



ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR

July 18, 2011



Commission Chair, Jamesena Moore

Executive Director, Barbara Wilson Thomas

Mobilizing Nebraskans to Strengthen their Communities through Volunteering, Collaboration, and National Service Programs

www.serve.nebraska.gov

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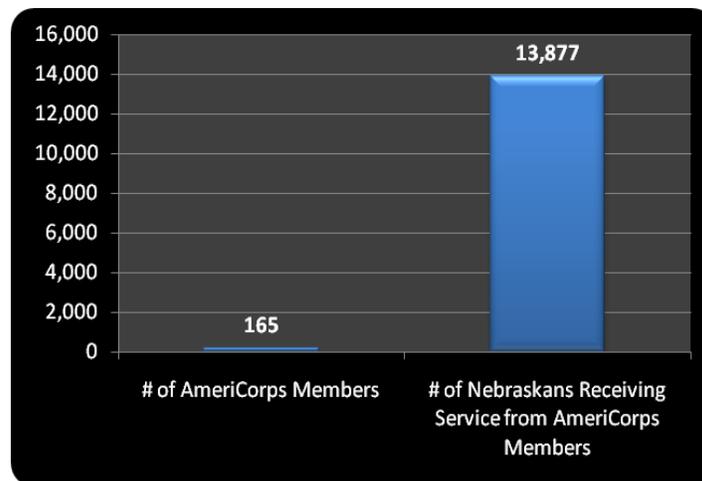
2010 Accomplishments

IMPACT OF AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE IN NEBRASKA

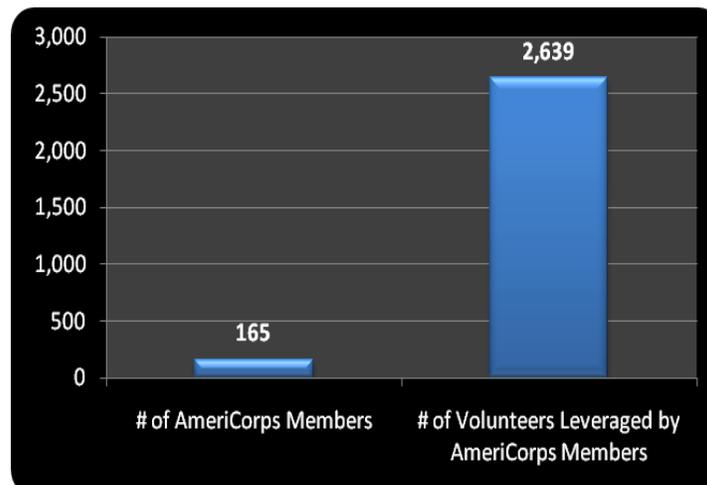
AmeriCorps national service members commit a year or more of their lives to serving their Nebraska communities. In exchange for a year of full-time service, members receive a stipend and an education award that can be used to pay for college or graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. Full-time 09-10 members earned an education award of \$4,725.



- **13,877 Nebraska children, women and men received assistance** from **165** AmeriCorps members, helping them to enhance their education, develop job skills and increase their quality of life. The majority of these individuals are low-income, living with a disability or facing other significant challenges.



- A total of **165 AmeriCorps members** recruited and mobilized **2,639 community volunteers** who served beside members from September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010.

