

To: Bruce Reed
From: Eli J. Segal
Date: January 26, 1996
Re: National Service 1996

Neil Grew

Purpose of the Meeting

Somewhere along the line, Bill Clinton's commitment to national service went from a major campaign rallying cry to a relatively invisible legislative victory and modest government program to a political football. What was once a graphic metaphor for "opportunity, responsibility and community" now has all the potential earmarks of a political liability in 1996 and/or a long term hostage to a Republican Congress.

This is a discussion about moving national service back onto the high ground. This is vital for two purposes: first, as a campaign theme; second, as a method to save it during the 1996 legislative session when it comes up for reauthorization. If we're successful, by the end of his second term, President Clinton should begin to see a key element of his legacy in formation. If we're unsuccessful, national service could be dead.

At the heart of this task is a repositioning of national service from an afterthought element of our education package to the cutting edge of our emerging citizenship focus. AmeriCorps Members are the living embodiment of the movement from Big Government to Big Citizens: ordinary people doing ordinary things, but in the process changing their country, their communities and themselves.

Subjects to be Covered

1. Thoughts on how we got into this box: "pet project"; "getting things done"; 1995 State of the Union.
2. Legislative update, including appropriations, reauthorization issues and rationale for repositioning.
3. Nature of opposition: political and philosophical.
4. Assets: the President; other stakeholders.
5. Course of action.

The National Service Briefing



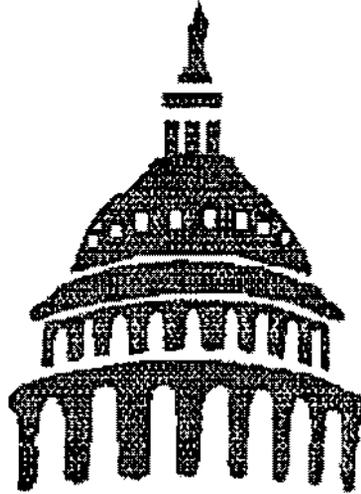
A weekly publication of Youth Service America for the national and community service field.
January 22, 1996

Volume 3, Number 3

GOP Panelists Predict Tough Times for National Service

Last Friday, at a special "Capitol Hill session" of YSA's Working Group on National and Community Service Policy, a panel of Congressional Republican staff members agreed that federal funding of AmeriCorps is in serious jeopardy. They even went as far as expressing grave doubts as to whether reauthorization would occur on the National and Community Service Trust Act. This special event, entitled *The Congressional Agenda on National Service: A Republican Perspective* was co-sponsored by Youth Service America and the National and Community Service Coalition. Republican staff members on the panel included: Mary Elizabeth Larson, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources; Derrick Max, House Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; Sherry Kaiman, Office of Senator James Jeffords; Dean Zerbe, Office of Senator Charles Grassley and Katy Anderson, Office of Congressman Christopher Shays.

The panel agreed that it is likely there will not be a budget deal this year which means that the Corporation for National Service will likely continue to operate with decreased funding under an expected series of Continuing Resolutions (CR) enacted to keep the government open. In the current CR the Corporation is funded at 75% of the appropriated level. While recent reports have indicated that the Republican Congress may proceed with targeted appropriations (i.e., sending the president bills funding Veterans, NASA and other GOP favored programs and leaving out programs they dislike including national



service and the Department of Commerce), the panelists from the Senate side thought the Senate was more likely to proceed by CR. Although neither the Administration nor Congress wants to be blamed for a third government shutdown, the panel indicated that they may also fail to agree on a permanent CR, thereby foreboding a tumultuous year of temporary spending bills that will keep government functioning, though subject to debate and uncertainty every three or four weeks. It appears that the budget will become an election issue and that national service will be caught up in the bigger debate concerning the structure and role of the federal government in the life of each citizen.

When asked about the future survival of federal funding for national service, both Zerbe and Max said that it was competing for limited dollars against too many other popular programs that impact large constituencies with vital services (i.e. public housing, education, veterans and science programs). Moreover, Larson said it was unfortunate that reauthorization of the NCSTA must occur during a difficult election year of continual budget warfare. Kaiman noted that with the Senate in session only about 15 weeks this year, it looks like there will be not be enough time (or perhaps interest) to take up reauthorization of the Trust Act. The panel also expressed that if there was reauthorization of the Trust Act, "major, structural changes" would have to be made.



On the issue of AmeriCorps itself, Zerbe and Max argued that the program undermines traditional volunteerism at a cost which is detrimental to a balanced budget. They added other criticism ranging from political advocacy among members, to the manner in which the Corporation awards its grants, to the issue of national identity being used to create a "federal army" of Democratic ideologues. Larson and others argued for much less of a top down approach to national service with more devolution to the state level. Zerbe and Max argued that, while very little support exists for a full-time stipended program they were open to the possibility of an educational awards only program that would operate in partnership with more traditional volunteer programs or occur in conjunction with collegiate work study or financial aid

programs. Zerbe and Max didn't buy the "volunteer generator" model of AmeriCorps as a particularly effective program, stating that while AmeriCorps members may generate some traditional volunteers, they could think of many more cost-effective ways to do so. Discussion on national direct grants produced agreement that funding to federal agencies will be terminated. There were mixed feelings about the efficacy of national direct grants to non profits.

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For up-to-date legislative and programmatic information and resources, go to SERVENet: the on-line action network for national and community service professionals, an access point network. On America On Line, go to www.SERVENet.org. For more information, software, or help, call 1-800-996-2992, ext. 12.

The National Service Briefing - page 2

GOP PANEL - continued from page 1

All in all, the panelists did not paint a bright picture. It was clear that the field must move very quickly to establish broad, bipartisan support. Kaiman suggested that all members of Congress be invited to visit programs in their districts and states. Zerbe noted that the Corporation for National Service should not wait for reauthorization, but should "proactively" make important changes under its current regulatory authority. Kaiman advised advocates in the field to form a "brain trust" to devise effective structural changes and core principles for national service that will attract bipartisan support, including the conservative Democrats that have expressed reservations about funding national service in this tight budget year. It is not too late--though without action, it may be too late for federal investment soon. Now is the time to let Congress and the American people know about the strength and vision of national and community service.

YSA and the Coalition will host the second session in this Congressional series of the Working Group--The Democratic Perspective on National Service in February on Capitol Hill.

Detailed minutes of this discussion are available on SERVENet--the online action network for national community service. For more information about this meeting, the Working Group, or SERVENet, contact Michael Evans or Joe Riccardo at 202-296-2992.

From the Field...

Lansing, MI - "Youth Making a Difference" National Youth Philanthropy Conference will be held July 25-27, 1996, and focus on involving young people in philanthropy and the growing community foundation concept. Target audiences include youth advisory committees, community foundation trustees and staff members, private foundation officers and staff, youth serving organizations and others who are interested in involving young people in philanthropy and service. The conference will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. For more information contact Terry Langston, Youth Project Manager, Council of Michigan Foundations, at 616-842-7080.

Washington, DC - The Caring Institute, which was established in 1985 to promote selflessness and teach the value of caring, is seeking youth nominations for the 1996 National Caring Awards. The purpose of these awards is to identify twenty adults and youths from across the nation who have demonstrated extraordinary compassion and caring, to celebrate and reinforce their activities, and to create role models for our society. To submit a nomination for students include grade, address, school name, and a summary of his or her activities by the end of March to: Youth Nominations, Caring, Institute, 320 A Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Nationwide - YOUTH VOTE '96

In January 1994, the National Student Campaign for Voter Registration, the PIRG's, Campus Green Vote and Rock the Vote came together to forge a partnership of youth based organizations committed to the involvement of young people in the democratic process. That coalition was successful in registering over 250,000 voters and building a broad and diverse partnership committed to realizing the power of the youth vote. This year, Campus Green Vote, Rock the Vote and the PIRG's are at it again with Youth Vote '96, a nonpartisan campaign dedicated to registering, educating and mobilizing young people to vote in the upcoming election. The kick-off for this year long effort will be held at Harvard's Institute of Politics on February 16-18. The first field activity, aimed at turning out young voters for the Presidential Primary in New Hampshire, will be on February 18-20. For more information about the Youth Vote '96 campaign, contact Sarah Williams at 202-234-5993 or via e-mail at yv96@access.digex.net.

Looking for a Change...

Los Angeles, CA - The Boyle Heights Elementary Institute (BHEI) is seeking an Executive Director to take over its leadership. The BHEI is a community based non-profit serving elementary school kids just east of downtown L.A. BHEI seeks a dynamic leader/manager to oversee the after-school, parent and mentor programs for 3rd-5th graders. Bilingual Spanish, bicultural preferred, Salary: approximately \$35,000. Interested individuals should send a resume and cover letter to: Pilar O'Cadiz, the Boyle Heights Elementary Institute, Room 101 Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1521, or fax to 310-206-8498.

The National Service Briefing is a weekly field update for YSA's National Service Affiliates. For more information or if you would like to include an item in a future issue, please fax it to Stephanie Bernard at 202-296-4030

Special thanks to Joe Riccardo, Kenny Rogers, Terry Langston and Jeff Hough for contributing to this issue.

Should We Take Clinton Seriously?

By ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

Welcome aboard, Mr. President.

That was my first reaction to the State of the Union address. After all, to have Bill Clinton announce before the nation that "the era of big government is over" and "applaud the work of church and community groups that care for the poor," while urging that "every one of us should join with them" is a good thing, yes?

Actually, no. These are ideas central to America's renewal, and using them as rhetorical flourishes diminishes them. Further, using them as rhetorical cover for a different agenda corrupts their meaning and subverts their aim.

Words and Actions

We find ourselves at a unique moment in American history when thoughtful people all across the political spectrum are coming together to recognize the primacy of civil society to our national health. But ideas have consequences, and the president's words appeared to be little more than instruments to manipulate polls. How else can one explain the fact that the one specific initiative mentioned was yet another government program: a \$1000 merit scholarship for the top 5% of graduates in every high school? When the president addressed Congress in 1993, he spoke of "what government can do because I believe government must do more." Three years later, it is clear from the substance of Tuesday's speech that this remains the president's position.

Every time the president spoke of teamwork, he clearly meant government work; every time he talked of our "common effort," there was government involved; and every time he said "we," it was we the government. "We must also provide childcare so mothers can go to work without worrying about their children," he said, in justifying his recent veto of a welfare reform bill. Elevating desirable objectives like childcare into political imperatives has always provided the moral justification for big government. And there was every



Bill Clinton

indication in the State of the Union address that the president continues to believe that nothing really important can happen in this country unless government either makes it happen or is the star of the "team."

The most pernicious expression of this belief was the president's statement that our "challenge is to help every American achieve economic security," with government again assuming the role of Providence in ensuring "education and training for a lifetime, more support for families raising children, retirement security, and access to health care." As Hayek taught us in "The Road to Serfdom," there has been one consistent theme running through the

ents' choosing. To talk about adopting "national standards of excellence," as he did last night, and teaching "character education, good values and good citizenship" when children remain trapped in failed schools where they can't learn and from which they cannot escape, is to put politics and special interests above the lives of children.

• Is the president willing to work to remove government regulations that are wasteful, cumbersome and invasive, and that strangle the growth of a healthy civil society? For example, there are licensing and credentialing requirements that have threatened the life of Teen Challenge, one of the most successful faith-based drug-re-

The president continues to believe that nothing really important can happen in this country unless government either makes it happen or is the star of the "team."

habilitation programs in the country. Government regulations of food preparation nearly closed down Kid-Care in Houston because Carole Porter's home kitchen, from which she prepares over 20,000 meals a month, did not meet government specifications.

Would he be prepared to take on the labor unions and the Davis-Bacon provisions that make it illegal for craftsmen to volunteer their labor on government-funded housing and inner-city infrastructure projects? And would he work to repeal the Fair Labor Standards Act provisions that inhibit workers from donating their labor for projects helping the poor? The list of government barriers to civil society is long, and a serious attempt to deal with them would pit the president against some of his most ardent supporters, including First Amendment absolutists and his own wife.

• Is the president willing to accept that volunteerism fundamentally depends on a moral decision made by an individual to help others in need? If so, how can he justify an Americorps "volunteer" costing the American taxpayer an average of \$25,000 a year? The idea that the U.S. government ought to pay people to volunteer—part of the total cost being a benefits package and part of it overhead

cacophonous chorus of post-war leaders: The individual must surrender more and more of his rights to the state, which in return will guarantee more and more of what social scientists and politicians have decided are his needs. But every time we are offered more security we give up more freedom.

The president should go back and read the preamble to the Constitution about providing for the common defense and promoting the general welfare. The trouble began when the government assumed responsibility for providing for the general welfare. And no matter how many euphemisms of partnership and togetherness the president used on Tuesday night, he remains an unapologetic heir to that tradition.

The president can clearly talk the talk of community and civil society. But here is a litmus test he must pass if his challenges to American citizens are to be taken seriously.

• If our first challenge is indeed "to cherish our children," does the president have the courage to put children's interests ahead of the interests of the teachers' unions and to support—at a minimum—vouchers for poor children, so they can have the same opportunity that Chelsea Clinton has to attend a school of her par-

costs—makes nonsense of the president's challenge to all American citizens to become engaged in their communities and undermines a central precept of civil society: Helping those in need is a moral imperative, not another taxpayer-subsidized entitlement.

• Is the president ready to endorse the Istook-McIntosh-Ehrlich Amendment that, among other things, would end the practice of using taxpayer funds to lobby the government for more taxpayer funds to help those in need? Endorsing this amendment would demonstrate the president's seriousness when he acknowledged in his speech Tuesday night that "there is not a program for every problem." (In last year's State of the Union address, he said: "Not every problem has a government solution.")

• The president called for a renewal of our "religious, charitable and civic associations." To put these words into action, he should endorse legislation put forward by Sen. Dan Coats (R., Ind.) that would give tax credits to those giving money to organizations serving the poor. We know that he has talked to Sen. Coats about it. Will he now do more than talk?

He's No Kennedy

The president used the word "challenge" 47 times in his speech Tuesday night. Echoing President Kennedy's famous plea ("Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country"), he said that "America was built on challenges, not promises." But he turned it on its head. At a time when challenging the American people to be the best they can be is more crucial than ever, Mr. Clinton has taken an idea full of promise and made a mockery of it.

If we are going to replace 30 years of bankrupt Great Society thinking and successfully redefine the problem-solvers as the people and the local communities—not the federal government—we need political leaders who will not only talk a different language but who will mean what they say, and have the courage to act on what they preach.

Ms. Huffington is a senior fellow at the Progress and Freedom Foundation, where she chairs the Center for Effective Compassion.

SPECIAL

Conservatives pin hopes on a new kind of citizenship

Civic involvement must be redefined, they say, if we are to move beyond the tired solutions of liberalism

BY DAVID M. SHUBMAN

WASHINGTON - THE first stage of modern American conservatism was easy to define if not exactly easy to accomplish: to slim down government. The second stage isn't even easy to define, let alone to accomplish. But already, quietly, in think-tanks, in the corridors of policy journals and even in checkered conversations on Capitol Hill, the broad outlines of that next stage are emerging. The debate isn't finished, to be sure, and many battles remain, but already it is clear that conservatives want to reemphasize a new conception of citizenship as the centerpiece of a new alternative to the liberal welfare state.

"It's not impossible to imagine an expansion of what it means to be a citizen—more than just voting and going home," says Michael S. Joyce, president of the Heritage Foundation in Washington, which concentrates on conservative public-policy issues. "Some of this sounds like the critique the left made in the 1970s. We're talking about community, and people actually getting involved in solving their community's problems."

