

West Virginia's Promise - A Year in Review

HELPING YOUTH WITH



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*WV's Promise-the Alliance for Youth
Biennial Magazine*





WV's Promise—the Alliance for Youth Biennial Magazine

Welcome to WV's Promise-The Alliance for Youth

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth is a statewide program that mobilizes partners across the state to strengthen the capacity of local communities to develop and support young people.

Mission

Mobilize national, state and local partners so every young person in West Virginia receive the Five Promises:

- Caring Adults
- Safe Places
- A Healthy Start
- An Effective Education
- Opportunities to Help Others





It all began with a promise...

West Virginia's Promise was founded in 1998 and is celebrating 19 years of service. As we approach our 20th anniversary we wanted to share what we do with the people we do it for.

In April 1997 at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, Presidents Clinton, Bush, Carter, Ford and First Lady Nancy Reagan representing President Ronald Reagan, joined General Colin Powell in the Presidents' Summit for America's Future. They offered a challenge for all Americans to help at-risk youth gain access to five basic tools that create opportunities for success.

In 1998 America's Promise was formed in West Virginia with AmeriCorps Promise Fellows to encourage the Five Promises. In 2006, West Virginia's Promise refocused with a mission that every young person receives the Five Promises by mobilizing state and local partners and working with AmeriCorps VISTA members. That same year, a generous donation from Chesapeake Energy was presented to First Lady Gayle Manchin in support of West Virginia's Promise. Funds allocated by the state, donations from business partners, Corporation for National and Community Service grants and other resources and partnerships have assisted in developing and sustaining the program.

A letter from our State Director...




Pamela Dugan

**WV's Promise-
the Alliance for Youth**

State Director 2017

"Children hold a special place in our hearts. As a stay at home mom, I had one of the best jobs in the world. Our family sprouted roots in Kearneysville, West Virginia, where I grew up as a child. As my three children began to grow older, I found AmeriCorps through our children's 4-H Leader; she encouraged me to serve as a Promise Fellow.

My story, as many others, has transformed my life and allowed me to achieve things I never thought were possible. Supporting education supports all of us; AmeriCorps service transforms the lives of everyone it touches -the volunteers and the children.



Today, our AmeriCorps VISTA project helps youth programs provide the Five Promises, a foundation that every child deserves. This is made possible through the service of AmeriCorps VISTAS, Volunteers in Service to America. These volunteers dedicate a year of their life to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

Looking back, I'm proud to say I now have the second best job in the world. As Director of West Virginia's Promise -The Alliance for Youth, it is my pleasure to present this Promise magazine to give you a snapshot of the impact our program has made throughout the state in 2015-2016. I hope these stories touch your heart and leave you inspired to serve. Pay-it-forward with a random act of kindness, hug a child, volunteer, become an AmeriCorps member. Follow your heart, the future is truly in our hands.

Pamela Dugan
State Director
West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth

A letter from our Executive Director...

Heather Foster

**Volunteer West
Virginia, CNCS**

Executive Director



"Growing up, my brother and I complained about my mom's constant volunteering. She already worked two jobs, so spending every available minute helping at our sporting events, volunteering at church, adopting highways, running errands for the woman down the street, and sponsoring 4-H clubs (the list goes on) didn't make any sense to us.

What I realize now is that by staying busy, she kept the two of us connected with our community and created opportunities for learning, personal growth, and opportunities to find meaning through service. The social networks we developed and relied on throughout our youth were a direct impact of my mom's hard work. Through volunteering my mom delivered two children who had the resources to live happy, meaningful lives. She also created the expectation that we would continue to give back. We didn't know any other way."

"I am thankful every day that I had such a full childhood, surrounded by supportive adults, safe spaces to find my path, a garden full of tomatoes, parks, streams, and trails to explore.

Every child deserves the same opportunity, regardless of social status or skin color. Not everyone can have a mom like mine, but by supporting the Five Promises, West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTA members help ensure children's memories are remarkable and positive. Your service provides security and creates space for friends, nature, learning, and service.

And don't worry, my mom is still around. She's got plenty of energy left to inspire the next generation of (begrudging) servant leaders. She is still happy to tug my brother and I by the ear when necessary.

She'd tell you to keep up the great work. It is worth it in the end!"