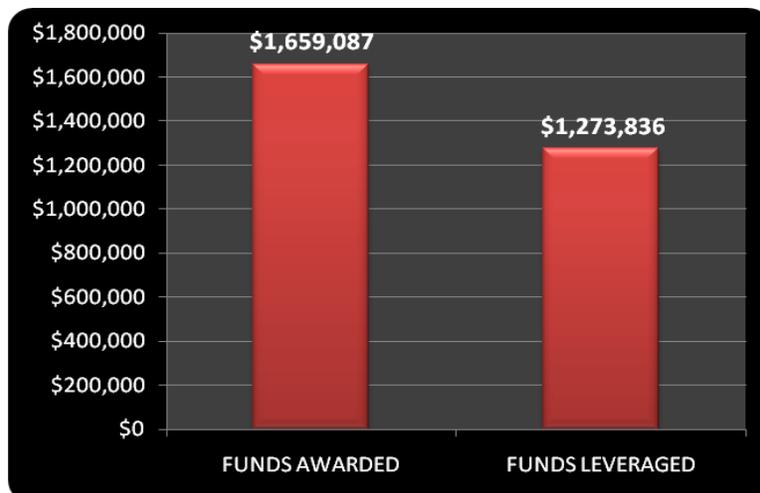


- **165 AmeriCorps members served in 38 Nebraska's counties**, an increase of AmeriCorps presence in 14 more counties than the previous year. AmeriCorps members served in counties covering **86.5% of Nebraska's population**. **9 community and faith-based non-profit organizations** managed AmeriCorps programs and host sites for AmeriCorps members in the following Nebraska counties:

Adams, Box Butte, Buffalo, Cass, Colfax, Custer, Dakota, Dawes, Dawson, Dodge, Douglas, Franklin, Gage, Gosper, Hall, Harlan, Johnson, Kearney, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Pierce, Phelps, Platte, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Scotts Bluff, Seward, Sheridan, Stanton, Washington, Wayne and York.



- As a result of their service, AmeriCorps members earned **\$473,114 in education awards** allowing AmeriCorps members to pay student loans or continue their higher education increasing the economic impact to Nebraska.
- A total of **\$1,659,087** was awarded to organizations to implement AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps ARRA programs in Nebraska from September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010. As a result, the organizations were able to leverage **\$1,273,836 (76.78%)** from other sources.



2010 LISTENING TOUR – COMMUNITY FORUMS IN SIX NEBRASKA COMMUNITIES

In June and July of 2010, ServeNebraska hosted a **6-city** listening tour, "**Nebraska Voices for Volunteerism.**" The listening tour provided an opportunity for community stakeholders to share their thoughts on how to expand service and volunteerism to help address our state's biggest challenges such as:



- hunger
- unemployment
- high school dropout rates
- returning veterans' needs
- homelessness
- illiteracy
- health issues
- the environment

Tour stops included the following cities:

Gering/Scottsbluff North Platte Kearney Columbus Lincoln Omaha

People who attended the 6-city listening tour represented the following groups:

- K-12 schools; aging networks; colleges/universities; faith-based organizations; nonprofit agencies; public safety; community based organizations; community leaders; businesses; healthcare; elected officials; concerned citizens; foundations; corporations; service organizations; state government; media and national service (AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Learn and Serve, VISTA).

Nearly **130** people lent their diverse voices and thoughts to discussions that centered around community challenges and how volunteerism and national service programs can be expanded and utilized more effectively to meet local needs and improve the quality of life for citizens in these and other communities throughout Nebraska.

NEW 2011-2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

ServeNebraska is currently finalizing the new five-year Strategic Plan aimed at utilizing service as a strategy to guide Nebraska during these difficult economic times. The valuable community input gathered from the 2010 Listening Tour has prepared ServeNebraska and its service partners to be inclusive of a variety of opinions and key issues from a diverse group of voices that will be addressed in the plan. In October 2010, ServeNebraska Commissioners met for two-days in Nebraska City to review the Listening Tour voices from Nebraskans and begin the work of developing the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan will provide a roadmap for using national service and volunteerism to address critical challenges facing Nebraska communities. It builds on the strong foundation of national service and volunteerism that has developed in Nebraska with the leadership of ServeNebraska. The goals, objectives and activities that will be identified in the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan will recognize the critical role that the ServeNebraska Commission plays in engaging Nebraskans in service to solve community problems, support our most vulnerable citizens, strengthen the voluntary sector and lead the effort to increase volunteerism while adding to the professional skills of Nebraskans to manage more volunteers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

ServeNebraska's Training Program provides high quality professional development to national service program members and others involved in community and national service. During 2010, offerings were expanded to reach new audiences.



