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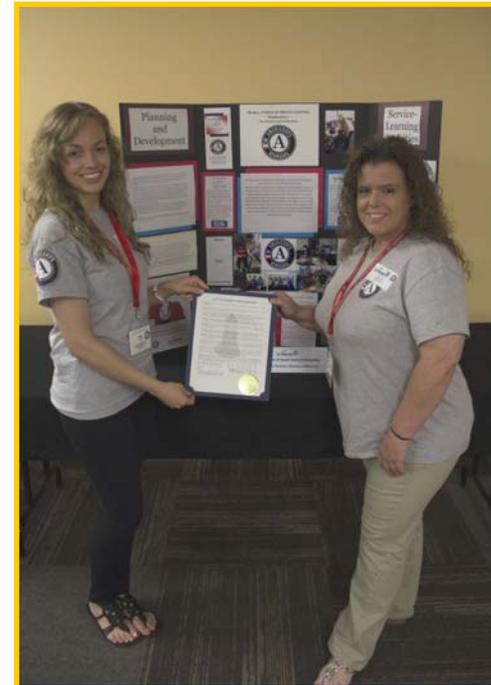
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*ServeNebraska Mobilizes Nebraskans to Strengthen Their Communities Through Volunteering, Collaboration and National Service Programs.*



**2014 Symposium: Celebration of Service**

*Celebrating Stories of Service*



Held at the  
Center for People in Need  
3901 N. 27th Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
May 8, 2014  
9:00am-4:00pm

*"THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF IS TO LOSE YOURSELF IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS."*

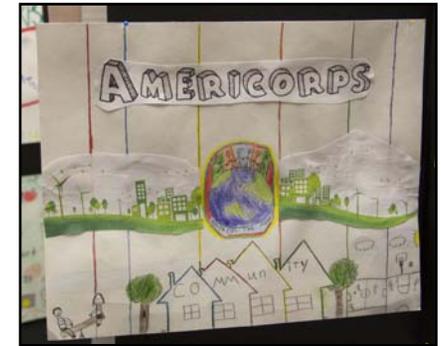
*~MAHATMA GANDHI*

## AMERICORPS IN NEBRASKA



AmeriCorps members are talented individuals who, through sustained service, devote themselves to addressing our state's most pressing needs through AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps members serve at local nonprofit or governmental organizations which have applied for and received competitive grants.

The benefit is further extended through volunteers mobilized and trained by AmeriCorps members.





**The AmeriCorps Pledge**

***I will get things done for America -  
to make our people safer,  
smarter, and healthier.***

***I will bring Americans together  
to strengthen our communities.***

***Faced with apathy,  
I will take action.***

***Faced with conflict,  
I will seek common ground.***

***Faced with adversity,  
I will persevere.***

***I will carry this commitment  
with me this year and beyond.***

***I am an AmeriCorps member,  
and I will get things done.***

**2014 SYMPOSIUM: CELEBRATION OF SERVICE**

**PROGRAM**

**9:30-10:00 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

*CATHY PLAGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SERVENEBRASKA*

*DEB DAILY, CENTER FOR PEOPLE IN NEED*

*JAMESENA MOORE, CHAIR, SERVENEBRASKA*

**10:00-11:30 AMERICORPS PROJECTS PRESENTATION**

**11:30-12:00 PROJECT VIEWING**

**12:00-12:45 LUNCH**

**INTERCORPS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES – 2013-14**

**12:45-2:00 DEANNE AMATO**

*“NEXT STEPS...WHAT’S RIGHT FOR YOU?”*

**2:00-2:30 PROJECT VIEWING**

**2:30-3:30 AMERICORPS PROJECTS PRESENTATION**

**CLOSING**

**\* \* \* \* \***

## NEBRASKA AMERICORPS FORMULA & COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS

The programs below are provided by local Nebraska organizations benefitting their fellow Nebraskans:

