

**From:** Nevada Volunteers <info@nevadavolunteers.org>  
**Subject:** NEVADA VOLUNTEERS E NEWSLETTER  
**Date:** February 2, 2009 4:35:05 PM PST  
**To:** robh@bitfocus.com  
**Reply-To:** info@nevadavolunteers.org

---



about us | visit our site

## NEVADA VOLUNTEERS E NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 3, 2009

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

We are very proud to unveil our new website at [www.nevadavolunteers.org](http://www.nevadavolunteers.org)!

Our new Internet home fulfills the growing need for a statewide, electronic system that matches volunteers with the organizations who need them. Thank you to all our partners who've made this easily accessible resource available. We continue to be inspired by volunteers across the Silver State who give of their time and talent to make Nevada a better place for all of us.

Please join us as we shine the light on those volunteers, Feb. 26th at the [2009 Governor's Points of Light Awards](#) at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno. This gala event recognizes individuals, corporations and non-profit organizations throughout the state for their volunteer efforts. The three finalists in each of seven categories will be honored, with the winner announced at the event! [http://nevadavolunteers.org/event\\_detail.asp?ID=32](http://nevadavolunteers.org/event_detail.asp?ID=32)

### OUR NEW WEBSITE: A CALL TO SERVICE!

At the same time that President Obama is encouraging us to 'do our part' to help meet the needs of our communities through service, Nevada Volunteers is pleased to announce the launch of our new website. What is the connection between these two events? Our new website contains a wide array resources for the volunteer, the volunteer leader, people interested in AmeriCorps, volunteer events and information about us and our partners! We are excited to offer our volunteer matching system that allows individuals to find volunteer opportunities throughout the state and provides a free service for nonprofits to post volunteer needs.

We welcome your feedback and ongoing suggestions, information about your events, your volunteer experiences, great resources you have to share, and questions about becoming a partner. The website is our communication tool with you, so please let us hear from you!

To get you started, see if you can answer Nevada Volunteers' [Top 5 Questions](#)

- Where can you volunteer in your local community?
- What is our upcoming grand event?
- How can businesses support Nevada Volunteers?
- Which communities in Nevada benefit from AmeriCorps members?
- What are our "Top 10 Tips" for volunteering?

Hint: All the answers can be found at [www.nevadavolunteers.org](http://www.nevadavolunteers.org). Please check it out!

## GOVERNOR GIBBONS APPOINTS 3 NEW COMMISSIONERS

Governor Jim Gibbons recently appointed 3 new members to our Board of Commissioners:

**Melina De Hoyos** is currently serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Girls Scouts of the Sierra Nevada. She is the youth service representative for the board. Melina holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a minor in French from the University of Nevada, Reno.

**David Thronson** is associate dean for clinical studies and a professor of law at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada Las Vegas. He founded the school's Immigration Clinic and currently teaches Immigration and Nationality Law and Civil Procedure/Alternative Dispute Resolution. Prior to joining Boyd School of Law, David served as acting assistant professor of law at New York University School of Law. He has studied at the University of Kansas and Columbia University, Teacher's College, while undertaking a Peace Corps Fellowship. He's a graduate of Harvard Law School and volunteers his time with the Immigrant Workers Citizenship Project, Nevada Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice, National Youth Leadership Council, Nevada Law Foundation and Nevada Youth Alliance.

**Captain Cedric Williams** is the public information and community liaison for the North Las Vegas Fire Department. He has been an instructor for the fire recruit academy for two years and is the vice president of the Fire Prevention Association of Nevada (FPAN). He's also a mediations specialist with the Clark County Neighborhood Justice Center. Cedric is scheduled to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 18 months. After serving in the U. S. Army, he earned an Associates degree in Fire Science Technology with an urban emphasis from the College of Southern Nevada. He joined the North Las Vegas Fire Department in 1994. Cedric donates his time with the Youth Fire Setters Intervention Program and is a U. S. Amateur Athletics Track and Field coach. He's been awarded an Excellence Award from the United Firefighters of Southern Nevada and received the Firefighter of the Year honors from Elks Lodge Las Vegas Chapter.

## NEVADA VOLUNTEERS AT UNLV

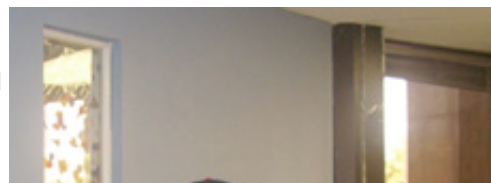
Nevada Volunteers is committed to creating volunteer opportunities and supporting volunteers. In collaboration with the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach (The Center) at University of Nevada Las Vegas our VISTA, Alex Hesse-Siebert is creating the infrastructure to recruit and train volunteers who will provide client support for the Adult Educational Services Division. Alex has mapped current campus resources, surveyed the program staff and with their help has identified areas in which volunteers will be most effective. He is also developing volunteer position descriptions, volunteer orientation materials, training outlines and recruiting materials. A review by the program's advisory board is expected next month and volunteer recruitment will begin in March. For more information about volunteer opportunities at UNLV's The Center, please contact [Alex89102@gmail.com](mailto:Alex89102@gmail.com).

## AMERICORPS CELEBRATES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR HOLIDAY



Across Nevada, AmeriCorps members joined community volunteers for a special day of service honoring Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Echoing President Obama's call to service for a "day on not a day off," AmeriCorps members hosted service activities in Las Vegas, Boulder City, Incline Village and Winnemucca.

