



WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE
THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

2012-2014 YEARBOOK

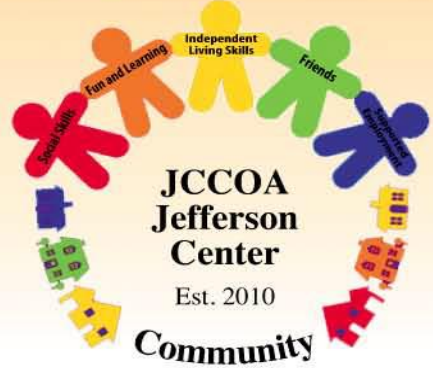
**West Virginia's Promise – The Alliance for Youth
West Virginia's Promise VISTA Project**

"Reflections of their year of service"

Our mission guides us in supporting and providing services to Jefferson County Older Adults. JCCOA is here to help older adults remain independent and to stay in their homes as long as possible. We are a non-profit agency dedicated to community outreach and committed to enhancing the quality of life for older adults through social, health and wellness, education, nutrition, recreation and various other supporting programs.



JCCOA
JEFFERSON COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING
103 W. 5th Avenue, Ranson, WV 25438
304-725-4044

JCCOA
Jefferson
Center
Est. 2010
Community

301 N. Mildred St., Charles Town, WV 25414
304-728-1076

The center is open Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm and provides a very active training schedule. Individuals are learning functional academics, health, safety, communication, social, and job readiness skills. Individuals are also learning how to access their community resources by going to the local library, participating in dances and other activities at the Senior Center and buying their lunches in the community.




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Jefferson County Council on Aging
Anna Mae Reedy Senior Center
and
Jefferson Center



Amy Wellman
Executive Director
103 West 5th Avenue
Ranson, WV 25438
304-724-7110
Fax: 304-725-9500
jccoadirector@frontiernet.net
www.jccoa.org



Individual Sponsor

Jane Tabb



Jefferson County Council on Aging
Jefferson Center

Haley Laird
Jefferson Center Director
301 North Mildred Street, Suite #3
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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.

Promise VISTAs focus on developing/promoting the Five Promises by increasing the capacity building services and moving people out of poverty through community volunteers recruited, trained, and delivering and implementing the Five Promises to at-risk and low income children and youth in programs such as educational outreach programs, events and initiatives.

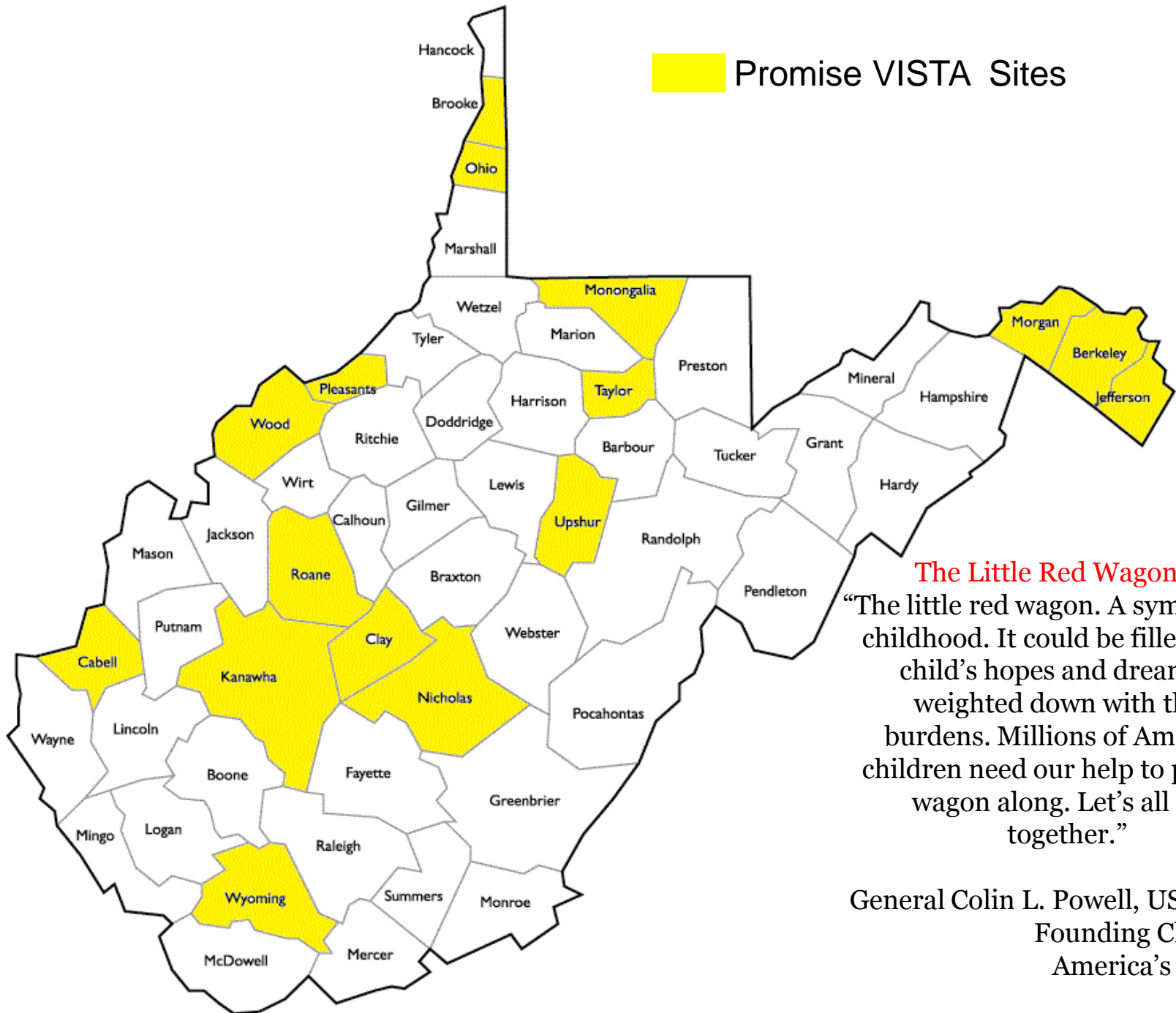
VISTA members increase funding through grants, cash and in-kind resources to move people out of poverty by supporting development and expansion of programs delivering the Five Promises to more at-risk and low-income children/youth.

West Virginia's Promise Advisory Team

- ❑ Mary Jo Brown, Senator Manchin Office
- ❑ Peter Daugherty, Jefferson County Sherriff's Office
- ❑ Arlene Fernandez-Anderson, Jefferson Medical Center
- ❑ Sandy Henry, Jefferson Co. Schools
- ❑ Pat Hubbard, Blue Ridge CTC
- ❑ Joy Lewis, WV Governor's Office
- ❑ Todd McKinney, FLOC Outdoor Education Center
- ❑ Betsy Morgan, South Middle School
- ❑ Jennifer Myers, Jefferson County Parks & Rec
- ❑ Charlotte Norris, Promise Neighborhood Initiative
- ❑ Annie Otto, RAPP
- ❑ Jimmy Pierson, Marcus Field
- ❑ John Reisenweber, Jefferson County Development Authority
- ❑ Arthena Roper, Jefferson County Schools
- ❑ Bridget Snapp, South Middle Schools
- ❑ Anna Stead, Job Corps
- ❑ Nan Stevens, WV Housing Development Authority
- ❑ Jane Tabb, Jefferson County Commission
- ❑ Larry Togans, Bank of Charles Town
- ❑ John Unger, WV Senator



Pamela Dugan
West Virginia's Promise
The Alliance For Youth
Statewide Director
4770 Paynes Ford Road
Kearneysville, WV 25430
304-661-1460 phone
304-728-0546 fax
www.fivepromises.wv.gov



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

VISTA PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- **August 2012 to August 2014, 71** West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTA members generated the following resources for their communities:
- Number of new volunteers recruited: 13,696
- Total hours of service performed by community volunteers: 106,755
- Dollar value of cash resource developed: \$478,209.
- Dollar value of non-cash resources developed: \$742,763.



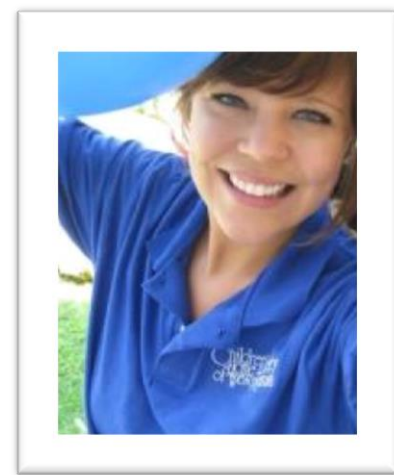
AmeriCorps VISTA Project Opportunities

- 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.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

DANA MYSLINSKY— VISTA LEADER

Served: November 2010 to November 2013
Host Site: Children's Home Society of West Virginia
Rock Lake Community Life Center
County: Kanawha



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** After college I decided to join AmeriCorps NCCC and was stationed in Vinton, Iowa. Through that experience I was able to travel throughout the Midwest rebuilding houses, removing invasive species, mentoring children, and more. Through my travels I fell in love with each small town and decided to dedicate another year of service in my home state of West Virginia. I have been an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA for three years now, so it was obviously a good decision. I am so grateful for my time spent in this organization, and I hope future generations will have the opportunity to serve in West Virginia as an AmeriCorps VISTA. Three years ago, I relocated to Southern West Virginia to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA member for West Virginia's Promise –The Alliance for Youth. I was inspired to return to my home state after traveling throughout the country in the AmeriCorps NCCC. My experience in NCCC opened my eyes and I felt like I needed to pay it forward in the state I grew up in. West Virginia's Promise welcomed me with open arms and I instantly felt a connection with the program. I felt so fortunate that I was able to be surrounded by individuals with the same goals and passion as myself. I developed many close friendships along the way. The program also challenged in ways that allowed me to grow as a stronger leader, community member, and person.
- 2. During my term, I ...** During my term I helped organize and manage the Rock Lake Community Life Center. The historic property was once the biggest pool on the east coast, spanning 550 feet long. The pool was closed in 1985 due to rising insurance costs. The property was then filled in and transformed into Rock Lake Golf and Games which boasted bumper boats, laser tag, go-carts, arcade games -the whole nine yards. Golf and Games eventually closed in 2006 and the property lay abandon until it was purchased by the Rock Lake Presbyterian Church. Through countless volunteer hours the property is being converted into a community center to welcome all. Through VISTA support the center has hosted service and volunteer groups from across the country. The groups visit West Virginia to learn more about Appalachia and conduct community service. The center also hosts educational workshops and community events. I am fortunate enough to serve as the VISTA Leader for West Virginia's Promise. This is my favorite part of my service! It is amazing to learn firsthand of all the amazing VISTA projects throughout the state. I have really enjoyed being a mentor and being mentored by my fellow VISTAS. Through this role I have grown tremendously as a leader and I wish I could sign up forever!

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

DANA MYSLINSKY— VISTA LEADER

3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)

My fellow Promise VISTAs have made a tremendous impact on me. From the moment you sign up for the program you are part of the family. In fact, I always look forward to our fall and spring training because it feels like a big family reunion. The future of our West Virginia is in the hands of our youth. I am constantly in awe of the amazing projects Promise VISTAs are initiating for the betterment of West Virginia's youth. Fredrick Douglas sums it up in his quote, "It is easier to build strong children than repair broken men." Looking back, the program's Director Pam Dugan made the biggest impact on me professionally. I feel so fortunate that I was able to serve alongside her as a VISTA Leader. Pam is one of the most hardworking and giving people I have ever met. Similarly to me, she utilized National Service to build her career. She served as a mentor and role model during my service as a VISTA and VISTA Leader. I will forever be grateful towards her for allowing me the opportunity to serve as a VISTA Leader.