### **BVCA AmeriCorps**

– *Blue Valley Community Action Partnership*

### **College Possible Omaha AmeriCorps**

– *College Possible*

### **Healthy Rural Communities AmeriCorps**

– *Volunteers of America, Western Nebraska*

### **MCC\*Corps AmeriCorps**

– *Metropolitan Community College*

### **MMI AmeriCorps**

– *Munroe Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center*

### **Nebraska Campus Compact Service Scholars AmeriCorps**

– *University of Nebraska Lincoln*

### **Nebraska Economic Opportunity Corps AmeriCorps**

– *Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska*

### **PROH AmeriCorps**

– *Center for People in Need*

### **RISE AmeriCorps**

– *Nebraska State Probation*

### **Rural Corps of South Central Nebraska AmeriCorps**

– *Kearney Public Schools Foundation*

### **YouthBuild Omaha AmeriCorps**

– *Goodwill Industries*

### **Youth on the Move AmeriCorps**

– *City of Lincoln*

### **YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps**

– *YWCA Adams County*

# THANK YOU

## FOR YOUR SERVICE!



ServeNebraska Is Supported By:



## SERVE NEBRASKA

### COMMISSIONERS

**FIRST LADY SALLY GANEM**  
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KEVIN WARNEKE, OMAHA  
ROSE WHITE, OMAHA  
LISA WILLMAN, GRAND ISLAND  
SARA WOODS, OMAHA



Tim Suelter, YouthBuild Case Manager and Commissioner Julie Nash work through the Values exercise with AmeriCorps members

### STAFF

CATHLEEN PLAGER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GREG DONOVAN  
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER

KIMBERLE HALL  
TRAINING PROGRAM OFFICER

JANET SCHMIDT  
FISCAL/OPERATIONS OFFICER



Commissioner Gregg Christensen introduces AmeriCorps projects

## NEBRASKA AMERICORPS INDIAN TRIBES PROGRAMS

The following AmeriCorps programs are provided by federally recognized Nebraska tribes:

**Bright Futures AmeriCorps – Omaha Tribe**

**Santee Sioux Nation AmeriCorps Program (SSNAP)**  
– Santee Sioux Nation

## NEBRASKA AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT PROGRAMS

Each of the programs below are part of larger national efforts with a presence benefitting Nebraskans:

**Compact Service Corps AmeriCorps – University of Nebraska**

**Cooking Matters AmeriCorps – Visiting Nurse Association Omaha**

**Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps – Habitat for Humanity Omaha**

**Student Conservation Association (SCA) AmeriCorps**  
– Homestead National Monument

**Veterans Leaders Corps – Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska  
& Nebraskans For Civic Reform**

**Learn More About AmeriCorps in Nebraska**  
at  
**[www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov)**

## 2014 SYMPOSIUM: CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AUTHORS & ARTISTS

### MORNING CELEBRATIONS

ISABEL CAMACHO – RISE AMERICORPS, KEARNEY  
"TOMORROW FOR TODAY"

BVCA AMERICORPS, FAIRBURY  
"IF I DIED TODAY – MY OBITUARY"

COLLEGE POSSIBLE OMAHA AMERICORPS  
"IT STARTS AS A SEED..."

TEGAN GORMON – RISE AMERICORPS, HASTINGS  
"RISE ABOVE"

HEALTHY RURAL COMMUNITIES AMERICORPS, LEWELLEN  
"OUR AMERICORPS MEMBERS – WHO THEY ARE"

MCC\*CORPS AMERICORPS, OMAHA  
"MCC\*CORPS CHANGING LIVES"

MMI AMERICORPS, OMAHA  
"THE POWER OF MY AMERICORPS SERVICE"

NE CAMPUS COMPACT SERVICE SCHOLARS AMERICORPS,  
MEGAN RUDOLPH – "OPEN SHELF"

NEBRASKA ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CORPS, OMAHA  
"ANIMATE AMERICORPS"

### AFTERNOON CELEBRATIONS

ERIN WALKER – NE CAMPUS COMPACT SERVICE SCHOLARS, LINCOLN  
"ONE MAN'S VISION"

PROH AMERICORPS, LINCOLN  
"TOWER OF STRENGTH"

YOUTHBUILD OMAHA AMERICORPS – OMAHA  
"CARPENTRY & ELECTRICITY"

RURAL CORPS OF SOUTH CENTRAL NEBRASKA, KEARNEY  
"RURAL CORPS MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

YWCA ADAMS COUNTY AMERICORPS, HASTINGS  
"OUR SERVICE"