Dozens of United Way of Southern Nevada AmeriCorps members joined with U.S. VETS-Las Vegas AmeriCorps members in collaboration with Luz





Community Development Coalition to host a paint-a-thon benefitting the Bilingual Behavioral Counseling Center, an agency that provides services to youth and families regardless of their ability to pay. Lunch was provided for all. Members recruited 11 community volunteers to help and donated 40 new children's books to the Center.



On the other side of the Southern Valley, 50 Great Basin Institute's Nevada Conservation Corps AmeriCorps members and support staff gathered at the Southern NV field station for breakfast. Members then sponsored 3 different community service projects at 3 different sites. One team coordinated a clean up at the 40 acre campus of St. Jude's Children's Ranch in Boulder City. A second group spent the day helping out at organizing and sorting at the donation center of Shade Tree Women's Shelter. The third AmeriCorps team led a group of volunteers at Three Square, Southern Nevada's local food bank. They spent the day stocking shelves and repackaging donations for Three Square's Weekend Food Program, which sends backpacks of food home over the weekend for the neediest school children. At the end of the day, GBI NCC's Volunteer

Coordinator, Sarah Valentine, was interviewed on Channel 8 news! She was quoted as saying "I could not imagine spending the MLK holiday anywhere else. It makes you feel good. It makes you feel like you are doing something good for your community."

Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation Americorps members hosted a Diversity Day Boy Scout and Girl Scout Badge Lab. The special project focused on Scouts interested in earning the World Neighbors Merit Badge and the Language and Culture Belt Loop. Diversity Day featured ethnic food, music, games and clothing displays from other cultures. Nevada Outdoor School's AmeriCorps members in Winnemucca created a community cultural fair, "Winnemucca, Proud of It!" Members hosted interactive educational booths highlighting Winnemucca's culture and diverse heritage in the morning and then provided 84 volunteers for several nonprofit agency special projects in the afternoon.

**NEVADA VOLUNTEERS HOSTS LUNCH n' LEARN SERIES IN RENO**

The Nevada Volunteers office was buzzing with excitement as 17 individuals from northern Nevada nonprofits came together to learn about writing effective volunteer position descriptions. This was the first of a four month series led by our VISTA, Gina Corson. After lively discussions, participants left with thick packets of resources to put to good use at their organizations. The Lunch n' Learn series will be held the third Thursday of every month at Nevada Volunteers' office featuring a different volunteer management topic each month. There's plenty of time for sharing best practices and networking with colleagues. Brief training sessions over lunch help participants to meet others who manage volunteers without taking too much time out of busy schedules! For further information about our next Lunch n' Learn event on Thursday, February 19, 2009 from noon until 1:15pm, please contact [gina@nevadavolunteers.org](mailto:gina@nevadavolunteers.org).



**CIVIC REFLECTION PROJECT COMES TO NEVADA VOLUNTEERS**

Nevada Volunteers was recently awarded a \$4000 grant from Nevada Humanities to launch a civic reflection project.

On January 16, Ryan Lewis, a trainer from the national Project on Civic Reflection ([www.civicleflection.org](http://www.civicleflection.org)), spent the day in our Reno office for hands-on facilitator training. Seven participants, who work throughout the state, came together to learn how short, provocative readings can be used to open larger conversations on service and civic engagement. "It was an experience that renewed our own commitment to service and refreshed our spirits," said Janet Wright, Director of Nevada Volunteers' Volunteer Initiative. "We are excited to be able to share this method of reflection in Nevada."

With the grant funds from Nevada Humanities, Nevada Volunteers plans to launch two pilot reflection groups in northern Nevada. For more information on the project please contact Jo Ella Barrie at [joella@nevadavolunteers.org](mailto:joella@nevadavolunteers.org).

## WHAT'S AMERICORPS DOING FOR NEVADA?

- Last year, Nevada Volunteers awarded **5 AmeriCorps Program Grants** and **1 AmeriCorps Planning Grant** supporting national service activities for **139 AmeriCorps members**
- Nevada AmeriCorps Members provided **156,518 hours of service** in the core service areas of education, human needs, environment and public safety
- At \$19.51 per hour (the value of a volunteer hour set by Independent Sector for 2008), Nevada's **AmeriCorps Members' 156,518 hours of service** is worth **\$3,053,666.00**
- Services were provided in:
  - Carson City County
  - Lincoln County
  - Churchill County
  - Lyon County
  - Clark County
  - Nye County
  - Douglas County
  - Pershing County
  - Elko County
  - Washoe County
  - Humboldt County
  - White Pine County
  - Lander County
- AmeriCorps Members recruited and managed **4,142 volunteers** throughout the state who donated **25,178 hours** of community service valued at **\$491,223.00**
- AmeriCorps members collected **141,047 pounds of food and clothing**
- AmeriCorps members provided social services to **1,346 homeless people** (334 were homeless adolescents) and **employment assistance services** for **451 formerly homeless veterans**
- AmeriCorps members planted **7,860 trees**, removed hazardous materials from **384 acres**, built/maintained/decommissioned **96 miles of wilderness trails**, removed invasive species plants from **3,801 acres** and restored **38 miles of rivers, streams, beaches and fish habitats**

## AMERICORPS GETS THINGS DONE IN NEVADA!



 **SafeUnsubscribe**®

This email was sent to [robh@bitfocus.com](mailto:robh@bitfocus.com) by [info@nevadavolunteers.org](mailto:info@nevadavolunteers.org).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Nevada Volunteers | 639 ISBELL ROAD | SUITE 220 | Reno | NV | 89509