WEST VIRGINIA’S PROMISE-THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

Biennial Magazine

2017-2018 Our Year in Review
Our Team

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America

WEST VIRGINIA’S PROMISE
The Alliance For Youth

Volunteer
West Virginia
The State’s Commission for National and Community Service
“The little red wagon. A symbol of childhood. It could be filled with a child’s hopes and dreams or weighed down with their burdens. Millions of American children need our help to pull that wagon along. Let’s all pull together. That is America’s Promise.”

- General Colin Powell
20 years ago it all began with a promise...

West Virginia's Promise was founded in 1998 and is celebrating 20 years of service.

The origins of West Virginia's Promise were based off of America's Promise.

America's Promise joined forces with the West Virginia's Promise Fellows to create a program that would provide and sustain ALL 5 Promises for at-risk youth in West Virginia.
The result was US!

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth has been dedicated to making sure all at-risk youth receive 1. Caring Adults, 2. Safe Places, 3. An Effective Education, 4. A Healthy Start, and 5. Opportunities to Give Back.

With these 5 Promise youth are better prepared for school, career, and life challenges that may come their way.

We hope that with our aid ALL youth will be successful in these areas.
A Message From Our Directors

PAMELA DUGAN, STATE DIRECTOR

As Director of West Virginia’s Promise -The Alliance for Youth, it is my pleasure to present this Promise magazine to give you a snapshot of the impact our program has made throughout the state in 2017-2018. I hope these stories touch your heart and leave you inspired to serve. Pay-it-forward with a random act of kindness, hug a child, volunteer, become an AmeriCorps member. Follow your heart, the future is truly in our hands.

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

HEATHER FOSTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
The 5 Promises

Caring Adults
Safe Places
An Effective Education
A Healthy Start
Opportunities to Give Back

America's Promise outlined the Five Promises. Research shows that if they are consistently fulfilled, youth advance in health and well-being—increasing their chances of becoming successful adults.
Do you know the Five Promises?

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

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

3. An Effective Education
Assist in securing an educational foundation in basic skills, such as reading, writing, mathematics, science, technology and communication, in order to ensure success in the rising youth.
4. A Healthy Start

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

5. Opportunities to Give Back

Provide the opportunity for youth to make a difference in their families, at schools and in their communities.
West Virginia’s Promise-The Alliance for Youth provides Yearlong AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers and Summer Associate VISTA volunteers. Partner sites may apply for a yearlong, a summer, or both.

AmeriCorps VISTA Yearlong

Yearlong VISTAs focus on capacity building. Meaning they develop programming, recruit volunteers, grant write, connect community partners, etc. while trying to achieve overall goals to alleviate poverty and help WV youth succeed.

vs. Summer Associate VISTA

Summer Associates do direct service for their sites. They take the development of the Yearlong VISTAs and implement it into everyday activities. They may serve as mentors, tutors, and/or program facilitators to prevent summer learning loss in youth.
Yearlong Sites
Summer Sites
Yearlong & Summer Sites

Location, Location, Location,
Yearlong AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers: 35

Our Impact

Summer Associate AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers: 167
Summer Associate VISTA Impact

SUMMER 2017
7,214 Kids provided 4 out of the 5 promises

SUMMER 2018
24,540 Kids provided 4 out of the 5 promises

= 31,754 TOTAL Kids provided 4 out of the 5 promises
Yearlong AmeriCorps VISTA Impact

32,557
Kids served through yearlong VISTA programs

Cash resources developed through yearlong VISTA programs

1,638,197
Cash value for in-kind donations developed through yearlong VISTA programs

431,527
Cash value for in-kind donations developed through yearlong VISTA programs
Words from our VISTAs...

On my orientation to a Fun-Raiser Urban Mobile Playground play stop I was amazed at the affect that unstructured, free playing had on the children and families that had come to enjoy the play space. I enjoyed hearing laughter and the positive interactions of fathers playing with their sons. Mom's with their toddlers sat and pretended together in front of a dollhouse with all the accessories. I observed one four year old little boy make his maiden voyage on a pair of bucket stilts after he watched the older kids using them. These problem-solving and play skills are foundational for more complex problem solving and valuable life skills later on, which is making an impact for a healthy start in the Ohio Valley.

