need; strengthening the community in order to sustain and enhance achievements in reduced rates of juvenile crime and assisting in the area of disaster response preparedness. Members conduct after-school learning activities, tutor students, increase program enrollment and recruit volunteers to serve. Members serve in three school districts, two Head Start programs, after-school programs, Scouting, a domestic violence shelter, and the Adult Education and Literacy program.

> Right: AmeriCorps Members from AmeriCorps Poplar Bluff's Promise stand and take the AmeriCorps Pledge during their orientation at the beginning of their service year.

**Program Director: Rebecca Winters** 



Above: AmeriCorps Members from AmeriCorps Poplar Bluff's Promise serve during their Project Christmas Promise Service Project.



#### Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri

The Central Missouri Mentoring Partnership Project train AmeriCorps *Members to work side-by-side with Big* Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri *mentors and staff to serve more at-risk* children who have educational needs. Over three years AmeriCorps Members will recruit 600 mentors in Columbia, Mexico and Moberly who will serve children from 23 elementary and middle schools. Members recruit and coordinate volunteers; paying special attention to training the Big Brothers/Sisters to assist their Little's in their academic performance. The Big/Little matches may be in either the Community-Based or School-Based programs.



Above: AmeriCorps Members from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri take a break from their service project to pose for a photo. Also pictured with the AmeriCorps Members is Program Officer, Vicky Thomann (Commission Staff).

#### Bootheel Youth Museum SMPLE

The goal of the Bootheel Youth Museum (BYM) Southeast Missouri Project Learning Experiences (SMPLE) AmeriCorps program is to provide hands-on activities to strengthen the educational foundation of children. BYM SMPLE AmeriCorps Members provide educational enrichment activities throughout Southeast Missouri in area schools, with community organizations and for museum guests. SMPLE is a collaborative partnership between the Bootheel Youth Museum and Lincoln University Cooperative Extension.





Above: AmeriCorps Members from the Bootheel Youth Museum SMPLE pose with their students during a science experiment.

Left: AmeriCorps Members from the Bootheel Youth Museum SMPLE in front of an exhibit displayed inside of the Bootheel Youth Museum.

**Program Director: Patsy Reublin** 

### Child Abuse Prevention Association

Child Abuse Prevention Association's (CAPA) mission is to prevent and treat all forms of child abuse by creating changes in individuals, families and society which strengthens relationships and promotes healing. CAPA strengthens families and prevents child abuse by utilizing three basic methods: Education and Community Awareness, Family Support Services, and Treatment Services for Children and Families.



Left: Child Abuse Prevention Association AmeriCorps Members recruited volunteers for the Wrapping Day and ran toy drives at community locations

Right: Child Abuse Prevention Association AmeriCorps Members helped to wrap hundreds of gifts for families in the community needing assistance over the holidays.



**Program Director: Melody Morgan** 

#### College Bound AmeriCorps

College Bound's mission is to provide promising high school students from underresourced backgrounds with the academic enrichment, social supports and life skills needed to apply, matriculate and succeed in four-year colleges. AmeriCorps Members serve as College Coaches, Persistence Coaches, Families as Partners Coordinators, Outreach and Awareness Coordinators or as Program Leaders. The College Coaches mentor high school students through the processes of preparing for and applying to college. Persistence Coaches work to support students as they pursue their bachelor's degree. The Families as Partners Coordinator creates materials and programs that allow College Bound families to engage in their child's higher education planning and preparation. The Outreach and Awareness Coordinator develops workshops with 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes to present the steps it takes to get into college and the Program Leader coordinates enrichment programming such as service learning, cultural enrichment, and leadership programs for College Bound students.





**Program Director: Katie Bench** 

Left: College Bound's AmeriCorps team with Congressman Russ Carnahan. On October 19, 2011. Congressman Carnahan stopped by College Bound's office to learn about their program and to talk to students about the importance of college access.

Left: College Bound's AmeriCorps Member teaming up with CB families to assemble care packages for college students.

