

From: Nevada Volunteers <info@nevadavolunteers.org>
Subject: Nevada Volunteers Newsletter - June 2009
Date: June 5, 2009 1:15:14 PM PDT
To: robh@bitfocus.com
Reply-To: info@nevadavolunteers.org



about us | visit our site

Nevada Volunteers Newsletter - June 2009

A JOINT MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR and OUR CEO

Welcome to the June edition of the Nevada Volunteers Newsletter. National Volunteer Week and National AmeriCorps Week were celebrated widely in Nevada during April and May with both service and recognition events. We are proud of the volunteers statewide who give so tirelessly to Nevada's communities.

In May, Nevada Volunteers also published an updated Community Report on Volunteerism which looked at the successful efforts to strengthen the volunteer infrastructure statewide during the past year. We thank all our partners for working together with us on this important initiative. You can find the full report at:

<http://www.nevadavolunteers.org/cms/upload/Community%20Report%20on%20Volunteering.pdf>

Along with all this good news, and as is the case with many others in the nonprofit community, Nevada Volunteers is currently experiencing a serious funding challenge. In our instance, the situation is a lack of state match for the administration of our federal AmeriCorps programs. Gina Polovina, Chair of Nevada Volunteers, conveys this important message to our stakeholders at this time:

"On behalf of the Nevada Volunteers Commission, please rest assured that we are doing everything in our power to see to it that our statewide AmeriCorps programs continue in full force. We have reached out to our state's leaders in the executive and legislative branches in an effort to identify any and all potential funding sources. We are fully committed to finding a lasting solution and appreciate your continued support and service."

Meanwhile, Nevada Volunteers is poised to administer over \$2 million dollars in AmeriCorps programming in 2009. We also just awarded our \$251,283 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant to support an extra 39 AmeriCorps members and launch a Summer of Service program. We continue to "get things done for Nevada."

AMERICORPS GARDEN DAY

On May 20th, the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation AmeriCorps team partnered with Project MANA to help clean, rebuild and plant the community gardens in Incline Village and Kings Beach. The gardens are used to supplement fresh vegetables in Project MANA's weekly food distribution and also as an educational tool for school groups and community members. George Lebard, the Executive Director of Project MANA facilitates Garden Day, and also takes the opportunity to teach AmeriCorps members about high altitude gardening. The community gardens are managed by the AmeriCorps members at Project MANA and community volunteers.



AmeriCorps Members Laura Buckner And Linden McCoy



AmeriCorps Members Michael Amadori and Ben Storrud

NEVADA VOLUNTEERS HOSTS REGIONAL CONVERSATIONS Nevada Volunteers recently hosted two conversations on volunteering. One was co-sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada and held in Las Vegas on May 13, 2009. The second conversation was held in Reno on May 15th.

May 13 was a day packed with insight as volunteers, managers and corporate representatives gathered in southern Nevada for the Community Conversation on Volunteering. The program included a panel discussion featuring Gary Renville of HandsOn Network, Robin Kelly from the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada, Janet Wright of Nevada Volunteers, and Lu Torres of the Rape Crisis Center. The panel discussed the changing face of volunteering from the local, state and national perspectives including changes brought about by emerging technologies such as texting, twitter and targeted outreach tools.

The program was completed with table groups responding to questions to obtain feedback on volunteer issues ranging from how to build supports between the non-profit and business sectors to various questions regarding best practices for recruitment and retaining volunteers.

May 15th brought together a diverse group of volunteers, volunteer managers, and corporate representatives as well. The morning consisted of four short talks about issues of volunteerism including the use of social media, developing nonprofit-business partnerships, assuring the success of your volunteers, and service-learning in higher education.

The event was concluded with an in-depth Q&A session with each speaker so participants could get more information on implementing the strategies presented in the morning talks.

At both events, The Community Report on the State of Volunteerism in Nevada, (http://www.nevadavolunteers.org/_cms/upload/Community%20Report%20on%20Volunteering.pdf) was presented,

providing information about our work the past year and the successes of our partnering organizations and national service programs. The highlight of both morning sessions was the presentation of our annual Nevada National Service Awards by First Lady Dawn Gibbons, Nevada Volunteers' Honorary Chair.