Indeed, in the next several months and years, the word *citizenship* is likely to be on the lips of conservatives from coast to coast. It will stand as a symbol for a new vision of American society, one where many of the functions that governments play still be undertaken by private, sometimes voluntary, entities with few if any ties to Washington or perhaps even to state capitals.

The emerging philosophy is taking shape in many quarters. In the January-February edition just now circulating in Washington, the conservative Heritage Foundation has reshaped Policy Review, giving it a fitting subtitle, *The Journal of American Citizenship*. Conservative thinkers such as John P. Walters, the president of the New Citizenship Project, are taking a newly aggressive approach, talking about how conservatives can help communities and the less fortunate and leading a series of local initiatives they believe can

CONSERVATISM, Page 81

David M. Shubman is chief of the Globe's Washington bureau.

Conservatives hoping for new 'citizenship'

CONSERVATISM
Continued from Page 79

replace government programs.

"We want to make Washington less significant in the scheme of things," says Rep. Charles Ross, a freshman Republican from Exeter through NH, and one of the leading voices in the effort to reshape government.

In redefining citizenship, these conservatives want to redefine American culture. That's a broad, ambitious goal, says the staff of the family club than of the political clubhouse. But if conservatives retain the momentum they have today in Washington and at ground level beyond the capital, it will take concrete form in redefining government and the role it plays—taking the discussion beyond Ronald Reagan's most enduring notion that the government isn't the solution but the problem to a new place.

The new conservatives want to go beyond the notion that government should be smaller and hope actually to win a broad consensus on precisely what is appropriate for government and what is not.

"This is one of the biggest questions we face," says Rep. David M. Bonior, the Indiana Republican who is perhaps the most devout theologian among the these freshman legislators. "We've stopped talking about putting government off our backs and now we're talking about redefining how we solve problems."

Like the initiatives it hopes to foster, this new conservatism is highly decentralized.

"The very word 'movement' fills me with absolute dread, but there are a lot of people who are growing interested in this and asking these kinds of questions," says Peter L. Berger, a Boston University sociologist. "It's an issue not only in America but in every industrial nation. A lot of companies can't afford their welfare states anymore and want to restructure them."

This idea has been on the fringes of conservative thought all year, banished openly in streams of consciousness remarks by House Speaker Newt Gingrich. But, in part because of Gingrich's position, it is rapidly moving to the center of the conservative agenda. Gingrich has repeatedly praised the work of Martin O'Leary, who has been one of the pioneers in this area.

"The essential genius of American politics when it works well is to fight for things that embody both liberty and virtue," says O'Leary, who is something of the philosopher to the Gingrich movement. "The tendency in the past 30 years on both the left and the right is to erode liberty. This new movement is to try to make people take personal responsibility in their communities."

This concept won't reach final form in the new year, or maybe even by the new century, but the thinking, the debating, the jostling and the pushing are beginning now. And it is an essential exercise for conservatives to Larkle, because it answers the next question they will face—not only from liberals but from within their own ranks. "It's not enough just to denounce government," says Adam Meyerson, the editor of Policy Review. "We've got to show the private sector and local governments things that work better."

The new philosophy seeks to go a step beyond the Republican argument, made repeatedly during the Reagan years but elevated to social policy during the new GOP ascendancy last year, that federal programs should be shifted to the states. Increasingly that view is regarded as retro, the old conservatism rather than the new. The irony, of course, is that some leaders roots of the

new philosophy sprouted in the *Thousand Points of Light* initiative of former President Bush, who is regarded as hopelessly retraced by the new conservatives.

"I'm not particularly excited about devolving power from bureaucrats in the federal capital to bureaucrats in state capitals," Joyce says. "That's federalism. We're thinking of something else. It's very important to devolve power and resources to as close to citizens as possible. There are signs around that people living with a problem have better ideas than social workers and government officials."

The laboratory for these citizenship initiatives is Milwaukee, where citizens helped save Mesinger High School when the Catholic archdiocese moved to close it for lack of money; where a woman named Carolea Taylor turned a duplex into a residence for poor inner-city senior citizens; where a group called Community Enterprises fosters small businesses; and where a woman named Leslie Hasty trains welfare mothers to become business receptionists.

Conservatives argue that these projects provide a stark contrast with President Clinton's volunteer service program, *AmertCorps*. They argue that the Clinton plan, which has become a battleground in the fight over the future of social initiatives, relies too heavily on government and bureaucrats. "It tries to help communities and the less fortunate, but it has the federal government come in and provide the program and the money to local organizations to do local things," Walters says. "The failure is that healthy local philanthropic community service is not consistent with federal grants and federal budgeting."

At the heart of conservatives' objections to *AmertCorps* is their belief that it perpetuates the idea that if there's something good going on, the federal government can come in, buy a lot of it and make America better. "The real integrity of these programs depends on having to get the resources by making the case locally and in the private sector," Walters argues. "Nationalizing all these things undermines that responsibility."

The new conservatives are determined to offer more than simple opposition to Clinton's most cherished domestic initiative. "We haven't been afraid to deal with questions that have been shoved under the table for 10 years," says Rep. James H. Longley Jr. of Palm Beach, Maine, another Republican freshman.

Indeed, conservatives are rushing to fill the vacuum—political as well as intellectual—left by liberals. "The welfare state took 60 years to build," Meyerson says. "It did a lot of great things—the civil rights movement, providing opportunity through educational programs, environmental protection. But it is at a dead end now. It cannot solve the problems we face."

But the conservatives' citizenship offensive remains more an idea than a reality. It exists in conservatives' minds, has taken form on paper and has dropped roots in a few, isolated areas. It is far from complete, and far from winning public endorsement or enthusiasm.

"What we've done so far is to lay out fundamental principles," says Rep. Mark Neumann of Wisconsin, one of the loudest voices of the GOP freshman revolt. "We haven't made the changes necessary to achieve them. We've made the philosophical changes. We haven't made the internal changes yet."

Fite:
Nat. Service

February 11, 1996

Bruce:

For your information, enclosed is a copy of the first-ever annual report of the USDA AmeriCorps program. **You might be particularly interested in the section, starting on page 33, about how the program is reinventing government and reducing costs.**

Some general report highlights:

- * USDA AmeriCorps Members in environmental projects performed flood recovery work on 75,300 acres, constructed or maintained 715 miles of trail, improved 6,176 acres of wildlife habitat, provided 885 landowners with water quality assistance, built or repaired 76 campground sites, planted 110,400 trees, made 42 recreation sites accessible for the disabled, restored 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and protected 67,483 acres of coastal land.
- * USDA AmeriCorps Members in nutrition and anti-hunger projects cooked and served 40,155 meals at soup kitchens, implemented 51 new sites for the Summer Food Service Program that fed 40,912 children, provided 391,542 people with donated food, gave food safety and nutrition presentations to 25,257 students and senior citizens, and helped 152 community gardens.
- * USDA AmeriCorps Members serving in rural development projects helped 390 low-income families secure new homes, 3,484 families obtain running water or modern bathrooms for the first time, 867 families repair health and safety hazards in their homes, and over 100 counties improve their emergency preparedness and response.
- * The 1,200 USDA AmeriCorps Members recruited 14,176 non-compensated volunteers to serve in community service projects. Thus, each AmeriCorps Member, on average, recruited more than 11 non-compensated volunteers. The AmeriCorps Members directly provided services to over 828,000 citizens and performed environmental work on over 234,000 acres of land.

Hope all is well

- Joel

John Morrison also

-SARAH HOYT- 617 926-8200

EARTHWATCH

NAT. SERVICE

Earthwatch is a nonprofit institution that sponsors scholarly field research by finding volunteers to help scientists on scientific research expeditions around the world.

EARTHWATCH'S MISSION

The mission of Earthwatch is to improve human understanding of the planet, the diversity of its inhabitants, and the processes which affect the quality of life on earth. It is a coalition of citizens and scientists working to sustain the world's environment, monitor global change, conserve endangered habitats and species, explore the vast heritage of our peoples, and foster world health and international cooperation.

KEY FACTS

- Earthwatch is one of the largest environmental volunteer programs in the world.
- Since its founding in 1971, Earthwatch has mobilized 35,000 EarthCorps volunteers, ages 15 to 80, to 1500 sites in 40 states and 115 countries.
- In 1993 Earthwatch will sponsor 157 projects around the world involving 4,300 volunteers on 780 research teams.
- Earthwatch has over 73,000 members worldwide.
- Over 50% of the projects receive multi-year support. The longest running expedition has had 807 volunteers during 19 years of Earthwatch support.
- Earthwatch is a leader in experiential education:
 - To date, over 3,000 students and 2,400 teachers have received career training on Earthwatch expeditions. (See attached comments from Earthwatch Student Program.)
 - Earthwatch was selected by the New American School Development Corporation (NASDC) as a member of one of the eleven teams for the "America 2000" school program.

COMMENTS FROM EARTHWATCH STUDENT PROGRAM

FROM STUDENTS:

Christina Beardsley, Cascades Volcano Observatory

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. ... It has changed my perspectives of the everyday world around me, and deepened my appreciation of science; in two weeks, it has taught me more about geology than I'd learned in a full year of sitting in a classroom, and sparked a desire in me to continue learning.

"If it weren't for this opportunity, no one would have ever been able to convince me that surveying geology could be engaging. ... Thanks to Earthwatch, in just two short weeks an amazing change took place in me, and I have developed a deeper appreciation of science and its role in every day life, and a new perspective of the beauty of the vast world around me."

Brian Kramer, Toolik Station

"The total hands-on learning experience was definitely the most important part of this trip. I learned so much in such a short period of time. This learning was different from what much of my previous education had been. In school I simply memorized a concept, wrote the information on a test, and then probably forgot about it. However, through this experience all that I had learned was incorporated and used in the lab and field. Yet, squirrels were not where the education stopped. I learned valuable lessons in organization, adaptation, and improvisation."

Michael McDonald, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

"I feel that providing students with an uncensored version of life in a scientific community such as Woods Hole is an example of field exposure which should be more common. I can't even imagine how many people are never given a true glimpse of the career that fits them and ignorantly pass it by. My trip to Woods Hole changed my life."

Hisham Keightley, Lamont-Doherty Geological Laboratory

"I was prepared for long lectures and tedious work involving staring at rocks. In actuality, I received personal insight into the fields of earth science and was able to discuss my new knowledge with professionals. This expedition showed me that a field like earth science, which I had ruled out as being too boring, deserves more of my attention as a career of possibility."

Alicyn Cambell, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

"I learned a great deal and have become extremely interested in trees and botany as a result of this trip. Overall, I have received a great feeling of self-confidence and self-worth I lacked before my expedition."

Adam Lorio, University of Hawaii at Manoa

"The expedition completely covered all of my expectations and even more. I was not only able to learn what a real research situation is like, but was also given ample opportunity to discover the University and a small taste of what college will be like; it really excites me. I was even able to talk with a few marine biology professors about what the Universities' program is about.

"I always rate an experience by whether or not I would like to do it again. Earthwatch is something that I would definitely like to repeat and maybe even eventually have a project worthy of being [an Earthwatch program] station."

Comments from Earthwatch Student Program (continued)

Natasha Schneiderman, University of Hawaii in Manoa

"My ideas about the relationship between poetry and science were not only confirmed on this trip but I also had new realizations. I discovered that our ever changing earth is like poetry in motion ... I felt the strength and rhythm of our earth as I watched the lava and it instilled in me a sense of awe because I realized that man only inhabits our planet, it is really nature that controls it."

FROM SCIENTISTS:

Dr. Alexander Malahoff, University Of Hawaii, Geological Oceanography

"I am sure that all 8 students were awed by the mighty power of the volcano. They were able to take specimens of the active flow and then watch the lava turn into rock. We will probably see two of the students orient themselves to earth and life sciences. Your program certainly provides a unique educational opportunity. ... It gives them a realistic picture of what science and scientists are really like."

Dr. Anan Raymond, Malheur Field Station, Archaeology

"We documented virtually every artifact along seven miles of sand dune fronting a desert lake. Thousands of artifacts were observed and categorized. We recorded about a dozen archaeological sites. The quality of work is as good as any produced by professionals."

Dr. JoBea Way, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Earth Systems Monitoring

"What surprised me was the students' affect on me -- their passion for their interests, the variety of their interests, and their enthusiasm. They opened up a world of opportunities to me -- the chance to pursue a goal no matter how off-the-mainstream it might be.

"Some students confirmed their desire to become scientists, some confirmed their passion to study the earth, and some probably found out that they want to reconsider their goals. I will recommend this opportunity to other colleagues .. because it provides an outstanding opportunity for students and staff."

Dr. David Inouye, Rocky Mountain Biological Station, Botany

"The students developed their own research projects and gave oral presentations ... stressing experimental techniques with proper controls, and with an emphasis on asking how the research problem could be better approached with unlimited time and funds. I believe they gained valuable experience from these projects."

Dr. Brian Barnes, Toolik Field Station, Arctic Ecology

"The students now have an appreciation ... of physiological ecology as a discipline and of what's new in hibernation biology. We covered a lot of ground and a lot of scientific material during our time in the field and particularly during our nightly ... talks."

NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST PROGRAM (NSTP)

1. NSTP will mobilize a "Citizens Corps" that, "in return for one or two years' full-time work at low wages in some form of community service, [will] earn national service vouchers for college, job training, or housing."
2. NSTP will mobilize "200,000 youth servers within a year of enactment of the requisite legislation."
3. NSTP will "rely heavily on nation's 100,000 private, nonprofit community groups to serve as potential sponsors and supervisors of Citizens Corps."
4. NSTP must be "cast in terms of meeting a real need:.... [It] should be seen as a long-term investment in the education, skills, and ingenuity of our people." Among the Nation's real needs are:
 - Scientific education
 - Environmental preservation
 - Economic competitiveness
 - Values of discipline, responsibility and civic obligation.
5. NSTP must not compete with existing jobs. With labor unions expressing anxiety about a Citizens Corps, NSTP must focus on "tasks that remain undone because there is no profit [in them] for the private sector."
6. NSTP has been described by Al From as "the philosophical cornerstone of the upcoming domestic agenda." There is pressure for the Clinton Administration to create "change" in the first 100 days, and national service has been a signature issue for the campaign.

(Quotations and other information from Mandate for Change)

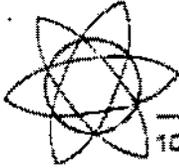
EARTHWATCH AS AN NSTP SPONSOR

1. Earthwatch is a tested model for mobilizing part of a Citizens Corps: 34,000 of its EarthCorps volunteers have completed 1,500 projects in 115 countries and 40 states.
2. Earthwatch has immediate demand for additional volunteers: Earthwatch receives 500 proposals a year and can currently fill and fund only 160.

30 sites in the U.S.

Earthwatch could immediately mobilize youths to serve at 30 sites in the U.S.

3. Earthwatch is a private, nonprofit group uniquely positioned to sponsor and supervise a part of the Citizens Corps.
4. The Earthwatch program would help fulfill the need to reinvigorate our science education, skills and ingenuity in order to rebuild our national competitiveness in the scientific and engineering fields. Earthwatch:
 - provides students with hands-on scientific education.
 - motivates them to pursue science and environmental research in college and in their careers.
 - improves American competitiveness by encouraging youth to pursue scientific careers.
 - gives youth a sense of discipline, responsibility and civic obligation.
5. Earthwatch's EarthCorps would not upset labor leaders because it would not threaten existing jobs. Earthwatch would address unmet needs of scientific and environmental research, education and preservation.
6. Earthwatch can address the new Administration's needs in its first 100 days.



GLOBAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SERVICES

1000 18TH STREET, NW, SUITE 810, WASHINGTON, DC 20036 ■ (202) 833-9585 ■ FAX (202) 785-3942

January 25, 1993

Ms. Katie McGinty
Special Assistant to the President
Environmental Affairs
OEOB

FAX: 456-6231

Dear Katie:

On behalf of Reginald Cedar Face and the Oglala Sioux Tribe, thank you so very much for the very encouraging meeting last Friday evening.

Because Vice President Gore was so impressed with the proposed Tree Project when he met with Reg in Rio, we are especially eager to bring this to his attention for his endorsement. As you so astutely suggested, this could serve as a model environment/employment program for the attention of the Domestic Economic Council.

An overview of the basic components of the Oglala Sioux Tree Project are as follows:

1. **LAND:** One million acres of land allocated from the Sioux Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota, for reforestation.

2. **CORPORATE CONTRIBUTION:** The Weyerhaeuser Company has agreed to contribute sapling trees and to provide technical training and equipment necessary for the Sioux to continue independent reforestation with environmental monitoring and forest management capabilities. (Please note that Weyerhaeuser does not require any favored status for future harvests, and will be submitting competitive bids).

3. **HUMAN RESOURCES:** With the support of U.S. Federal funding, the Sioux will be trained and employed in forestry, thus distributing jobs among the 85% who are unemployed and on welfare. This aspect of the program will be modeled on the CCC-WPA programs which were successful in the U.S. during the Great Depression of the 1930's, and can serve as a model for President Clinton's plans to convert the existing welfare programs to earning programs.

4. **GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP:** The program represents a partnership between the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council and Traditional Sioux, which assures the enduring commitment of the future generations of the Sioux people and a stable relationship between the two governmental components. With inter-agency U.S.

government funding, it can also serve as a model for developing government/private sector partnerships.

5. **CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Half of the trees planted will be dedicated to the people of the world, and will be managed as ceremonial tribute to Sioux ancestors and traditions. The other half will be harvestable, with the Weyerhaeuser Company participating in open market bidding.

6. **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** - Using specially developed computer software, this project will be developed, projected and tracked with a system which assures 95% accuracy in providing accountability, forecasting, and the capability for corrective intervention when needed. In addition to forest management, computer evaluation capabilities will include environmental impact measurements as well as economic, cultural and social considerations.

We see this program as exemplary of the "Local to Global" orientation which is so critical to successful policy making in today's world. While it is primarily a domestic program, it has the potential to serve as a model for indigenous/corporate/government partnerships on the domestic front as well as worldwide.

We are in the process of developing a formal proposal which will include budget, and look forward to the opportunity to work in partnership with you and this very exciting and promising Clinton-Gore team! It may be that this can qualify for inter-agency funding, possibly to include some combination of BIA Welfare funds, Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service, and others. We appreciate your guidance and look forward to working closely with you and this administration throughout the planning and development process.

Again, thank you so very much!

And my personal congratulations on your appointment, Katie. Please know I'm here to support you in any ways that I can.

Cordially,


Joan L. McKinney

Clinton National Service Proposal

Discussion Outline

The President's call to service extends from the youngest elementary students to our oldest citizens, and includes everything from part-time volunteer activities to full-time public service jobs. Toward this end, the President supports funding for service programs involving school-age youth and senior citizens, as well as professional corps programs such as the Police Corps and Teacher Corps designed to attract top candidates to public service jobs.

The centerpiece of the President's proposal is a national service program that will make it possible for college graduates and others to perform needed services in their communities by making it easier to pay back their student loans. All students will have the option of repaying their loans with a small percentage of their income over time, removing a significant obstacle to low-paying careers in public service. Some will have the opportunity to serve in national service positions in the areas of education, human services, environment, and public safety. This program is outlined below.

A. National Service Positions

Types of Placements: States and the federal government may approve placements in youth corps, specialized service corps dedicated to priority needs, individual placements in non-profit organizations (through VISTA or nonfederal programs), and college service programs, with an emphasis on placements addressing national priority needs. A limited number of public service entrepreneurs would also be selected for participation. National Service positions may not displace paid workers.

Selection of Participants: A diverse group of recent college graduates, as well as college students and out-of-school youth, will be selected for participation by applying to and being accepted into a program offering approved national service positions. A national system to help match individuals with programs will be established.

Benefits: All participants will receive a minimum-wage stipend and health and child care benefits (if needed). Individuals serving after college would receive student loan forgiveness worth \$10,000 for each of two years of service, or the amount of their outstanding loans, whichever is less. Other participants would receive a post-service benefit of \$5,000 which can be used for higher education or employment training.

Building an Infrastructure: Funding will be available for three types of grants: single-year venture capital grants may be made to individuals, states, and public or private non-profit organizations (including education institutions) for program start-up; states and public or private non-profit organizations operating programs may receive multi-year grants for program costs; and states and public or private non-profit organizations may receive grants to replicate proven existing programs.

Leveraging Nonfederal Funding: All program support and stipends will be made on a challenge basis and must be matched.

Federal role: The federal government will establish criteria for approved national service positions, allocate program resources, ensure against fraud and abuse, arrange for a national training program, coordinate service programs within the federal government, and provide training and technical assistance to states and programs.

State role: As required under the existing National and Community Service Act, the governor of each state may designate a lead agency and appoint a State National Service Commission responsible for overseeing national service programs in the state. The State Commission should include representatives of local service program directors and other citizens and will develop a plan for service, including proposed national service placements in the state. The plan must ensure equitable treatment of urban and rural areas within the state and be approved by the governor and the national service agency.

Phase-in: Participation is expected to be approximately 30,000 in 1994, increasing to at least 100,000 in 1997.

B. Income Contingent Loan Repayment

All borrowers will be able to repay their loans through income contingent repayments. This means that borrowers with higher incomes would repay more quickly, while lower-income borrowers would repay over a longer period of time. Student debt will not prevent borrowers from choosing lower-paying jobs for fear that they will not be able to repay their debt. In addition, a reformed student aid structure will provide assistance to students in a simpler and less costly way. Eliminating excess bank profits from the student loan programs will reduce costs to taxpayers while improving the delivery of services to students and their families.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Education

School readiness: furthering early childhood development

Examples:

- Improve the quality and availability of child development programs by working in day care and Head Start centers and preschool programs
- Teach literacy and other basic skills to parents of young children so they can help their children learn
- Help teen parents stay in school by providing child care and other needed services

School success: improving the educational achievement of school-age children

Examples:

- Work in schools with high concentrations of low-income students
- Mentor, tutor, and provide after-school and summer learning-opportunities
- Coordinate service-learning activities for K-12 students

Human Needs

Health: providing independent living assistance and home- and community-based health care

Examples:

- Provide independent living assistance and health care to homebound elderly, people with disabilities, and people living with AIDS
- Improve the health of low-income communities by offering preventive health services through community health clinics
- Offer prenatal care, parenting education, and health care to families of young children through home visits

Home: rebuilding neighborhoods and helping people who are homeless

Examples:

- Help people who are homeless by providing shelter support, help in transitioning into permanent housing, and related services
- Renovate and rehabilitate low-income housing
- Help individuals move off of public assistance and into self-sufficiency by providing job training, literacy tutoring, and other services

Environment

Neighborhood environment: reducing community environmental hazards

Examples:

- Revitalize neighborhoods by creating and maintaining recreation areas, green spaces, and community gardens
- Eliminate environmental risks through education, testing, and cleanup
- Reduce waste through energy efficiency efforts, recycling, and other conservation measures

Natural environment: Conserving, restoring, and sustaining natural habitats

Examples:

- Conserve and restore public lands, forests, rivers, streams, and wetlands
- Make parks more accessible through trail maintenance and infrastructure improvements
- Sample, map, monitor and record the status and trends of air, water, groundwater, land, plants, and animals

Public Safety

Crime Prevention: Reducing the incidents of violence.

Examples:

- Reduce crimes against children by making schools safe, creating safe havens, and providing training in conflict resolution and management.
- Address the root causes of crime, such as by providing substance abuse counseling, education, and services.
- Develop specific crime prevention strategies targeted at key locations such as playgrounds, public transportation points, and other public gathering places.

Crime Control: Improving criminal justice services, law enforcement, and victim services:

Examples:

- Enhance community policing efforts by working with local law enforcement.
- Reduce specific community crime problems such as drug dealing, domestic violence, crimes against seniors, and child abuse.
- Strengthen innovative criminal justice programs such as neighborhood courts and community restitution.

MEMORANDUM

To: Domestic Policy Staff
From: Shirley Sagawa
Re: Priorities for National Service
Date: June 22, 1993

Based on the information I received at this morning's staff meeting, as well as last Friday's discussion, I have put together the following priority list of issues which could be addressed by national service volunteers. The list will be used by the Office of National Service to organize outreach and technical assistance. If you have any additions to this list, please send them to me by close of business Wednesday (contributions to the environment category are most welcome -- we will also contact the Office of the Vice President). We will be in touch later for suggestions of organizations who should be contacted and program examples. To stimulate your thinking, I am attaching examples of possible programs: a list prepared by ONS for the President when the bill was introduced and a memo by Paul Weinstein.

Education

Head Start/Child Care quality
School-based mentoring/tutoring
Service-learning programs

Public Safety

Community-service officers
School-based drug prevention

Human Needs

Preventive health care, including immunization
Home-based health services
Family support/parenting programs
Community development banks

Environment

Appendix 1

EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL SERVICE PLACEMENTS

Education

- Head Start programs.

The success of the Head Start expansion will depend on the ability of centers to employ quality teaching personnel. National service participants could provide invaluable assistance in Head Start and other child care programs. They would receive training in the summer after college, with early childhood development education sponsored by a higher education institution in partnership with a child care resource agency.

In the fall, participants would be assigned in groups as assistant teachers in Head Start centers and other child care facilities for low-income families, where experienced teachers would act as their mentors. Assistant teachers would work with small groups of children, developing their cognitive and social skills through sustained attention and education. In addition, the participants would provide services to parents -- literacy training, parenting education, etc. The assistant teachers would periodically meet to receive additional training, and move on to more challenging tasks when suitable.

- Urban/rural schools.

In Chapter 1 schools that most need help, an "army" of national service participants in a variety of roles could significantly further the goals of your school reform plan. Working together, an institution of higher education, a nonprofit organization, and an education agency could use the summer before service to train young people at different education levels to serve in the fall in selected schools where interest was great.

Throughout the year, participants would receive mentoring from the most experienced and talented teachers. Some could work with parents to ensure their involvement in their children's education. Others would serve as math or reading tutors. A third group would act as service-learning coordinators, arranging experiential community service activities to instill the service ethic in youths and involve schools in their communities. Participants who became interested in teaching careers would be able to receive additional training while serving. As part of the "army" of servers, a few certified teachers might enter the schools in fields like special and bilingual education.

Environment

- Conservation Corps.

Thousands of young people are already engaged in conservation work through youth corps. These conservation programs often combine education and service components, teaching young people not only the basic skills of environmental protection, but the principles of environmental problem-solving as well. Some programs are run by federal agencies like the Forest Service, but state departments and non-profit organizations often fund them also. The Vice President has developed several new conservation-related proposals, and Secretary Babbitt believes there will be significant opportunities in the Pacific Northwest after the Forest Summit.

Conservation corps plant trees, build soil banks to prevent erosion, develop trails, revegetate heavily visited areas, and survey flora and fauna. Such programs primarily involve pre- and non-college participants, but college graduates with special training often serve as team leaders.

- Recycling initiatives.

There is often a gap between the political demand for recycling, sometimes reflected in legislation, and the local capacity to support it. College graduates could work with businesses and consumers to devise strategies to reduce waste. After a summer of training, they would be assigned to cover a limited area where they would meet with employers, retailers, and building managers to develop plans for source reduction and recycling. Participants would continue working with these people, helping them meet their recycling goals. In areas where there are legal requirements for recycling, participants could work with local law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance. The overall goal of the program, however, would be to help people fulfill requirements before legal action becomes necessary.

Human services

- Community health centers.

National service participants without advanced degrees could become an integral part of the effort to improve health care in medically underserved areas. Working with a school of nursing or public health agencies to provide the training necessary, nonprofit community health centers could involve young people in a variety of health-related activities.

Some young people could provide daily services to the home-bound elderly, enabling to stay at home instead of being forced to enter a nursing home. These services might include the administration of medications, meal delivery, light housekeeping, and companionship. Other youths could provide outreach services as part of prenatal and immunization programs, making home visits, arranging for transportation, serving as translators, referring parents to substance abuse programs if needed, and so on. Still other youths could provide administrative assistance after hours in clinics, enabling them to stay open late to serve working parents.

- Housing for the homeless.

Programs like Habitat for Humanity and YouthBuild are already well-established. The latter, in particular, provides at-risk youth with remedial education, job training, and practical experience while building much-needed shelter for homeless and low-income individuals. By leveraging non-profit and private dollars, and by converting the "served" into "servers" in low-income communities, programs like YouthBuild accomplish greater good at less cost than traditional programs.

Other housing-related initiatives could include renovation of abandoned buildings for use as community centers and child care facilities. Some programs could not only build housing, but provide essential supportive services like counseling as well.

Public Safety

- Community service officers.

College graduates who do not want the responsibilities and dangers of regular police work can still contribute significantly to public safety. Working closely with police departments and public housing authorities -- and freeing up regular officers to walk beats -- "community service officers" (CSOs) can provide valuable assistance in non-hazardous public safety services.

College graduates can be trained to handle minor investigations, analyze crime data, and engage in alternative dispute resolution. CSOs can counsel crime victims. And they can act as community liaisons, working with community groups and school children to organize prevention efforts, such as anti-drug initiatives and crime patrols.

- Drug abuse prevention.

No one is better at conveying to young people the temptation and danger of drug abuse than other young people. In close partnership with local schools and anti-drug professionals (from counselors to cops), national service participants could form drug abuse prevention teams to engage in a panoply of activities. The teams could include a range of students, from college graduates trained in psychology to high school dropouts and recovering crack addicts. Each would offer a unique perspective.

Teams might spend some time developing a curriculum for drug education during and after school and then implementing it. At other times, team members might work one-on-one with at-risk youths. Part of the time, programs could run midnight basketball leagues to keep kids off the streets. And at still other times, teams might solicit private sector funding to develop billboard advertising, videos on drug abuse, and other educational materials.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 20, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR SHIRLEY SAGAWA

FROM: Paul Weinstein

SUBJECT: Community Development Banks and National Service

Per our discussion last Friday, this memo outlines how we might match the President's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) and National Service legislation.

Under this proposal, an undergraduate business major could meet his/her community service requirement under the National Service proposal by serving a two-year apprenticeship at an accredited CDFI -- Community Development Banks (CDB), Community Development Credit Unions (CDCU), Micro Loan Funds (MLF), Revolving Loan Funds (RLF), and Community Development Corporations (CDC). The service could be as an accountant, junior loan officer, teller, customer and technical service staffer, assistant investment banker, junior commercial developer officer, etc. The student would gain hands-on financial skills while the CDFIs would have access to a much larger pool of personnel trained in finance and accounting. As long as we stipulated that the community service commitment could only be met by two years of work at a CDFI accredited by our national network, monitoring the service requirement would be relatively easy.

Under this scenario, some students might even continue to work in CDFIs, or even start one. Even better however, would be for these individuals to take positions at traditional banks and other financial institutions. If loan officers trained at CDFIs took jobs at mainstream banks, we could see an unprecedented amount of lending activity in lower- to moderate-income communities. With the knowledge, unique expertise, and energy of these individuals, banks would meet their Community Reinvestment Act requirements in a meaningful manner.