#### Grace Hill Settlement House

AmeriCorps Members serve with families and support Settlement House staff to develop stronger neighborhoods and strengthen families by providing capacity to overwhelmed social service institutions, with the end result of strengthening both the community and families. The AmeriCorps project role is two-fold: 1) to ensure positive life changes for persons in need and crisis through the successful execution of case management plans set by agency professional staff and supported by AmeriCorps Members; and 2) to support successful school experiences leading to increased high school graduations and attendance at institutions of higher education.





Top and Bottom: Grace Hill AmeriCorps Members perform at the Annual Celebration of Service and Volunteerism.



### Grace Hill Trail Rangers

AmeriCorps Trail Rangers assist in the lead development of the St. Louis Riverfront Trail and neighborhood connections to strengthen impoverished North City riverside communities, reinforce community responsibility, and provide educational and financial opportunities to its residents. Rangers continue to maintain the Trail area and provide services to over 13,500 annual Trail users. Rangers also give presentations that cover the topic of native plants, history, recycling, and their role.





Above: Grace Hill Trail Rangers maintain the Trail area and provide services to over 13,500 trail users.

Left: Grace Hill Trail Rangers gain leadership experience by conducting volunteer events throughout their terms of service.

**Program Director: Doug Eller** 

#### Harvesters Community Outreach

Harvester's mission is to feed hungry people today and work to end hunger tomorrow. Through a network of 600+ agencies, children, families, and seniors throughout a 26-county region are fed. Members serve in key areas, including: volunteer services, food drives, outreach, and nutrition education. By engaging the community, Members increase awareness about hunger issues, secure perishable and non-perishable food items, and ensure volunteer support in acquiring and distributing donations quickly to those in need. Members also provide children and adults, who receive food assistance, with nutrition classes, resources and cooking ideas to enable them to make healthy lifestyle choices.



Above: Harvesters Community Outreach AmeriCorps team pictured with Governor Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon during his visit to the Harvesters Food Bank in Kansas City, Missouri.

#### International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis

In the International Institute of St. Louis Client Services program, AmeriCorps Members meet the needs of clients, while enriching their own lives, by assisting in providing adjustment services to help refugees rebuild their lives, integrate into their new communities, and become self-sufficient as soon as possible. Working as part of a team and with the assistance of bi-lingual staff as needed, Members are well-integrated into the agency's service delivery system and assigned to areas including: Child Services, Benefits, Employment, Medical Services, Social Work, and the Global Farm. Depending on their assignment, Members meet and greet families at the airport; conduct orientations; assist clients with completing applications; link clients to services and programs; schedule appointments; coordinate activities; recruit, assess and enroll clients in programs; teach life skills, home management, job preparation and farming/marketing classes; assist clients in job searches; and recruit volunteers.

Right (both photos): AmeriCorps Members from International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis serve with other AmeriCorps programs during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.





**Program Director: Jane Knirr** 

### Catholic Charities Community Services

As the economic conditions in St. Louis worsen, individuals and families are at growing risk of both economic and mental health crises. Catholic Charities Community Services proposes to begin a "Community Mental Health" AmeriCorps project to address this troubling problem in their community. A group of five AmeriCorps Members, the majority of whom will be masters-level social workers, will provide mental health counseling to individuals and groups, assist with homelessness prevention case-management and provide direct aid assistance, and lead financial literacy education with groups of vulnerable individuals. Members will operate out of existing Catholic Charities Community Services outreach sites strategically located in vulnerable St. Louis area neighborhoods.



Above: Catholic Charities Community Services Members pose together in the spirit of "Getting Things Done" before a service project in the St. Louis, Missouri area.

#### Jumpstart Missouri – Columbia & Kansas City

To combat the crisis in early education, Jumpstart joins together dedicated college students, called Corps Members, and preschool children from low-income communities. During the course of a school year, Jumpstart Corps Members utilize Jumpstart's high-quality early education programming to help young children develop the language, literacy and social skills essential for success in kindergarten and in life. Through this relationship, Jumpstart inspires children to learn, adults to teach, families to get involved, and communities to progress together. Jumpstart is working toward the day every child in America enters school prepared to succeed.

Program Director: Chrissie Bennett (Columbia Program), Silvina Munita (Kansas City Program).



Left: AmeriCorps Member from the Jumpstart Program reads to children during the 'Read for the Record' event.

Right: AmeriCorps Members from the Jumpstart Program are all smiles after their 'Read for the Record' event. Over 1000 children read the chosen book for this event throughout the day.