4. I've gained.....Through this experience I have gained a wealth of professional and personal skills. Undoubtedly, this has been a priceless experience and I would recommend it to person, young or old. There is no age limit. In fact, my father is a VISTA at 63! It is amazing to see how one year of service can transform a person and community. I would not be the person I am today if it wasn't for this program. I've gained the world through my experience. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for the program. I feel so lucky to have been able to return to West Virginia and build a career. Prior to joining VISTA I never thought that was a possibility. Through my experience as a West Virginia's Promise VISTA, I was able to obtain a position as a Communications Coordinator at Volunteer West Virginia, the State's Commission for National and Community Service. This could have not been possible without Pam's dedication and direction towards the program



5. My future plans....I plan on using my Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to further my education through a graduate program. The program is still up in the air! However, I could see myself obtaining an MSW to continue my professional career in the social services sector. My other interests lie in international and domestic adoption, marketing and design, and higher education service learning. I thoroughly enjoyed my role as a VISTA Leader because it allowed me to serve as mentor and connect with others. I hope to one day serve as a program director or service learning coordinator for a similar program. If I was able to impact one person's life as much as Promise has impacted mine, I would know I was making a big difference!

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

BRIAN WILLIAMS-VISTA



Served: **May 2012 to May 2013**

Host Site: **Mary C Snow West Side Elementary**

County: **Kanawha**

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA to give back and be an example for my community. To be a part of a solution instead of complaining about the problems in my neighborhood.
- 2. During my term, I**Worked with at risk youth attending Mary C Snow West Side Elementary. I started a program called SWAG at the school which stands for Students With Awesome Goals. The concept of SWAG is simple, it's pretty much making school cool. If students had good attendance, behavior or grades they were rewarded for having SWAG. Also around this concept of SWAG I emphasized respect for each other and self. A donation was made from The Jacobson Foundation to fund the rewards that were distributed at the end of each nine weeks. Community volunteers assisted with the distribution of these rewards. I also became the main point of contact for the after school programs serving Mary C Snow West Side Elementary, distributing weekly newsletters and keeping the programs informed on events at the school. With the help of volunteers I got a dance team started at the school. I also recruited volunteers to help students with homework after school as well as be mentors to students. I assisted with a number of programs at the school from community gardens to clothing drives. I learned a lot during my time as a VISTA.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)** The whole experience made the biggest impact on me. There were so many different occasions when things happened that let me know that this experience was much bigger than me.
- 4. I've gained.....** I've gained things that money cannot buy from this experience. The opportunity to stand in the gap for a child that would otherwise have a void in their life has truly been a blessing.
- 5. My future plans....**
My future plans are to achieve my dreams and aspirations. Life's a journey and sky's the limit!

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

BRITTANY FLETCHER– VISTA

Served: **2013**

Host Site: **Rock Lake Community Center**

County: **Kanawha**

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** VISTA is because I wanted to be able to help the community and enrich the minds of the youth.
- 2. During my term,** I coordinated a one week summer arts camp and it was very successful. I learned a lot about grant writing, fundraising, volunteer management, capacity building. I also coordinated some movie nights for youth and working in the garden. I also coordinated and helped with the Rock of All Ages. Which was once a month and there were local bands that came to Rock Lake to play music for the youth. Which was in a safe environment and there was always a small fee or in-kind donations. Which all donations went to that charity.
- 3. Dana Mylinsky made the biggest impact on me.** Because she was like my mentor my whole first year as a VISTA. She was always there to help guide me and was free to help me in almost everything I tried. She made the biggest impact on me my first year
- 4. I've gained.....** lots of knowledge about the community and how important it is that I should always be involved. I have also gained knowledge on how to be a more out spoken person.
- 5. My future plans** are to go to grad school and get my degree in music performance. I also, plan to sometime in the future finish my Music education degree.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

BRITTANY FOX— VISTA



**Served: February 2013 to February 2013 &
June 2013 to August 2013**

**Host Site: Berkeley Springs High School &
Morgan County Partnership**

County: Morgan

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....**I decided to become an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA because I had just finished my bachelor's degree and did not know what I wanted to do with my life. I had worked at Energy Express with AmeriCorps volunteers in the past and had always heard excellent things about the program. In the end, I chose AmeriCorps because I saw it as an opportunity to make a difference and give back to the community I grew up in, while getting a chance to know myself better.
- 2. During my term, I**During my term of service, I had the opportunity to meet some amazing people who are doing incredible things to help the state of West Virginia and community of Berkeley Springs. Their stories are inspiring. I had a chance to get to know students at the high school I attended through the School of Hard Knocks Workshop, Drop-Out Prevention Game, Literacy Club, being positioned in the guidance counselors' office, drop-out prevention materials, Morgan County Adolescent Health Taskforce, and at Warms Springs Intermediate School with the Developmental Assets Program. I was also a volunteer for the Our Children, Our Future Campaign.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)** I think the individuals I interviewed for the Our Children, Our Future Campaign and the students who most frequented the guidance counselors made the biggest impact on me. These adults and youth grew up or are growing up in backgrounds much different to mine. To know them and the struggles they faced daily had a profound impact on the way I analyze the world around me.
- 4. I've gained.....**From my term of service, I have gained focus and drive to fill my future with public advocacy work.
- 5. My future plans....**While I am not so sure about the distance future, I know my current plans include being law school at the one of the top legal research and writing, trial court, and moot court schools in the country. My professors have done amazing things to help better society and in three years, I hope to follow in their footsteps. I want to concentrate in public advocacy law and one day be influential in the creation of policy advocacy for individuals who are not always able to speak for themselves.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

CASSANDRA DEGENER –VISTA



Served: November 2012 – November 2013
Host Site: FLOC Outdoor Education Center
County: Jefferson

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** After spending the summer as a counselor at The Outdoor Education Center, I learned what a great non-profit the organization was and what a great opportunity it was for at-risk youth in the Jefferson County area. I felt my time and learning there was not over, and I could continue to grow even more at The OEC as a VISTA.
- 2. During my term, I** I was heavily involved in creating the curriculum for the Leaders In Action after school program at Harpers Ferry and Charles Town Middle schools. I developed games, created curriculum, generated evaluations, and planned field trips for approximately 50 of the Leaders In Action students. While at The OEC, I also created reporting spreadsheets for the data from the evaluations given to the students in order to create more statistics for the organization that would help with grants. The reporting spreadsheets recorded the students' pre and post evaluation information, the overall average of the students' tests, and the increase or decrease in the students' overall retention level.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)**
The students involved in the Leaders In Action school program made the biggest impact on me. The youth of today is the most important thing in the world because they are the future we depend on. Seeing them progress into more mature individuals over the year has given me hope that these students will make a difference.
- 4. I've gained.....**I've gained many transferable skills while serving my VISTA term at Leaders In Action, as well as many memories and friends I will never forget. Working with a non-profit organization whose mission is to facilitate healthy character development for youth and adults, I myself have learned to become a better individual capable of effective communication, prioritizing goals, and team building skills.
- 5. My future plans....**As of right now, I do not have a concrete plan when I completing my VISTA term. However, I do want to stay in the education field and work with elementary school students. My ultimate goal is to become an elementary school counselor. I also want to continue volunteering my time to organizations and people in need.

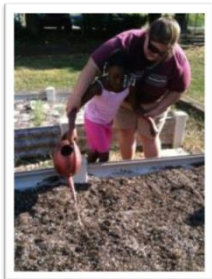
AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

JENNY TOTTEN— VISTA



Served: February 2012 through February 2014
Host Site: Rock Lake Community Center and WVSE
County: Kanawha and Cabell

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I think the biggest decision in me becoming a Promise VISTA was that I had already served for two years with another agency and was not thrilled with the promise of working with kids but then not actually being able to do it- WV's Promise allowed me the freedom to design my own programs and goals with my host sites and the back up of having a director and/or leader who always had the VISTA's best interest in mind.
- 2. During my term, I ...**Recruited over 300 separate volunteers to help with the SCRATCH Program in Huntington, WV; Many of the recurring volunteers are still helping today; Helped host a single fundraiser which brought in over \$2,000 for a girls' camp; Learned to manage community based projects and how to let go of control so that community members are empowered to continue the work.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?..... made the biggest impact on me.** Watching the kids at the SCRATCH program so excited to just come and dig in the dirt and garden with us made an enormous impact on me. In the past I'd always kind of assumed that heavily impoverished kids were not very motivated to get out of their own situations, but these guys were ready to work hard to learn to grow, market, and sale their own produce.
- 4. I've gained...**Grant writing skills; Compassion for anybody trying to help- everybody has something to give; Community engagement and development skills
- 5. My future plans....** I'm currently working as the Program Coordinator for the PLANTERS Program for West Virginia State University Extension Service. This is a garden and science program geared towards preschoolers and their families. This fall, I'm starting to work towards my MSW in Community Development at Penn State University with their distance learning program



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

JESSICA POLLITT – VISTA

Served: February 2013 to February 2014
Host Site: WVU Kanawha County Extension Service
County: Kanawha



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA...**I believe strongly in the need to reconnect children with where food comes from. Serving as a Promise Vista allows me to facilitate garden-based learning opportunities for area youth.
- 2. During my term, I** I have learned so much about food production as part of my service that I have been excited to share with area youth, educators, and gardeners.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)** Generally the 3-6 year olds and special needs kids that are working with garden-based learning really inspire me. They are so enthusiastic about and intrigued by the veggies growing and so willing to try the veggies they have grown that it reminds me why this effort is so important!
- 4. I've gained.....**valuable contacts and agricultural knowledge
- 5. My future plans....**to continue to facilitate youth gardening and integration of food production into daily environments



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

JOE GORMAN— VISTA



Served: February 2013 to February 2014

Host Site: WVSU Agricultural and National Resources Extension Service

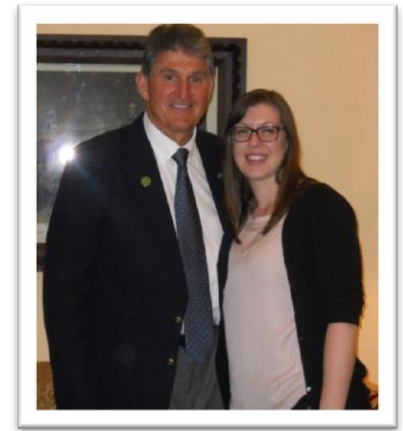
County: Kanawha

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA...** I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA because I wanted to see BuilditUp! West Virginia continue to grow. A VISTA partnership with WVSU allowed us to chase federal grants and integrate with the school's efforts for younger (SCRATCH) and older (House Program) at-risk youth.
- 2. During my term, I** During my term, I got to work with dozens of university staff and community partners on creative (and often fun) projects, serve as a mentor to children in the community, and see many ideas come to fruition (something which, as a low income person, I don't get to see happen often).
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)** My WVSU family made the biggest impact on me helping me out when things go wrong or when I made mistakes, sharing jokes (and food), showing real passion for their work. I've also gotten to know the young idealist community in the Oak Hill area a lot better VISTAs, the Food and Farm Coalition, and the self-employed and felt emotionally supported by them.
- 4. I've gained.....** I've gained a greater understanding of poverty, and the internal decision making structures and politics of universities. While I've known it for a while, my term was a reminder that serving community doesn't start with (or end after) VISTA service.
- 5. My future plans....** My future plans are to continue supporting youth led development work and grow the Build it Up program to contain the entire Appalachian region.

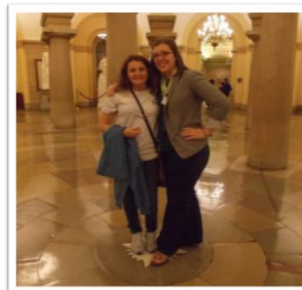
AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

KOURTNEY HARRELL— VISTA

Served: June 2012 to June 2013
Host Site: West Virginia's Promise
County: Jefferson



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA...** I decided to serve to help serve youth and their families. In addition, I wanted a chance to gain valuable life skills and work experience.
- 2. During my term, I** had the opportunity to connect with many community leaders and people due to my service as an AmeriCorps VISTA.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)** The amount of organizations and resources are available to at-risk youth and families. It is amazing to see communities comes together to serve the struggling families within their neighborhoods.
- 4. I've gained.....** an appreciation for everyone that works with youth and families in the state of West Virginia. I feel these people truly go above and beyond in the life of the children they serve.
- 5. My future plans....** are to utilize the skills and network connections I received during my year of service to begin my career path. I also plan to continue my own service to the youth and families throughout my life.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LISA BERRAY— VISTA



Served: February 2012 to April 2013
Host Site: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
County: Jefferson

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

I decided to serve with AmeriCorps because I have always believed in serving my country. My dream had always been to work with the National Park Service and this position allowed me the opportunity to do both things I love. When I was first presented with this opportunity, it seemed like a great combination: Inspiring kids to be more physically active and lead healthier lives while also creating the next generation of adults who will love and protect the National Parks.