During the campaign, President Clinton spoke at the Wharton School of Business, and criticized business students for creating an investment banking club called the "Unindicted" and for "pursuing high incomes in high finance rather than in the apparently less glamorous work of creating jobs, goods and services to make America richer." In four years, the President could return to Wharton, and talk about how a whole new breed of business student, trained at CDFIs through the National Service program, was changing the way traditional banks lend and reinvigorating the community spirit at financial institutions.

cc: Bruce Reed
Gene Sperling

The White House

Office of National Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 30, 1993

CONTACT: ETHAN ZINDLER
202/456-6444

*** News Advisory ***

Clinton to Unveil National Service
Plan On 100th Full Day of His Administration

President Clinton will visit the University of New Orleans on Friday, April 30, marking the 100th day of his administration with the announcement of his National Service legislation. The legislation will offer educational opportunities to Americans who make a commitment to public service and an overhaul of the current student loan system.

The President will speak at the University of New Orleans Health and Physical Education Center at 1 PM CDT to an audience of students, teachers and community members. Prior to the speech, the President will discuss his National Service legislation with a group of students at the Ben Franklin High School in New Orleans.

Attached are fact sheets outlining the legislation.

###

April 30, 1993

NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE

The national service initiative is innovative public policy founded on traditional American values. The initiative will build the American community through a domestic Peace Corps that brings Americans together to tackle pressing problems. It will offer educational opportunity by providing educational awards to hundreds of thousands of Americans who serve our country; and by overhauling the student loan system, to offer EXCEL Accounts and lower interest rates. The initiative will demand personal responsibility by requiring Americans who borrow to repay their loans in one of two ways -- either through service or through repayment plans that make it tougher to default. In all this, the Act will reinvent government -- to unleash the initiative of the American people.

The President's initiative has three basic components:

- **The National Service Trust**, which will establish an innovative, entrepreneurial Corporation for National Service to offer Americans educational awards in return for vital service to our country. The Corporation is designed to cut waste and promote excellence in government, encourage locally driven initiatives, create flexibility for students, and foster competition among programs.
- **EXCEL Accounts**, which will offer all borrowers income contingent repayment plans. The new income contingent repayment plan will allow borrowers to spread their loan payments over a long period of time, reduce defaults, and encourage students to take lower-paying community service jobs.
- **One-Stop Direct Student Loans**, which will save taxpayers billions of dollars in bank subsidies and defaults by replacing private capital with Federal borrowing. Students will receive some of the savings in reduced interest rates and a streamlined "one stop" loan delivery system.

THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST

The National Service initiative will offer an educational award to Americans who do vital work in one of four priority areas: education, human services, environment and public safety. In addition to the trust, the initiative will support a variety of other programs to develop citizenship among all Americans, ranging from elementary school "service-learning" projects to older American volunteer programs.

1. **DIVERSE AND WIDE PARTICIPATION.** The National Service initiative will offer Americans 17 or older opportunities to serve our country before or after college. While contributing millions of hours of service, National Service Trust participants will learn an ethic of civic responsibility. And while communities will recruit, select and place volunteers, a nationwide public awareness campaign will build a common identity for programs, disseminate information widely through college and high school placement offices, and help place a leader corps of participants across the country.

2. **EDUCATIONAL AWARD WITH DIFFERENT USES.** The program will provide those who complete a year of service with a \$5,000 award for college, graduate school or job training. In addition, participants in general will receive a roughly minimum wage stipend, and health and child care, if necessary.

3. **PRESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS.** National service means educating children, helping immunize infants, fighting crime, and stopping pollution. Within the broad priority areas, communities will be able to design programs that meet their own unmet needs. Programs will be designed in ways best suited to local needs, and range from specialized service programs with in-college training and individualized placements; to youth corps offering disadvantaged young people a second chance while they perform invaluable service; to community corps that bring together the young and the old of all economic and racial backgrounds.

4. **REINVENTING GOVERNMENT.** The Commission on National and Community Service and ACTION will be combined in a single government Corporation for National Service. To promote excellence, the Corporation will be governed by a bipartisan Board, offer pay-for-performance to its employees, and raise private funds for the Trust. In addition, the Corporation will establish quality guidelines for all programs. Programs themselves must also set measurable goals and demonstrate success in order to receive continued funding. Within these bounds, local programs will have flexibility to design the best ways to meet their goals. In all instances, no program will be guaranteed funding; all will have to compete for funding.

5. PARTNERSHIPS. Programs will match federal assistance with private or other support. State commissions composed of local representatives appointed by governors will work hand in hand with the national Corporation to support service.

EXCEL ACCOUNTS

The Clinton Administration will make repayment easier and encourage national and community service through EXCEL Accounts. All students will have the opportunity to repay as a percentage of their income over time. The EXCEL Account will make such "income-contingent" loans available for the first time. The EXCEL Account offers students offers Americans the chance to invest in their education and training and to pay back their loans as they start to reap the benefits.

1. FLEXIBLE AND UNIVERSAL LOANS: The EXCEL Account makes college and training accessible to all students, and to allow students the maximum flexibility in paying back their loans.

2. ENDING CRUSHING DEBT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE STARTING THEIR CAREERS: Currently our education system often makes young people pay large amounts of debt just at the moment when young people have their lowest earning potential and the hardest time finding jobs. The EXCEL Account allows a young person the ability to pay a set percentage of income, so that repayment is proportionate to income.

3. ENCOURAGE NATIONAL SERVICE: Too many of our young people are discouraged from taking lower paying jobs as teachers or police officers because they face large fixed monthly payments. The EXCEL Accounts will encourage national and community service by ensuring that young people will not have to pay an exceptionally high percentage of their income simply because they have chosen jobs where their service to their communities exceeds the size of their paychecks. The EXCEL Account will, for example, make it far easier for a recent medical school graduate -- who normally would have high fixed monthly loans -- to spend a few years serving lower-income communities without facing a crushing debt burden.

4. ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Our current loan system can discourage entrepreneurial behavior. Where a young person out of school faces fixed student loan costs, that creates a disincentive to take high risks -- like entrepreneurial activity -- where a person may make little money in the short-term in pursuit of larger rewards in the future. Allowing repayments based on income eliminates these disincentives to take risk.

5. LOWER DEFAULT RATES: Because EXCEL Accounts will determine loan payments on the basis of IRS verified incomes, they will dramatically reduce default rates by ensuring that anyone who works pays, and by not forcing

borrowers into default simply because they experience a period of unemployment.

ONE-STOP DIRECT STUDENT LOANS

This initiative -- the Student Loan Reform Act of 1993 --proposes important reforms in the student loan system, which will provide one-stop shopping for student loans, reduce borrowing costs for students, and save taxpayers billions of dollars.

1. **USING FEDERAL CAPITAL:** Because the federal government can borrow money at a lower interest rate than can the private sector, using federal capital saves taxpayers billions of dollars in high subsidies to banks and other private lenders.
2. **SAVINGS:** The Congressional Budget Office, the General Accounting Office, and the Department of Education have all found that direct lending will save billions of dollars over the next four years, even after transition costs. Students will benefit from these savings in the form of reduced interest rates.
3. **FLEXIBLE REPAYMENT OPTIONS:** Students will have a variety of flexible repayment options designed to ease repayment, avoid defaults and encourage community service, including the new EXCEL Accounts, which will provide the opportunity for students to repay loans as a percentage of income over time.
4. **STREAMLINED DELIVERY:** Direct lending simplifies the current complicated maze of financial aid for students and parents by cutting down on the number of middlemen and procedures in the current system. Most students will receive all of their financial assistance through one stop at existing college financial aid offices.
5. **INSTITUTIONS AS ORIGINATORS:** Willing and able institutions will make (or "originate") loans directly to students on campus, and will receive a fee for providing this service. No school, however, will be forced to originate loans. Institutions that do not originate loans will be provided the services of alternative originators, selected and paid for by the Department of Education. No institutions will service or collect these student loans.
6. **THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ROLE:** The Department of Education will oversee an orderly transition to the new system, and monitor the new program. The Department is already working on several initiatives, including the development of a National Student Loan Data System, to improve its oversight capabilities and ensure a smooth transition to direct lending. The Department will contract with public or private entities, on a fee-for-service basis, to provide alternative origination and to service and collect loans.

House last fall calling for a \$2,500 ceiling on education savings accounts.

But as the week wore on, a succession of fights erupted on the Senate floor when Democrats attempted to use the legislation as a billboard for their own education initiatives and Republicans countered with their favorite ideas.

By the time the bill neared passage Thursday night, outnumbered Democrats had lost every major fight and the final version incorporated almost every GOP provision Clinton opposes.

Senate Minority Leader Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., acknowledged the bill had encouraged election-year posturing on both sides.

And he lamented the bipartisanship that used to be a Senate hallmark on education issues had broken down. "Sentiment has clearly changed," he said. "This is a vastly different bill from what Republicans said they wanted when Coverdell's bill came to the floor. Now they want to abolish the Department of Education's role in elementary and secondary education and abolish (national) testing."

The changes were significant enough that four of seven Democrats who initially supported the Coverdell tax bill indicated Thursday they would oppose it. And the chief Democratic co-sponsor, New Jersey's Robert Torricelli, said he would oppose the bill if House and Senate conferees retained a GOP amendment that eliminates a number of federal programs for public schools.

In addition to the underlying tax break, which the president charged would skew tax relief toward affluent families with children in private schools, the bill includes an outright ban on federal spending for uniform national math and reading tests. And it would supplant some 20 federal aid programs for public schools with block grants to states or local school districts.

Republicans also sank the Democrats' efforts to:

Hire 100,000 new teachers to ease crowding in classrooms. Clinton hoped to use \$7.3 billion from a proposed new cigarette tax to help local schools pay for this.

Expand after-school programs to help latch-key kids. This would have cost \$250 million over five years.

Provide subsidies to cash-poor school districts to pay for new construction or rehabilitation of dilapidated buildings. This would have cost \$10 billion over 10 years to cover the interest on money borrowed to pay for the construction and repairs.

About the only Democratic amendment that survived was a proposal by Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., to expand school dropout prevention programs.

Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., sponsor of the bloc-grant amendment, insisted local authorities and parents "know more about what their children's educational needs are than any person in Washington." His proposal would lump some \$52 billion over five years into a single grant to local schools.

Democrats argued there would be "no accountability for the money" and the federal government would end up being a "tax collector" for local school boards which lacked the courage to raise their own taxes to pay for schools.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., complained the supplanted programs including drug-free schools, bilingual education and training for math and science teachers reflected national priorities local schools could ignore. The scrapped programs also are designed to enrich educational opportunities for low-income and disadvantaged children and to encourage local schools to set higher academic goals.

The ban on national testing standards, sponsored by Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo., would undo a bipartisan compromise reached last year that authorized an outside panel of education experts to develop a uniform test. The aim was to give parents, educators and children a common yardstick with which to measure scholastic achievement and provide a basis of comparison with other schools.

But Ashcroft called uniform testing "a federal power grab" to move control away from parents and local schools to the national government. "It doesn't take an expert to know that when you dictate a test, you dictate the curriculum," he said.

Kennedy retorted a standard achievement test would "give parents and schools an effective way to improve education and to chart the progress they are making. Every student, parent and school would benefit."

A year later, Powell says Alliance for Youth has promising future By Steve Goldstein Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON One year after the presidential summit that launched the aid-to-youth foundation he now heads, retired U.S. Army Gen. Colin L. Powell said that the organization may continue operations well beyond its planned termination date of 2000.

He left open the question of whether he would continue as chairman of the group, called America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth.

"If we have successfully inserted America's Promise and the red wagon (the organization's logo) into the consciousness of the country in some way, it's not clear you just want to walk away from that," Powell said in an interview.

The former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff insisted that a "deadly serious effort" to improve the lives of millions of disadvantaged young people was progressing and gaining momentum.

Ballyhooed and blessed by the White House, the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia last April featured President Clinton and three ex-presidents acting as cheerleaders for a nationwide effort to spur volunteerism and programs for youth.

The stated mission was to connect at least 2 million disadvantaged young people with five basic resources by 2000: an ongoing relationship with a mentoring adult; safe places and structured activities where they can learn and grow during non-school hours; a healthy start; a marketable skill, and an opportunity to give back through public service.

To accomplish this goal, corporations pledging financial commitments are matched with not-for-profit organizations or government entities to provide assistance in one of the resource areas.

"We think the results have been outstanding, given the level of energy released into communities around these goals," said Robert K. Goodwin, head of the Points of Light Foundation and a charter member of the board of directors of America's Promise.

As Powell prepares to deliver a one-year status report Monday at the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Chicago; he can point to nearly 350 corporate and nonprofit commitments including a recent pledge of \$2 million by United Parcel Service to be shared by five nonprofit organizations and scores of state, city and community summits staged to mobilize local efforts.

On Saturday, Kansas City will host the 90th community summit held thus far, in addition to the 16 state summits already staged.

But some corporate donations have been criticized as mere reallocations of charitable contributions from other recipients. The organization is also under increasing pressure to confirm that the donated resources are reaching the intended young beneficiaries.

Moreover, urban studies specialist Jon Van Til said there is some jealousy in the nonprofit community a feeling that summits come and go, while they are in it for the long haul.

"Maybe the best thing is to have this energizing social movement as a temporary activity, one that brought this issues to peoples' attention," said Van Til, who directs the Citizenship and Service Education Program at Rutgers University in Camden, N.J. "It hasn't shown that it should be turned into a permanent, bureaucratic organization to lead us into the 21st century."

Paul Clotery, editor of The NonProfit Times, which covers the nonprofit sector, is more blunt.

"If they don't sunset in two years," he said, "the gloves are going to come off and it's going to get ugly."

Peter A. Gallagher, president and CEO of America's Promise, said "that if the organization is achieving its goals, "I don't think the lights will be turned off."

Sipping a lemonade plucked from a red wagon laden with soft drinks, Powell said he believed they have proved the summit was more than a media event.

"This is a deadly serious effort with a deadly serious purpose and people are hard at work at it," he said. "I'm pleased at how the nonprofit world has responded. I'm pleased that our corporate sponsors have performed and are still coming on board."

Powell admitted to a rocky start, with three chief executive officers in the first three months, but said they now have a "functioning" organization. America's Promise had a \$6 million operating budget last year, and expects to spend slightly more this year.

Powell was dismissive of the charge that some corporations were merely shuffling funds from one do-good account to another.

"If a corporation says they get more bang from their buck by moving resources to America's Promise and they are giving less to some art museum, my heart is not broken," said Powell.

Yet Goodwin conceded that there were only a "few" companies that have substantially increased the level of financial support "for issues related to the empowerment of young people."

What's more, officials at several nonprofits say that America's Promise must have some way of tracking the delivery of commitments.

"Instead of focusing on the outcome, America's Promise should focus on what steps commitment makers have taken to follow through on their commitments," said Nick Bollman, co-chairman of the Grantmakers Forum on National Community Service.

File: Service Summit

'Wide-Eyed' Kiriyenko to Become Prime Minister of Russia By Colin McMahon, Chicago Tribune Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News

MOSCOW--Apr. 24--A month ago, after President Boris Yeltsin nominated him to be Russia's next prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko walked around bug-eyed and giddy, accompanying Yeltsin in the halls of power like a nephew on his first day at the family firm.

Some Russians snickered at his bookish face. "The Scientist," they called him, just as Americans might say, "The Nerd."

The wisecracks, though, have dried up, and Kiriyenko has lost that wide-eyed look. On Friday, apparently whether the lower house of parliament likes it or not, the 35-year-old Kiriyenko will become prime minister of the Russian Federation.

That caps not only a meteoric rise for Kiriyenko, but also could mark a turning point in the relentless war of wills between Yeltsin and the communist-dominated lower house, the last vestige of the old order in the former Soviet Union. At issue is the relative powers of the president and lawmakers in the struggling new fit-and-start democracy in Russia.