### Missouri College Advising Corps

The Missouri College Advising Corps (MCAC) helps Missouri students gain access to college. MCAC is headquartered at the University of Missouri (MU), one of 10 inaugural corps in the national consortium of now 14 state corps. MCAC is a full-time, nonprofit college-access advising program that helps high school and community college students understand that they can complete a 4-year college degree, find their "best fit" postsecondary institution, and navigate the process of applying for admission and financial aid. MCAC guides are intensively trained, at both the state and national levels, to serve in their role and provide resources to plan and facilitate college-planning workshops (e.g., FAFSA completion, financial literacy, completing college admissions) as well as to take students on campus tours so that students can experience college life and "see" themselves as belonging and succeeding there.

#### Program Director: Dr. Beth Tankersley-Bankhead



Left: AmeriCorps Members from Missouri College Advising Corps pose with U.S. Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II during National College Adviser training.

Right: AmeriCorps Members from Missouri College Advising Corps pose during the College Advising Corps National Training in Washington D.C.



#### PAVE AmeriCorps

PAVE AmeriCorps Members provide one-on-one and small group tutoring to at-risk students in the Eldon R-I School District. Tutoring in communication arts, reading and math occurs at four campuses and includes 4th through 12th grade students as well as students enrolled in the Mustang Academy. Members mobilize and support community and parent volunteers to enhance community involvement in the school and expand services provided to atrisk students.

Program Director: Daphney Partridge

Right: AmeriCorps Member from PAVE AmeriCorps tutors a high school student in math.





Left: AmeriCorps Members from PAVE AmeriCorps in Eldon, Missouri prepare to recruit volunteers during the homecoming festivities.

#### Purdy Reading Coaches

AmeriCorps Members provide literacy based tutoring to Kindergarten through 4th grade students. A varied approach is used which includes one-on-one tutoring as well as small group sessions. Additional components of the program include Vision Tutoring and a special emphasis on the needs of non-native English speakers.

#### Program Director: Renae Neill

**Right: Purdy** Reading Coaches perform an original song at the Annual Celebration of Service and Volunteerism. They were the final act and brought the house down!



Left: AmeriCorps Members from Purdy Reading Coaches pose for a group picture during orientation.



#### Seneca R-7 AmeriCorps

Seneca AmeriCorps Members serve in the Elementary School and Middle School as Reading Coaches and as mentors to students identified as at-risk in the afterschool programs. Members also serve on the local capacity building committee to increase the effectiveness of community service as well as recruit volunteers. Right: AmeriCorps Members from Seneca R-7 AmeriCorps take a break during a service project with Habitat for Humanity.





Left: AmeriCorps Members from Seneca R-7 AmeriCorps make sugar cookies with students during the after school program.

**Program Director: Kim Wilson** 

#### St. Joseph Youth Alliance

It is the goal of the St. Joseph Youth Alliance and its partners to reduce substance use and abuse among youth and to strengthen collaboration among community partners through the development and implementation of expanded services for youth. This is done through blending existing prevention efforts with the developmental asset philosophy to create an approach to community building that has the potential to complement, strengthen, and expand substance use prevention efforts through community-building strategies. AmeriCorps Members are placed with partnering organizations to develop and implement multi-faceted strategies designed to increase developmental assets and reduce the likelihood of youth substance use and abuse.

**Program Director: Anita Jolly** 



Right: AmeriCorps Member from St. Joseph Youth Alliance makes a craft project with students to reduce the likelihood of youth substance use and abuse. AmeriCorps Member from St. Joseph Youth Alliance engages in activities with students in an effort to reduce substance abuse among youth.

Left:



#### Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City



By building capacity through the service of AmeriCorps Members and community partners, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kansas City will reach additional youth in need through Project Learn, Deepening Impact, and Communication Arts Tutoring. These programs are designed to give school-age youth access to academic support away from school; improve the ability to learn; boost academic selfesteem; and improve performance in standardized testing and overall school performance.

### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**

### OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



**Program Director: Keisha Clay** 

#### Missouri River Communities Network

The Missouri Stream Teams AmeriCorps Project (MSTAP) works to recruit, train and involve 58,000 volunteers and Stream Team Members in Missouri to adopt local streams and work on water quality activities in their local areas. Activities include: water quality monitoring, litter pickups, storm drain stenciling, educational presentations, outreach to new teams, etc.