2. During my term, I

During my term, I was a jack of all trades. From designing programs to doing outreach, from writing grants to writing scripts for films students would make, I had the opportunity to utilize just about every skill I have ever learned in life, work and education.

3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)

Every student I got to speak with, one on one, made a huge impact on me. The stories that they would share, good and bad, the way they would open up to anyone who would listen; these are the things that will stick with me. There was Zack at Harpers Ferry Middle School who would bounce around like a jumping bean every time I came around, so excited to tell me about a good grade on a test or a book he had just finished reading.

4. I've gained.....

During my time with AmeriCorps, I have gained a new heart for service. While I have always loved to volunteer and provide service, I never thought of this as being a defining part of who I was. Now, I realize that, in order to be a complete person, my life has to be about giving back and helping others lead the best lives they possibly can.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LISA BERRAY– VISTA

5. **My future plans....**

It had been my hope that at the end of my service, I would get a job with the National Park Service and live happily ever after. I have changed a great deal, though, in the past year. When I reached the end of my first year with AmeriCorps, I renewed my service and began year two. During that process, though, there were some challenges with the renewal process, and as a result, worried that I would lose my position and suddenly have nowhere to go, I was up late one night looking at jobs online. Before, I had only ever looked at jobs in the federal government, but for some reason, that night, I went onto the website for the Loudoun County, VA, government and found a position listed in the Department of Family Services Housing and Community Development unit. I applied, not thinking I had a chance in the world, but over a month later, I got an email asking if I might still be interested in the job. Not having interviewed for a position outside the federal government in years, I decided to give it a shot, again thinking I had no chance. However, when I went to the interview, I realized how much my heart had changed. I realized that what Loudoun County DFS does is exactly what I learned about in my time in AmeriCorps; it makes life better, safer and more secure for all people by ensuring that the communities are strong and all people have access to the resources they need to be their best selves.

I was offered the job and I accepted and now here I am, taking the message of AmeriCorps and West Virginia's Promise into a new community. In a couple of weeks, I will be speaking to the entire department about my experiences with AmeriCorps; what it is to live in poverty, see the suffering and challenges of others and actually try to do something about it. I am grateful for my time with AmeriCorps and it is my greatest hope for the future that I can share the lessons of that time with others.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

LISE HARDY— VISTA

Served: November 2012 to November 2013

Host Site: Children's Home Society

County: Berkeley

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA...** I decided to serve because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of children. Ever since I was in the military and was stationed at Walter Reed Army Med. Center's pediatrics ward, I developed a passion for children. I am relatively new to WV, and wanted to know more about the community I live in and what better way than to serve our youth.
- 2. During my term, I** I have met a host of community members who are very compassionate about our under privileged youth. Not only do they contribute monetarily, they give of themselves both in time and experience. I have come to love the children in our WE CAN program and would like to say they love me too. It does my heart great job when they can see me in the store or somewhere other than the office and become anxious to share with me their grades or anything in their lives. I consider them an extension of my own family. They are "my kids".
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)**
The person who has made the biggest impact on me would be Celestine Boyd. She is our WE CAN Coordinator and she loves what she does. She takes such an interest in her children that sometimes it can be quite overwhelming. Ms. Celestine gives her all to her job and welcomed me with open arms when I came aboard.
- 4. I've gained.....**A better understanding of my community. Until this experience I had no idea how many of our youth did not have the basic reading and math skills, even in high school. I still don't understand how these kids are being passed to the next grade without being thoroughly evaluated. That's why the WE CAN is so vitally important. I
- 5. My future plans....**
My future plans are to stay involved with the program. Toward the end of my service I plan on signing up as a volunteer so I can still interact and be here for these children. So many of them have no reliable adult in their lives and it would be unfair of me to leave them and not see them through school. I am a person that likes to finish what I've started and these children depend on the staff here. Not only for tutoring, but structure along with a listening ear and open heart.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SARAH NOWICKI– VISTA

Served: December 2012 to December 2013
Host Site: FLOC The Outdoor Education Center
County: Jefferson



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

I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA to learn more about the non-profit outdoor education sector. I wanted an opportunity to expose students to an outdoor learning setting with hands on, interactive games and activities. The mission of The Outdoor Education Center correlates with my personal career path.

2. During my term, I

During my term at The Outdoor Education Center of FLOC I became greatly involved in their social media and outreach sources. I wrote biweekly blogs to advertise our current events and programs as well as documented many activities through pictures and social media sites. I also assisted with our Leaders In Action after school program curriculum that touched on community service, local government, global connections, and health and gardening.

3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)

The move to West Virginia had the biggest impact on me. I previously worked at The OEC last summer but permanently moved into the state in December 2013. The OEC welcomed me into their family by maintaining a fun and exciting work environment. I quickly grew to feel at home in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia which made my move easier. I'm very thankful for the OEC staff and the fun loving environment they provide each and every day.

4. I've gained.....

During my year of service I gained social media skills through hands on experiences with The Outdoor Education Center's Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr pages. I also learned how to properly write interactive curriculum's for middle school students that touch on a variety of subjects. Lastly I gained crucial writing and marketing skills by writing blogs to advertise our programs and events.

5. My future plans....

My main goal for the future is to work at an outdoor organization that I have a passionate connection with. I would like to travel to other areas to explore a variety of non profit organizations.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

TAMMY KRUSE – VISTA



VISTA Name: Tammy Kruse

Served: September 2009 to September 2013

Host Site: Youth Services System, Inc

County: Ohio

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I was asked by a friend if I wanted to be a VISTA. After looking into what I would be doing, there was no problem saying yes, and I have loved every minute of it.
- 2. During my term, I**I have been a Promise VISTA with Pam Dugan for almost four years. During this time I have traveled around the state helping those in need, I have worked in my community to put food in the cupboards of youth ageing out of foster care, served dinner to many homeless people and served dinner, with fellow VISTA's , during a formal event. With the help of my community partners, children have clean clothes, warm coats and new shoes on their feet. I have been lost driving, met fabulous people, viewed incredible sunsets and hugged those who needed it the most. The best part of all of the things that I have done for others has turned around on me and those people have helped me to grow. Many thanks to those who have helped me to be a better person.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)**
My son has made the biggest impact on me. By having him around, I realized that services to your community starts at a very young age and never ends. I am proud of my son for always wanting to help. He has opened my eyes to a brighter tomorrow.
- 4. I've gained.....** Through these years I have grown into a leader, a more compassionate person, a hub to a wheel of giving. Making connections with those who want to give and those who are in need has made me realize that strength in numbers will help bring people out of poverty. Never give up!
- 5. My future plans....** I will always give back to my community! That is my future plan!



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

ALEXANDRA CONROY – VISTA



VISTA Name: **Alexandra Conroy**
Served: **August 2011 to September 2012**
Host Site: **Family Resource Network, Inc**
County: **Berkeley**

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I have always talked about my passion to serve others, but AmeriCorps Promise VISTA provided an outlet for me to actually carry out those aspirations. From little service projects I had taken part in throughout my young life, I knew how wonderful it felt to help others and how important it is to stand by your fellow community members.
- 2. During my term, I**I helped the Family Resource Network of the Panhandle (FRN) transition one of its programs serving relative caregivers and their children in their care to its own 501 (c) (3). I worked with the FRN Director to help build the program's capacity so that it could eventually survive on its own. Moreover, I worked with fellow VISTA members to carry out several service projects involving Serve WV Military, MLK Day of Service, and other national service activities. I worked with FRN staff and volunteers to coordinate "Child Watch", a child abuse and neglect awareness event that gives community members the opportunity to learn about the child welfare system "through the eyes of a child."
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)**Planning the MLK Day of Service event in my community had a tremendous, lifelong impact on me. My friend and fellow VISTA member, Sara Koontz, and I worked very hard with FRN and United Way staff and volunteers, and outside organization volunteers to plan a community event at the first black school in Berkeley County, the Sumner-Ramer Center in downtown Martinsburg, W. Va. The community had the opportunity to come together for some fun, education and remembrance of a school that, for many, had been forgotten.
- 4. I've gained.....**My service provided a tremendous amount of professional development and personal development. I am currently employed in a position that would not have happened if it weren't for the exposure that my VISTA position provided. Moreover, because of my service, I will always serve and stay involved in my community because it will be the only way I achieve true happiness.
- 5. My future plans....**I am currently working in a job that I love with the federal government, and I hope to apply to law school to study international human rights law in a few years. And, of course, service to my community will always be a part of whatever I do, wherever I go.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Taylor Fealy

**Host Site: Appalachian Impact-Buckhannon
Academy Elementary School**

County: Upshur

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I decided to serve as an SA to help children in need by supporting them and encouraging them to focus on their strengths and passions. I heard about Appalachian Impact from Justin, and was immediately enthused to have the opportunity to be a part of this program that serves to help and encourage others.
- 2. During my Summer term, I**
Helped plan and organize Appalachian Impact summer camp events and activities, I called and contacted volunteers to come and give presentations, while also creating important paperwork (incident forms, communication logs) to have on hand in case of emergency.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)** Having the mission team from Pittsburgh come and volunteer for a week had the biggest impact on me. Watching them share their love for Christ and making lasting impressions on the campers was absolutely wonderful to witness as well as be a part of.
- 4. I've gained.....** From this experience, I've gained more knowledge in public relations, communication, setting goals and timelines, and following through with plans. Not only did I gain knowledge in business, but these children had an impact on me. I learned from the campers and their experiences, what some of them have gone through and their outlook on life. Being with the children, I've gained more of an appreciation for the little things in life, patience, and what it truly means to give your time for others.
- 5. My future plans....** After I graduate college, my plans are to strive and join the Peace Corps. I want to take the experiences that I've gained from working with AmeriCorps, and being a part of Appalachian Impact to help others in different countries by building community and giving them hope for a brighter future.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Will Squires

**Host Site: Appalachian Impact-Buckhannon Academy
Elementary School**

County: Upshur

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Summer Associate.....

I was looking for ways to positively effect my community but on a shorter time schedule considering I am intending to return to school in the Fall to pursue my graduate degree.

2. During my Summer term, I

Served in an administration role for the Appalachian Impact camp, gathering community members to collaborate with the project and setting up schedules for them to hold their presentations and workshops during the camp.

3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)

The children! Serving with kids made a huge influence on me, and solidified my intentions of returning to school to work towards a degree in Education. The kids would come to camp every day with an excitement to learn and experience new things. Being a part of that process was a massive impact on me.

4. I've gained.....

So much experience with collaborating various organizations and businesses and working towards a common goal. I gained skills as far as communicating with not only children, but parents and volunteers to help coordinate the day to day activities of the summer camp.

