



WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE
THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

2010 YEARBOOK

West Virginia's Promise – The Alliance for Youth
West Virginia's Promise VISTAS Project

"Reflections of their year of service"



WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE
THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

The Little Red Wagon

“The little red wagon. A symbol of childhood. It could be filled with a child’s hopes and dreams or weighted down with their burdens. Millions of American Children need our help to pull that wagon along. Let’s all pull together.”

General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret)
Founding Chairman
America’s Promise

WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE VISTA PROJECT

Welcome to West Virginia's Promise - The Alliance for Youth, mobilizing our state to build the character and competence of children and youth by fulfilling the Five Promises of America's Promise. West Virginia's Promise works with America's Promise Alliance partners, state and community leaders to assist communities in creating a statewide system of communities uniting citizens in fulfilling the 5 Promises.

By mobilizing West Virginians to fulfill the Five Promises we believe that together we can improve the lives of young people throughout the state.



WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE

THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE VISTA PROJECT

Our Vision

All young people in West Virginia are prepared for success in school, work and life.

Our Mission

Mobilize state and local partners so every young person in West Virginia receives the Five Promises: [Caring Adults](#), [Safe Places](#), [A Healthy Start](#), [An Effective Education](#), and [Opportunities to Help Others](#).

Our Goals

West Virginia's Promise will mobilize communities, raise awareness and support policies that increase the support young people have in communities where they live, work and play.

The Five Promises Change Lives

The Five Promises are those developmental resources — wrap-around supports — that young people need for success in life. Research shows that if the Five Promises are consistently fulfilled, they can significantly advance the health and well-being of the next generation — increasing the chances of youth becoming successful adults. Children who receive at least four of the Five Promises are much more likely than those who experience only one or zero Promises to succeed academically, socially and civically. They are more likely to avoid violence, contribute to their communities and achieve high grades in school. Receiving at least four of the Five Promises also appears to mitigate gaps across racial and economic boundaries. To experience the full power of the Promises, young people must experience these critical supports throughout their lives — in their families, at schools and out in their communities.



“THE AMERICAN DREAM INCLUDES THOSE THINGS ADULTS WANT AS WELL AS YOUNG PEOPLE: TO BE HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS WHO GIVE BACK TO SOCIETY. THERE IS A BIG GAP BETWEEN THIS DREAM AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF TOO MANY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. MOREOVER, RESEARCH TELLS US MANY DOUBT WHETHER THEY CAN EVER REALIZE THE AMERICAN DREAM FOR THEMSELVES. THESE FINDINGS CUT ACROSS LINES OF RACE, GEOGRAPHY AND ECONOMIC STATUS. EVEN THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MAY SEEM TO BE DOING WELL ARE BEGGING FOR HELP. THIS DATA HAS BEEN OUR CLEAR CALL TO ACTION AND THE ROADMAP FOR WEST VIRGINIA’S PROMISE, THE AMERICORPS VISTA’S, AND COMMUNITIES ALL OVER WEST VIRGINIA WHO WANT TO ASSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN ARE GIVEN THE “5 PROMISES” THEY NEED TO GROW INTO CARING, COMPETENT ADULTS, WHO CAN AND WILL SUCCEED IN LIFE. GOVERNOR JOE MANCHIN’S LEGACY SHOULD REFLECT THAT BY ADDRESSING THE 5 PROMISES, THROUGH OUR PROGRAM AND OUR VOLUNTEERS, WE HAVE ASSURED THAT THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA ON THE RIGHT TRACK.”

**Gayle C. Manchin
First Lady
West Virginia**

WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE – 5 PROMISES

- **Caring Adults** Ongoing relationships with caring adults – parents, mentors, tutors or coaches – offer youth support, care and guidance.
- **Safe places** Safe Places with structured activities during nonschool hours provide both physical and emotional safety for youth.
- **Healthy Start** Adequate nutrition, exercise, and health care pave the way for healthy bodies, healthy minds, and smart habits for adulthood.
- **An Effective Education** All children need the intellectual development, motivation and skills that equip them for successful work and lifelong learning. These result from having quality learning environments, challenging expectations and consistent guidance and mentoring.
- **Opportunities to Help Others** Opportunities to give back through community service enhance self-esteem, boost confidence and heighten a sense of responsibility to the community.

WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE - THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH AMERICORPS VISTA PROJECT



West Virginia's Promise – The Alliance for Youth provides *VISTA resources to organizations that serve children and youth. Promise VISTA members are placed throughout the state to serve in developing the **5 Promises** to sustain programs by increasing funding to support program development.

VISTA members identify, enhance and increase community awareness to mobilize communities to provide all **5 Promises** to children and youth including those in and aging out of foster care.

There are as many reasons to serve as there are people who serve. Volunteering is not just an altruistic act. It's an opportunity to advance in all areas of your life. Here are a few of the things you can gain when you give your time and yourself.

AMERICORPS VISTA PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

- Connect with your community.
- Conserve funds for charities, nonprofits and faith-based and other community organizations by contributing your time.
- Share your skills and gain new ones.
- Develop self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Meet new people from all walks of life.
- Enhance your resume and make important networking contacts.
- Promote a worthwhile activity.
- Feel needed and valued.
- Experience something new.



VISTA PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- **January 2010 to June 2010**, ten West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTA members have generated the following resources for their communities:
- Number of new volunteers recruited: 67
- Total hours of service performed by community volunteers: 4,271
- Dollar value of cash resource developed: \$11,946.
- Dollar value of non-cash resources developed: \$19,295.



VISTA PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT – CON'T

- **2009**, Five of West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTA members have generated the following resources for their communities:
- Number of new volunteers recruited: 283
- Total hours of service performed by community volunteers: 2157
- Dollar value of cash resources developed: \$15,635
- Dollar value of non-cash resources developed: \$27,274



VISTA PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT – CON'T



- **2008**, 5 West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTA members have generated the following resources for their communities:
- Number of new volunteers recruited: 294
- Total hours of service performed by community volunteers: 2,143
- Dollar value of cash resources developed: \$13,100
- Dollar value of non-cash resources developed: \$27,091

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

PATTY RALSTON – VISTA LEADER

Served: August 2008 – August 2010
Host Site: Children's Home Society of West Virginia
County: Wood



1. Why I Decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA...

I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA because it gave me the opportunity to give back to my community and assist the unprivileged youth in West Virginia. I have served almost three years with AmeriCorps and two of those three years have been with West Virginia's Promise, serving at the Children's Home Society of Parkersburg.

2. During my term, I ...

During my term, I have had the opportunity to do many things that I would not have gotten to do without serving with the West Virginia's Promise – The Alliance for Youth. I helped coordinate and participated in the West Virginia High School Graduation and Dropout Prevention State Summit at the Charleston Civic Center in July 2009. This event brought together over 270 people from around the state and had some wonderful speakers talking about their experiences with being a high-school dropout and how having the **5 Promises** in their lives they would have probably have stayed in school and done things a lot different. Governor Manchin and the First Lady, Gayle Manchin, spoke at the event as well as Richard Wells, the Vice-President of America's Promise.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

PATTY RALSTON – VISTA LEADER, CONT,

In addition, during this past year, I have accompanied Pam Dugan, Statewide Director of West Virginia's Promise – the Alliance for Youth, to various sites around the state that our Promise VISTA's are placed. We met with the site supervisors and the VISTA's and got to see what their organizations does to provide the **5 Promises**.

I have also assisted with developing training materials for VISTA/Site supervisor training that we have every six months. The past year has allowed me to attend events such as "Believing in the **5 Promises**" and Governor Manchin's State of the State Address. I have truly enjoyed this past year as a Promise VISTA tremendously.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

PATTY RALSTON – VISTA LEADER – CONT,

3. ...made the biggest impact on me.

The thing that made the biggest impact on me was the West Virginia High School Graduation and Dropout Prevention State Summit and the speakers that were there. One speaker in particular, Kindra Boyd, who was serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA during that time, told her life story and there was not a dry eye in the Civic Center. She stated that how having the Five Promises in her life would have made a significant difference in her life. Another speaker, Marjorie Darrah, told how she had dropped out at age sixteen and went on to become the first woman to receive a PHD in Mathematics at West Virginia University. The way she told the story was incredible and made me realize how fortunate I was to have had caring adults in my life and a safe place to go after school. This event will forever be with me and I continue to show people the DVD of the speakers so that they may know how much having the Five Promises in a child's life can make a difference.

Another thing that has affected me was the Reality Walk that I participated in back in November 2009. It was the first reality walk, there were expected to be 30 or 40 people show up to participate, and there ended up being over 200 participants.

