

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





Let's All Pull Together

“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



A Message From

West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth

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.

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.



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.



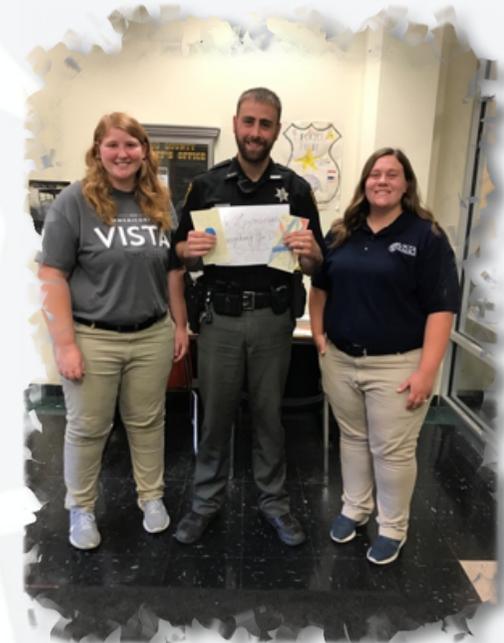


4. A Healthy Start

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

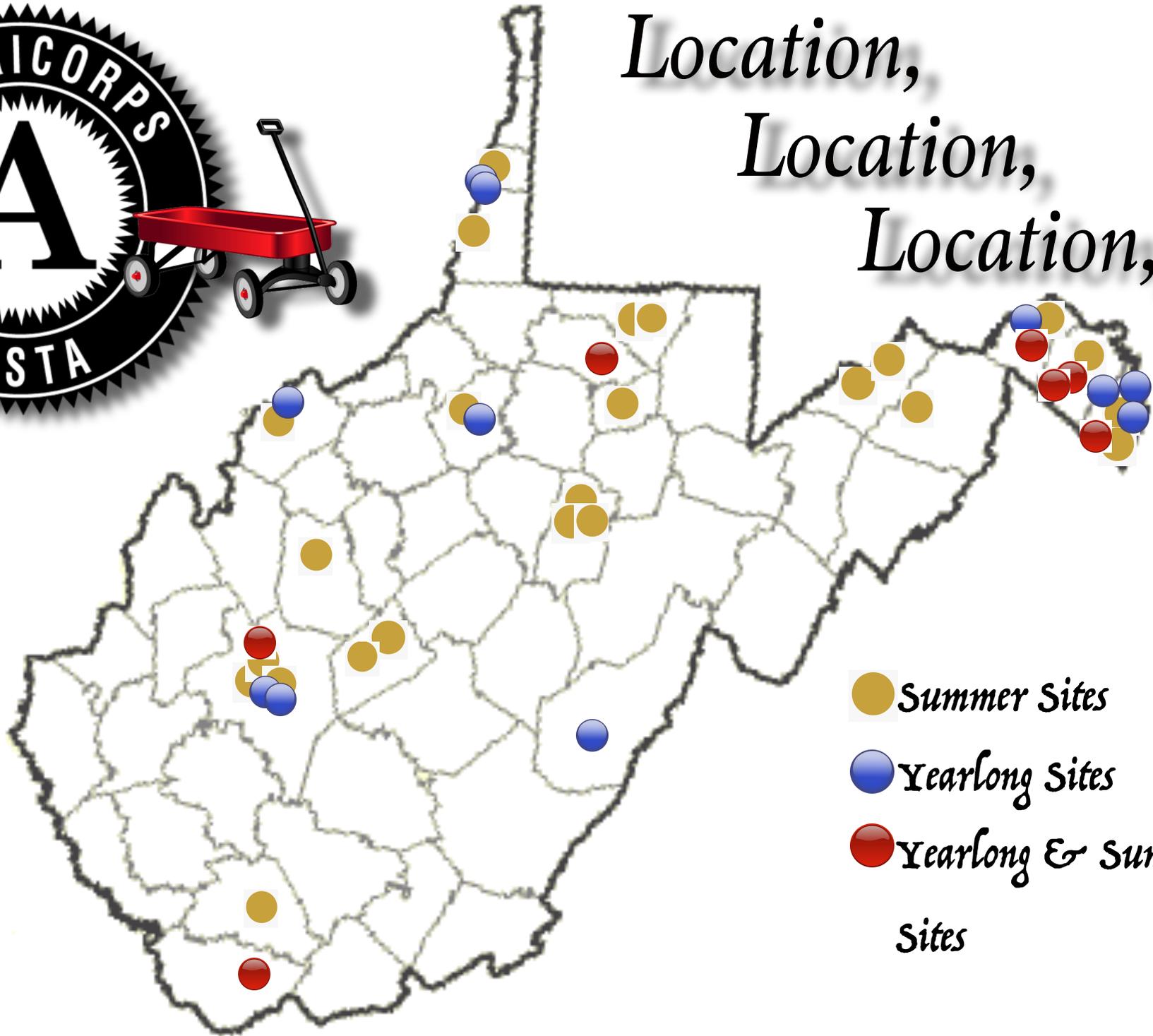
Yearlong VISTAs focus on capacity building. Meaning they develop programming, recruit volunteers, grant write, connect community partners, etc. while trying to achieve overall goals to alleviate poverty and help WV youth succeed.

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.



*Location,
Location,
Location,*



-  Summer Sites
 -  Yearlong Sites
 -  Yearlong & Summer Sites
- Sites

**Yearlong AmeriCorps
VISTA volunteers**



35



Our Impact



167



**Summer Associate
AmeriCorps VISTA
volunteers**



Summer Associate VISTA Impact

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{SUMMER} \\ \text{2017} \\ \hline \text{7,214} \\ \text{Kids provided 4} \\ \text{out of the 5} \\ \text{promises} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \text{SUMMER} \\ \text{2018} \\ \hline \text{24,540} \\ \text{Kids provided 4} \\ \text{out of the 5} \\ \text{promises} \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} \text{31,754} \\ \text{TOTAL Kids} \\ \text{provided 4 out} \\ \text{of the 5} \\ \text{promises} \end{array}$$

Yearlong AmeriCorps VISTA Impact

32,557

**Kids served through yearlong
VISTA programs**

**Cash resources developed
through yearlong VISTA
programs**

1,638,197

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.



Words from our VISTAs...

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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