Beyond their own roles, the struggle over Kiriyenko also highlighted strong disagreement between Yeltsin and communist legislators over the future direction of free-market reforms in the new Russia.

Cool, smart and tougher than anyone except those who know him expected, Kiriyenko has won over political and business leaders as well as a sizable chunk of the Russian people. Whether he has won over enough votes to be confirmed by the Duma, as the lower house is called, is another issue.

The 450-seat Duma has twice rejected Kiriyenko's candidacy to lead a government to replace the one fired by Yeltsin on March 23. If the deputies reject him again Friday, the Duma will be dissolved and new parliamentary elections will be scheduled.

Yeltsin has vowed to then name Kiriyenko premier anyway, as the 1993 constitution allows.

Given that scenario, analysts think Kiriyenko may well squeak by, especially if Friday's vote is in secret and the deputies can hide their choice from faction leaders. The Duma as a whole does not want to hand over what little power it has to Yeltsin, even temporarily. Individual members also do not want to risk losing their seats and the perquisites that go with them.

Yeltsin on Thursday met with the Duma speaker and his counterpart in the parliament's upper house, which plays no role in the vote but has officially urged the Duma to approve Kiriyenko. The president also telephoned Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov to lobby for his young nominee, but leftists continued to predict that Kiriyenko will be defeated.

If that happens, even most critics of the Kiriyenko choice acknowledge, it will not be anything personal. The Duma is using the Kiriyenko nomination to stand up to Yeltsin and demand changes in his economic policies and the composition of his government -- two demands that both Yeltsin and Kiriyenko say they refuse to heed.

"I will not accept these terms," Kiriyenko said after losing his second confirmation vote last week. "I will not ask anyone for anything. I will not guarantee anybody any jobs in government.

"It is possible that I will not be elected," he added. "But it is impossible to break me."

It is that kind of performance by Kiriyenko -- tersely speaking his mind and standing his ground -- that has impressed many Russians. He also has shown a command of economic principles coupled with a human touch, living up to his reputation as a leader quick on the uptake and able to work well with people. He has treated the Duma with respect but not obsequiousness. He has been open with the media.

"He has displayed himself as erudite, as an expert in economics, as a person who knows how to reach compromises with different political forces," said Ludmilla Telen, a political analyst and deputy editor of the Moscow News. "But it's still a question whether these qualities are sufficient for someone to become prime minister. I don't think they are."

For Telen and many others, Kiriyenko's flaw is what Yeltsin trumpets as his strength: He is no political animal.

Kiriyenko is a manager, one who showed administrative talent while running a bank and then an oil company in Nizhny Novgorod, one who joined the federal government only a year ago but quickly won praise as a deputy minister and then minister of fuel and energy.

He is not supported by any faction in the Duma, and when asked whose man he is, he replies simply: Boris Yeltsin's.

Deputies and many political observers say this condemns Kiriyenko to failure.

"Not only does he have no support among the political forces, he has none among either the financial clans or the regional elites," Telen said. "He is too dependent on the president, which makes him vulnerable ... to counterattacks by the influential forces in Russia -- the regional elites, representatives of natural monopolies, the oligarchies and others."

Kiriyenko appears unperturbed. He knows regional politics better than many politicians who have never lived outside of Moscow. His time as energy minister exposed him to the dealings and intrigues of the leading financial powers. He also understands that if a person has only one political backer in Russia, he could do no better than Boris Yeltsin.

So far, Kiriyenko has shown a thick skin. When reports surfaced that he was connected to the Church of Scientology, which many in Russia see as a cult of the devil, Kiriyenko shrugged them off as an April Fool's joke. The reports were later dismissed, most notably on Wednesday by two Duma committees asked to investigate the accusations.

Such poise, and his command of policy, have impressed the same federal deputies who voted against him. At one session before the Duma, during which Kiriyenko spoke more authoritatively and clearly than predecessor Viktor Chernomyrdin ever had, a deputy told the young man, "The impression is that you have an answer for every question."

If only that were the case. Kiriyenko knows that he is inheriting an economy in a mess, partly because Russia fails to rein in its spending, partly because it fails to collect taxes, partly because the worldwide drop in oil prices and fallout from the Asian financial crisis are bleeding red onto the nation's balance sheets. How to pay off back wages and pensions has no easy answers.

In discussing economic policy, Kiriyenko has implicitly criticized some of the privatization efforts of the last few years in Russia, during which state properties were sold off for mere pittance, the proceeds were used to fund current government expenditures, and a few bankers and industrialists built up empires of wealth and political power.

"Any extremes are dangerous," he said. "The main thesis here is a strong state and a strong government. The state has lots of possibilities and levers, and we should not distance ourselves from the economy."

"At a certain stage we got carried away with the thesis that in a market economy there is nothing the state should do, that the market will regulate everything itself."

Still, Kiriyenko has shown no desire to return to the state-dominated policies demanded by the Left. And in meetings this week with U.S. officials, he reiterated the Kremlin's pledge that Russia would remain on its current free-market path.

Kiriyenko's frankness in acknowledging the government's failures has won over many Russians, even those who say that what the Duma or Kiriyenko or Yeltsin does has no impact on their lives. Though Kiriyenko still scores poorly in polls asking who would make a good prime minister, the latest surveys show that fully half of all Russians think the Duma should approve him as premier.

Beyond the economic and political battles, Kiriyenko also pledges to address the public's disillusionment with government.

"You can describe this as a moral crisis when people have no confidence, when people do not understand what the government is doing and why," he said. "There is only one way of solving this problem: Everything the government does should be transparent, explainable and done with a sense of responsibility."

That mission will continue for Kiriyenko after Friday. The only question now appears to be whether he will move on with the Duma's approval, or without any Duma at all.

Education bill product of partisan bickering, prompting promise of a veto By David Hess Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON What began as a mild debate over a new education tax break became a raging dispute over federal aid to schools as the Senate prepared to pass education legislation Thursday evening that featured controversial Republican initiatives.

Even before the vote, the bill drew a promise of a veto from President Clinton.

The underlying bill was a modest proposal by Sen. Paul Coverdell, R-Ga., to permit families to set up special education savings accounts for children to help finance education from kindergarten through high school in public and private schools. Parents could save up to \$2,000 a year per child and the interest earned would be tax-free.

Coverdell's bill is virtually identical to a measure passed by the

Religious groups play bigger AmeriCorps role

Agency begins fifth year of helping students, towns

By Larry Wilham
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

AmeriCorps opens its fifth year of national volunteer service today, marking the involvement of 100,000 college students who increasingly do their community work via religious agencies.

The religion-related segment under the Corporation for National Service, a Peace Corpslike agency begun in President Clinton's first term, has reached 8 percent of all volunteers since 1994.

AmeriCorps officials said that sector is "rapidly expanding."

The AmeriCorps budget also has grown. Congress gave it \$438.5 million for next year, an \$18 million increase over 1998.

"We got into AmeriCorps as soon as we could," said John Stoesz of the Greater Dallas Community of Church. "Volunteers we get from churches are very dedicated, but they are not there every day and every week."

Since the national agency opened in 1994, the Dallas coalition of 300 churches has had about 50 of AmeriCorps' full-time college students assisting its community work annually.

AmeriCorps gives the students a living stipend, of which groups like the Community of Church must provide 15 percent.

Students also get a \$4,725 voucher to pay college costs. A student may serve in AmeriCorps a maximum of two years.

A strength of such programs, Mr. Stoesz said, is that a funded core of volunteers inspires more temporary volunteerism and increases community donations. "We can raise money locally when we have a good program," he said.

The Sisters of Notre Dame were an AmeriCorps site from the beginning as well, and in the District the sisters for three years have operated a service project out of Trinity College in Northeast.

"We've never made any appeal for people in the parishes to help us," said Sister Joanne Schneberger. "The AmeriCorps volunteers are just great young people."

Her 12 volunteers each year have helped District residents complete GED tests, and

also helped immigrants learn English.

The National Council of Churches (NCC) Ecumenical Program for Urban Service has been a primary outlet to religious agencies. This year, it will coordinate about 5,600 AmeriCorps volunteers at 5,000 sites.

The locations are churches, synagogues and mosques, said Charles Rawlings, the NCC's director of urban programs. "We started as a small program with a grant of \$400,000," he said. "Now we have grants in the area of \$3.2 million."

All such programs must pay their own bills, and then file for reimbursement from AmeriCorps, participants said.

The NCC project awards only the college voucher. The living expense of an AmeriCorps volunteer is covered by the religious groups.

While some college students are from middle-class families and go to expensive universities, others are minorities attending community colleges — and they benefit greatly from the voucher, participants said.

The church council tries to "target needful populations." As a result, 30 percent of the AmeriCorps awards go to work with blacks and 30 percent to assist Hispanic concerns. The rest goes to general work by volunteer religious agencies, Mr. Rawlings said.

None of the participants reported disputes over the church-state issue of federal money being dispensed through a faith-based organization.

Sister Schneberger said that while they operate out of a religious college, there is nothing sectarian to the work. "I pray a lot for the volunteers," she said.

In Dallas, Mr. Stoesz said a picture of Jesus may hang on a church wall where volunteers conduct a program, but no one is teaching Sunday school. "We're not going to take the picture down," he said.

Similarly, the NCC work follows a well-established pattern in which church agencies receiving government money neutralize the religious setting of the work.

"We police it very carefully," Mr. Rawlings said. Still, he said, religious groups in partnership with government funding "is a good adjustment in American culture."

After veto, Clinton vows to try again in 1999 to get U.N. funds

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Clinton is offering to work with the next Congress on drafting an "achievable package" to pay about \$1 billion in back U.S. dues to the United Nations. He said he had no choice but to veto a bill that linked the payments with abortion restrictions.

But congressional conservatives pledged to continue their campaign for the restrictions.

"This member deeply regrets that the president of the United States has jeopardized America's foreign-policy leadership by vetoing this legislation," said Rep. Doug Bereuter, Nebraska Republican.

He said Mr. Clinton vetoed the bill because "he apparently believes that U.S. tax dollars should be used by foreign nongovernmental organizations to lobby for abortion."

Meanwhile, Mr. Clinton yesterday signed the Charter School Expansion Act to speed the development of high-quality charter schools. The law authorizes up to \$100 million a year over the next five years for the planning and expansion of charter schools.

Also yesterday, the father of a New Jersey woman killed in a terrorist bombing says the war on terrorism suffered a setback when Mr. Clinton nullified legislation intended to help his family collect damages against Iran. Stephen Flatow, whose daughter Alisa, 20, was killed in a 1995 bombing in the Gaza Strip, criticized Mr. Clinton's waiver Wednesday of a provision in the budget law that would allow U.S. victims of terrorism to make claims against the guilty country's embassies and other property.

In the U.N. dues dispute, Mr. Clinton vetoed legislation to provide \$926 million in delinquent payments, insisting the unrelated abortion restriction left him no choice.

"I've made it clear many times that I will veto such provisions. Congress sent me the bill to fund our arrears to the United Na-

tions knowing full well I would do so," Mr. Clinton said.

Even so, the United States managed to narrowly avoid the loss of its General Assembly voting rights by making a last-minute payment stitched together with money moved from other accounts.

The United States made a payment of \$50 million. Congress included an additional \$197 million in separate legislation for 1998 U.N. accounts. That, along with another already-appropriated \$100 million, should save the U.S. vote in the 185-member assembly, U.N. officials said.

In addition to the 1998 bills, the United Nations estimates Washington owes \$1.3 billion in arrears.

The patchwork financing arrangement was worked out last week in negotiations between congressional Republicans and Treasury Department officials, largely in an effort to blunt the impact of the long-anticipated veto.

Mr. Clinton's veto — of a bill authorizing State Department programs — was the latest installment in his battle with congressional conservatives, and it caught no one by surprise.

At the heart of the dispute is an amendment by Rep. Christopher H. Smith, New Jersey Republican, that would bar using any U.S. money to support international family planning organizations that seek changes in their countries' abortion policies.

In his veto message to Congress, Mr. Clinton said current law "already prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for abortion abroad and for lobbying on abortion issues."

"This bill would go beyond those limits," he said, by denying U.S. support to nongovernmental organizations that use their own funds to perform abortions, he said.

* FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1998

The Washington Times

Not done

Down stretch, Schumer, D'Amato headed for photo finish

Mudders not afraid to take low road to winner's circle in high-stakes race

By Liz Trotta
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

NEW YORK — Republican Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato and Democratic challenger Rep. Charles E. Schumer are in a dead heat, waging ferocious campaigns more concerned with playing "gotcha" than advancing a personal vision on the issues.

Mining each other's lengthy congressional voting records for ammunition, each candidate is using traditional issues such as education, the environment, abortion, breast cancer and foreign aid as so many weapons in a fusillade of attacks to discredit the other.

The year's most expensive Senate race now finds tangential issues — speaking fees, Holocaust victims' rights, and attendance records in Congress — emerging as possible hot buttons that could sway sizable blocs of voters in this volatile state.

A classic example of the campaign's nasty tone surfaced last Sunday, when Mr. D'Amato, a Roman Catholic and a staunch supporter of Jewish causes who was instrumental in forcing Swiss banks to compensate Jewish victims of the Nazis, appeared with some Holocaust survivors at a rally in front of the United Nations.

He assailed Mr. Schumer, who is Jewish, for voting against U.S. participation in the Gulf War in 1991 and for missing a vote in Congress

to make the Capitol Rotunda available for a Holocaust memorial ceremony.

Mr. Schumer fired right back, noting Wednesday that both he and his wife lost family members in the Holocaust and berating Mr. D'Amato for reportedly calling him a "putzhead" in a private meeting with Jewish leaders in New York City earlier this week.

For Mr. D'Amato and for Mr. Schumer, a nine-term congressman from Brooklyn, Jewish voters in New York City are crucial to election. In particular, Mr. Schumer's voting record in Congress — he missed more than 100 votes on the House banking committee in 1998 — has been Mr. D'Amato's war cry for the past week in a new round of searing television commercials.

Mr. D'Amato is "throwing everything but the kitchen sink at us," said Schumer campaign spokesman Howard Wolfson, adding that "it's not moving voters. If I were an 18-year incumbent at significantly less than 50 percent and two weeks out, I'd start looking

for a new job after November."

The Democratic camp, sensing that Mr. D'Amato's voting record on abortion is not widely known and could hurt him in the state, has been highlighting the senator's pro-life stance.

"D'Amato opposes abortion rights, even in cases of rape and incest, even if the mother would die," maintains one Schumer TV ad. A D'Amato aide denied the charge, saying the senator had voted for the exemptions indicated.

The importance of this election to Democrats is dramatically underlined by the parade of visiting party stars. President and Mrs. Clinton have been here twice to

campaign for Mr. Schumer, raking in \$1.2 million at two fund-raisers in a single day.

The Clintons and Vice President Al Gore are expected to appear again before the Nov. 3 election. Moreover, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee has pledged almost \$2 million to Mr. Schumer, who is still being outspent on the air and on the ground by Mr. D'Amato. The latest campaign finance reports show Mr. Schumer with \$1.3 million in the bank and the three-term Republican senator with a hefty \$6.6 million.

Mr. D'Amato's strategy has been to attack his Brooklyn opponent upstate for being a downstate city

boy and slamming him downstate for his voting record. The one-two punch appears to be working, according to Lee Miringhoff, director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion.

He views the contest as so close that any single factor might tip the balance. The Schumer camp received a setback when a court ruled that a Democratic-sponsored referendum on the future of Yankee Stadium — expected to attract more city Democratic voters to the polls — would not be on the ballot next month.

Mr. D'Amato's efforts early in the campaign to paint his opponent as "hopelessly liberal" didn't pay off, but he has gotten traction fo-

cus on the many missed votes Mr. Schumer has accumulated.