Gary Renville, Western Regional Vice President of Hands on Network was the lunchtime speaker for both regions. He spoke of the importance of investing in volunteers during the current economic downturn. He cited the Independent Sectors 2008 increased value of a volunteer which is now estimated at \$20.25 per hour. Gary used a group activity to underline the importance of teamwork and the creation of a win-win community environment.

NEVADA CONSERVATION CORPS AMERICORPS PROGRAM IS REFUNDED

Nevada Volunteers is pleased to announce that Great Basin Institute will receive a \$617,500 AmeriCorps grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service for the Nevada Conservation Corps AmeriCorps program which starts in September 2009.

“AmeriCorps members are getting things done and strengthening communities across Nevada,” said Shawn Lecker-Pomaville, CEO of Nevada Volunteers. “I congratulate Great Basin Institute for their strong programs and thank all those who have answered the call to service by joining AmeriCorps. In this time of economic hardship, service and volunteering are more important than ever. These AmeriCorps members and the volunteers they mobilize will provide a vital boost to nonprofits that are meeting some of the state's unmet needs.”

This grant will support 125 AmeriCorps members who will serve statewide.

Great Basin Institute was selected in a highly competitive, national process after being recommended by the Nevada Volunteers, which plays a key role in promoting volunteering and administering AmeriCorps programs in Nevada. Later this summer, the Nevada Volunteers will announce additional AmeriCorps formula grants to four other organizations in Nevada.



Great Basin Institute's Nevada Conservation Corps' Executive Director, Jerry Kier and AmeriCorps Program Director, Matt Johnson

2009 NEVADA NATIONAL SERVICE AWARDS

First Lady Dawn Gibbons, our Honorary Chair, and NV Volunteers Staff recently honored Nevada's National Service Participants for 2009. We are proud of their commitment to "getting things done" for Nevada and are amazed by their extraordinary accomplishments.

- AmeriCorps Members of the Year – North – Jonathan Baker and Artie Seelig
- AmeriCorps Member of the Year – South – Maria Parra-Sandoval
- AmeriCorps Program Director of the Year – Allison Becker
- Learn and Serve Participant of the Year – Elizabeth Jackson
- Senior Corps Participant of the Year – Larry Hicks
- VISTA Participants of the Year – Jo Ella Barre and Gina Carson



Left: Commissioner Robyn Clayton, AmeriCorps Maria Parra-Sandoval and First Lady Dawn Gibbons

Right: Commissioner Craig Warner, Senior Corps Participant Larry Hicks, Dawn Gibbons & Janet Wright

AMERICORPS VISTA PROJECT GETS OK FOR EXPANSION

Nevada Volunteers is pleased to announce the expansion of its AmeriCorpsVISTA project, a three-year project granted through the Corporation State Office. The VISTA project is a cornerstone of Nevada Volunteers efforts to increase volunteerism across the state and to impact, through volunteering and service, the lives of low-income individuals and communities.

In the next year, Nevada Volunteers will place seven AmeriCorpsVISTA members. Two of the members will build on the quality work of Gina Corson and Jo Ella Barrie who have been in our main office this past year. They were instrumental in creating the website and its many resources, the list-serve for those interested in volunteer management, the Civic Reflection activities and service-learning outreach we have done this past year. We will be adding a VISTA member to the office team to implement our communications plan, assisting with public relations, media and press releases, fund-raising, and marketing.

We are partnering with the City of Fernley and Great Basin College in Elko to establish two rural volunteer hubs to engage community members and college students in volunteering and service to local nonprofits and public agencies. The remaining two members will be serving in the Las Vegas area, one with UNLV, Division of Student Affairs, and one with the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada to engage college and community members in volunteering and to enhance the capacity of nonprofits to effectively utilize volunteers.

If you know of an individual who would be interested in serving as an AmeriCorpsVISTA with Nevada Volunteers, please direct them to the website for information or to Janet Wright at 775-825-1900. The Las Vegas positions have

been filled but we are actively recruiting for Elko, Fernley, and Reno. We are seeking candidates with strong communication skills, basic computer expertise, who have a passion for service and volunteering, who are motivated, self-starters, and who have some college experience or have graduated from college.

WHAT'S AMERICORPS DOING FOR NEVADA?

Last year, **139 Nevada AmeriCorps Members** provided **156,518 hours of national service**. Just **27** of those AmeriCorps members collected and distributed more than **141,047 lbs of food and clothing**. **that's 70 tons!**



✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

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

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