The Reality Walk was in Parkersburg and started down under the railroad bridge and continued up through the city to the places that a homeless person may spend their day.

We stopped at a picnic pavilion which was out of site by the general public, and the picnic tables had been removed forcing the homeless to sit on the cold concrete.

This made me appreciate what I have a lot more. The walk continued to Salvation Army, Department of Health and Human Resources, a local church and ended with dinner being served down under the bridge by Old Man Rivers, which is a local food pantry.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

PATTY RALSTON – VISTA LEADER – CONT,

3. ...made the biggest impact on me, cont'.

Meeting some of the homeless and hearing their stories was a revelation to many of our community members. We went back out in January to do a Homeless Count and took hygiene products, food, blankets, coats and other necessary items to distribute to the unfortunate people that were located that night. I took my 18-year-old son with me and he was amazed that people really live like that especially in the sub zero temperatures that we endured that night. I try to help anyone that I can because no one deserves to live like that.

Pam Dugan has made a huge impact on me during the past two years. She has showed me how to reach my goals and how to network no matter where you are. Pam is a world of knowledge and I have learned so much from her about reports, training, presentations, etc. It has been a pleasure to serve with Pam's Promise Project and I will continue to volunteer in any way that I can after my completion of service on August 3, 2010.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

PATTY RALSTON – VISTA LEADER, CONT,

4. I've gained...

I have gained knowledge of how much it means to provide the Five Promises to every youth in the state.

I have gained a better understanding of what the problems in our schools are and how this is affecting our youth and the dropout rates.

Through the various trainings that have been offered, I have learned more about writing a grant proposal, develop training materials; compile quarterly reports, and how to be a good VISTA Leader.

The knowledge I have acquired while serving as a Promise VISTA will stay with me forever and the networking and speaking skills that I have been taught will assist me in whatever the future holds. I have made life-long friends and have met some of the most incredible people that I have ever known. I have gained self-esteem and continue to learn everyday ways to help our youth.



Memory Cooper,
Patty Ralston,
Katie Nolan,
Lucinda
Nicholson and
Girl Scouts from
Taylor County on
Trail clean-up
November 2009



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

PATTY RALSTON – VISTA LEADER, CONT,



Memory Cooper,
Patty Ralston,
Katie Nolan trying
out bunk bed at
FLOC (For the
Love of Children)
site



5. My future plans....

As for my future plans, that is still unclear. I finish my service with the Promise Project on August 3, 2010 and would have loved to have stayed on for another year but it is not permitted to serve more than 3 years with AmeriCorps. I hope to take some of the skills and knowledge that I have acquired and find a position that will allow me to help the youth in our state. I will continue to volunteer in any way possible and plan on staying very active with the project even though I will not be a VISTA anymore.

I would love to acquire a position working with West Virginia's Promise-the Alliance for Youth but that may not be possible but no matter what the future holds, I will do my best to ensure that every youth that I come in contact with, be given the five promises so that they may have a safe and productive life.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

MEMORY COOPER— VISTA

Served: May 2009 – May 2011

Host Site: Mission West Virginia, Inc.

County: Putnam



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

There are multiple reasons that I decided to apply for the AmeriCorps Promise VISTA position. When I was younger, my father served in AmeriCorps, and was inspired by the stories that he would tell about his personal experience and the impact that the project made on the community. My father served in the child abuse and neglect segment back in the 70's.

I really wanted to work with Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care because to help alleviate the barriers and critical issues that the youth will face in their adult life. These youth are often forgotten about, as soon as they turn 18 it seems like the community deems them as invisible. Though I have never been in foster care, I have personally experienced some of the hardships that our youth go through. To help change the future of our youth.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

MEMORY COOPER, VISTA – CONT,

2. During my term, I

I have learned many new skills that I didn't know that I had the potential to do such as grant writing, developing programs, and speaking in public. I am amazed at how many compassionate people that I have crossed paths with during my year of service. I really never thought that many truly existed in the world.

I relocated from Indianapolis to serve here in West Virginia, and it has been an amazing experience to get to travel throughout the whole state, and to embrace the Appalachian culture.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

MEMORY COOPER— VISTA – CONT,



3.made the biggest impact on me.

My experience in the non-profit world, it is truly amazing how different people act, feel, think, and are very passionate versus the people that I have worked with in the corporate world. It was inspiring how two totally entities collaborate to make something special happen.