"The message is: 'Schumer wants a promotion. Let's look at what he's done so far. I'm doing, he's not, and you wouldn't want him to,'" said Mr. Miringhoff.

Virtually all the polls conducted in the last month show the two men in a statistical dead heat. Although most of the polls indicate a one point difference between the candidates, a recent survey conducted by the Daily News and WAEC-TV of likely voters put Mr. D'Amato ahead by eight points, with a margin of error of six percentage points.

As for how voters view the nasty tone of the race, it appears to be

dragging both contestants down. A Quinnipiac College survey last week found that 30 percent now have a favorable view of Mr. D'Amato, down from 37 percent last month, and 22 percent view Mr. Schumer positively, compared with 30 percent last month.

What effect the White House scandal will have on the campaign is not clear. Mr. Schumer, one of the senior Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee, has said he favors some kind of censure of President Clinton, but does not favor impeachment. Mr. D'Amato, sensing Mr. Clinton still enjoys considerable support in the state, has carefully refrained from comment.

The Washington Times

★ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1998

National Service

Today's debate: Public service

AmeriCorps comes up short

OUR VIEW Modeled after G.I. Bill, costly program's scholarships underused.

When AmeriCorps was created in 1993, its supporters predicted it would do for community volunteerism what a volunteer force does for the military — popularize national service.

What's more, AmeriCorps' educational benefits were touted as a G.I. Bill for the public sector — grants that would turn college into a reality for a people who otherwise wouldn't have access to higher education.

Five years later, AmeriCorps is making much of the fact that the federal service corps has just sworn in member number 100,000.

Even better, some of AmeriCorps' most vocal congressional critics have shifted their attention elsewhere. After a half-hearted attempt to kill off the program, Congress increased AmeriCorps' annual budget to \$436 million.

But AmeriCorps still is falling short of its architects' vision.

The idea of citizen soldier has yet to catch fire with the public. AmeriCorps members dutifully perform public-service activities ranging from park cleanups to tutoring in 1,200 communities. Yet the T-shirted brigade is most well known nationally as the youthful backdrop for White House photo ops.

More importantly, the program has yet to serve as an effective magnet for attracting a new breed of college student. On average, only slightly more than half of the program's gradu-

ates use their \$4,725 education grants. And two-thirds of its members already were attending college or holding degrees.

AmeriCorps officials predict the number of college-bound participants will increase, since the education awards are good for seven years. Even so, when it comes to expanding educational opportunities, AmeriCorps doesn't compare to the G.I. bill model. About 80% of World War II veterans used the educational benefits, though the current use is lower.

Unfortunately, even AmeriCorps' limited mission involves substantial costs. Under an agreement with Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, AmeriCorps has promised to cut per-participant costs from a much-criticized \$18,000 in 1996 to \$15,000 in 1999.

Plenty of explanations are offered for AmeriCorps' problems. Supporters contend the pared-down program approved by Congress denied AmeriCorps the chance to be as successful as President Clinton envisioned.

Meanwhile, critics claim that the administration has needlessly politicized AmeriCorps by using its members as cheerleaders for pet education and environmental programs.

Both charges have merit. And taken together, they help explain why AmeriCorps doesn't measure up to the military-service model it was designed to emulate.

Until it can muster bipartisan support and national enthusiasm, AmeriCorps won't fulfill its original mission. And the nation will be left with an expensive way of combining public works and college scholarships.

Program's purpose is service

ANOTHER VIEW Expand AmeriCorps so more can use funds.

By Harris Wofford

Since 1994, more than 100,000 AmeriCorps members have pledged "to get things done for America."

They have taught, tutored and mentored more than 2.2 million children; recruited and trained nearly 2 million volunteers; helped make thousands of schools and neighborhoods safer; and done much more to strengthen our nation's hard-pressed communities.

Together, these AmeriCorps members have earned \$250 million in education awards (\$4,725 for a year of service). They have seven years to use their vouchers to pay for college, and almost 70% of AmeriCorps' first graduating class already have used their awards. Under the current G.I. Bill, by contrast, roughly half of those eligible use their awards.

Like the armed forces, the purpose of AmeriCorps is service, not scholarships. Like the G.I. Bill, the AmeriCorps education award is an investment in those who have served their

country. Should AmeriCorps open the doors to college even wider? Yes. The way to do this is to expand AmeriCorps.

President Clinton and many others of us envisioned AmeriCorps as a way to help hundreds of thousands of young people serve their country and pay for college.

Congress decided to start small — with 20,000 AmeriCorps positions in the first year. Thanks to increased congressional funding, this year more than 40,000 will serve with AmeriCorps. I hope Congress will continue to increase the number, so far more young people have this opportunity.

AmeriCorps is built on the principle of reciprocity and mutual obligation. It asks young people to give something back to the community in exchange for help with college.

As an Army Air Corps World War II veteran who went to college on the G.I. Bill, I'm glad to see that kind of opportunity offered — on a growing scale — to the new patriots on the home front who answer the AmeriCorps call to service.

Harris Wofford is the CEO of the Corporation for National Service.

Career, family get tangled in feminist failings

By David Mastio

Hilary has some relatively modest dreams. She wants to work as a prosecutor when she graduates from law school. No Johnnie Cochran, no Perry Mason, just a quiet career chasing criminals.

But last summer, as the leaves in her Washington suburb turned yellow and then brown, it looked more and more as if those dreams were going to crumble like fallen leaves underfoot. She got pregnant, you see, and there are still some dinosaurs roaming positions of power in this country who can't quite adapt to the presence of working, pregnant women.

Hilary found her prehistoric predators at one of the nation's best law schools: For some inexplicable reason, the George Washington University Law School tried to smother her career before it even got started.

The school's reasoning was simple. Hilary's due date fell just before the two weeks of finals in the spring, and whatever her proberas, the school could not bend its rules an inch to take into account her growing reality.

She acted responsibly

Hilary behaved responsibly enough. As soon as she knew her due date, she informed the dean of students, Alfreda Robinson, of the situation and asked her help arranging some accommodation.

The kindly dean reduced her to tears with the information that there was nothing to be done. Hilary would

just have to attend school through her due date and take her finals no matter when the baby arrived.

Of course, should she have to miss one or all of her finals due to, say, labor or something, she could take them later on, pass/fail only, or if she really wanted a grade for these required courses, she could double up on her finals the next semester and take the missed finals then.

She appealed the decision to the school's "Academic Scholarship Committee," arguing that the two options would mar her transcript for the rest of her law school career, leaving her handicapped in the pursuit of academic honors, internships and her first job. The august group met in secret (accidentally, they say) and again informed her, this time in writing, there was nothing to be done. Oh, and they dropped that bomb just days before first-semester finals were supposed to start (kind of a last-minute morale booster).

Hilary's problem was simple. She was a small fish in a very big law school pond. Nobody there really much cared what happened to her. They'd already grabbed their \$25,000, so who cared if she got anything for it.

Hilary did have one thing in her corner: a testosterone-laden, enraged husband who faxed a letter to the president of George Washington University promising a multimillion-dollar legal Armageddon and a public-relations blood bath.

Hilary had another advantage in her corner, too: A little help from a

lawyer familiar with discrimination laws revealed that the school was in violation of the very things it taught. One of those laws is Title IX, a federal statute that, among other things, says that school rules can't discriminate against a student just because she's pregnant and wants to take a leave of absence.

And the university's rules did exactly that. If Hilary had accepted the school's rules, she would have had to reapply to the university and face possible rejection by the very Academic Scholarship Committee that dismissed her concerns in a secret meeting.

Suddenly issue resolved

Once these facts were pointed out to them, along with a few angry threats, suddenly things could get worked out. Suddenly, Hilary could have a yearlong leave of absence that had previously been forbidden to first-year law students.

Miraculous, that.

It leaves you wondering why today's feminists, whether they are the graying ladies in Washington or their clones in state legislatures around the country, spend their time and energy pawing after symbolism rather than focusing their energy on making sure the legal equality they've already won, like Title IX, is vigorously enforced.

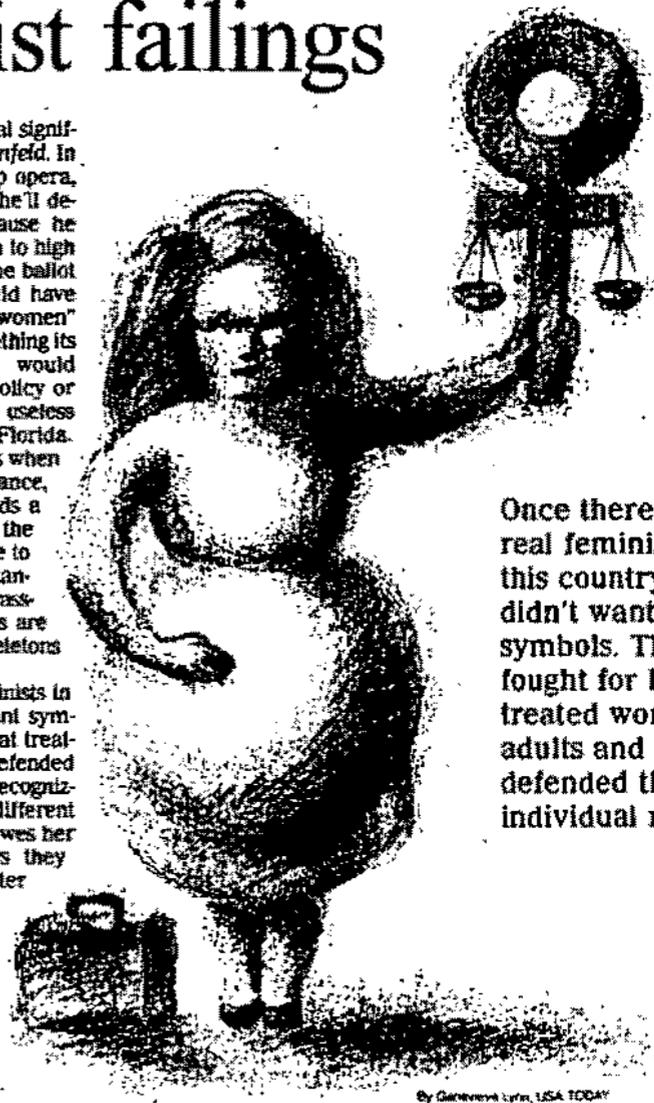
But that rarely seems the case. It doesn't matter where battles over feminism pop up; for the most part, they're over symbolism. In the court-

room, we battle over the legal significance of genital jokes on *Seinfeld*. In our ongoing Washington soap opera, pick a feminist leader and she'll defend President Clinton because he appointed a bunch of women to high office. Or if you looked on the ballot in Iowa last week, you would have found an effort to add "and women" to the state constitution, something its own proponents admitted would have had no effect on any policy or law in the state. A similarly useless measure was on the ballot in Florida.

And in those rare instances when the squabble is about substance, the feminist position demands a double standard. Women in the military? Girls shouldn't have to pass the same physical standards as males do. Sexual harassment? Men's sexual histories are fair game, but women's skeletons have to stay in the closet.

Once there were real feminists in this country. They didn't want symbols. They fought for laws that treated women as adults and defended their individual rights while recognizing what makes women different from men. My wife, Hilary, owes her legal education to the laws they won. At 6 months, our daughter isn't old enough yet to understand that she and I are in their debt.

David Mastio is a Washington correspondent for *The Detroit News* and a member of USA TODAY's board of contributors.



Once there were real feminists in this country. They didn't want symbols. They fought for laws that treated women as adults and defended their individual rights.

By Genevieve Lynn, USA TODAY

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 10, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT AMERICORPS CALL TO SERVICE EVENT

Richie Coliseum
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

2:34 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, when I was listening to Stephen and Leslie and Justin and Pepe talk, I was reminded of why I wanted to be President -- so that I could give young people like them the chance to make America a better place. (Applause.)

I want to thank all those who are here today who have supported our efforts. I thank Harris Wofford for his outstanding leadership of the Corporation of National Service. (Applause.) Deb Jospin and John Gomperts of AmeriCorps. I thank Governor Glendening and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend for making Maryland America's leading state for citizen service. They have really done -- (applause.) I thank my good friend, Prince George's County Executive Wayne Curry; Senator Mike Miller, my longtime friend; and Mayor Jacobs, thank you for making us welcome. Carson Dailey, thank you for the work MTV did on those wonderful spots, the PSAs.

I would like to thank also the mother of the Lt. Governor, my good friend, Ethel Kennedy, for being here today. (Applause.) And I thank Mark Gearan, our Peace Corps Director, and I'll say a little more about the Peace Corps in a minute and its relationship to AmeriCorps.

I'd like to thank one person who is not here today, but who was on the front lines of creating AmeriCorps, Senator Barbara Mikulski, your United States Senator from Maryland. I thank her. (Applause.) I want to thank the President of the University of Maryland, on my right; and the President of the Student Government of the University of Maryland, on my left -- (applause) -- for making me welcome. Avery and Dr. Mote, thank you. (Applause.)

You have already heard from Dr. Mote and others that six years ago I came here to celebrate the end of the Summer of Service, which was our dry run for this national service program. We wanted to work out the kinks and see whether we could make this idea go. There were three people who are here who were instrumental on that day; I would like to thank them: Georgia Sorensen, Marilyn Smith and my former White House staffer, whom I miss very much, Bill Galstone. Thank you all very much for what you have done. (Applause.)

And I thank the University of Maryland for the College Park Scholars, the Team Maryland Athletes -- (applause) -- the work-study students that are tutoring, and the others from the students and faculty who demonstrate the power of citizen service.

MORE

Let me say to all of you, when I ran for President in 1992 I wanted to get America working again and moving again, but I also wanted to bring America together again. It seemed to me that we had two great problems. One is that our economy was not functioning very well and we seemed to be getting weaker, but also that we seemed to be letting our divisions overcome what we have in common.

Martin Luther King once said that the old law of an eye for an eye sooner or later leaves everyone blind. I always believed that America's differences could be the source of our strength if we respected and we celebrated our differences, but we understood that, underneath it all, there was something that bound us together that was more important.

So, as I look back on the last six years, I think we can all take a great deal of pride in what our country has achieved together -- economically, the longest peacetime expansion in history; the lowest peacetime unemployment rate since 1957, 42 years ago -- (applause) -- welfare rolls cut nearly in half; the lowest crime rate in over a quarter-century. I think those are great things.

But I think we can also celebrate the evidence that we are coming together -- over 90 percent of our children across all racial and ethnic lines immunized against serious childhood diseases for the first time in history; the doors of college literally open to all with the HOPE scholarship, the lifetime learning tax credit, the more generous Pell grant, more affordable student loans, more work-study slots. Those things matter.

But maybe most of all, those of you here in Americorps, and those in citizen service -- whether in the Peace Corps, serving our country in the military, or serving in some other way -- embody the determination of America to draw closer together as we grow more diverse. And that, I think, is terribly important.

When you saw the four Americorps volunteers up here speaking, and each of you identifying with them in turn -- if they worked in your project or you knew them -- you know they were a picture of America, of the changing face of America, and the best of America that never changes.

If you look around the world today, at many of the challenges that I face as your President and that the United States faces -- the sad trip that the First Lady and I recently took to Jordan for the funeral of our friend, the King of Jordan, who survived decades of assassination attempts -- literally decades of assassination attempts, probably 50 in all -- to stand as a symbol of peace among people in a very tough neighborhood, who use religion as a reason to find their differences more important than their common humanity. All over the world today you see that. If the United States wants to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity in a new century in a new millennium, it is actually quite an advantage for us to have within our borders people from all races, all religions, all ethnic groups, all cultural backgrounds doing all kinds of different things.