Above: AmeriCorps Members from Missouri River Communities Network pull honeysuckle as part of their service.

Left: AmeriCorps Members from Missouri River Communities Network clean up an area in Columbia.

**Program Director: Steve Johnson** 

#### Helping Hands Ministry Network

Southeast Community Builders (SCB) AmeriCorps creates economic opportunities by providing an introduction to the construction industry for youth through the sponsorship of a Construction Careers Summer Academy for youth ages 16-24. SCB AmeriCorps provides opportunities for community service through the provision of low cost or no cost home repair services to low income, elderly and disabled residents. Our partnerships with labor unions in the region will help to provide nationally recognized training and advanced apprenticeship opportunities for youth from disadvantaged circumstances and limited economic communities. This project represents the first such project of its kind in this region whereby the non-profit, education, public business and labor communities have come together to address unmet housing and job training needs. SCB AmeriCorps also allows the community to develop its own disaster relief strategy while providing opportunities for local youth to serve their own communities through Learn and Serve projects.



#### UMKC Institute for Human Development Community Support Navigators

The Missouri Community Service Commission contracts with Missouri's University Center on Excellence for Developmental Disabilities, which is housed within the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The Institute for Human Development (IHD) helps to assist in identifying strategies for recruitment and successful service completion involving people with disabilities. IHD provides outreach to the disabled community by promoting service opportunities, working with local sponsor sites to increase awareness, developing capacity for Members with disabilities to serve, etc. Over 5,000 individuals with disabilities, family members, key supports and professionals at 20 events received information on how ALL people can serve, not only in AmeriCorps, but also in other streams of National Service.

Program Director: Jane St. John





Left and Above: People with disabilities were given the opportunity to serve as Honorary AmeriCorps Members at Harvesters Food Bank. They received a tour and completed a service project with AmeriCorps Members from Harvesters Community Outreach AmeriCorps Program.



Members from the Bootheel Youth Museum take a moment to enjoy each other during their AmeriCorps Service. Many times the Members bond through Service and leave as life-long friends who share a passion for Service.











The AmeriCorps Recovery Center in Joplin has been in operation since May 22, 2011.





Members from Jumpstart take a timeout from their everyday Service to get involved in service projects around their community. AmeriCorps Members are such a versatile group who are willing to "Get Things Done" in every area of their community!



AmeriCorps Member from the International Institute sorts some of the children's donations that their organization receives. The International Institute is based in St. Louis, Missouri.

#### DEMOGRAPHICS

#### Impact The following pages will demonstrate impact made in Missouri by AmeriCorps Programs.

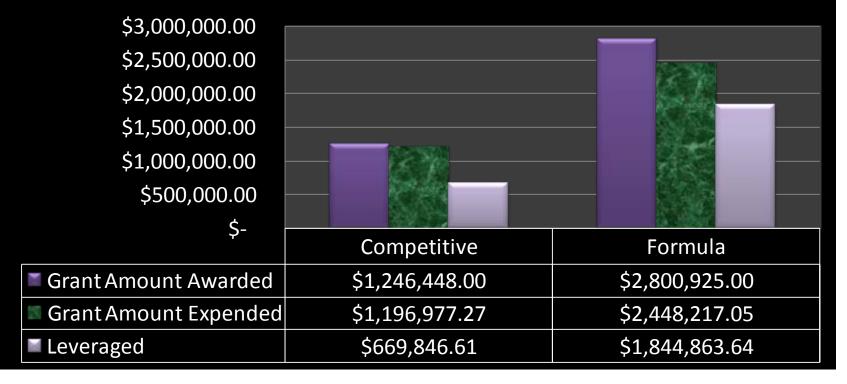
## Funding

Funding is provided to the Missouri Community Service Commission from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and from the State of Missouri's General Revenue (GR) fund.