4. **I've gained...** Knowledgeable skills, memories, and friendships that will last a life time.

5. **My future plans...** I plan to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA with Mission West Virginia for one more term.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

MISSY STOREY– VISTA

Served: July 2009 – July 2011

Host Site: Children's Home Society of West V

County: Wood

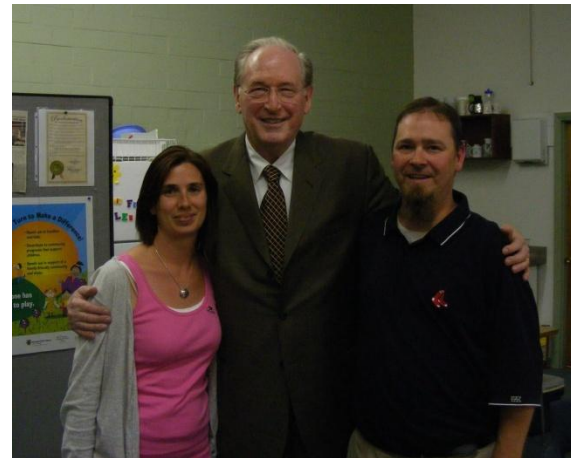


1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I decided to serve to be able to give back to my community and to help serve the youth in the area. I also decided to serve to help make a difference in my home town.

2. During my term, I

I have been able to serve on committees that serve the homeless and children in the area. I have been able to teach life skill classes to youth that are transition in to adulthood. I have been able to assist in coordinating fundraisers and events that brought awareness to the Site I am serving at.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

MISSY STOREY – VISTA – CONT,

3.made the biggest impact on me.

The biggest impact to me is the lack of services to teens in need. I have noticed that teens are just out there struggling with nowhere to turn once they reach “adult age” 18 and are expected to survive and know where resources are. I have seen teens struggle to make it through the day without proper skills that are sometime taken for granted by others.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

MISSY STOREY – VISTA – CONT,

4. I've gained.....

Knowledge of this population of youth that needs help. I have gained self- confidence in myself when speaking about this subject. I have gained professional relationships and great networks to help others when needed.



5. My future plans....

Are to give another year of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA .



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

ALEXANDRA BEAULIEU– VISTA

Served: November 2009 – November 2010

Host Site: Friends in Action of the Eastern Panhandle

County: Jefferson



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

To gain experience in the non-profit sector and begin networking with successful, establish non-profits in the Eastern Panhandle.

2. During my term, I

I haven't completed my term, but I have already participated in the planning and development of our program and been actively involved in a collaborative project for a one stop shop in Jefferson County. I have also learned (am still learning) how to plan a fund raising event. The most exciting project I have been part of was the Partners in Prevention Child Watch Bus Tour during the month of April. We raised awareness on child abuse and neglect. I was part of the planning committee for the Child Watch Bus Tour project which was a very successful event informing community member of "a day through the eyes of a child" who has been removed from an abusive/negligent household. We took participants to each stop a child may have to visit once removed such as the Judicial Center, the Hospital, or Juvenile Detention Center.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

ALEXANDRA BEAULIEU– VISTA – CONT,

3. ...made the biggest impact on me.

The Child Watch Bus tour had the biggest impact on me thus far because I really didn't understand "the system" and how understaffed and uninformed the community is on these services. I would really like to be a part of increasing awareness on child abuse and assist in the development of a program that guides the community to be involved in preventing child abuse.

4. I've gained.....

new insight in assessing need situations. Rather than approaching a need as a detriment, view it as an asset and approach the situation from a new angle.

5. My future plans....

Is to complete my year of VISTA and pursue masters in Social Work (maybe...)

Please see next page – Beaulieu Continued

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

ALEXANDRA BEAULIEU- VISTA – CONT,



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

TIFFANY JONES— VISTA

Served: December 2009 – December 2010

Host Site: Marion County Family Resource Network

County: Marion



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I thought that serving as a VISTA would give me great experiences and exposures to different opportunities. I had previously worked as an AmeriCorps Energy Express mentor and really enjoyed that experience.

2. During my term, I

I have met a lot of new people, learned about new opportunities and programs. I have had the opportunity to travel to different training sessions around West Virginia and meet our state Reps. I have had the chance to learn about different programs that I will be able to pass along to people in my community that will qualify for these programs.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

TIFFANY JONES— VISTA-CONT,

3. The people I have come in contact with have**made the biggest impact on me....** influenced me to want to strive harder in my VISTA position.