But we cannot do good around the world unless we are good at home. And, therefore, we have to find this magical balance, being honest about our differences of opinion on matters from the serious to the mundane -- and I'll leave it to you to decide whether it was serious or mundane when the President asked me take sides in the basketball game. (Laughter.) You've got a

great team here, though, I'll tell you that, I've watched it. (Applause.) We have to find a way to do that, to say, this is what I believe, this is where I stand, this is what I'm for -- and also to say how lucky we are to stand on the verge of a new millennium in a totally global society, where people are being brought closer together than ever before, and we are finding ways to relish, to celebrate, to honor our differences in a way to bring us closer together, instead of driving us apart.

AmeriCorps is the living, breathing symbol of the answer to that. Where we do not ask people to check their differences at the door, but we do ask them to reaffirm our common humanity. We do not ask for a handout, but we do ask for a hand up for everyone who needs it, and we say we are going forward together. That is what you represent. That is my fondest hope for America. And I thank you for your service. (Applause.)

You know, all during the 20th century, the tradition of citizen service grew stronger in America. In the great Depression I remember my parents telling me about the chance President Roosevelt gave able-bodied, unemployed people to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps -- the CCC. They cleared trails, they fought fires, they planted trees. They built whole state parks -- the Appalachian Trail, Skyline Drive in Virginia; parks in my home state that Hillary and I have stayed in, with rather interesting names like Petit Jean, and Devil's Den. I have in the back office of the White House an old CCC cap -- a cap that one of the volunteers wore in the '30s, that I found wedged in between a chimney and a wall, in a cabin in a state park in the mountains of north Arkansas. And I have kept it with me all these long years, to remember the unifying power of citizen service in one of the most difficult moments of the 20th century for the United States.

President Kennedy in the 1960s asked young people to serve in the Peace Corps -- to teach English, to provide health care, to bring running water and electricity to some of the most remote villages in Africa, Asia and South America. My brother-in-law served in the Peace Corps in Colombia. And the other night, he was getting together with some of the people who served there with him. When we were getting ready to come out here today, and Senator Wofford came in with Mark Gearan, the present Peace Corps Director, we were celebrating the fact that, if our new budget passes, we will have more people serving in the Peace Corps in the next two years than have ever served in any given year. We'll be back at an all-time high.

And we were lamenting the fact that we just had to withdraw our Peace Corps volunteers from Eritrea and Ethiopia, two countries that I have felt particularly close to in the last couple of years, because of the trouble the two countries are having -- the threat to go to war. And the Peace Corps volunteers, going all the way back for decades, have volunteered to try to come in and solve the conflict and deal with the disputed area of land. I don't know if they will accept it, but think of that. All these years later, people that were there years and years and years ago remember what it was like -- not to give a handout, but to give a hand up, and to ask people to understand that their differences are not as important as what they have in common.

So I thank our Peace Corps volunteers, I thank Mark Gearan, and I thank all of you in AmeriCorps, because you are in the rich tradition of America's citizen service, from the CCC to the Peace Corps to AmeriCorps.

Now, six summers after I first came here, AmeriCorps is thriving. There now have been over 100,000 people serve in AmeriCorps in just four years of the full-time program. Everywhere I go around the country I see you -- I see you in all kinds of different contexts. I was in San Jose right before the election and there were a lot of -- the Peace Corps volunteers had just come to start their mission, and so I saw them standing on the street as I pulled into the hotel. And I asked them all to come see me and we took a little picture -- and they were from everywhere.

And then when I went home to Arkansas after the terrible tornadoes a couple of weeks ago, in both the communities I visited there were AmeriCorps volunteers there and there were people there who, believe me, would never have come to Arkansas in their lives if they hadn't been in AmeriCorps. (Laughter.) I know it was good for the people they were helping and I think it was pretty good for them.

This has been an astonishing encounter for tens of thousands of people. Now, all of you know what it's like -- I love talking to people who have been in AmeriCorps because I always hear two things -- number one, they're proud of what they did to help people -- teaching a child to read, or immunizing a child, or having a playground that's safe in an area that used to be dominated by gangs, or cleaning up some polluted site, or doing something to preserve the environment. I love that.

The second thing I always here is, "I like the people with whom I serve;" "I met people I never would have met;" "I got to know people I never would have gotten to know;" "we were all so different and, yet, when we worked together, we grew together, and it made my life different and better." That is what AmeriCorps needs to do -- and that is what America needs to do.

America needs to think of itself as sort of a giant AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps at home, getting things done together. Getting things done together. (Applause.) If our budget passes this fall, we can boost the number of AmeriCorps volunteers by one quarter, to 50,000 members. In our new budget we want to keep expanding AmeriCorps every year so that by the year 2003, and there forward, every year 100,000 young people will be serving in AmeriCorps. (Applause.)

But I want to challenge the young people of this country -- and the not so young who are willing to do it -- to sign up for AmeriCorps, to see for yourselves what you can do to solve America's problems and reap America's promise. I want to challenge high school students, as well. Maryland has done a wonderful job as the Governor and the Lt. Governor said, being the only state in the country to actually require community service as a part of a public education. In our balanced budget we propose to allow high schoolers for the very first time to join AmeriCorps by serving part-time during the school year and full-time in the summers.

And I want to challenge, again, the young people beyond this room, to dedicate a year or two of your lives to a cause larger than yourselves. It may be your best chance to change the lives of others for the better, and to enrich your own life in the process.

Today, so many young people have the time and freedom and energy they will never have in the future, to tackle the kind of challenge Americorps represents -- to pack a bag at a moment's notice, to fight a forest fire, or move into our most remote

MORE

Public Service's Profile Is Rising in Many College Curricula

By JODI WILGOREN

MEDFORD, Mass., April 21 — Pierre Omidyar did not do any volunteer work while an undergraduate here at Tufts University. Technically speaking, he does not do any now. A 32-year-old multimillionaire, he has never held a public-sector job, run for elective office, protested for social change. So what, exactly, was Mr. Omidyar doing here today, teaching one of the inaugural classes at Tufts's new University College of Citizenship and Public Service?

Well, for starters, Mr. Omidyar, a 1988 Tufts graduate and the founder of the wildly successful online trading post eBay, paid for the thing, with a \$10 million start-up grant to finance scholarships, faculty development and a venture fund for community projects over the next five years. And besides, the whole idea is to transform public service from a few hours of tutoring poor children or working in a homeless shelter to a lifelong commitment to civic engagement — whether graduates go on to toil in a nonprofit organization or an investment bank.

"Being an active part of your community, an active citizen, involved in public service, is not just one of the bubbles that are part of your life," Mr. Omidyar told about 30 undergraduates assembled for this week's session of Leadership Through Active Citizenship, a political science seminar. "It's not something you put on your résumé. It's not something you do each morning before you go to work. It's something you should think about throughout every day."

The Tufts initiative is the most comprehensive example of the efforts being made by hundreds of universities across the nation to re-emphasize public service as a core tenet of the curriculum. Though more college students than ever do volunteer work while on campus, voter participation among 18- to 24-

At Tufts, as on other campuses, a focus on civic responsibility.

year-olds is at an all-time low. The new movement tries to combat the commodification of higher education, to reassert its goal as creating responsible citizens rather than training students for jobs.

"Historically, this has been a central purpose of higher education," said Terry W. Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education, which represents some 3,500 institutions. "But in the current sociopolitical environment, it's a very difficult undertaking."

At the 670 institutions connected to Campus Compact, a national group devoted to community service, 374,000 students racked up 32 million volunteer hours last year. Course catalogs on those campuses included 11,876 "service learning" opportunities, in which students combined theory and practice, applying academic principles to real-world problems. There are chemistry classes conducting lead-paint analyses in local schools, English seminars writing newsletters for community groups, drama students helping displaced residents produce a play about the loss of their neighborhood.

Separately, scores of universities, trying to set an example of good corporate citizenship, have formed



Evans Riechman for The New York Times

partnerships with their surrounding communities to work on issues like affordable housing and river clean-up. Last year, 390 university presidents signed a declaration urging higher education to "re-examine its public purposes and its commitments to the democratic ideal." In June, about 100 of them plan a meeting at the University of Pennsylvania on strategies for implementing that vision.

"It is not enough to provide a great education," Judith Rodin, the University of Pennsylvania's president, said in a guest lecture at Yale University last fall. "It is not enough for us to produce brilliant, imaginative doctors, lawyers, scholars and scientists who will press the envelopes of their disciplines or professions, if we do not also engage them in the larger issues of our day, in the ferment of our times and our society."

Here at Tufts, a campus of 8,500 students in a gritty town near Boston, John DiBiaggio, who is both the president of the university and the chairman of Campus Compact, has focused on the theme since he arrived in 1992. Dr. DiBiaggio provides free copies of The New York Times to undergraduates, and he rewrote the university's vision statement to include as a goal fostering "an attitude of giving back" and "a desire to make the world a better place."

The new college of citizenship will not have a campus building, nor will it confer degrees. Rather, its goal is to infuse every aspect of university life with a public-service component. Administrators are evaluating the current course offerings to see which might be cross-referenced under public service, while faculty members are developing new programs, like "Reading Public Policy," which would employ literary techniques to deconstruct current events, and "Decision Points in History," a classics professor's effort to link ancient Greece and modern America. In addition, 24 incoming students devoted to public service will be designated Omidyar scholars, and the college will confer grants to students, staff members or professors with ideas for community service projects.

Mr. Omidyar, who met his wife, Pam, while at Tufts, returned to the campus for the first time today, and spent the afternoon talking about the importance of community — whether in an online forum like eBay or in brick-and-mortar neighborhoods. The couple's \$10 million gift is the largest yet from their foundation, through which they say they will give away all but 1 percent of their wealth, estimated now at about \$6 billion, in the next quarter-century.

Pierre Omidyar the founder of eBay and a graduate of Tufts University, gave his alma mater a \$10 million grant to establish the University College of Citizenship and Public Service.

At an open session, the questions from students focused more on how Mr. Omidyar had amassed his money than on how he might distribute it, as the audience was filled largely with computer science majors harboring start-up ideas of their own. But in the leadership seminar, students seemed intrigued by his provocative proposals about power-sharing: just as customer feedback helps control the market on eBay, he suggested, so should students and faculty members share responsibility for shaping the new college.

They have already begun.

When a guest speaker in the third week of class talked about breaking down hierarchies, one young man questioned why she and the profes-

sors were seated at the front of the room, each with a bottle of water facing the pack of parched students. Thus the water committee was born, and now stacks of raspberry, lime and lemon seltzer await the arrival of the class each Friday afternoon.

"When I raised the issue, instead of just saying, 'Oh, we'll get you water,' they turned it back on me," said Jesse Levey, a sophomore from San Francisco, who, as chairman of the committee, arranged free refreshments through negotiations with the appropriate authorities. "It's about empowerment, leadership and doing things on your own."

So where are the snacks? Student said the food committee founder for lack of leadership.

Service

The New York Times

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2000

Vietnamese Immigrants Swell Catholic Clergy

Growing Influence on a Changing Church

By GUSTAV NIEBUHR

NEW ORLEANS, April 20 — Twenty-five years ago this month, when Saigon fell to Communist armies, the tract of land off Dwyer Road was a just another soggy stretch of wetlands that ran from New Orleans's eastern fringe to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, many miles away.

"This was swamp," said Msgr. Dominic Luong, a Roman Catholic priest and Fordham University graduate who arrived here in the late 1970's.

But these days Monsignor Luong can look from his modest office and see a spacious beige church bordered by a trim lawn where three flags — the Stars and Stripes, a banner representing the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the yellow and red flag of the former South Vietnam — snap in the spring breeze.

The church that rose from this drained swamp is Mary Queen of Vietnam, spiritual home to 5,000 pa-

Asian enclaves reshape a religion in America.

rishioners and a landmark both for the growing influence of Vietnamese Catholics in the United States and for the larger church, too, whose demographic contours are being reshaped by immigration.

Major changes in immigration law, together with political and economic upheavals abroad, have brought an influx of Latin Americans, Asians, eastern Europeans and Africans, many of them Catholics whose impact on the church may prove as great as that of the Germans, Irish and Italians who preceded them a century ago.

Among this new group, the Vietnamese are a small minority, but their presence is hard to miss. They have formed parishes and missions across this very Catholic city, as well as in Texas and California, established an annual pilgrimage of tens of thousands of people to southwestern Missouri and, most significantly, produced a disproportionately high number of young men and women studying to become priests and nuns

— when such religious vocations have been in short supply among American-born Catholics.

A few miles to the west, for example, in New Orleans's stately Uptown, Vietnamese seminarians make up a fifth of those studying for the priesthood at Notre Dame Seminary.

On social issues, they tend to be conservative, opposed to abortion and the idea of women as priests.

"Religion is their center — they brought that with them," said Kyle Dave, 29, a seminarian who is a native of New Orleans and grew up in a neighborhood that absorbed many Vietnamese immigrants.

American Catholic officials say most Vietnamese immigrants are Buddhists, but about 300,000 — perhaps a third of them — are Catholics.

That amounts to less than 1 percent of the estimated 61 million Catholics in the United States. But Vietnamese seminarians make up nearly 3 percent of the approximately 1,500 men studying for the priesthood, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, an organization at Georgetown University that studies such trends.

Michael W. Foley, an associate professor of political science at Catholic University, in Washington, D.C., who conducted a study of several new immigrant groups for the American bishops, said, "Seminary enrollments have been on a down slide since the 1960's, and we see some modest recoveries as a result of this new blood."

"The same thing is true of the church as a whole," Mr. Foley said. "The Catholic Church is the only mainline church that has not lost members over the past 20 years, and I think a case could be made for the immigrants as the primary reason."

In May, the Archdiocese of New Orleans will ordain seven seminarians as deacons, a transitional step toward their becoming priests. Among them is Hoang M. Tuong, 31, a parishioner at Mary Queen of Vietnam, who arrived here in 1984, after he and his family fled Vietnam by sea in a tidal exodus of "boat people." Not long after the family arrived here, he entered a high school seminary, a first step along the road he is now following.

"Vietnamese families are very big," Mr. Tuong said, adding that parents often hope to have "at least one" child become a priest or nun. "I have only three sisters," he said. "My family is very small."

Monsignor Luong said he was one of 11 children — 5 boys and 3 girls. One brother also became a priest and serves among the Montagnard people in central Vietnam.

Monsignor Luong was ordained in 1965 in New York. Over the last two decades, he has become well known in Catholic circles for his work among Vietnamese immigrants.

He recalled the early days in New Orleans East as difficult for Vietnamese Catholics. "We had nothing," he said. "We worshiped outdoors for two years." It sometimes rained on Sundays, but the weather,

as he remembered it, always seemed to clear before Mass.

The parish at which he presides was founded in 1983, the beginning of a decade-long boom in the area's Vietnamese population, as immigrants who had been settled in other parts of the nation began to move here. A spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of New Orleans said about 20,000 Catholics were of Asian background, primarily Vietnamese — about 4 percent of the half-million parishioners here.

Other big centers for Vietnamese Catholics are Houston; San Jose, Calif., and Orange County, Calif. There are smaller communities as well. Monsignor Luong said he recently traveled to Sioux City, Iowa, for the installation of a Vietnamese-born priest there.

Behind his office is a two-story structure that houses a preschool, run by Vietnamese-born nuns who were busy supervising dozens of children in an Easter egg hunt this week.

Sister Mary Faustina Nguyen Bach Yen, 28, said she was 8 years old when her family fled Vietnam in 1979. After more than a year in a refugee camp, the family moved to New Orleans.