5. My future plans....

Return to college to complete a Master's degree in Education and continue to work within my community to help with the youth of my area. I am involved in local sports teams as a coach and hope to continue that role serving young kids and helping them prepare themselves for their own futures.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Brittany Pribble
Host Site: Boys and Girls Club of Parkersburg
County: Wood



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Summer Associate.....** I choose to serve because I thought it would be a good experience for me, giving me a chance to work with children from all socioeconomic background, providing practice for teaching.
- 2. During my Summer term, I** Had the change to work with many fantastic kids, and an amazing mentor and friend who taught me a lot! I was able to learn to adapt and change with the kids who I came into contact with.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)** Roland made a very large impact on my experience this summer. I felt she would do her best to listen to me, and to give me advice. She truly enjoys the kids, and enjoys giving the kids this safe place!
- 4. I've gained....** A respect for people who do this everyday and a respect for the very hard lives many of our kids face.
- 5. My future plans....** My future plans are to finish college and become a teach. Someday I would like to open a safe place for teens.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

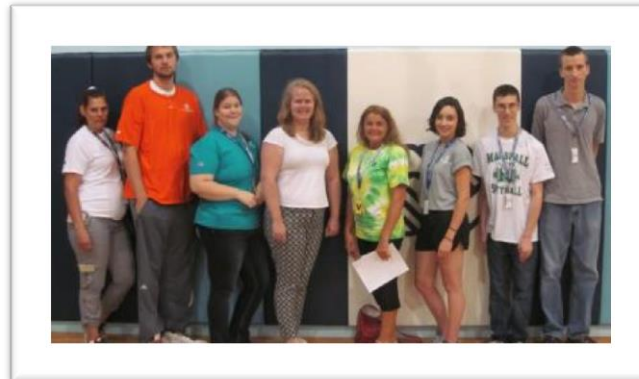
SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Elena Robinson

Host Site: Boys and Girls Club of Parkersburg

County: Wood

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I decided to become a VISTA because it would give me great experience dealing with kids before I attained a bachelor's degree in education.
- 2. During my term, I** I was a gym assistant and ran different physical activities for the kids.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** The kids made the biggest impact on me by continually challenging me to be creative when it came to games and to deal with behavioral situations in a mature way.
- 4. I've gained.....**I've gained even better leadership skills through working with the kids on a daily basis.
- 5. My future plans....**My future plans consist of attending Marietta College and attaining a bachelor's degree in education.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Jesse Lemar
Host Site: Boys and Girls Club Parkersburg
County: Wood



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA** I decided to serve to gain new knowledge and experiences with children and computers.
- 2. During my Summer term, I** Served mostly in the tech lab, conducting and assisting with computer learning activities.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?).** The children made the biggest impact because they taught me not to be so serious all the time and just to relax and have fun.
- 4. I've gained.....** New friends children and adults, and learned new games like bumper pool, and re learned how to play four square.
- 5. My future plans....** Are to finish my education at WSCC and obtain a career in the IT field.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Joshua Hughes

Host Site: Boys and Girls Club Parkersburg

County: Wood

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA** I needed a job. When I saw this volunteer opportunity, I knew I could spread knowledge and make a big difference.
- 2. During my Summer term, I** I hope the kids film and edit multiple video projects. I also helped teach different photography and editing classes.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?).** The children made the biggest impact on me. I got to see how happy I made them when I taught them during one of my classes. That was the best part of my service.
- 4. I've gained.....** I've gained the humility and knowledge needed to succeed in the workforce. I'll never forget my time here.
- 5. My future plans....** I lie back to Marshall University to start my sophomore year of college. I'm majoring in Sports Journalism.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

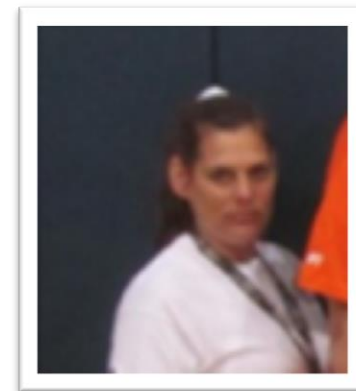
SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Melissa Hoosier

Host Site: Boys and Girls Club Parkersburg

County: Wood

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA** To help the youth it also helps me out in college with my CJ Degree.
- 2. During my Summer term, I** Learned new things like how to play bumper pool. All the kids knew how to play the game and I thought it was cool.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?).** The kids made a big impact with me. How they showed me how to play the game they liked to play. All the kids
- 4. I've gained.....** A lot of the new friends. I also gained a lot of new skills in the game room.
- 5. My future plans....** Is go back to school and get my Masters Degree in CJ. Then do work study in the Boys and Girls Club Parkersburg. Then next summer work with the youth again.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Travis Kersenbrock
Host Site: Boys and Girls Club Parkersburg
County: Wood

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA** I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps because I was out of a job and thought it would be good experience overall.
- 2. During my Summer term, I** Served in the gym as a gym assistant and ran activities “kick ball, rock wall, basketball, etc” for the kids.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?).** The biggest impact on me were the kids because they continuity gave me challenges to overcome.
- 4. I’ve gained.....** Overall I gained a good experience that has helped me with my leadership skills.
- 5. My future plans....** Are to return to college and finish my degree in business.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2012-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Cody Moore
Host Site: Boys and Girls Club Pleasants County
County: Pleasants

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA** I wanted to continue building on the mentoring relationships I had started with youth and children during the school year program. I also liked earning scholarship money for college.
- 2. During my Summer term, I** liked working with many new kids who don't go to school in Pleasants County or who don't attend the school year program.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)..** Seeing kids and working with them has helped me to realize that I want to continue to work with them in my career.
- 4. I've gained.....**different skills to help me work with kids who face challenges.
- 5. My future plans....**I will be working another term as an Education Alliance AmeriCorps member with Pleasants County Schools and the BGCPC. I then hope to attend WVU-P to study education.

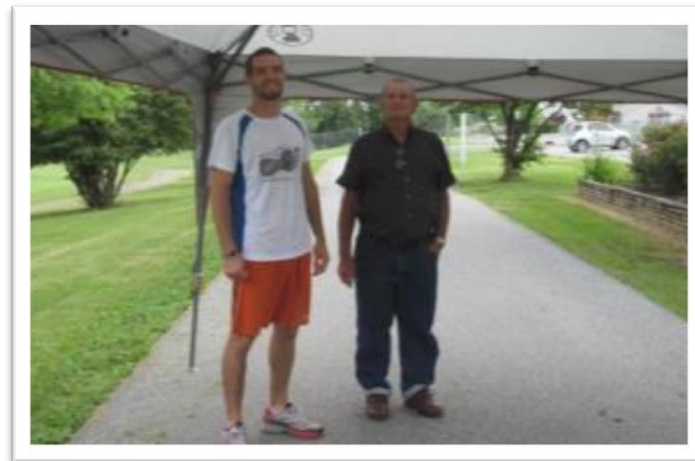


AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Bradley Dugan
Host Site: Catholic Charities
County: Jefferson

1. **Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA** to reach out and help kids in need through the sports of long distance running.
2. **During my Summer term, I** Saw improvement of many of the kids I served.
3. **.....made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?).** The children
4. **I've gained.....** Experience working with children from numerous backgrounds.
5. **My future plans....** Graduate school



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Lauree Lorenson

Host Site: Catholic Charities

County: Jefferson

1. **Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA** Benefits and career/personal advancement
2. **During my Summer term, I** dealt with many challenges
3. **.....made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?).** The children I worked with
4. **I've gained.....** An understanding of what it means to be an employee
5. **My future plans....** Are to continue on my path to being a physical therapist



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: **Andrea Litton**

Host Site: **Clay County Board of Education**

County: **Clay**

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps associate so that I could give the administrators a helping hand and indirectly help every student and employee of Clay County Schools.
- 2. During my term, I** During my summer term I had the opportunity to add information to online data bases, keep track of timesheets, and assist those individuals working in the billing and insurance, as well as the Special Education department.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me..** One of my prominent supervisors at the Board of Education, Loretta Gray, greatly impacted me during this summer term. I now have a new found appreciation for her and the job that she is asked to complete every day. It was such a privilege to be able to serve her this summer.
- 4. I've gained.....** During this Summer Term I have gained the ability to successfully and efficiently coordinate documents for everyone working in a school system.
- 5. My future plans....** My future plans are to start my college education; however, I would love to be able to still serve my county during the summer through AmeriCorps.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Grayson Hamrick
Host Site: Clay County Board of Education
County: Clay

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I decided to serve with AmeriCorps for a couple of reasons. The primary reason was the educational reward that would be given to me if I completed a summer term with AmeriCorps. Going to college is certainly not a cheap adventure so this reward was incentive to apply and serve with AmeriCorps during their summer program. The second reason I decided to serve was getting able to work closer with the schools and people of the county and community. I plan to return here to teach, upon completion of my degree at the University of Charleston.
- 2. During my Summer term, I** filed and organized documents from the previous school year. I was also responsible for uploading and managing inventory spreadsheets. I worked with maintenance reports, service personnel files, and professional development sheets. I also assisted in putting together bus driver/contract bus driver packets, working with Job Postings, and setting up new computers. I also organized and helped with the weeklong event of the Northgate Mega Sports Camp that took place at Clay County High School. To wrap up my service, I was responsible for sending out and organizing purchase orders from the spring term, as well as contacting the businesses and companies to confirm these purchase orders.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** I do believe the school system alone made the biggest impact on me. As someone who has worked in the school system before during previous summers, I have always thoroughly enjoyed everything that came with working in a school. I enjoy seeing what happens “behind the curtain” as schools prep towards the students return in the fall. I enjoy working closely with people responsible for running a school and the entire school system. Working closely with these individuals allows me to improve on my communication skills, organization skills, and work-related skills. This is why I believe the school system as a whole has made the biggest impact on me.
- 4. I've gained.....** skills related to what I will be needing to accomplish whenever I hopefully begin to teach next fall. I have gained better skills with communicating with people on a daily basis, making organization out what seems like chaos, and just bust becoming more comfortable in the school system.
- 5. My future plans....** Are to complete my service with AmeriCorps as stated on August 10, 2014. After this, I will return back to the University of Charleston to finish up my senior year of college in hopes of receiving my degree in Elementary Education.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Hayley Morris

Host Site: Clay County Board of Education

County: Clay

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I wanted to help serve my community through AmeriCorps.
- 2. During my term, I** Served in the office and helped with the day-to-day of running a school. Did my part to ensure the school ran smoothly by helping with office duties, volunteered at the Mega sports Camp that the high school held.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)**
This whole summer serving here has made the biggest impact on me. It has made me rethink my career choice. Mega sports Camp had the greatest impact on me. I loved inspiring the kids and being around them
- 4. I've gained.....** a great knowledge of what it takes to run a school and a greater respect for the teachers and administrators
- 5. My future plans.....** may include being an educator or an administrator after this summer. Being at the high school summer really led me to rethink my future plans. Being an advocate for the students just might be what my future holds. Being at the high school summer really led me to rethink my future plans. Being an advocate for the students just might be what my future holds

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Gary Awkard
Host Site: Destiny Baptist Church
County: Berkeley

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps summer associate to give back to the community, give kids a positive role model, and have a productive summer that would give me a useful experience
- 2. During my term, I** Kept count of meals served through the Summer Food Program, helped kids at Burk St with improving reading, writing, and math skills. I planned and hosted community parties each Friday after lunch for kids, planned community service projects for 70 volunteer students, assisted teachers, and provided supervision at school, on playground, and on field trips.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me..** The kids at Burk St had the biggest impact on me. Each day I continued to help them improve their educational skills and saw how they improved. I also stepped up to being a positive role model for the kids to look up to and saw how much they appreciated me.
- 4. I've gained.....** I've gained skills with working with children, teaching, planning events, supervision of kids, keeping inventory and count, and gained insight into the field of education.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Kydesha Bell

Host Site: Destiny Baptist Church

County: Berkeley

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** to give back to the community, to provide, assistance to the disadvantaged youth in my community, and to be a good role model to the children of this community
- 2. During my term, I** helped the students through hard experiences with reading and showed them that they have the power to be successful. I was able to help provide a healthily, happy, and safe, environment for them to learn in.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** The children had the biggest impact on me because despite what their situations were they attended the program and every day and worked hard to read better.
- 4. I've gained.....** knowledge on how to help others, secretarial skills, motivational skills, minor teaching skills organizational skills, and a new insight and prospective about my community
- 5. My future plans....** are to finish school and start my career in law. I want to try and make a difference



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Allison Jones
Host Site: Family Connections
County: Brooke



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I wanted to help out the girls who have had a rough life and hopefully show them new things. I also wanted them to learn and be prepared for the world when they turn 18 and leave.

2. During my term, I

took the girls to different places to let them experience things/ Even though the Pirates game was fun it taught them different kinds of people and a big city. Even simple days of board games got me closer to the girls and help them in any way I could. A life skill at the local church has helped the girls understand different life actions they will need.