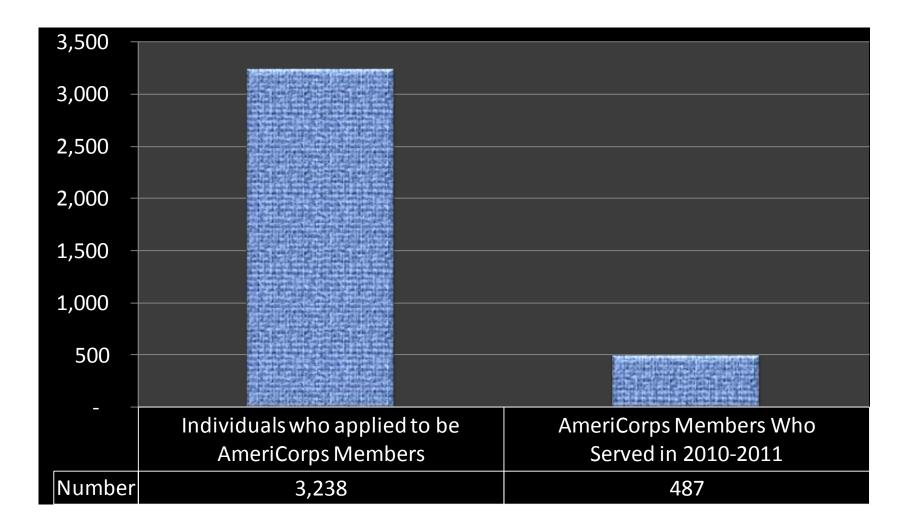
Fund	Source	Purpose	Amount
Administrative & General Revenue	CNCS GR	Operating expenses, salaries, supplies, travel, and other overhead costs.	\$377,088 (CNCS) \$33,019 (GR)
Program Development and Training (PDAT)	CNCS	Development and training of sub-grantees.	\$121,375
Inclusion	CNCS	Outreach to individuals with disabilities to provide them the opportunity to share in the AmeriCorps experience.	\$76,141
Formula	CNCS	Sub-granted to qualifying organizations to implement AmeriCorps programs.	\$2,800,925
Competitive	CNCS	Sub-granted to qualifying organizations to implement AmeriCorps programs.	\$1,246,448

### **ROI (Return On Investment)**

Formula and competitive dollars are sub-granted to qualifying organizations to implement AmeriCorps programs in their communities and neighborhoods. Additional dollars are leveraged as a result of those federal dollars. Leveraged dollars may be a combination of cash and in-kind.

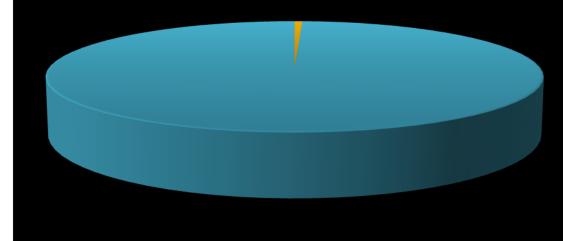


### Number of Applicants vs. Number of AmeriCorps Members



### **Volunteer Recruitment**

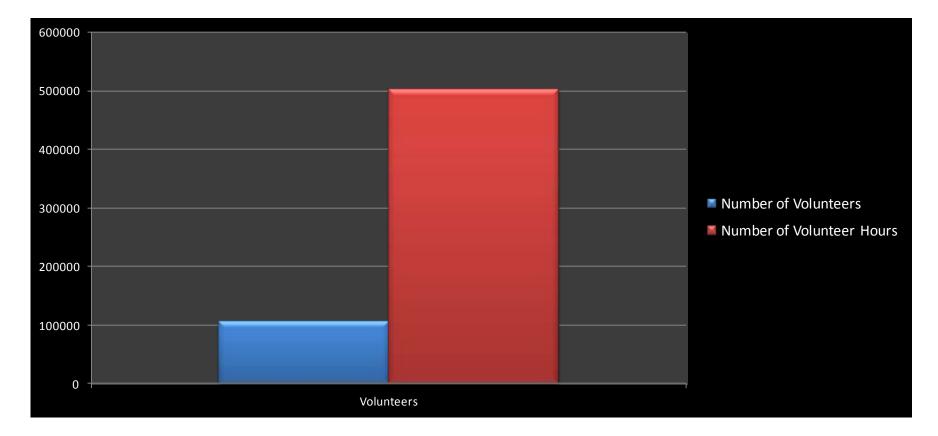
#### 487 AmeriCorps Members recruited 85,376 volunteers.