KIM WIMBERLY, RISE AMERICORPS, LINCOLN  
"OPENING THE DOOR TO SUCCESS"

YOUTH ON THE MOVE AMERICORPS – LINCOLN  
"YOUTH ON THE MOVE STORYBOOK"

## "YOUTH ON THE MOVE STORYBOOK"

### VISUAL ART/POSTER

THEME: HOW STUDENTS / VOLUNTEERS / CLIENTS CREATED SOMETHING SPECIAL

*AmeriCorps Program:* Youth on the Move AmeriCorps, Lincoln

*Participants:* Youth on the Move AmeriCorps Members

*Service Description:* Throughout the year Youth on the Move AmeriCorps members have been able to provide youth with health, nutrition and fitness programming, and gardening. We've also been in the classrooms at Calvert Elementary helping with the America Reads program. We've been able to provide the youth with positive, healthy options and education for their future!

*Service Highlight:* The Youth On The Move AmeriCorps members will showcase how AmeriCorps has changed them throughout their year of service. Each service member will showcase the concepts they have been educating youth on at their locations.

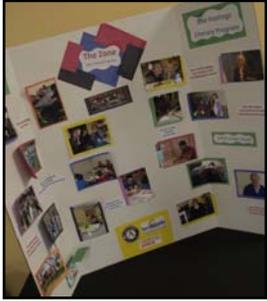
*Project Summary:* We hope to show other members how the youth inspire us and the programming we have worked hard to create. We would like to celebrate all the fun we have had so far through our life size story book!



## “OUR SERVICE”

### VISUAL ART/POSTER

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER



**AmeriCorps Program:** YWCA Adams County, Hastings  
**Participants:** Jessica Hunt, Christine Chintzman, Kelly Junker, Brittney Baddierks  
**Service Description:** The YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps program helps youth, women seeking competitive employment, and adults seeking to enhance their literacy.

**Service Highlight:** The Zone afterschool program assists youth with homework, life-skills, food program, interactive games and much more. We've seen youth increase grade point averages, receive a hot meal at night, increase self-esteem, and interact positively with other peers and much more.

**Project Summary:** We named the project "Our Service" because we've had so many great and life changing experiences we want to highlight all of the good things we've done to positively impact youths' lives.

## “OPENING THE DOOR TO SUCCESS”

### VISUAL ART/DOOR

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER



**AmeriCorps Program:** RISE AmeriCorps, Lincoln  
**Participant:** Kim Wimberly  
**Service Description:** I have been a RISE Specialist since November of 2012 and began my service in Seward and York Counties. I added Saunders County in Sept 2013 and moved to a new position in Lancaster County in February 2014.

**Service Highlight:** I feel that I have grown as a person during my time of service. I have also watched probationers make changes in their lives to better themselves. I feel that the RISE program gives probationers the tools they need to assist them in making changes in their lives to be productive members of society.

**Project Summary:** My project will show how RISE opens the door for probationers to succeed. It will show the chapters we cover for both juveniles and adults and how completing RISE successfully can open the door to a better life.

## “TOMORROW FOR TODAY”

### VISUAL ART/COLLAGES

THEME: HOW SERVICE CHANGES THE WAY I SEE THE WORLD



**AmeriCorps Program:** RISE AmeriCorps, Kearney  
**Participant:** Isabel Camacho

**Service Description:** I'm originally from South Sioux City, Nebraska and serving in Kearney. As an AmeriCorps member I've been able to make connections not only in Kearney but throughout Nebraska, working with troubled youth at YRTC (Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center).

**Service Highlight:** I have currently not had one bad experience working with a youth and the conversations of their goals and struggles have shown me they all just need a little push or someone to agree with them. This all tells me that one positive can outweigh the negatives.

**Project Summary:** My project is a visual collage highlighting my service experience.

## “IF I DIED TODAY-MY OBITUARY”

### SERVICE INSPIRED FICTION

THEME: HOW SERVICE IS CHANGING ME



**AmeriCorps Program:** BVCA AmeriCorps, Fairbury

**Participants:** Katie Durfee, Jordan Scott, Christopher Scolari, Nora Brand, Samantha Rink, Jennifer McPherson

**Service Description:** BVCA AmeriCorps members help build the capacity of Blue Valley Community Action Partnership to serve families and children in need.