When I attended my first VISTA training in April I had a chance to meet a very determined young lady who was trying to find a support system for her platform. She was running for Miss. West Virginia. She wanted to help a very rural area and provide them with certain necessities and could not get anyone to help her. In my opinion she is a very resourceful person. She found contacts who lead her to other contacts. That is what my VISTA has done for me. It's all about networking. Going to all the trainings and seminars you meet people who are doing the same thing in a different area and they can give you ideas or suggestions to better your program or encourage you to start a program in your area.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

TIFFANY JONES— VISTA – CONT,

- 4. I've gained.....**
a lot of experience, exposure and understanding for different environments and situations. I gained a great understanding of non-profit organizations.
- 5. My future plans....**
My future plans are undecided at this moment. Maybe something in a non-profit or working he education system



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

TAMMY KRUSE – VISTA

Served: September 2009 – September 2011

Host Site: Youth Services System Inc.

County: Ohio



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

When my neighbor told me I would be a perfect fit with AmeriCorps, the research began. I found a position open with Youth Services System Inc. and applied. After the research and before the interview I decided I wanted to serve, I was accepted and have been thankful ever since. Giving to my community has been an experience that I want my son to experience as he grows up.

2. During my term, I

It is amazing how much a person can grow when the current path is altered. Kids aging out of foster care now have a food pantry to help them stay afloat between pay days, the emergency shelters have been painted, community support from local churches is on the rise, local universities are becoming involved with tutoring, a technical college is in the process of having Youth Services System Inc as a place for their students to do their practicum, a private college is starting up student action center and is looking to make Youth Services system Inc. a staple organization for students to service, Boy Scouts of America is in the process of establishing a unit inside the lock down facility for youth all the while, I am making friends, connections and sharing my contacts to help others. I have grown.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

TAMMY KRUSE – VISTA – CONT,



3. ...made the biggest impact on me.

Youth Services System Inc. is much larger than I had imagined. There isn't one person or "thing" that has had an enormous impact. Youth Services System Inc. as a whole has positively impacted the way I think. The employees are "family". If one person affects you, then it is due to the entire staff. I feel at home within Youth Services System Inc.

4. I've gained...

Self respect and pride runs through Youth Services System Inc. and I have respect for them and what they are doing. I have grown and so have the youth that benefit from the volunteers that come in everyday. Nothing but inexperience has been lost. Listing the gains would be endless because I have gained so much!

5. My future plans...

I am signing up to serve another year! Thanks you for helping me to grow!



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

KATIE NOLAN – VISTA

Served: September 2009- September 2010

Host Site: Outdoor Education Center of For Love Of Children

County: Jefferson

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I have always had a passion for working with children. I had worked with the Outdoor Education Center in the past, and when I had heard about the VISTA opening I jumped on the chance. This was the first time I had heard about the Five Promises. The organization's mission stated everything I believed to be necessary to a child's life. I was honored to be a part of program that impacted so many lives.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

KATIE NOLAN – VISTA – CONT,

2. During my term, I

During my term I helped to improve the Outdoor Education Center's after school program, Leaders In Action. My lesson plans kept children engaged enough to increase attendance up to 25 students, where previous years had been 8 – 10 students. Students were taught community outreach, the importance of supporting local agriculture, the importance and fun of staying healthy and being active, environmental education, teambuilding, and leadership skills.

I also wrote the curriculum for the 10 day residential summer program, as well. Students learned about various environmental issues, how to improve the environment, save energy, be less wasteful, and their impact on the environment. I also planned the offsite trip. Students were given the opportunity to canoe 15 miles of the Shenandoah River, as well as backpack along the Blue Ridge Mountains. Many of these students would otherwise have not been able to partake in such activities, had it not been for our Program. I feel privileged to be a part of the program. Developing the evaluation process has been a learning experience as well. I've learned the importance of evaluations to our organization. Providing concrete evidence shows donors, funders and the board the quality and importance of our programs.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

KATIE NOLAN – VISTA – CONT,

3. ...made the biggest impact on me.