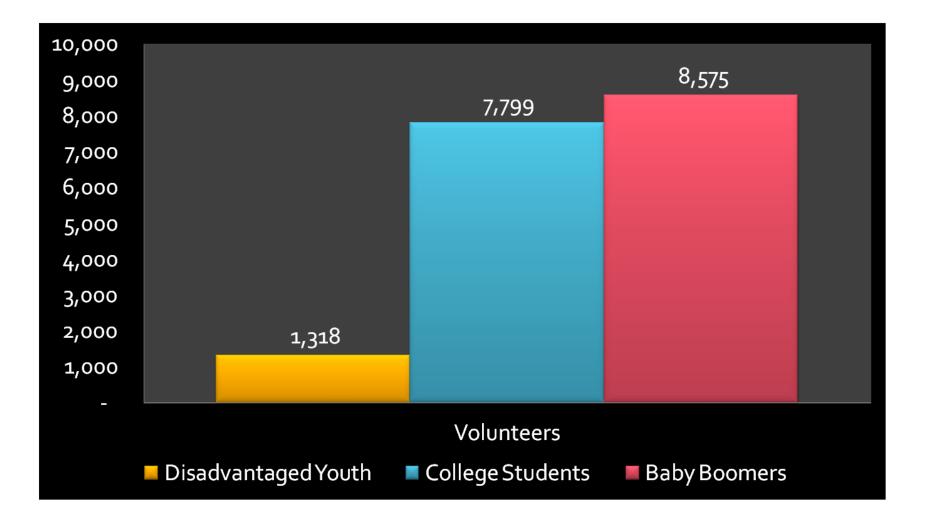
- Number of AmeriCorps Members
- Number of Volunteers Recruited by AmeriCorps Members

#### Value of Volunteer Time

105,359 volunteers participated in service projects and/or disaster relief. 85,376 of these volunteers were recruited by 487 AmeriCorps Members. Volunteers served a total of 502,661.2 hours. Based on the Independent Sector, the value of volunteer time in Missouri equates to \$18.57 an hour or a total value of \$9,334,418.48. Source: <u>http://independentsector.org/volunteer\_time</u>



### Volunteers Come From Varying Backgrounds



#### **Joplin Memorial to Volunteers**

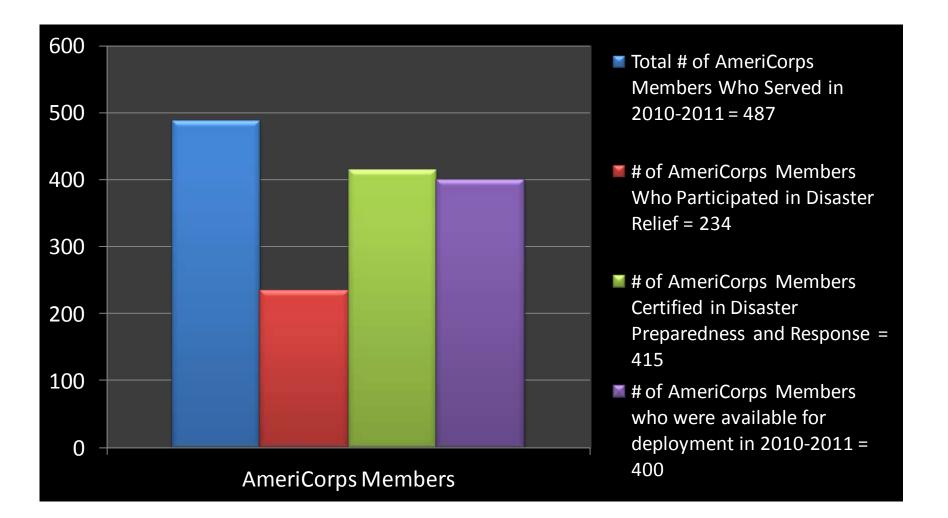
# A TRIBUTE TO THE VOLUNTEERS

At 541 P.M. on May 22, 2011, an EF-5 tornado ripped through Cunningham Park and the greater Toplin area, leaving a path of death and destruction one mile wide by six miles long in its wake. Over 160 people perished in the storm. What immediately followed in staggering numbers and through personal accounts is "The Miraele of the Human Spirit."