**Service Highlight:** A major accomplishment of this service year is that over 500 school administrators, educators, parents and other caring adults were introduced to and trained on utilizing the 40 Developmental Assets to insure a brighter future for youth in southeast rural Nebraska.

**Project Summary:** The question we will ask and will answer is, "What will people most remember us for, during this time in our lives?"

## "IT STARTS AS A SEED..."

### VIDEO PRESENTATION/POSTER

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER

**AmeriCorps Program:** College Possible Omaha AmeriCorps  
**Participants:** Nicole Toomey and College Possible team members

**Service Description:** College Possible makes college admission and success possible for low-income students through an intensive curriculum of coaching and support.  
**Service Highlight:** Over my term of service, I have created incredible relationships with my 29 students, helping them understand all of their potential options to consider when it comes to the idea of a college education.

**Project Summary:** This project will be a creative expression of the impact of our work with students and the community around us. Just like a seed, our students have a lot of potential but need other resources, like "soil" and "water" and "sunlight" to help them grow and reach their maximum potential. But even when they grow and become a flower (go to college) we stay with them and make sure they still have the resources they need to thrive.

**Video Link:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0q5KIJ2EvjE>



## "RISE ABOVE"

### VISUAL ART/QUOTE



THEME: HOW SERVICE CHANGES THE WAY I SEE THE WORLD

**AmeriCorps Program:** RISE AmeriCorps, Hastings

**Participant:** Tegan Gorman

**Service Description:** RISE AmeriCorps members offer services to adults and juveniles to obtain educa-

tion and employment, through group and one-on-one sessions assisting them to find ways to overcome their barriers.

**Service Highlight:** I'm a part time drug tech and a RISE specialist with District #10. I've made many great connections which will greatly help my clients.

**Project Summary:** My project is a quote, "ACCEPT your past without regrets, handle your present with CONFIDENCE, PREPARE for your future without fear, RISE above". This quote is inspiring because it's about accepting who you are and what you can do as opposed to what you have done in the past. I feel like a lot of probationers feel like their past is holding them back when in reality it's their doubt of themselves.

## "CARPENTRY & ELECTRICITY"

### SERVICE STORY/CREATIVE NONFICTION

THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER

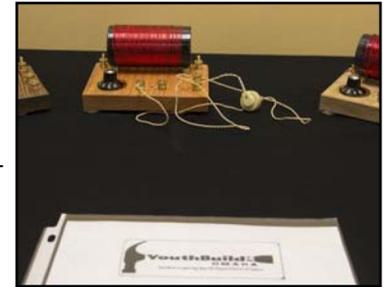
**AmeriCorps Program:** YouthBuild Omaha AmeriCorps, Omaha

**Participants:** YouthBuild AmeriCorps Members

**Service Description:** YouthBuild Omaha AmeriCorps is a program for young adults between the ages of 18-25 years who do not have a high school diploma. Participants earn their GED while learning construction skills and renovating homes for low-income families working in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity and other nonprofits.

**Service Highlight:** Members have learned the skills of construction, how to be a leader, and the importance of encouraging others.

**Project Summary:** Woodworking stimulates activity that requires thought organization, decision-making and problem solving as well as coordination between hands and head. Members built Crystal Radios using math and science concepts they learned while preparing for the GED test. Both of these projects are tied to self-image as they develop confidence and self-esteem.



## "RURAL CORPS MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

### VIDEO PRESENTATION/POSTER

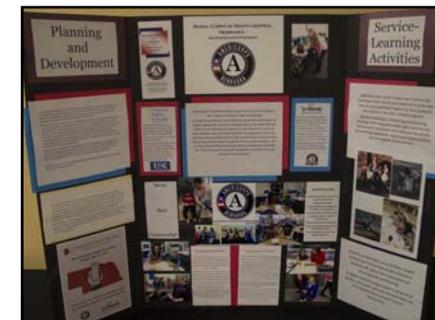
THEME: HOW VOLUNTEERS, STUDENTS, CLIENTS CREATED SOMETHING SPECIAL

**AmeriCorps Program:** Rural Corps of South Central Nebraska, Kearney

**Participants:** AmeriCorps members

**Service Description:** AmeriCorps members assist students in Pre-K through High School levels to achieve academic success and/or improvement.