Reading through the students' application was very impactful. All students are welcome in our program, but to get a better understanding of the statistics and demographics of our students we have them fill out an application. Most of the students come from difficult backgrounds, and knowing that we are able to provide a safe, fun after school opportunity to these students is inspiring. Many of the students get lost in the shuffle of school and have trouble finding their identity, and they are able to grow and find their place within the Leaders In Action program. One of our students in particular came from a very low-income family. He came into our program with a bad attitude; always disruptive, fighting with other students, not paying attention, and being inappropriate. As the year progressed the student realized that he was in a safe, fun environment with mentors who really cared for him. His behavior changed dramatically, and he became one of the best students in the after school program. He continues to participate in all activities we offer, including any volunteering opportunities. This student is an example of exactly what I strive to accomplish. I have helped in giving students opportunities they otherwise wouldn't have been able to take advantage of.



4. I've gained.....

The knowledge and experience that I have gained throughout my VISTA year is invaluable. I have learned so much about my capabilities as well as the capabilities of a community. I've learned the importance of strengthening unity within a community, as well as the impact just one person can make in another's life.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

KATIE NOLAN – VISTA – CONT,

5. My future plans....

I have been hired on by the Outdoor Education Center at For Love of Children. I will have the opportunity to work with future VISTAs and share my knowledge and experience of the past year with them. I'm excited to see what this year brings, and to implement what I have learned from the past year. I will continue to work with Jefferson County students and Jefferson County as a community.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

JEREMY EXELL – VISTA

Served: February 2010- February 2011

Host Site: Family Resource Network

County: Berkeley



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I already had 2 years of experience with direct service in AmeriCorps NCCC but had never really done much indirect service. I wanted to have a well rounded, complete experience in the non-profit sector and this was the perfect opportunity to get that



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

JEREMY EXELL – VISTA – CONT,

2. During my term, I

Learned how to write grants....man is it hard.

3. ...made the biggest impact on me.

Working with the teen support group has made the biggest impact on me. It's helped me realize where my passion lies and that I want to work with disadvantaged youth.



4. I've gained.....

Experience in how to work more in the office than just in the field. I've learned how to work with boards, write grants, conduct trainings, and collaborate with other organizations to get the job done.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

JEREMY EXELL – VISTA – CONT,



5. My future plans....

I plan to go back to working direct service, and working programs with at risk youth. Hopefully in New York City.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LISA COX— VISTA

Served: February 2010- February 2011

Host Site: Morgan County Starting Points

County: Morgan



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Vista in an effort to expand on my skills, abilities, and knowledge. I graduated from Kaplan University a few months prior to being accepted as an AmeriCorps Vista. I thought this would be a great way to broaden my career choices by experiencing first hand the different areas of social and youth services. This learning opportunity has fueled my passion at wanting to help others and given me a surreal look inside of what that entails.

2. During my term, I

I learned the ends and outs of program building. I assisted with coordinating a Teen Group for Morgan County as well as other programs for children. Placed as a Volunteer Coordinator at Starting Points where I worked with over 130 volunteers on a monthly basis, I created a newsletter for the volunteers in our Meal Time Community Kitchen as a way of showing them how much they are truly appreciated. I assisted with Morgan County Read Aloud to raise awareness and help implement programs based on the literacy issues in our county.

I have been apart of fundraising events, grant writing, promoting the Five Promises, signing up Promise Places, and so much more. This has truly been a wonderful opportunity that has greatly impacted my life.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LISA COX— VISTA-CONT,

3. made the biggest impact on me...

Working so closely with other agencies in my community has made the greatest impact during this experience. I had the chance to take a closer look at the needs and resources available to my community while networking with them and discussing ways to create new ones with out duplicating programs.

4. I've gained.....

I've gained a diversity of skills while serving as an AmeriCorps Vista. Through this experience I gained the self confidence I lacked in myself.

5. My future plans....

My future plans are not clear at the present moment. I may try to stay as an AmeriCorps Vista for a second year, but I still have some time to decide. My ultimate goal is to finish my bachelor's degree and work with youth.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

ANNE KLEM – VISTA-

Served: May 2010- May 2011

Host Site: The Youth Club of Marshall County

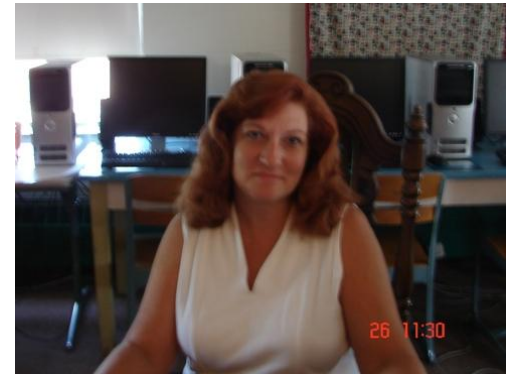
County: Marshall

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....

was because I saw the good work the Youth Club has been doing and was excited to be offered the opportunity to be a part of something that benefitted and supported all youth of our community.