Governor's Conference on Volunteerism, April 9-10, 2010, Omaha, NE

- A highlight of the training program was **2010 Governor's Conference on Volunteerism**, which attracted more than **220 participants from 2 states**.
- The conference was highlighted by keynote presentations from **Aaron Davis**, motivational speaker and former UNL football player, **Carol Weisman**, President of Board Builders and **Andy Greenberg**, radio talk show host.
- More than **18 professional development workshops** covering a range of topics provided a wide array of experts in the general areas of Excellence in Leadership, Board Development, Fundraising, Volunteer Management, Youth in Community Service, Partnerships, Expanding Volunteer Opportunities, Diversity and Civic Engagement.

Global Youth Service Day – April 2010

- ServeNebraska successfully implemented a grant from **Youth Service America and State Farm Foundation** to serve as the Nebraska lead agency for the 4th successive year to initiate Global Youth Service Day activities.
- **\$1,850** in mini-grants awards went to **9** service projects to benefit youth. **222 youth and 70 adult volunteers** participated in the funded projects contributing **772 hours** of service directly benefiting **4,855 adults and 1,216 youth beneficiaries** in their communities.

IMPACT OF DISABILITY INCLUSION PROJECTS IN NEBRASKA

ServeNebraska's Disability Program provided accommodations to make service opportunities possible for national service members with disabilities. The Disability Inclusion program focused on two mini-grant opportunities in the 09-10 program year.



Global Youth Service Day Disability Inclusion Mini-Grants – April 2010

- **\$3,000** in mini-grants awards went to **8** service projects to benefit youth with disabilities. **250 youth and 271 adult volunteers** participated in the funded projects contributing **1,216 hours** of service directly benefiting **2,829 adults and 563 youth beneficiaries** in their communities.

Disability Awareness Month Inclusion Mini-Grants – Fall 2010

- **\$3,163** in mini-grants awards went to **4** service projects to benefit persons with disabilities. **15 persons with disabilities** were involved in planning the activity and **10 volunteers with disabilities** participated in the funded projects in their communities. More than **750 volunteers** worked with persons with disabilities to improve their communities.

AWARDS PROGRAM RECOGNIZES EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE BY NEBRASKANS

Service awards are spotlighted on the ServeNebraska website with photos of the following winners to express our grateful appreciation for their exemplary service to Nebraskans.

Governor's Points of Light Award Winners

- Quarterly awards honor outstanding volunteer service in Nebraska. 2010 Award Winners:



February 2010

Adult **Charlie Davis, Omaha, NE**
Youth **Jordan Somer, Papillion, NE**
Group **Tabitha Meals-on-Wheels Volunteers, Lincoln, NE**

June 2010

Adult **Annette McClure, Aurora, NE**
Youth **Shelby Seier, Omaha, NE**
Group **Mid-America Food Rescue Volunteers – RSVP, Kearney, NE**

August 2010

Adult **Corliss Dixon, Pleasanton, NE**
Youth **Angela Washington, Lincoln, NE**
Group **Eastern NE CERT & Eastern NE & Western Iowa MRC, Omaha, NE**

November 2010

Adult **Linda Ohri, Omaha, NE**
Youth **UNMC Community Academy Student Advisory Group, Omaha, NE**
Group **Black Student Union (BSU) at Peru State College, Peru, NE**

First Lady's Community Service Award Winners

- Awards honor distinguished community service, some with a strong focus on education.

2010 Award Winners:



Lifetime Achievement in Volunteer Service

Chuck Scriptor, North Platte, NE; member of Senior Corps RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)

Outstanding Service-Learning Adult Leader

Crystal Rhoades, Omaha, NE; at Metropolitan Community College

Outstanding Service-Learning Student Leader

Esther Tucker, Omaha, NE; at Metropolitan Community College

Outstanding Community Partnership in Education

Garden County Elementary Breakfast Volunteers with Oshkosh Public Schools

Outstanding Community Service Project

United Methodist Ministries, Omaha, NE

Outstanding Community Service in Ecology or Environmental Stewardship

Ken Minnig, Bassett, NE

ServeNebraska Impact Award Winners



- Awards that honor community service to better Nebraska's quality of life.