REBECCA HEDRICK, HOH-SHARE, INC.
During training, I was told that serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA was going to be one of hardest jobs I'd ever love (unless I decided to join the PeaceCorps). And so far, I have found that statement to be true. There is nothing that compares to the feeling you get when you look back and realize how far you've come- as a person, as a professional, and as an organization or team. I love knowing that my efforts every day make a difference in the lives of youth, and the entire community I serve. That's why I love serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA.

EMILY MCCORMICK, CAMP VIRGIL TATE

STACY DRAKE, BLACK CAT MUSIC COOP

My service as a VISTA member at BlackCat Music Cooperative has been filled with a group of young people in our various programs that have had a wonderful impact in our area. I have watched as students from our after school ukulele program, progressed so well, that after just six months they finished third place in the Morgan County Has Talent Show, competing against adults and high school students. Our students in the Sing Big Summer Musical Revue were responsible for the start of a vocal class being offered at our site. Other continuous programs have provided our kids with numerous opportunities to grow creatively and has provided a safe, welcome environment to enjoy the power of music education.
Thank You to Our Sites

2017-2018 Summer Sites

- Aging & Family Services of Mineral County
- Appalachian Impact
- Boys & Girls Club of Easter Panhandle
- Boys & Girls Club of Parkersburg
- Camp Virgil Tate
- Clay County Elementary School
- Clay County High School
- Clay County Middle School
- Destiny Baptist Church
- Girl Scouts of Black Diamond
- Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission
- KEYS 4 Healthy Kids
- Learning Options, Inc.
- Morgan County Schools
- Morgan County Starting Points
- Mountain CAP of WV
- Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club
- Potomac Valley Audubon Society
- Promise Neighborhood Initiative
- Stockert Youth Center
- The Outdoor Education Center For Love of Children
- The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club Charleston
- WVU Extension Doddridge
- WVU Extension Hampshire
- WVU Extension Kanawha 4-H
- WVU Extension McDowell
- WVU Extension Mineral
- WVU Extension Ohio
- WVU Extension Roane
- WVU Extension Taylor
- WVU Upward Bound/TRIO
- Wyoming County FRN
- Wyoming County Prevention Coalition/Power House
Thank You to Our Sites

2017-2018 Yearlong Sites

- Black Cat Music Cooperative
- Boys & Girls Club of Eastern Panhandle
- Camp Virgil Tate
- Doddridge County Schools
- Grow Ohio Valley
- KEYS 4 Healthy Kids
- Learning Options, Inc.
- Morgan County Schools
- Ohio Valley University
- Pocahontas County Family Resource Network
- Pollen 8, Inc.
- Potomac Valley Audubon Society
- Promise Neighborhood Initiative
- Shepherd University
- University Healthcare Jefferson Medical Center
- WVU Extension-Kanawha
- WVU Extension-McDowell
- WVU Extension-Ohio County
- West Virginia’s Promise-The Alliance for Youth
- Youth Services System, Inc.
Thank You to Our Partners, Supporters, and Sponsors

- Bank of Charles Town
- Bavarian Inn & Restaurant
- Beach Bum Tanning
- Black Dog Coffee
- Black Draft Distillery
- Blue Ridge Community & Technical Community College
- Books-A-Million
- Camp Virgil Tate
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Dickinson & Wait
- Domestic Restaurant
- Dominos Pizza - Ranson & Shepherdstown
- Encore Apparel in Motion
- Evergreen Driving Range
- Glory Days Grill
- Jefferson County Schools
- Jefferson Security Bank
- Kiwanis Fresh Air Farm
- Ledo's Pizza - Ranso
- Mountaineer Food Bank
- National Conservation Training Center
- Potomac Valley Audubon Society
- Proctor and Gamble
- Sheetz - Shepherdstown
- Shepherd University & Contemporary American Theatre Festival (CATF)
- Shepherdstown Liquors
- Shepherdstown Pedal and Paddle
- Shepherdstown School of Dance
- Sherry's Hair Design - Ranson
- Studio Salon Spa and Boutique
- Sycamore Pottery
For More information on West Virginia’s Promise-The Alliance for Youth and the AmeriCorps VISTA Program, contact Pamela Dugan.

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