Heather Foster
Executive Director
Volunteer West Virginia, the state's Commission for National and Community Service



**Volunteer
West Virginia**



The State's Commission for National and Community Service

What are the Five Promises?

*America's Promise outlined **Five Promises**. Research shows that if they are consistently fulfilled, youth advance in health and well-being—increasing the chances of youth becoming successful adults. WV Promise aims to mobilize these Five Promises throughout the entire state.*

1. Caring Adults

Aimed at providing all young people of West Virginia with sustained adult relationships through which they experience support, care and guidance.

Provide a safe place that nurtures young people's skills and interests, enriches their academic performance and gives them opportunities to contribute to their communities.

2. Safe Places



3. A Healthy Start

Educate and provide examples for a healthy lifestyle. Aid in access, services, and opportunities needed for caregivers and youth to maintain their health.

Assist in securing an educational foundation in basic skills, such as reading, writing, mathematics, science, technology and communication, in order to ensure success in the rising youth.

4. An Effective Education

5. Opportunities to Help Others

Provide the opportunity for youth to make a difference in their families, at schools and in their communities.

As of 2016...

6,954

Kids provided 4 out of 5 promises by summer WV-Promise programs

17,960

Kids provided 4 out of 5 promises by yearlong WV-Promise programs

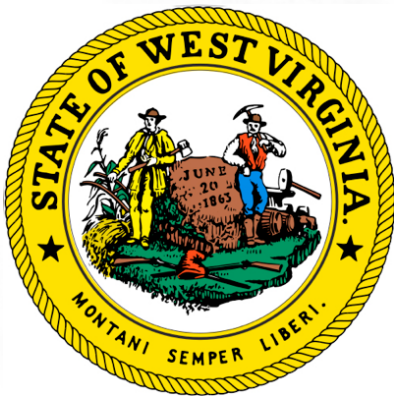
24,914

Total kids currently receiving 4 out of the 5 promises from WV-Promise

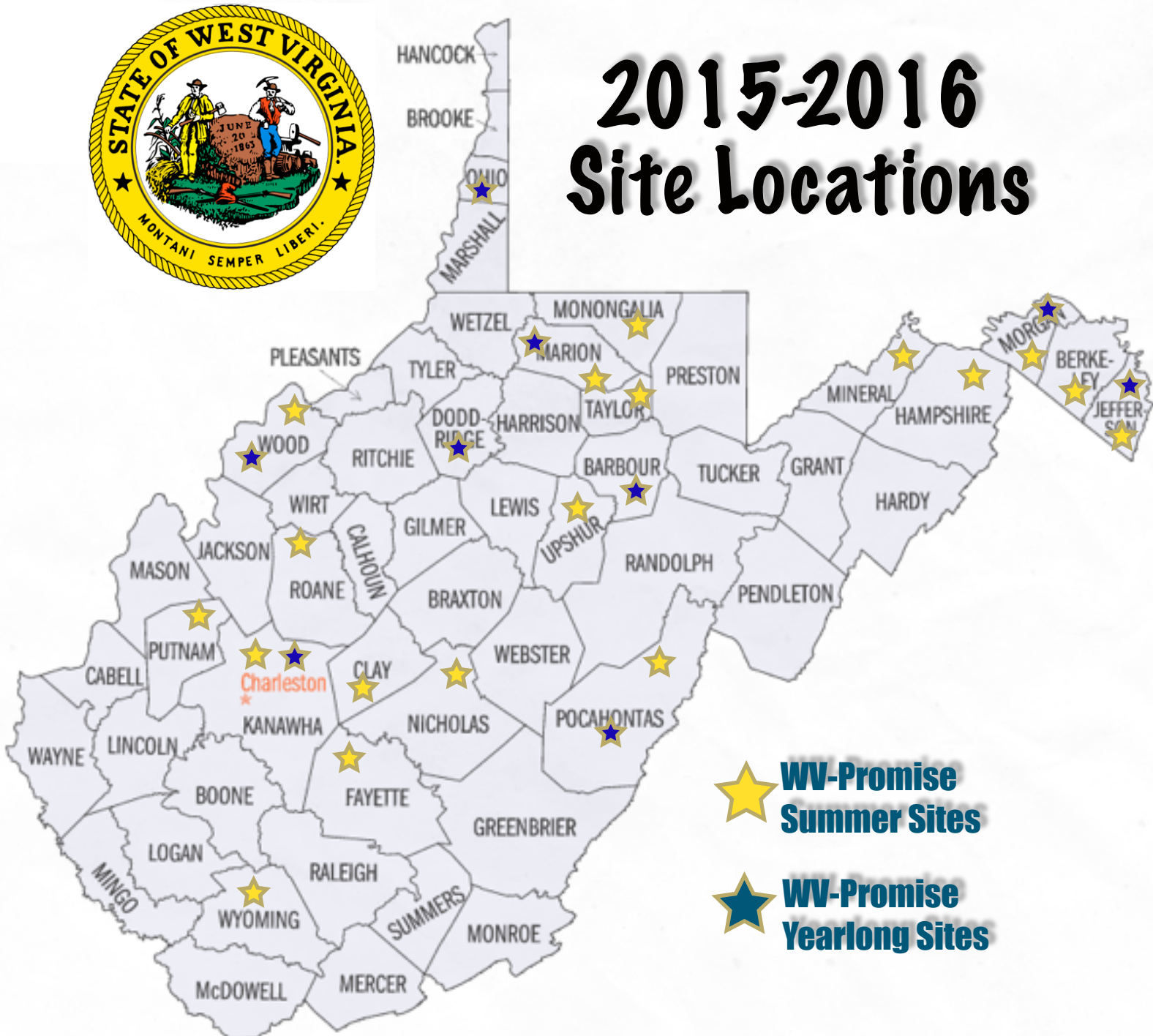


Location, Location, Location

178 Summer Associates in **50** Organizations



2015-2016 Site Locations



2015-2016 Impact

**Within
A Year**

**Volunteer
Recruitment**

↑ 56%



7154
Volunteers
Recruited and Managed

14,100 Hrs
Time of Service
donated by
Community Members

2015

**Amount
Leveraged from
Donations**

\$85,390.00

\$232,307.00

**Amount Leveraged
from Donations**

2016

**Time of Service
donated by
Community Members**

28,892 Hrs

**Increase
of 63%**

Donations received



What are we up to?

Our AmeriCorps members are always serving their community! Here are some ways they have aided in developing the Five Promises, throughout the state of West Virginia, during the 2015-2016 term.