The Miracle of the Human Spirit symbolizes the incredible outpouring of volunteers who have lifted Joplin out of the rubble. Countless volunteers from all walks of life have offered themselves to the Joplin effort without request, serving as a reminder of the overwhelming power of human scherosity and the steadfast tenacity to rebuild the once broken city.

This tribute embodies the volunteers' determination through four rippling garden walls, representing Joplin's ongoing rescue, recovery, demolition, and rebirth. Several elements within the tribute - bronzed artifacts, a mosaic of remnants, a volunteer statue, and the emblematic wristband - represent the volunteers' unprecedented response. Joplin and its residents are stermally grateful to those heroes the volunteers' unprecedented response.

### Disaster Preparedness, Response and Relief



The Joplin tribute to the volunteers shows the amount of destruction still left for volunteers to clear out. AmeriCorps Members and other Members of National Service have been in Joplin since May 22, 2011 when the tornado hit.

### **Disaster Response**

234 Members Responded to 75 Disasters and 43,303 people received disaster assistance from AmeriCorps Members.

Newly rebuilt Cunningham Park in Joplin, Missouri with the destroyed St. Johns Mercy Hospital in the background.

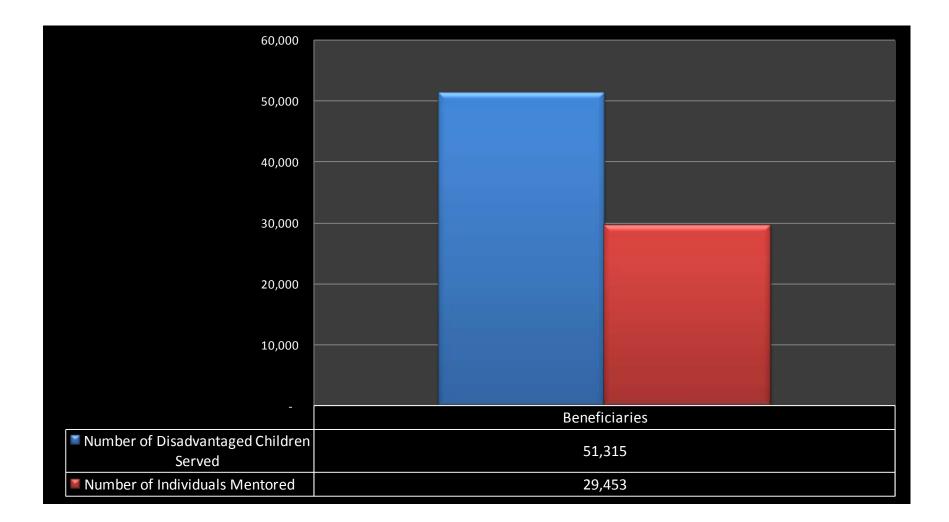
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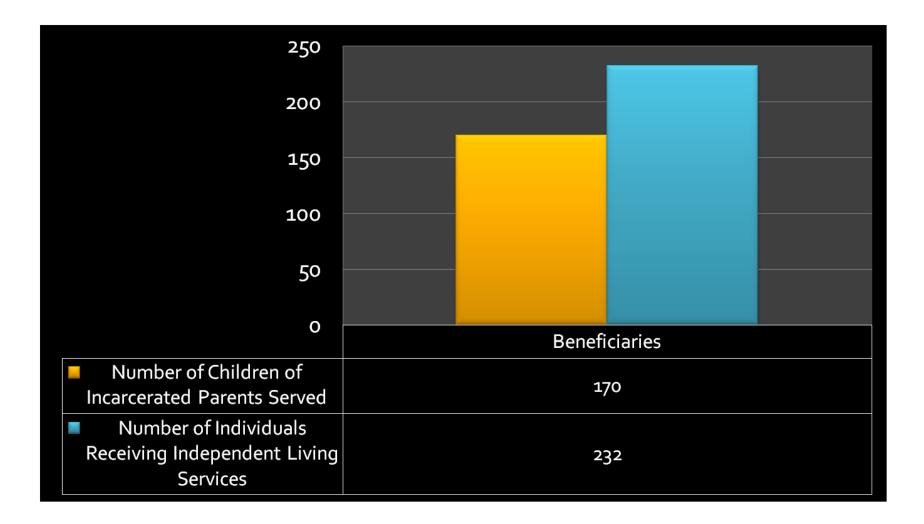
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### **Beneficiaries**