3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?) All 12 of the girls have had a huge impacted on me. They will always be a part of me and I hope they remember everything I did for the,,/ Every day I enjoy coming into work and seeing the girls. They helped make this summer a blast

4. I've gained.....knowledge of this age group and their actions. 12 girls from the age s of 12-17 is very different than most groups. But it has helped me understand how hard it is for them all to agree on something and be positive about it

5. My future plans.... To get a job in the marketing field and travel

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Jason Brackett

Host Site: FLOC The Outdoor Education Center

County: Jefferson

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** A friend of mine previously served for AmeriCorps through Energy Express .I looked into the program the more I saw that this AmeriCorps opportunity was a great chance to work with children while also being in the outdoors. When I realized I could use this opportunity as my internship and that they also have an education award to help pay back my student loans I realize how greatly beneficial it would be for me.
- 2. During my term, I** Served as a camp counselor/naturalist at the For Love of Children Outdoor Education Center (FLOC OEC). Throughout the summer I worked with a variety of participants from high school to adults but mostly with middle school students.
- 3.made the biggest impact on me. (Who? What? Why? How?)** Everybody I worked with had a great impact for me because I learned so much about myself. It helped me plan a vision on what I wanted to do with my life. I learned most importantly that I have to be patient with children and that all children are different.
- 4. I've gained.....**I've gained an incredible amount of knowledge about the great outdoors and how to survive. Prior to my service at the outdoor education center, I had never been camping before. I couldn't tie knots, know how to steer a canoe, set up a high ropes course and zip line, and facilitate activities like the low ropes course. I am now a much more confident public speaker, leader and facilitator. Most importantly I've gained experience with working with kids and being a positive role to them and others around me. I also forgot how much of a sponge a child's brain is and they absorb everything.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

Jason Brackett

5. My future plans....I plan on furthering my education and hope to pursue my Master's Degree in Business Administration. I realized this summer that I love working with children and one day I'd love to open up my own outdoor education center. I'd love to help children be successful and help pave the path for them to make it to and through college. Not all children have to chance to go to college or even have it come across their mind. However, I want to change that and do my best to help kids become not only better in the classroom, but to help them become a better person all around.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Ian Hillman
Host Site: Jefferson County Schools
County: Jefferson

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I decided to serve so I could help prevent summer learning loss for the students of Jefferson County. I thoroughly enjoy working with students and being able to provide a consistent presence the help with their education, a quality lacking in so many of their lives. I knew by being an AmeriCorps member, as I had served two years ago, that I would be awarded this opportunity yet again to help students grow, not only with their academics, but hopefully as citizens of their community as well.

2. During my term, I Was able to help students with their numeracy and literacy skills. I was able to help facilitate initiatives, such as getting a guest speaker, a PhD from a local science center to come in twice and present information about native fish, such as rainbow trout. I was also able to develop podcasts to help communicate information to parents and the community. Additionally, I was a resource to the teachers of summer school, being able to help them in ways such as covering their class, attaining materials, helping with individual students, etc.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The students by far made the biggest impact on me. As I did two years prior, I saw what are considered the children that are a handful, and developed relationships with these students. It was reiterated to me that if a child knows you are concerned about their well-being, they are willing to work with you. It was rewarding seeing growth in reading and math skills, along with growth as students in general, and as citizens of their communities.

4. I've gained.....A plethora of skills. I have gained self-confidence, patience, understanding, a stronger sense of compassion for students who may be initially tough to develop a relationship with, a better understanding of families and various backgrounds, and a better understanding of different cultures and traditions.

5. My future plans....

Include working with children in the education system in Jefferson County Schools. This experience, as mentioned above has given me many skills that I will carry with me and use as an educator moving forward.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Brittany Fox

Host Site: Morgan County Partnership

County: Morgan

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Summer Associate because Morgan County Partnership is a fantastic organization and group of people who are working hard to prevent drug use and promote healthy programs for families and youth in the county.

2. During my term, I During my summer term, I gained valuable information on the importance of the 40 Developmental Assets and the creative way parents and community members can show involvement and nurture.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. My coworkers and community members made the biggest impact on me this summer. The support and believe these individuals have in what they do is both motivating and inspiring.

4. I've gained.....I have gained more valuable knowledge about the importance of strong family involvement to give children the best opportunities possible to succeed and strengthen invaluable relationship with coworkers.

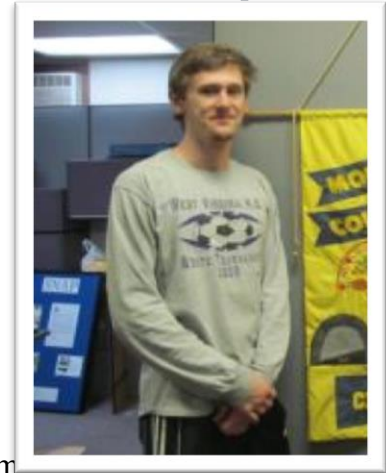
5. My future plans....My future plans include beginning law school in the fall with the hope of becoming an international human rights lawyer and possibly working with the PeaceCorps.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Caleb Murray
Host Site: Morgan County Starting Points
County: Morgan



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I figured it would be an opportunity to serve people. I was strongly encouraged by my sister, and the living stipend and scholarship were a welcome benefit.
- 2. During my term, I** Learned that the more you put in the more you get out, whether it be with work or relationships.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** The kids made the biggest impact on me because of their willingness to participate, their push through circumstances to smile, and their solutions to problems that may not be so orthodox. They made my experience as a VISTA ever more enjoyable. I got excited to wake up when I got to serve them directly
- 4. I've gained.....**Knowledge, experience, and connections that will greatly assist me in my future career field.
- 5. My future plans....**I plan on finishing my degree in Secondary Education (Social Studies 5-adult, Mentally impaired) and possibly getting another specialization in Elementary Education after I was made aware of the need of positive male role models in those grades. Then I would like to start teaching. I would also like to serve whenever I can, in my community and in the rest of the world.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Carrie Boone
Host Site: Morgan County Starting Points
County: Morgan

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

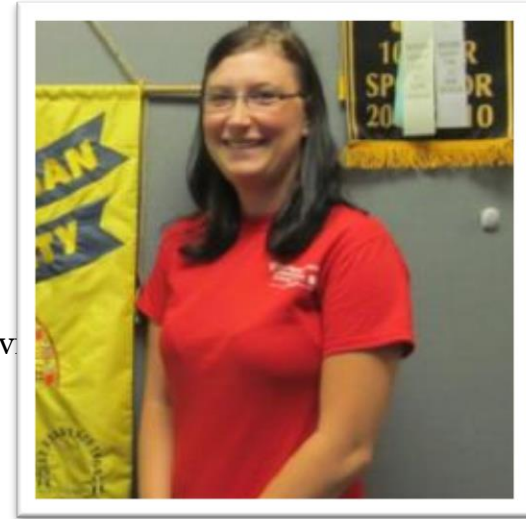
I decided to serve because it seemed like a good way to serve my community, and give back to the community I grew up in to better it.

1. During my term, I During my Summer term, I participated in many programs involving STEM activities and got to work with some amazing people. I was able to accomplish a great amount of research on different grants for MCAFF, and research on community gardens to better the availability of local fresh produce to the community.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. MCAFF made the biggest impact on me because I got to see all the work they are putting in to bringing fresh local foods to the community, and how they made it possible for people with SNAP benefits to enjoy it too.

4. I've gained..... I've gained knowledge on grants, community workings, and how I can better serve the community in the future

5. My future plans.... My future plans include going back to college and getting my degrees.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Andrew Reabe

Host Site: Mountaineer Boys and Girls Club

County: Monongalia

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Associate because of my time spent as an intern at MBGC. I enjoyed the nature of the work, the members of the club, and my coworkers. I also thought this program was a good fit for me out of college.

2. During my term, I I spend a majority of my time working with a group of teenagers. I helped conduct educational lessons, fitness lessons, and other activities. Also, I got to help supervise other workers in the group. I got to do all kinds of different tasks that my placement site asked of me.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The children I worked with made the biggest impact on me. I got to develop relationships with these kids because of how much time I spent working with them. It was surprising how much I learned from working with them each day.

4. I've gained..... I have gained valuable experience relating to my intended career path (psychology). I have learned skills that allow me to get the most out of my experience working with children. I also learned more about the career I'd like to have.

5. My future plans.... I intend to take on a year long position with AmeriCorps and continue to serve at the Mountaineer Boys and Girls Club. I am also looking at my options for continuing my education to help find a good job in the field of psychology.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Christa Varner

Host Site: Mountaineer Boys and Girls Club

County: Monongalia

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** Great opportunity to open doors for a future career, overall a great program. I really support what you are trying to do in communities.
- 2. During my term, I** Worked with children 1st-4th grade children doing STEM projects
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** Leah because she is extremely shy and doesn't talk to adults. I formed a conversation with her and she talks to me every day.
- 4. I've gained.....** Work experience, knowledge with working with kids. Better communication between coworkers, better work ethic between coworkers
- 5. My future plans....** Are to work with the Boys and Girls Club program and to finish my college degree

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Eli Hill

Host Site: Mountaineer Boys and Girls Club

County: Monongalia

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I wanted to better the lives of children in my community.

2. During my term, I I worked as behavior manager and group leader. I ran many programs such as clay tech, smart moves and other educational activities

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The children's friendship made the biggest impact on me. They made me feel as if I was making a real difference in their lives..

4. I've gained..... Knowledge of how to handle behavior issues and knowledge pertaining to Clay Tech and other STEM projects

5. My future plans.... Are to go to WVU law school or teaching

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Heather Johnson
Host Site: Mountaineer Boys and Girls Club
County: Monongalia

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I wanted the opportunity to help make a difference in my community.
- 2. During my term, I** Worked with children, mostly ages 5-8 of various backgrounds, socioeconomic status, and race.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** The children who you know come to the Club every day from families and life events that aren't even close to perfect, but still manage to be happy and thrive with the support of the staff.
- 4. I've gained.....** Lots of experience with a wonderful non-profit, experience supporting children in a semi-structured environment.
- 5. My future plans....** Are to one day continue my education.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Karita Kennedy

Host Site: Mountaineer Boys and Girls Club

County: Monongalia

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

I chose to serve as an AmeriCorps Summer Associate because I wanted to help the children in my community.

2. During my term, I Helped children of all ages. With STEM, I mostly worked with the 8-12 year olds.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The kids made the biggest impact on me, because I got close with some of them and really got to know them.

4. I've gained..... Patience. A lot of kids were needy at times and all of them at once which makes it stressful, but it got much better as I got more patient.

5. My future plans.... Are to continue to help children in poverty areas and continue schooling

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: **Amy Moore**

Host Site: **Potomac Valley Audubon Society**

County: **Jefferson**

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I wanted to volunteer my time to work with children in my ideal work setting: the outdoors. I love the enthusiasm children have and it helps bring out my own enthusiasm when teaching about one of my greatest passions; the environment.

2. During my term, I Worked with children from ages 4-12 as a camp counselor. I created and led lessons, activities, games and crafts that were nature themed. I also led the children on nature hikes and other wilderness activities such as fort building and tree identification.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The children recalling information that I had taught them earlier in the week. I was happy to know that they would leave camp with new knowledge that I helped them acquire. I also was very moved when each week would come to an end and the children would not want camp to end. It made me feel like I was truly doing something worthwhile.

4. I've gained..... Skills in planning lessons and gauging the needs of the children. I also became very good at improvisation and flexibility with my plans and activities.

5. My future plans.... I am currently attending Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland and will be starting my senior year this fall. I am studying environmental studies with a concentration in informal environmental education. I plan to graduate this coming spring and become an environmental educator.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Carl Thomas

Host Site: Potomac Valley Audubon Society

County: Jefferson

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I chose to serve in order to help instruct children in environmental issues that I find to be important and pressing in our community while working in an environment that I am comfortable with and love.
- 2. During my term, I** I helped to instruct campers/children in environmental issues that are particularly relevant to our community and to increase my own knowledge of these problems.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** The campers made the biggest impact on me by demonstrating their eagerness to learn and their willingness to address the pressing issues that our environment faces.
- 4. I've gained.....** I've gained additional knowledge about the our local environment, the species that inhabit it and the importance of conservation, as well as a better understanding of how to share that knowledge with others, in particular youth.
- 5. My future plans....** I plan to attend college in the fall and hopefully use some of the skills for relating and instructing that I learned this summer.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Jenny Moore

Host Site: Potomac Valley Audubon Society

County: Jefferson

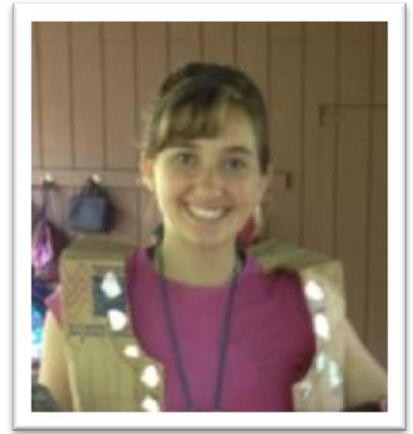
1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I loved the idea of being able to volunteer my time to be with children and to help educate them about one of my greatest passions: nature.