**Service Highlight:** Helping to promote and spread awareness of the Rural Corps Program in the Kearney community.



**Project Summary:** Members recorded statements from students and teachers they served about how beneficial the AmeriCorps member is in their life and classroom. Members also created a display board to showcase their impact in the community.



## “THE POWER OF MY AMERICORPS SERVICE”

### VISUAL ART/POSTER

**THEME: HOW SERVICE IS CHANGING ME**

**AmeriCorps Program:** MMI AmeriCorps, Omaha

**Participants:** All AmeriCorps Members

**Service Description:** Members focus on serving individuals who are underprivileged and underserved, and military families who do not generally have access to behavioral health services.

**Service Highlight:** We have learned a tremendous amount about the community of Omaha, the families and children needing help to achieve success and stability, and the importance of service, compassion, and leadership.

**Project Summary:** A poster was created by the team and includes statements from our members on what community means to them, how AmeriCorps is enabling them to help their community, and why they are passionate about the service they provide. Since many of our members are students, we wanted to capture the impact being an AmeriCorps member is having on them both currently and in reference to their chosen career paths.



## “OPEN SHELF”



### VISUAL ART/POSTER

**THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER**

**AmeriCorps Program:** Nebraska Campus Compact Service Scholars, Lincoln

**Participant:** Megan Rudolph

**Service Description:** Nebraska Campus Compact Service Scholars AmeriCorps engages 26 Ameri-

Corps members to address educational and health education needs across the state of Nebraska.

**Service Highlight:** As an AmeriCorps member I have assisted in the creation and the continuation of OpeN Shelf, UNL's first ever campus pantry for students who are low-income or in need.

**Project Summary:** OpeN Shelf wasn't my idea, but creating the pantry and ensuring there are volunteers to staff the pantry and that we have product on our shelves has been my contribution. This project has allowed me to see the problem of poverty on campus. Before this project I had never given a thought to the real life financial consequences of going to college.

## “ANIMATE AMERICORPS”

### VIDEO PRESENTATION

**THEME: HOW MY SERVICE MADE LIFE IN NEBRASKA BETTER**

**AmeriCorps Program:** Nebraska Economic Opportunity Corps, Omaha

**Participants:** All NEOC AmeriCorps members

**Service Description:** Nebraska Economic Opportunity Corps (NEOC) AmeriCorps members work to directly enhance the employability of low-income and at-risk youth; refugees and immigrants; and veterans, active military, and their families.

**Service Highlight:** As AmeriCorps members we have accomplished many projects, including: creating a community garden; implementing various systems to streamline the delivery of services and management of benefit verifications for refugee clients; organizing a cultural appreciation event; and updating LFS (Lutheran Family Services) job training curriculum.

**Project Summary:** LFS NEOC members worked together to create a 2-3 minute script that describes their service experience, and then artist Jester Thaloko took the script and turned it into a piece of art that is created in front of a camera. Audience members will see the different services provided by NEOC members unfold before their eyes, which is similar to the experience that many NEOC members have with AmeriCorps.

**Video Link:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUyZVtBoQ5w>

## “ONE MAN’S VISION”

### SERVICE STORY/CREATIVE NONFICTION

**THEME: HOW VOLUNTEERS/STUDENTS/CLIENTS CREATED SOMETHING SPECIAL**

**AmeriCorps Program:** Nebraska Campus Compact Service Scholars, Lincoln

**Participant:** Erin Walker

**Service Description:** Nebraska Campus Compact Service Scholars AmeriCorps engages 26 AmeriCorps members to address educational and health education needs across the state of Nebraska.

**Service Highlight:** I serve as a Program Coordinator of Guidance to Success (GtS) Youth Club in Lincoln. As an AmeriCorps member I'm accomplishing new things everyday and proud to say I'm a part of the GtS family.

**Project Summary:** I've created a nonfiction book about Angelo's vision behind GtS, what he's accomplished, and who has helped make his dream become a reality. He inspires me everyday and I'm moved by his story. I think everyone should know his story and see that when people come together change can happen. This book will be presented to the entire GtS family at the banquet in May and the book itself will be given to Angelo as a gift following the Symposium.