2010 Award Winners:

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

Elaine Croston, Humboldt, NE

Outstanding Volunteer Group of the Year

Lincoln Amateur Radio Club

National Service Award

Gunnar Riis, Rushville, NE; member of Senior Corps RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)

Debra Hartmann Outstanding Volunteer Management Professional Award

Deb Dailey, Lincoln, NE (Center for People In Need)

2009-2010 FUNDS AWARDED TO SERVE NEBRASKA

The following are funds awarded to the ServeNebraska Commission to administer.

ServeNebraska provided oversight and accountability for **\$2,086,464** funds supporting Nebraska.

FUND	PURPOSE	AWARD
Administrative ¹	Federal funds used for Commission related operational expenses.	\$250,000
Program Development And Training (PDAT) ¹	Federal funds used for the development and training of AmeriCorps subgrantees and national service.	\$ 78,800
Disability Inclusion ¹	Federal funds used to provide outreach and recruitment to individuals living with disabilities; provide accommodation for AmeriCorps members.	\$ 69,577
General Revenue ²	State funds used for personnel expenses.	\$ 20,000
General Revenue ²	State funds used to participate in the DHHS/Cost Allocation Plan to receive in-kind support services from DHHS; partially meets the federal requirement for match for the federal administrative grant.	\$ 10,000
Formula AmeriCorps ¹	Federal funds granted to ServeNebraska. The Commission subgrants the funds to qualifying applicants for the purpose of creating and implementing AmeriCorps programs in Nebraska. The amount of Formula dollars allocated to Nebraska is based on Nebraska's population.	\$981,152
ARRA Formula AmeriCorps ¹	Federal stimulus/recovery funds granted to ServeNebraska. The Commission subgrants the funds to qualifying applicants for the purpose of creating and implementing AmeriCorps programs in Nebraska.	\$151,360
Competitive AmeriCorps ¹	Federal funds granted to qualifying applicants through nationwide competition for the purpose of creating and implementing AmeriCorps programs in Nebraska. This is a competitive process among states and independent nonprofit organizations. State Commissions determine which applications will be submitted to the Corporation for consideration for Competitive funding.	\$264,590
ARRA Competitive AmeriCorps ¹	Federal stimulus/recovery funds granted to qualifying applicants through nationwide competition for the purpose of creating and implementing AmeriCorps programs in Nebraska. This is a competitive process among states and independent nonprofit organizations. State Commissions determine which applications will be submitted to the Corporation for consideration for Competitive funding.	\$261,985
TOTAL		\$2,086,464

¹ Funds awarded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

² Funds awarded by the Nebraska Legislature through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

New for 2011

New Partnerships and Initiatives



Partnering with Multiple Organizations to Strengthen Nebraska Nonprofits through Expansion / Redesign of Commission's Online Resource Library

- Current Partners – ServeNebraska, Lincoln Human Services organizations, Omaha Serves, AIM Institute
- Developing New Name, Logo and Website for Online Resource Library
 - Name: *Let's Build Nebraska – Resources to Build Great Nonprofits*
- Provide online resources, training, webinars, best practices and links for all of Nebraska that will include a professional coaching and mentoring component to benefit emerging nonprofits.

AmeriCorps Outreach and Awareness Campaign

- Develop and place posters in all colleges and high schools in state to promote national service as a solution to local community problems.
- Develop PSAs to promote AmeriCorps national service to help Nebraska communities meet critical needs.
- Secondary benefit of promotional campaign will be to bring new people into national service.

Partner with Nebraska Rural Development Commission to Co-Sponsor 2012 Governor's Conference on Rural Development

- Develop Volunteer Development Track at conference to be held in North Platte, April 18, 2012.
- Bring First Lady's Awards Ceremony to event.
- Reach out to new audiences to expand community and national service, volunteerism and AmeriCorps awareness to benefit rural economic development.

Emerging Partnership with DHHS/Division of Developmental Disabilities

- The Commission is working with the DHHS-Division of Developmental Disabilities to explore how the commission can assist them in implementing a project to develop a Youth Leadership training curriculum for middle and high school youth on disability awareness and mentoring.
- The inclusion premise is that students with intellectual disabilities will have a circle of friends led by student mentors who ensure that they are integrated and included in all aspects of school and activities.



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