2. During my term, I Worked with children from ages 4-12 at a summer camp where I spent 6 hours a day exposing them to the wonders of the great outdoors. In this time we hiked, interpreted nature, learned about history, played games, and constructed crafts.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. Talking to the parents when they came to pick their children up at the end of the day had the greatest impact on me.. That made the biggest impact on me because it helped me feel confident with how my performance was.

4. I've gained..... People skills and confidence in my ability to work with children. I have also learned the valuable skill of planning programs for people and adapting when things do not go as planned

5. My future plans.... I am currently attending Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland and I am studying Social Sciences. I plan on getting my Masters Degree in Secondary Education. I hope to one day be a high school social studies teacher.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Clifford Corbett

Host Site: Ranson Elementary School

County: Jefferson

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** To have an experience with children and teachers in the classroom.
- 2. During my term, I** Really helped the school out in what they wanted me to do.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** The children in the class I was assisting. They wanted to learn and be there every day.
- 4. I've gained.....** An experience with helping children in the classroom
- 5. My future plans....** To go to college and maybe serve again next summer for AmeriCorps

VISTA Name: Brittany Stillwell

Host Site: Ranson Elementary School

County: Jefferson

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....**It was a good opportunity to volunteer for my community and gain experience in the education field.
- 2. During my term, I** Helped teach kindergarten and helped work with children at all ages.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** Mrs. Brandi Ellwein was always so encouraging and helped me with college. She treated me as an equal and gave me confidence I need to go.
- 4. I've gained.....** Experience with working with children as well as new friends.
- 5. My future plans....** August 15 I move into a dorm and will go to WVU for the next four years.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Bonnie Young
Host Site: Richwood Public Library
County: Nicholas

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....**I decided to serve as a summer associate because I love to work with children. I hoped to educate them in a fun friendly manner.
- 2. During my term, I** I worker with children at the Richwood Public Library. We had a science related theme.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** The children had the biggest impact on me.
- 4. I've gained.....** I've gained a greater knowledge of science
- 5. My future plans....** My future plans are to continue working at the library and hopefully be a vista next summer.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Brienna Jenkins
Host Site: Rock Lake Community Center
County: Kanawha



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA** I thought I would be making a real difference in the community while simultaneously broadening my own horizons.
- 2. During my term, I** I founded the Rock Lake Book Club, a free and open-to-the-public reading-incentive program for children grades K-6. This program started small, reaching four children and six adults, and will hopefully have the support it needs to grow next summer if plans to continue it come to fruition.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me..** The time I spent teaching music to the youngest campers in Rock Lake Arts Camp made the biggest impact on me of any activity in which I have ever participated. It was inspiring to know that many of these students came in having virtually no musical background and that every student left having read basic musical notation with the proficiency required to rehearse and perform. Knowing that these children can start with nothing and leave with such an abstract and developmentally unexpected skill lets me wonder what else they are capable of if somebody just shows them the care and guidance they need.
- 4. I've gained.....** During my time at Rock Lake Community Life Center I have used skills I did not previously know I had. I have headed a meeting between my fellow vistas and my supervisors, I have organized and hosted outreach events such as the Book Club, and I have planned and executed music lessons for an age group I hoped never to involve myself with. It is largely through this that I have gained the confidence I need to succeed in the rest of my life, whether it be in school, work, faith, or family. I can always look back on these few weeks and know that I am capable of so much more than I used to believe.
- 5. My future plans....** In the next few years I intend to pursue my BFA in music with an emphasis in composition and theory. During the summer breaks I am happy to consider further involvement with AmeriCorps Vista.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Crystal Hays
Host Site: Rock Lake Community Center
County: Kanawha

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I want to make a difference in kids' lives. This is why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps. I have dedicated my life's work as a teacher to improve the quality of life that kids have. I am a firm believer in the 5 promises and believe every child should have them. If there is anything I can do for children, like be a part of this camp, I want to be a part of it.

2. During my term, I During my summer I set up everything for arts camp. The list above shows what I have done in the way of setting everything up. I successfully ran Rock Lake Arts Camp

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The kids made the biggest impact on me. I actually taught a class during the arts camp and it allowed me to get to know the kids personally. Every child comes from a different S.E.S. and we can't take that information for granted. My goal was to make sure the students were safe, fed and nurtured.

4. I've gained..... I've gained more experience in teaching and directing. I directed this camp last year with a co-director, and this year I directed it on my own. I gained teaching information each time I set foot into the classroom. Each class dynamic is different and molding my lesson plans to that uniqueness will help me in a classroom of my own.

5. My future plans.... My future plans are to teach during the school year and be a VISTA if at all possible in the summers. I want to continue to be a part of this camp. I am very invested in this camp and want to see it succeed. Whatever that means on my part I am wholeheartedly committed. I will also be around during the school year working with the main VISTA Brittany Fletcher here at the Rock Lake Community and Life Center.

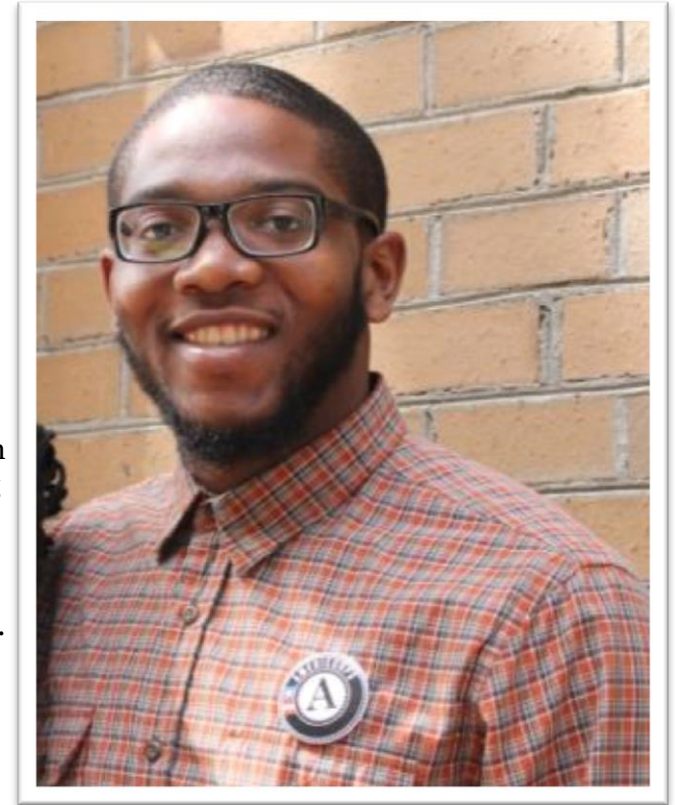


AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Jason Harris
Host Site: The Education Alliance
County: Kanawha

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** Because I served for AmeriCorps before and grew professionally, academically, and personally, and wanted to continue growth.
- 2. During my term, I** Learned a lot about the education scene within West Virginia and how much work gets put into our youth's education.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me..** Working in an office setting made the biggest impact on me because it was a new and interesting experience.
- 4. I've gained.....** Experience with planning important meetings, relationships, with colleagues, confidence in leading a focus group, a new appreciation for children.
- 5. My future plans....** My near future plans are to move to Cleveland, Ohio to serve greater Cleveland area as college guide for high school students on August 4th.

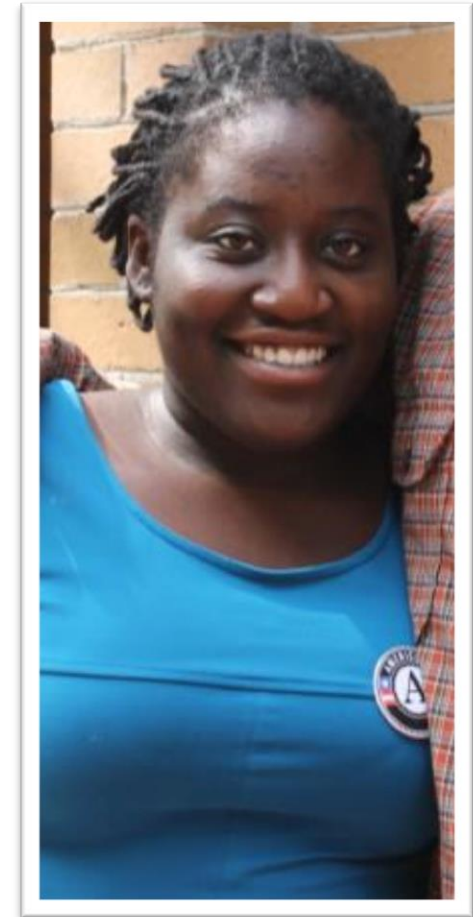


AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Ruvelle Bropleh
Host Site: The Education Alliance
County: Kanawha

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....**I chose to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Summer Associates because I agree programs foundation and love to help children.
- 2. During my term, I**During my summer term became more acclimated in West Virginia 's public school system and also had the opportunity to see some legislative officials at the capitol. I had the honor of sharing my inputs with the team on suggestions for existing educational programs.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me..** Volunteering at Piedmont Elementary made the biggest impact on me because the students were so excited and appreciative that we came to spend the day with them. They became overjoyed from the smallest things and that really made me happy.
- 4. I've gained.....** I've gained much insight on the public school system in West Virginia and some methods of advocacy that are provided for students.
- 5. My future plans....** In the future I plan to attend medical school to become a pediatric surgeon or pediatrician. I want to help children in any way possible but I aspire to do so through medicine.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Jessica Cash

Host Site: The Education Alliance-United Way River Cities

County: Cabell



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I decided to serve because I had enjoyed my experience with the AmeriCorps on the Frontline program. I had worked with Education Matters previously as well and I knew that it would provide me the opportunity to continue my work with promoting the value of education in my community. It was a perfect fit

2. During my term, I I had the opportunity to provide summer programming to one of the most difficult communities in Cabell County to reach, we developed family literacy activities, focused on prevention, and provided an immunization clinic and form literacy services to parents as they enrolled their students in school. Additionally, I promoted education by planning an Attendance Awareness campaign that will be spread throughout the entire county in the month of September, our second annual Attendance Awareness Month. I also collected resources for an upcoming community resources apps geared just for students and their families.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The thing that made the biggest impact on me during the summer was my experience with how partnerships can impact change in my community. I had no idea there were that many services available and what they could accomplish when they come together. Working with Education Matters and partnering with Tri-State Literacy Council and the Marcum Terrace Family Center we were able to accomplish so much more for our students that we originally imagined.

4. I've gained..... I've gained so much insight into how to build a successful coalition and how to reach families in this community. I've gained a newfound appreciation for living united.

5. My future plans.... I'm excited to return to college and use all of the experiences, insight and knowledge I gained from my summer experience to obtain a degree in psychology and work with either teens or incarcerated individuals.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Annie Brownfield

Host Site: WVSU

County: Cabell



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** My decision to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Summer Associate was difficult to make and somewhat unexpected. For months preceding the commencement of my service, I had planned on spending my summer serving overseas with missionaries in Uganda. When the mission plans failed, I had two other opportunities to serve out of town. I was accepted to be a challenge course facilitator at West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen as well as a summer intern with Churchill Activities and Tutoring (CHAT) in Richmond, Virginia. Although I was already very familiar with both programs and would have loved to work with either of them, I was not at peace with leaving home.
- 2. During my term, I** My summer involved being pulled in many different directions and learning as I go. From having no prior gardening knowledge to becoming a “Master Gardener,” required quite a bit of learning and experimenting. My summer mainly consisted of garden maintenance, SCRATCH activities with kids, and involving teens with SCRATCH, along with any other random needs that come with community centers.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** The kids and teens I worked with made the biggest impact on me. I fell in love with each of them because they are so desperate for love. The kids at Fairfield East were so eager to join me outside for lessons, activities, crafts, and games. At first, they were hesitant to welcome me because they probably thought I was just a privileged white girl coming in to get community service hours. Once they realized I was there to stay with good intentions, they accepted me with kindness. The teens also opened up to me, viewing me as more of a friend than a mentor.
- 4. I’ve gained.....** During my summer as a VISTA, I have gained knowledge and a passion for gardening, teaching experience, and perspective. Being thrown into a program where I am supposed to be a “Master Gardener,” gaining knowledge on gardening was inevitable, and necessary. I quickly learned the basics of gardening with the help of my coworkers and learned the names of plants by texting pictures of various unknown plants in the garden to Jenny for identification. I still would not consider myself a “Master Gardener,” but I have certainly learned, and am still learning, quite a bit about gardening. In learning about gardening, I developed a passion for it. I truly enjoyed choosing seeds and seedlings to sow and plant, tending the garden, and harvesting our produce. Although, my time gardening as a VISTA is ending, I desire to continue gardening and hope to have a garden of my own one day.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