2. During my term, I

have learned much; have been able to benefit others with my experience; boost my programs connections and networking ability; help raise funds; expand our partnerships with area schools; and raise awareness in the community about the strengths of our program.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

ANNE KLEM – VISTA-

3. ...made the biggest impact on me...

Seeing the growth and development of one of our participants who is an extraordinary person

4. I've gained.....

knowledge, friendships, and insight into the needs of our youth.

5. My future plans....

to finish my college degree and work in some area where I can continue to help young people empower themselves in positive directions.



West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project

County: Wood

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA Leader: Patty Ralston

Email: pttyralston@yahoo.com

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Melissa Storey

Email: mstorey@childhswv.org

Site Supervisor: Steve Tuck

Email: stuck@childhswv.org

Chief Executive Officer: Dennis Sutton

Email: dsutton@childhswv.org

Children's Home Society of West Virginia

PO Box 763

Parkersburg, WV 26102

Phone 304-485-0650

Fax 304-485-0618

<http://www.childhswv.org/index.htm>

County: Putnam

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA Leader: Memory Cooper

Email: mcooper@missionwv.org

Site Supervisor: Kelly Thompson

Email: kthompson@missionwv.org

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Mission West Virginia, Inc.

168 Midland Trail, Suite 1

Hurricane, WV 25526

Phone: 304-562-0723

Fax: 304-562-0726

www.missionwv.org

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont,

County: Marion

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Tiffany Jones

Email: tjones9@fairmontstate.edu

Site Supervisor: Lauren Prinzo

Email: marioncountyfrn@yahoo.com

Marion County Family Resource Center

112 Adams Street, Room 204

Fairmont, WV 26554

Phone: 304-366-4445

Fax: 304-366-4695

<http://www.marioncountyfrn.org/>

County: Jefferson

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Katherine Nolan

Email: knolan@floc.org

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Denver Sicay

Email: denver.sicay@gmail.com

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Lydia Hastings

Email: lydia.hastings@gmail.com

Site Supervisor: Rob Stull

Email: rstull@floc.org

Executive Director: Tim Payne

FLOC For Love of Children, Outdoor Education Center

671 FLOC Way

Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Phone: 304-725-0409

Fax: 304-728-7565

<http://www.flocoutdoors.org>

**West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth
AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont,**

County: Ohio

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Tammy Kruse

Email: uplayoutside@yahoo.com

Site Supervisor: Charles Knight

Email: cknight@ysswv.com

Chief Executive Officer: John Moses

Email: Jomoses@ysswv.com

Youth Services Systems, Inc

1000 Chapline Street

Wheeling, WV 26003

Phone: 304-233-9627 x108

Fax: 304-233-0056

http://www.youthservicessystem.org/?page_id=63

County: Berkeley

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Jeremy Exell

Email: uwepvis@comcast.net

Site Supervisor: Teresa Warnick

Email: uwepfrn@comcast.net

Family Resource Network of the Panhandle

218 W. King St.

Martinsburg, WV

Phone: 304-263-0603 X 228

Fax: 304-263-0614

<http://familyresourcenetworkottp.org>

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont,

County: Marshall

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: Anne Klem

Email: ycmcVISTA@yahoo.com

Site Supervisor: Lucinda Nicholson

Email: lucindanich@msn.com

The Youth Club of Marshall County

PO Box 109

Moundsville, WV 26041

County: Marshall

Phone: 304-843-1174

Phone: 304-639-3659

County: Taylor

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: recruiting

Site Supervisor: Walesca Marrero

Email: taylorcountycollaborativefrn@yahoo.com

Taylor County Collaborative FRN

6 Harman Center

Grafton, WV 26354

Phone: 304-265-6838, Fax: 304-265-6839

County: Jefferson

AmeriCorps Promise VISTA: recruiting

Site Supervisor: Henry Thomas

Email: hat1116@frontiernet.net

Jefferson County Schools Education Foundation

P.O. Box 415

110 Mordington Avenue

Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: 304-724-7596

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont,

Children's Home Society of West Virginia

Our Mission/Vision is to promote the well being of children; to nurture and protect children, while enhancing and strengthening families.