"I submitted two grants and received both of them to purchase several LEGO Robotics kits. From these grants, we were able to plan a very successful STEM Saturday event. The Extension Service plans to continue to hold robotics events in the county and begin new competition teams in the Northern Panhandle."



Shelly Phillips
WV's Promise
AmeriCorpsVISTA
WVU Extension Service-
Ohio County

"The site was having trouble using the space because it was out of the way and also, the beds were too large to be manageable, especially by kids. A couple weeks later, the beds were moved and cut down to size by "beacons of light", a group of youth volunteers who saw the project out to the very end... Sometimes all it takes for things to start coming into place is to take the first steps!"

Andrew Acosta
WV's Promise
AmeriCorps VISTA
Keys4HealthyKids

"I coordinated several projects and initiatives that supported the Family Resource Network mission, as well as worked closely with the FRN's Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP), a program to support grandparents and other relatives who are taking on parenthood for a second."



Alexandra Conroy
WV's Promise
AmeriCorps VISTA

Family Resource Network for the Panhandle



DURING APRIL...

Select West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers were able to attend the America's Promise- The Alliance for Youth 20th anniversary #Recommit2Kids summit in New York City

The summit centered around the hastag...

#Recommit2Kids

As part of the Alliance for Youth, West Virginia's Promise aims to follow in the footsteps of its partner and #recommit2kids. We will work together to foster youth development and success by making sure all youth within West Virginia have access to the 5 Promises.



-Where We Are-



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Now enrolling for Summer 2017
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Annual Spring Performance 2017

Saturday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 30th at 2:00 p.m.

The Frank Center for the Performing Arts
Shepherd University

Annual
Nutcracker
Performance at
Shepherd
University



Summer Jump Start

July 5 - 9 (Wed.-Sun.) 5 - 7

Summer Intensive

July 10 - 14 & 17 - 21 9:30 - 3:30

Junior Intensive

July 24 - 28 & July 31 - Aug. 4 5:00 - 7:00

Come
spend your
Summer with us!