Annie Brownfield

5. My future plans....Although this is a broad and wide open question, I will answer how my plans seem to be in the near future. This coming semester, I plan to continue volunteering with SCRATCH and having the teenage girls over for dinner just like the past two years at school. I would love to stay more involved just as I have been this summer but with eighteen hours of classes, working, and other commitments, I will not be able to spend as much time with SCRATCH. I also plan to stay involved with the Fairfield East Community Center by tutoring the kids once a week or so. I have already talked to many people from both Marshall and a local church who want to get involved in the community. The Barnett Center and the Fairfield East Community Center are eager for volunteers. So, even though I cannot commit too much time this semester, other people will be helping out.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Cadance Young

Host Site: WVSU

County: Cabell



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** After growing up in a community and seeing the lack of resources and funding going towards helping needy families, I decided to spend my first summer eligible helping those around me. Poverty is a rampant disease in our country and I wanted to be a part of the movement to eliminate hardship from young people's lives so they have an opportunity to grow up and accept the richness and education they deserve. My deep compassion has driven me to work hard and focus on taking care of the needy, especially the children. I strongly believe that all children should be granted the 5 Promises, and because I am so passionate, I spend many hours in my later teens trying to compensate with programs and outreach for the communities. I have done volunteer work, and even worked for a program called Build It Up! West Virginia which focuses on restoring communities and community centers. After working with and around these communities for a few years, I decided I wanted to be a part of a bigger movement to eliminate poverty. That's when I decided to join AmeriCorps Summer Vista.
- 2. During my term, I** During my summer term I was placed in Huntington, West Virginia, in an area called Fairfield. I experienced the hardships faced by the people here, and got a first-hand look at just how deep poverty goes. I was put in charge of community gardens and outreach for the youth of the area. I learned how to deal with poverty, and taught how to overcome it. I built a small garden for a senior's community, which they had wanted for many years prior to my arrival. I empowered the senior community to undertake the garden, and to utilize the resources I provide for them. I also continued to work in the Maudella Garden, the Marshall Child Development Academy, and the Barnett Center garden. All three of these gardens are youth education gardens and are also used for small production. I taught children how to plant, water, and weed all these areas, and later on how to cook the foods produced. Another part of my time was spent working for and with West Virginia State University Extension Service and doing workshops and the backyard habitat. The backyard habitat is an interactive set up made of tents and tables and garden based activities. It is run by WVSU and is taken all across WV to set up at many different community get-togethers. Overall I have been learning and teaching about community development and watching communities grow alongside the gardens and programs we put in place.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

Cadance Young

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. Growing and being able to learn while watching the world around me change for the better. It was an eye opening experience. I grew up in a city that I had once believed was beyond my control, and that I was unable to help them, but looking back now, it's all about setting an example, and being there to help. The ability to watch the programs I helped, and to watch the things I built up, really taught me patience. And being able to step back, catch my breath, and look at the big picture of everything I did this summer was truly a life altering experience. I am thankful to be placed in the community that I am in, and I am thankful for the people working around and with me. I especially appreciate the young girls I met with and had the pleasure of working with, even after the summer program at Barnett closed. They really showed me how a community should be. The love and undeniable admiration they had for me was truly life-changing. Coming from a bigger city, the connections I had were not as solid as the ones I made while working in Huntington, West Virginia. The sense of community and the closeness of all the people really allows a program such as West Virginia Promise to thrive because everyone is trying to help everyone. That is why I believe that the community as a whole had the largest impact on me as a vista. It showed me how things should be and set goals in my mind of how to work with communities to imitate this closeness, because in order to have a thriving community, the members must want to help, and being helpful stems from being close to one another. Neighbors take care of neighbors, and that is what I became.

4. I've gained..... In working with vista, I've gained more knowledge than I will ever be able to use. I've gained friendships within a community and I've finally found somewhere I'll always be able to call home. I've gained a new respect for those who live in poverty and the struggles they go through. Its not easy to live the way some of these people are living. It's even harder to raise a family and possibly take care of older residents, much like what I have seen in Fairfield.

5. My future plans....I plan to continue with vista and be a full year vista, after which I will go to college to become a social worker and have a degree in biology. I hope to continue working in the Fairfield area while going to school at WVSU.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Emily Moore

Host Site: WVSU

County: Kanawha

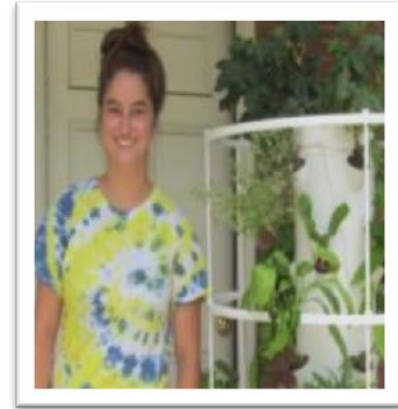
1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I wanted a job where I could work outside and be helpful to the community, so this seemed like the perfect fit for me.

2. During my term, I I helped different communities through garden builds and assisting them with different things they needed done that they may not be able to do themselves.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me Doing different JMG activities with different children at the Shawnee community center made the biggest impact on me knowing they enjoyed some of the same activities that I did when I was little. I enjoy seeing children take interest in things that could possibly be something they want to pursue in life.

4. I've gained..... Throughout my term, I've learned a lot about an array of subjects such as gardening, dealing with different kinds of people, and how to keep children happy.

5. My future plans.... Finish school with degree in biology, go to graduate school for something. I'm still not sure what I want to do in the future.



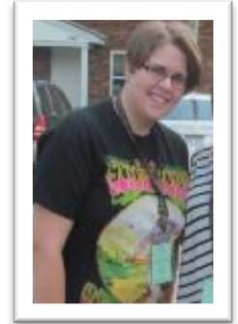
AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Kaitlin Dobbins

Host Site: WVSU

County: Kanawha



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Summer Associate because I had a friend involved in the VISTA program who loved the work she was doing. I also wanted to do something more for my community, and I thought this program would be a good learning experience.
- 2. During my term, I** During my summer term, I learned a lot about what it takes to run summer camp programs and that those programs are a good opportunity for children to learn outside of a school setting. In order to keep the summer camps afloat, it took a lot of planning, team work, and communication with everyone involved in order to keep the children entertained and engaged.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me** Kelli Batch, my site supervisor, made the biggest impact on me during my service. Since the people overseeing the summer camps quit before the camps started, Kelli was left alone in charge of planning activities and making sure these camps went smoothly. She showed that it takes a lot of cooperation and communication with coworkers and community members in order to get a project done. She was a very fair leader and a very kind supervisor, but she also showed me that you have to be tough and not afraid to speak your mind in order to keep everyone on track.
- 4. I've gained.....** I've gained a lot of respect and knowledge on what it takes to run a camp or any program involving children. As a kid, I never really went to any camps, especially ones that fostered STEM education, but even if I had, I don't think I would've seen or understood all that that went into preparing for these camps. I have witnessed that teamwork, communication, and connections are essential, and if one person falls through, it could through the whole program off balance. I have also learned that it takes a good leader in order to get any sort of program running, and I have gained a lot of respect for those that do take charge and accomplish what they have set out to do.
- 5. My future plans....** My future plans are to find a job related to social service for the next year so that I can save up more money and go back to school the following fall. At this time, I plan on going back to school to get another degree in criminal justice so that I can get a job working as a victim advocate in the court system

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: **Trystan Lively**

Host Site: **WVSU**

County: **Kanawha**

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I have always enjoyed helping people in my community and this has given me the chance to do so on a daily basis. I also decided to serve in order to make good relationships with people and organizations in order to help me along to way through college and my future career path.

2. During my term, I During my term I did many different things focused on youth and agriculture, including youth events in which I and the other Summer Associates had to interact with children of all different ages, helping build youth community focused gardens, and day to day agricultural work of all sorts.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. A little girl about the age of 4 who was playing at our tent at a kids event in Mingo County had the biggest impact on me all summer. She caught my attention right away because of the knowledge she had at such a young age. She reminded me why I have chosen what I plan to do with my life and career in the future.

4. I've gained..... Throughout my service I have gained new positive relationships with people and new skills that will help me in the future within my chosen career field.

5. My future plans.... In the future I plan to finish my bachelor's degree in social work at West Virginia State University. When I have finished school, I would like to use my degree towards getting a job in a community development field. I want to help other as much as I can and to the best of my ability.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Bradley Milner

Host Site: WVU Extension

County: Kanawha

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I made my decision to serve after my sister, who was already a year-long Vista, informed me of an open Summer position.

2. During my term, I During my term I was able to assist in the building and prep of many school and youth gardens. I started seeds to plant in finished gardens, and assembled and installed the garden beds.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me The people I served with made the biggest impact on me. It was amazing to see a group of people with such large passion for what they do, working selflessly to help the community.

4. I've gained..... I've gained knowledge and experience working with vegetable gardens, and the work that goes into them.

5. My future plans..... When I return home after my service, I plan to attend college and find my path as I go along. I hope to return and serve again with AmeriCorps in Charleston.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Emily Bolinger

Host Site: WVU Extension

County: Kanawha



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Summer Associate because I really enjoy helping others and I am very passionate about both, health and fitness. This program gave me an opportunity to do something I really enjoy and, hopefully, have a lasting impact. style meals altogether.
- 2. During my term, I** I was involved in NAP SACC and I was able to schedule site visits, organize and prepare for workshops, help write a manual, help sites receive physical activity equipment, assist the centers in receiving STARS credit for attending the workshops, and be involved in helping centers achieve their goals to be a more active and healthy center. I also had the opportunity to attend meetings at the state capitol, attend and volunteer at the Kidstrong Conference and Try This WV Conference, organize the Fed Up movie event, and be actively involved with social media outreach.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** I think seeing how excited the kids were about changes in their center made the biggest impact on me. The kids were extremely excited to get a new natural learning element added to their playground. These kids had a desire to learn all about gardening so they would be able to take care of their natural learning element. A couple centers were making the transition to have family style meals at meal times. One little girl said, “Well we are all basically family anyway.” She thought it just made sense that they would do family style meals altogether.
- 4. I’ve gained.....** I have gained more knowledge about all of the policies that child care centers have to follow, how big of a problem obesity has truly become, how many health issues are linked to obesity, how to plan and organize events more efficiently, improved my time management skills, and I have gained an even deeper appreciation for health and fitness.
- 5. My future plans.....** My future plans include continuing my education at Fairmont State University to receive an Undergraduate degree in Biology with a minor in Pre-Med and to, eventually, go in to Medical School to be either a plastic surgeon or a radiologist.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: **Haleigh Jeffrey**

Host Site: **WVU Extension**

County: **Kanawha**



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I decided to serve as a Summer Associate because I was eager to help members of my community learn how to create a healthier environment for children.

2. During my term, I During my term I was able to help daycare centers learn about appropriate nutrition and physical activity necessary for children and how they serve as a role model at their center.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The NAP SACC workshops as a whole made the biggest impact on me. I was able to see how passionate everyone was about helping children in their center. The workshops made everyone excited about creating a healthier environment and I was glad to play a role in making that happen.

4. I've gained..... I've gained a great deal of knowledge through planning and attending the NAP SACC trainings about nutrition and physical activity and how they impact children's health at such a young age.