Programs we offer are adoption services, foster care, emergency shelters, family support services, advocacy services and behavioral health services. Target youth will be immersed in the Five Promise in efforts to not only help them individually, but promote these positive youth development efforts in the wider community. Children's Home Society of West Virginia works to help more foster care youth who are aging out succeed, and assist young people in the transition.

Mission West Virginia, Inc.

Mission West Virginia, Inc. is a non-profit organization that collaborates with public and private entities, particularly faith communities, equipping them to utilize existing resources to form new partnerships, encouraging innovative social change and building stronger communities in West Virginia. Mission West Virginia, Inc. is a non-profit organization that collaborates with public and private entities, particularly faith communities, equipping them to utilize existing resources to form new partnerships, encouraging innovative social change and building stronger communities in West Virginia. Our FrameWorks initiative provides a variety of programs to support, build and strengthen West Virginia families. These include adoptive and foster parent recruitment, child specific adoption recruitment and kinship care support for relative caregivers.

Marion County Family Resource Network

The mission of the Marion County Family Resource Network is to bring citizens together, individually and collectively, to improve the lives of Marion County families.

Our mission is accomplished by assessing community needs, planning to address those needs, mobilizing the community, and evaluating results. The FRN provides an excellent foundation for developing collaborations both formal and informal.

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont,

For Love of Children's Outdoor Education Center

For Love of Children's Outdoor Education Center facilitates healthy character development of youth and adults through adventure challenges, environmental education, and sustainability practices in a powerful outdoor classroom where experiential learning inspires individual potential and leads participants toward discovering connections between the natural world and their communities.

Through programming we teach individual and group leadership skills, team building and environmental education.

Youth Services System, Inc.

Youth Services System's mission is "We believe ourselves to be, first and foremost, a community of caring, skilled persons who are drawn together by a shared sense of ministry to children and their families." "It is the purpose of this community to create environments, provide services, and be totally available to children and their families whose legitimate needs demand effective responses".

Family Resource Network of the Panhandle, Inc.

The Family Resource Network of the Panhandle facilitates planning and development of solutions within the community to improve the system of services to children and families within Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties. The Family Resource Network of the Panhandle (FRNOTP) of the Panhandle serves as an advocate for the people in our community and provides a forum by which the needs of families are communicated. FRNOTP works in a variety of ways to facilitate a collaborative effort among community agencies and businesses to ensure accessible, affordable and efficient services for families and remains committed to improving the diversity, scope, quality, and effectiveness of these services throughout the Eastern Panhandle.

Morgan County Starting Points

The Morgan County Starting Points Mission is to serve as a community resource center that strengthens and nurtures Morgan County children and families by providing information, programs, and access to needed resources. Morgan County Starting Points offers a vast array of programs to the community.

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth AmeriCorps VISTA Project – cont,

Friends in Action of the Eastern Panhandle

The Friends in Action of the Eastern Panhandle help low income families identify their strengths and develop attainable and manageable goals that guide them toward greater self-sufficiency and personal well being. Recruit and train teams of mentor volunteers who work with low income families for one year, assisting them to achieve goals that will help them move out of poverty. Provide a once a month Life Skill training program for families on topics that will assist them achieve their goals.

The Youth Club of Marshall County

Our mission is to provide a safe and caring place where students can socialize, participate in games, special recreation, and educational activities, study and receive tutoring – all in an adult supervised environment. The Youth Club's vision is vast. While continuing to offer the same quality of service we have provided for youth in preceding years, we will continue to serve an estimated 50-100 youth during more hours per week.

The Youth Club of Marshall County offers a safe place for youth to socialize and relax.

Taylor County Collaborative Family Resource Network

Taylor County Collaborative Family Resource Network improves services for children and families by: Assessing community needs and resources, developing and implementing local plans, coordinating services, increasing public awareness, mobilizing the community around issues affecting children and families, and evaluating the results of their efforts.

Jefferson County Schools Education Foundation

Our mission is to enhance the educational opportunities for students in Jefferson County through private sector and funding of school projects not normally funded by public funds. The Foundation works very closely with the Board of Education and the County Schools Superintendant.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

A SPECIAL THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS WHO SUPPORT THE VISTA PROJECT AND WV'S PROMISE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