A tree trunk from the tornado has been repurposed into an AmeriCorps logo that is placed outside of the AmeriCorps St. Louis Safety Service Corps, AmeriCorps Recovery Center,

### **Beneficiaries (continued)**



### **EVENTS and SERVICE PROJECTS**

An Annual Coat Drive is a service project held annually by the Commission beginning after Thanksgiving and continuing through MLK Day. Its purpose is to provide coats to those in need to help keep Missourians warm. The local Samaritan Center partners with the Commission and distributes the coats.

As you will see in the following section, this is only one of the many events/projects sponsored by the Commission throughout the year.



#### Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service recognizes Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a Day ON not a Day OFF... A Day of Service. Programs across the state participated in different ways to support the ideals of Dr. King and to support a Day of Service. There were food drives, school revitalizations, energy efficiency information and supplies passed out, MLK Marches and programs as well as coat drives and children's programs. The state came together to truly make it a Day ON and not a Day OFF.













#### Missouri Service Day – South Lawn of Missouri State Capitol Building

This cross-stream event with Learn and Serve brought National Service together on the lawn of our State Capitol Building to hear messages about never giving up, building character through giving back and ALWAYS being service minded. This was the first portion of a three-part event held on April 28, 2011.



#### Life After AmeriCorps Training – Truman Hotel and Conference Center

After celebrating Service with other National Service entities, the AmeriCorps Members attended many sessions that focused on shaping their preparedness for "Life After AmeriCorps". Sessions on spotlighting Service in resumes' and interviews as well as graduate school, scholarships and utilizing their education award were presented to Members.





Annual Celebration of Service and Volunteerism – Truman Hotel and Conference Center

Following the "Life After AmeriCorps" training, Members had a networking dinner and attended the "Annual Celebration of Service and Volunteerism". Programs performed skits during the ceremony and engaged the audience in Espirit de Corps. Service awards, as well as High School Scholarships, were presented throughout the evening.



#### 9-11 Day of Service and Remembrance & Shelter Training

The Corporation for National and Community Service recognizes September 11<sup>th</sup> as a Day of Service. The Missouri Community Service Commission held an all night shelter training that certified over 100 people across the state to be prepared to coordinate and operate a shelter in the event of a disaster. The following day a remembrance ceremony was held in the rotunda of the State Capitol. A family member of the first soldier killed in Iraq, a member of Task Force One and the Director of CERT all spoke to the audience. The Pipe and Drum Line from the Boone County Fire Department began and ended the ceremony with reverence.









#### Multi-State Commission Institute – St. Louis, Missouri

The Missouri Community Service Commission hosted representatives of National Service from over 25 states in October. They worked in a collaborative effort to discuss public relations, disaster response, shared practices and other topics. Representatives from the Corporation for National and Community Service lead a 'Fireside Chat' to address concerns and issues at the federal level of National Service.



SERVICE \*\*\*





Commissioners, Program Directors and Commission Staff all come together with a passion for Service. Pictured Above: (L to R) Commissioner – Cheryl Hibbeler, Program Director – Kathleen Becherer, Commissioner – Nina Murphy and Executive Director – Linda Thompson attended the "St. Louis Champions of Service Ceremony" hosted by AmeriCorps St. Louis.











The Missouri Community Service Commission, with sponsorship from Monsanto and Charter (representatives from both sponsors pictured above with Commissioner John Albright) awarded 8 "High School Student-Volunteer Community Service Awards" that included a gubernatorial proclamation as well as educational scholarships in amounts up to \$1,000.00. The Service and Development Committee created, advertised, collected, judged and presented these awards and scholarships to high school students from across the state.











Award winners from the "Annual Celebration of Service and Volunteerism" pictured above with Missouri Community Service Commissioners, Scholarship Sponsors and Executive Director, Linda Thompson

### **Contact Information**

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