5. My future plans..... I plan to return to school this fall and study Exercise Physiology and hopefully participate as a VISTA next summer for at least one more term before attending medical school.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Hannah Jeffrey
Host Site: WVU Extension
County: Kanawha



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I felt that this position would help me gain career experience and practical skills; in addition to exploring my future career options
- 2. During my term, I** Worked closely with several childcare directors and staff to improve the overall health of the Center through policy and environmental change.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** The concern that the staff of the childcare centers had for the health of their children inspired me to keep working to make resources available and ready for them to make those improvements.
- 4. I've gained.....** Career experience, practical skills, new friends, a business network, a scholarship, and a great support network for a future volunteer position
- 5. My future plans.....** I plan on attending Northeastern University in the fall of 2014

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: **Muriah Nutter**
Host Site: **WVU Extension Roane**
County: **Roane**



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Summer Associate because I wanted to learn more about the science and the technology that the STEM program provides. I also thought this would be a great opportunity to work with children and it turns out it was.
- 2. During my term, I** During my summer term I was able to learn more about science activities, work with the Energy Express program, Jump Start, and worked closely with the summer library programs. Its been a great opportunity for me and I have learned so much about teaching children.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** During my summer term I was able to learn more about science activities, work with the Energy Express program, Jump Start, and worked closely with the summer library programs. Its been a great opportunity for me and I have learned so much about teaching children.
- 4. I've gained.....** I've gained so many things through this program. Two of the most important things I'm taking away from this is the experience and knowledge I've gained. Coming in not knowing much about science and being able to teach it has very much changed this summer.
- 5. My future plans.....** My future plans have recently changed but I will still be attending Fairmont State University.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Veronica Hamrick
Host Site: WVU Extension Roane
County: Roane



- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** to provide children in Roane County a better understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through various activities. With more educational opportunities, children can build a schema to aid them in their future education.
- 2. During my term, I** organized, publicized, and integrated STEM activities in Roane County by collaborating with local businesses like the Roane County Public Library, Roane County School System, and Spencer City Pool.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** during my hours of service as an AmeriCorps Summer Associate. The program required extensive research to ensure successful instruction to attending children.
- 4. I've gained.....** a knowledgeable background regarding science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for my future classroom. In addition, I now have experience with providing cross-curricular lessons and activities that satisfies the goals of the West Virginia Department of Education.
- 5. My future plans.....** include finishing my teaching certificate in May and applying for a science position with the Roane County school system. My ambition is to teach high school anatomy and physiology to prepare students for higher education with an interest in the medical field or health sciences.

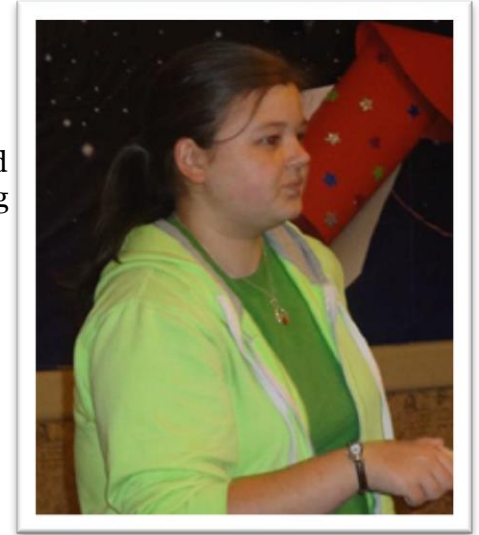
AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Amber Bradley
Host Site: WVU Extension
County: Taylor

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... Taylor County Extension Agent Jennifer Murray informed me of the opportunity available and I believed that I could be a good asset for what she needed in a Summer Associate due to my background as a college student pursuing a STEM degree.

2. During my term, I Taught weekly STEM lessons and activities at various locations in the county including Summer Feeding Sites as well as providing these activities to the Taylor County Public Library Summer Reading program, Taylor County 4-H, and Energy Express located at Flemington Elementary.



3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me We had multiple families that returned weekly for the lessons and enjoyed them and interacting with them and teaching them gave me great enjoyment.

4. I've gained..... People skills in having to work with not only the children but parents and the coordinators of other programs to provided our STEM lessons.

5. My future plans.... I intend to return to Alderson Broaddus University in the fall and if the position is offered again next year I may return to service in Taylor County.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Erika Edwards

Host Site: WVU Extension

County: Taylor

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... My reasons for wanting to serve as a Summer Associate AmeriCorps VISTA was to occupy my summer with science-based learning with kids. Also, I've gained experience with the kids while associating with them, learning how they like to do science..

2. During my term, I During my summer term, I have used my knowledge to teach kids about science. Also, I have learned information about the town that I've served in and its cultural attractions. I worked with a wide variety of children and other volunteers.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The most significant change in my life was going to Europe without my family. It was not as easy as the other times when I left the country with my family because they handled all the arrangements.

4. I've gained..... I've gained so many memorable things this summer that I will use in the future. I have learned and taught science to children. I have become more confident and better able to face the future.

5. My future plans.... My future plans is to get my bachelor degree in Medical Laboratory Technology and use the skills in a laboratory setting.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Matthew Bartrug
Host Site: WVU Extension
County: Taylor



1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Summer Associate because I was contacted about the opportunity to serve and I enjoy math and science. I thought it would be a good opportunity to improve my resume and help the community.

2. During my term, I During my summer term, I was able to expose a large number kids of different ages and backgrounds to science throughout Marion County. I visited the Marion County Park and Recreation Commission Play Ground programs and Day Camp, the Fairview and Marion County Public Libraries, Energy Express, Marion County 4-H Camp, and the Mannington Fair.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. The kids I was able to reach made the biggest impact on me. It was very rewarding when a kid would thank me for coming after or when they would say “this is cool” or “You’re awesome”. There’s something extremely rewarding and infectious when you can grab young child’s attention and keep it especially with science.

4. I’ve gained..... I’ve gained valuable life experience and improved my ability to relate and teach children.

5. My future plans.... My future plans are to continue with my education and take what I have learned during my service to my future career.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: **Matthew Bartrug**
Host Site: **WVU Extension**
County: **Taylor**

Fizz ... boom ... read!

■ For a slideshow of photos from Wednesday's summer reading program, log on to www.timeswv.com.

Kids learn science can be fun in program

BY CHELSI BAKER
TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

FAIRMONT — Children are learning about science through reading at the Marion County Public Library this summer.

Each year, the library and others nationwide participate in a summer reading program that carries out a universal theme. This year's theme is "Fizz Boom Read," and it is all about science.

"The classes are fun exploration of different types of science things each week," said Christian Cox, the children's librarian at the Marion County Public Library. "This week, we had Matt come in from the Extension (Service)."

Matt Bartrug, an AmeriCorps Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) VISTA volunteer working with West Virginia University Extension

At top, Matt Bartrug, an AmeriCorps Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) VISTA volunteer, creates a tornado with soda bottles at the Marion County Public Library as part of a summer reading program presentation. At right, Kaydrian Padfield prepares to launch a marshmallow with a catapult she made during a STEM presentation at the Marion County Public Library Services, gave a presentation Wednesday morning about basic science concepts. He made a tornado out of water bottles, created a lava lamp and helped the children build their own catapults and bracelets with color-changing UV beads.

Bartrug is a sophomore

SEE STEM, PAGE 4A



STEM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

petroleum engineering student at West Virginia University and a Marion County native. He has also done STEM presentations for children at three Marion County Parks and Recreation Commission playground sites, Fairview Library and a 4-H camp so far this summer.

"I was just trying to expose them to science and give them little tidbits like oil and water don't mix, or the air from one bottle in the tornado is going up to the other, and UV rays come from the sun," he said.

Other topics covered in the reading program throughout the summer include geology, astronomy and archaeology.

"I think the summer reading program is great," said Bartrug. "I was one of Mr. Cox's first kids. I've sort of come full circle with that. It's great because it keeps them involved and it exposes them to stuff they wouldn't get at home ... It might pique an interest at a young age."

The reading program is open

to children in grades kindergarten through 5 and is a free service offered by the library.

It helps keep the kids active and current with their progress in reading during the summer, and it gives them something to do away from home, said Cox.

Classes are offered each week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and there are special programs once a week.

The Carnegie Science Center will present Colossal Fossil Fuels at 2 p.m. July 21 as part of this special program series. This and every weekly presentation is open to the public as well as children involved in the summer reading program.

"The main goal is to encourage children to be reading during the summer," Cox said. "We can show how reading can be fun through science or any of the topics that we can encourage them to read."

Email Chelsi Baker at cbaker@timeswv.com or follow her on Twitter @cbakerTWV.

AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: **Alexandria Smith**

Host Site: **Wyoming County Family Resource Center**

County: **Wyoming**

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... I thought it would be wonderful to work with kids, and help play a small part in helping my community.

2. During my term, I had a wonderful time meeting new people, and trying to help aid children in my community.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. Everyone here has made such a big impact on me. Just seeing what all they can accomplish on such little funding, has really impacted me. They also taught me that one person can make a difference and if what you're doing isn't working then try something else; the main point is doing something.

4. I've gained..... Knowledge about my community and new relationships with wonderful people, and new experiences that I will cherish forever.

5. My future plans.... My future plans are to figure out a way to better help aid my community. To better educate myself, so I can be better used in my area. I hope to volunteer more and just become a better well rounded person.



AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: **Dustin Brunty**

Host Site: **Wyoming County Family Resource Center**

County: **Wyoming**

1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA..... To help make a difference in the community

2. During my term, I Help develop the power house youth center. Installed lighting, multimedia and sound.

3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me. One of the kids who aged out of foster care and hearing his story really put my life in perspective and showed me that we can make a difference in kids lives in the county.

4. I've gained..... Knowledge of how a nonprofit functions.

5. My future plans.... Continue my college education as a counselor and try to help more in my community.

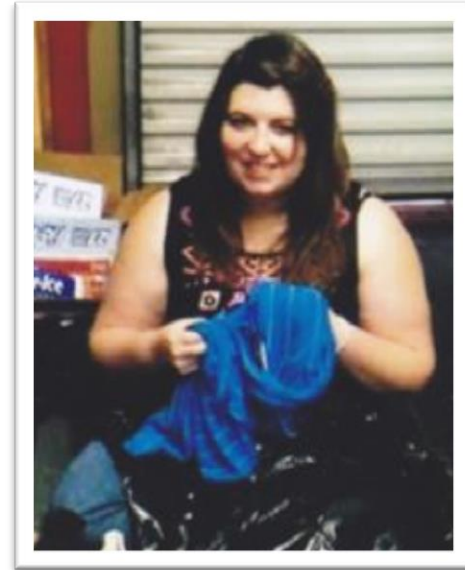


AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Kristen Riffle
Host Site: Wyoming County Family Resource Center
County: Wyoming

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I thought it would be a wonderful experience to serve the community and interact with the kids.
- 2. During my term, I...** had a wonderful times with new friends, outreached within the community to help kids and their family, and hopefully made a difference this summer.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** Everybody has been great here and I have enjoyed every second of serving here. Just seeing what they do here has made a big impact on my life because I want to help others and be involved here even after this term. It's all about reaching out and they do a great job at serving others here
- 4. I've gained.....** lasting relationships with friends, an experience I will never forget, and a respect for what we do here to reach out.
- 5. My future plans....** My future plans are to make more of an impact in the community and realize the needs in the area to make a difference. I also hope to volunteer here and help when I can because I've really enjoyed my service here.

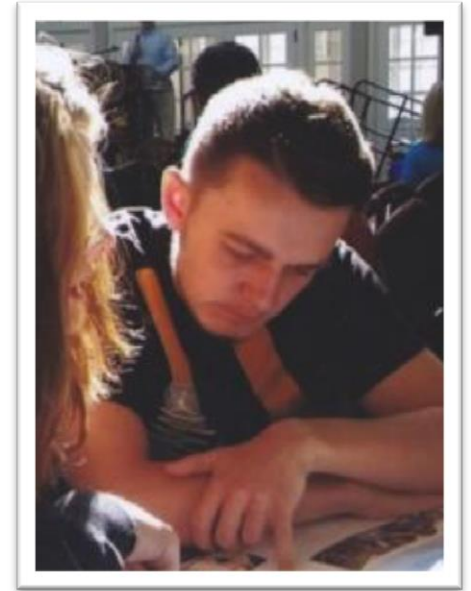


AMERICORPS PROMISE VISTA

SUMMER ASSOCIATES JUNE 2014-AUGUST 2014

VISTA Name: Michael Pete Culicerto
Host Site: Wyoming County Family Resource Center
County: Wyoming

- 1. Why I decided to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise VISTA.....** I heard about all of the benefits about working with AmeriCorps, and I couldn't turn it down. I also wanted to have an impact in the community.
- 2. During my term, I** I made a lot of new friends, and I hopefully changed people's lives by leading them in the right direction.
- 3. Who? What? Why? How?.....made the biggest impact on me.** The kids made the biggest impact on me. Seeing them have fun in the youth center and around the town made me feel like I accomplish one of my goals.
- 4. I've gained.....** I've gained a lot of respect and many new peers in my life.
- 5. My future plans....** Some of my future plans are living a healthy life, helping other people in need out, and being a positive role model towards everyone.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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

