

Q&A: Catching up with...

An occasional interview series with those in service making Nebraska stronger



WHO (name): Kathy Hibdon

WHAT (title): Nebraska Thrives AmeriCorps*VISTA

WHERE: Nebraska Mexican-American Commission

Tell us a little bit about you.

I did two years of VISTA service with the "Communities In Schools" program in Nevada. I then moved to Lincoln with my family and have entered into my third year of VISTA service with the Nebraska Mexican-American Commission.

Who are some of your heroes, or people you look up to?

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of people who I look up to. His note intrigued me about national service. "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

So anyone who dedicates his/her life to serving the community is my hero too!!!

Tell us a little about your service. What are you doing?

I am currently developing educational and cultural programming for the community outreach program. I also coordinate community outreach program activities and events for ServeNebraska, and perform research in the area of Hispanic education statistics. I additionally am developing systems and strategies to enhance awareness of the unique needs of Hispanic populations in our state. Learn more about the [Mexican American Commission](#)

What are your goals for this year of service?

The program that I am working on is a long term project. It takes time and we still have a long way to go. My goal for this year of service is to put my ideas and skills into action and take on changes that produce long-lasting, positive results long after my service is complete.

What are your plans for when you complete your current service?

I think I would like to continue to serve the community in any area I can be of value.

What advice do you have to those considering national & community service?

National and community service is challenging and rewarding work. I would encourage every citizen to find and join a service program and help contribute to the community. This type of service is one of the ways to expand opportunities to help others and also provides a great opportunity to give back to the community, because I think national and community service is an opportunity to make a big difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. It is a privilege to apply your skills and ideas toward helping others and meeting critical needs in the community.