The third child among eight, she originally helped her parents in a small business. But, she said, "I was searching for inner peace." As a teenager, she felt a call to become a

nun and eventually joined the Daughters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, the order that supervises the preschool. It has 40 nuns, and four novices preparing to take vows. But, she said, "This is just a small branch in the United States." The order has hundreds of nuns in Vietnam.

Another Vietnamese order visible in the United States is the Congregation of the Mother Co-Redemptrix, which has a monastery in Carthage, Mo. Each summer, the site becomes a pilgrimage destination for Vietnamese families. "They draw 30,000 to 40,000," Monsignor Luong said.

But as Vietnamese immigrants become rooted in the United States, a question arises. How long will such devotion endure in a culture that esteems material wealth and individual choice?

Already, some of the nuns at the preschool say, it is less easy to talk to a younger generation about a religious vocation than it was to speak with their older brothers and sisters a decade ago. The preschool's director, Sister Rose Tin Vu, said many adolescents' interests tended toward American culture. "Money and fashion" often preoccupy them, she said.

Sister Mary Faustina, who teaches religious education classes to teenagers, agreed. "Most of the teenagers, they've got peer pressure," she said. "It's very hard to listen to the inner voice, to listen to the heart."

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Summer of Safety

Nat. Service

Dear Service Friend,

FEB 18 1993

On September 21, 1993, President Clinton signed national service legislation into law, creating the Corporation for National and Community Service. Through the new Corporation, Americans of all ages and backgrounds will work to meet urgent challenges in their communities in the areas of education, public safety, human needs and the environment.

Of these, public safety may be the most critical challenge facing the nation today. President Clinton discussed it at length in his State of the Union address just a couple of weeks ago. It is at the top of the agenda of the administration, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Governors Association, and countless other regional, state and local organizations nationwide. I hope you will join us in moving it to the top of the national service agenda this summer.

The cost of crime, in economic terms, is staggering: \$14,000 to treat a child struck by gunfire, \$50 billion annual loss by urban economies due to lost businesses and fleeing residents, \$425 billion spent on crime every year. But in human terms, the cost is inestimable. Victims, and those who commit crimes, are getting younger and younger; crimes are becoming more and more violent. Few communities remain unscathed by drugs; few homes remain unassailed by fear.

The American people can take back their communities — and national service can help.

This summer, the Corporation will focus its efforts in public safety by sponsoring a national Summer of Safety. Like the year-round AmeriCorps program we'll launch this fall, the Summer of Safety will engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in direct, locally-based service to strengthen the ability of communities to respond to problems of crime, violence and fear.

Our 6,000 Summer of Safety participants will come together across generations, ethnicities, and income levels. They'll help police monitor victim assistance hotlines, clean up dangerous parks and alleys, provide crime prevention workshops to families, and help organize neighborhood watch programs. They'll do the work that you determine is most necessary in your community to meet the number one priority of national service: Getting Things Done.

The Summer of Safety can't succeed without your help. In the coming weeks, you can design an innovative service program tailored to the specific needs of your community, and that will continue to get things done long after the summer is over. We can help with phone and video technical assistance conferences, and with funding. But, ultimately, the work of designing quality service programs is up to the people who know the most about serving your communities. It's up to you.

In his inaugural address, President Clinton challenged all Americans to engage in "seasons of service." I look forward to working with you to help meet this challenge, through the Summer of Safety, and through the ever-changing seasons ahead of us.

Sincerely,

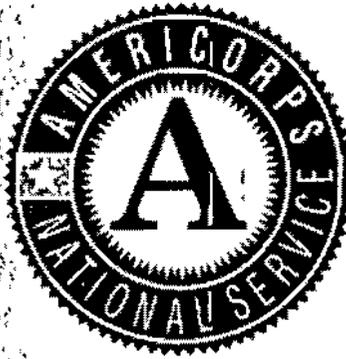
Eli J. Segal
Chief Executive Officer

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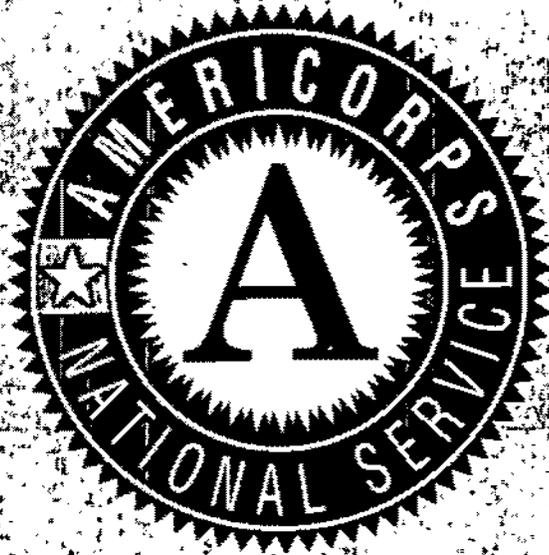


UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

AmeriCorps/USDA...at work

First Annual Report





AmeriCorps

Getting things done

NOTEBOOK



SUCCESS STORY

Clinton's Pet Program Makes Many Friends

AT LEAST ONE GROUP IN WASHINGTON HAS escaped the long arm of the LEWINSKY scandal: AmeriCorps. The national service program is a favorite of PRESIDENT CLINTON'S, and its supporters were worried that it might be a target for his congressional critics. But the four-year-old program has won over skeptics by emphasizing its grass-roots structure and its alliance with respected



Santorum

nonprofit organizations around the country. Members are selected by and work for such groups as Boys and Girls Clubs of America and Habitat for Humanity.

AmeriCorps prevailed on a key Senate funding vote in July by 58 to 37, winning over such former Republican critics as RICK SANTORUM of Pennsylvania and Daniel Coats of Indiana. On Friday, Clinton will preside at a White House swearing-in ceremony marking the program's 100,000th member—a benchmark the Peace Corps took more than 20 years to reach. —By Adam Cohen/New York

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Preserve the Citizen Service Tradition

By STEPHEN E. AMBROSE

It is the nature of youth to want to explore. Youngsters yearn for challenge and new experiences and the sense of belonging to something larger than themselves. They are idealistic and want to advance their ideals through service.

It is one of the principle misfortunes of our time that we do not provide our 18- and 19-year-olds with enough opportunity to do these things, and it is one of the chief differences between America today and America a half-century ago. Then, service of some sort to the nation by the young was taken for granted, along with the notion that society would provide them with a place to serve.

In the Depression, it was the Civilian Conservation Corps, universally praised for the projects it undertook and completed and for the way it provided impoverished youngsters with a chance to serve, to travel, to get to know other young Americans from different backgrounds and parts of the country. In the Second World War and during much of the Cold War it was the armed forces, where millions of young Americans served. President John F. Kennedy tapped the same vein to create the Peace Corps. Today AmeriCorps is extending that tradition of citizen service, giving young people opportunity to serve their country here at home.

The generation of Americans now in retirement faced and overcame great challenges, starting with the Depression and including the Nazis, the Japanese militarists, and the Communists in Korea, Vietnam, and the Soviet Union. The challenges of today are not so clear, or terrifying, or dramatic. Nor are they as unifying: During World War II, a popular saying, used to respond to a complaint about this or that shortage, was "We are all in this together." Today's youth have never had that feeling. They have missed the experience of work-

ing together for a common goal as much as they have missed the chance to serve others.

It seems to me that one of the great things that came out of World War II, and to a lesser extent out of Korea and even Vietnam, was the way in which millions of young men learned to work together, to take responsibility, to become part of a team. They learned, too, to savor deferred



CCC workers near Camp Au Sable, Mich.

gratification, and to take pride in contributing to their fellow man.

Today, too often, our youngsters hardly know one another. Middle class kids have little or no contact with inner-city kids. As we become a more diverse society, it is critical that we provide our youth with experiences that bring Hispanic-Americans and European-Americans, Jewish-Americans and Muslim Americans, Asian-Americans and African-Americans together, working, living, serving side-by-side. Lord knows there are plenty of challenges out there and much to be done, improving educa-

tion, fighting poverty, and protecting the environment.

In Europe, several nations require that, at 18, young people give a year of service to their country. In the U.S. it is not required, but AmeriCorps provides a voluntary opportunity to make a similar commitment. Instead of fighting enemies abroad these young Americans battle against the everyday enemies of illiteracy, poverty, and violence that plague our nation. In four years, AmeriCorps members have taught, tutored and mentored more than 2.2 million children, provided after-school programs to more than a million at-risk youth, removed close to 70,000 tons of trash from neighborhoods, and recruited more than 1.8 million volunteers to assist in these and other efforts.

AmeriCorps members, most of whom are between the ages of 18 and 24, receive a loan living allowance, and after a year of service a stipend of almost \$4,000 to help pay for college. This is similar to the 1944 GI Bill of Rights, which was the best piece of legislation Congress ever enacted. The GI bill sent hundreds of thousands of GIs to college—guys who never dreamed it would be possible for them to get a higher education—and after earning their degrees they went out and built modern America. They were part of the best educated, best disciplined, hardest working, most innovative generation of Americans ever. Today's young people, through AmeriCorps and other volunteer groups, can emulate them.

Our young people are our future. Our very soul as a nation is at stake. I cannot imagine a better investment than in youth who want to work for others and then go on with their education, taking a hand up rather than a hand out. Since 1994, more than 100,000 young men and women have pledged to "get things done" for America. This month, as AmeriCorps celebrates this milestone, let us congratulate them for their service to our country—and hope that future generations have the opportunity to follow in their footsteps.

Mr. Ambrose is author, most recently, of "Citizen Soldiers" (Simon & Schuster, 1997).

BY DAVID GERGEN / EDITOR AT LARGE



The nation's new patriots

A generation of idealists shuns politics and turns instead to volunteering

The news these days suggests that America is now raising a generation of hellions: Two young men stand accused of brutally murdering a college kid in Wyoming because he was gay; a 20-year-old girl was found guilty of inducing her boyfriend, a cadet at the Air Force Academy, to kill another young woman whom she detested; Eric Rudolph, hiding out in the Appalachian Mountains, is accused of planting that bomb at the Atlanta Olympics when he was 30; young punks show up on morning television shows with the damndest personal stories. And on and on.

But as is so often the case, the real news is contained in the stories that aren't snatching headlines. Last week, for example, the four-year-old AmeriCorps program inducted its 100,000th volunteer. Nearly all the young men and women are giving at least a year of service to their country. It's a remarkable feat: The Peace Corps took 20 years to reach the same milestone.

More to the point, almost every one of these AmeriCorps volunteers has been weaving an important thread into the fabric of community life. In Clearwater, Fla., a young woman named Sherry Thomas, who was living in the streets at the age of 14, helps to build community playgrounds and assists in neighborhood cleanups as she prepares for a career in law enforcement. Serving with Habitat for Humanity, Army veteran Phillip Wu and 22 other members on his team recruited 1,500 college students to come to Miami over a spring break to complete 50 new homes for working families. Monisha Poudyal, a Yale graduate from an immigrant family, worked for a year in California on HIV and substance-abuse issues with at-risk kids. She is now pursuing a career in nonprofit management. A graduate of Notre Dame, Robert Peters, joined the Sisters of Notre Dame AmeriCorps program and tutored migrant farm children and illiterate adults.

Doing something good. "We are tapping into a new patriotism among young people," says Harris Wofford, the former U.S. senator who now heads the Corporation for National Service, which runs AmeriCorps. "They have a

tremendous cynicism about politics but not for doing something for their neighborhood or for children."

Wofford's opinions are borne out by recent survey data. UCLA's mammoth survey of college freshmen found that last year's incoming class demonstrated the lowest levels of political interest in the 32-year history of the poll, even as volunteer work was at record levels. A recent survey for Public Allies, a multicultural group supporting civic service, found that today's young people are very public spirited, but they are "actively looking for new and distinctive ways to connect to the people and issues surrounding them."

Contrary to myths
that they are
slackers, gen X-ers
are actually brimming
with idealism.

AmeriCorps is not the only organization experiencing a surge in interest. Teach for America, the volunteer program, started nearly 10 years ago by Wendy Kopp after she graduated from Princeton, receives 3,000 applications a year for 500 slots. Some 10,000 apply to the Peace Corps for 3,500 places, and young people often wait up to two years to gain a coveted spot.

Each of these programs has its critics but is building wider support. Republicans once bashed AmeriCorps as President Clinton's pet project, but Senate conservatives like Rick Santorum and Charles Grassley now back it. Millard Fuller, the inspirational figure behind Habitat for Humanity, was once a skeptic, too, but, after seeing volunteers in action on Habitat sites, has written enthusiastically about national-service programs to House Speaker Newt Gingrich. With 1 in 7 AmeriCorps members now serving in faith-based projects, support for the program among religious leaders has risen, too.

None of this, however, should obscure the central point: Contrary to myths that they are slackers, generation X-ers are actually brimming with idealism, far outstripping what we saw only a decade ago. Instead of knocking young men and women, we ought to be providing more opportunities for them to give back. The day is not far off when a year or more of service to the country will once again be enshrined as an essential part of becoming an American citizen. ■

Community service that works

By Marc Racicot

Governors meet together and routinely stake out areas of broad bipartisan agreement that transcend the partisan struggles that have become synonymous with election-year politics. One issue that enjoys strong support from governors of both parties is national and community service. The support for service is based on a simple conviction that I share with many other governors: that every generation of young people needs to accept responsibility for its country and its community.

As a first-term Republican governor in January, 1993, I asked, and our legislature approved, a proposal to create a Governor's Office of Community Service intended to enhance the ethic of service and elevate the importance of "community," particularly among our young people. Meaningful service, we believed, would nurture productive young citizens committed to the future of our state because they had invested their sweat and labor in that future. Here in Montana, we sought to encourage service as a life-long "habit of the heart."

When the National Community Service Act of 1993 was passed, Montana was in an ideal position to move forward with the opportunities offered through AmeriCorps. The Office of Community Service's mission and the mission of AmeriCorps was one and the same: to develop opportunities for young people to provide meaningful, direct and demonstrable service to their communities. It was our hope that AmeriCorps would help us to build unique partnerships with public and private agencies by engaging young people in productive and

meaningful service to their communities. These partnership would serve as clear examples of how we could work together in Montana to improve how we, as fellow citizens, respond to pressing needs.

Now in its fourth year, AmeriCorps offers a creative, effective, and non-bureaucratic means of addressing the unmet education, human, public safety and environmental needs of our state — and our country. Indeed, AmeriCorps has become a model of devolution, where real authority and ownership for a federal initiative is delegated to the states. Through governor-appointed bipartisan state commissions, priorities are established and projects are selected to receive AmeriCorps funding.

The results are impressive. Last year alone, our locally-run AmeriCorps programs generated nearly 51,000 hours of service to Montana communities. Their service directly benefits 50,000 children and families in Montana, and indirectly almost one-third of our state population. Nationally, similar results abound. This year, some 40,000 AmeriCorps members will get things done for more than 1,200 communities across the country.

When AmeriCorps was created, some feared it might replay the worst of the welfare state — an entrenched, expensive, Washington-run program. Many feared, even more, that it would undermine traditional volunteers with yet another federal program. I can say from experience that the fears were misplaced. As a governor who tries very hard to be careful with tax dollars, I have witnessed time and again the fruits of this prudent investment in Montana.

Now, after more than five years, we have seen a tremendous rekindling of a sense of public service and civic duty, in many ways,

through the programs and opportunities generated through the National Community Service Act. I am convinced national and community service promotes core values — hard work, self-discipline, civic duty, personal responsibility, the cherishing of human life — that we too often sadly find lacking. If the era of big government is finally over, certainly the era of big citizenship must begin.

I have joined twelve of my fellow governors in urging not only continued federal funding of AmeriCorps, but also reauthorization of the Act, increasing the partnership with states and the authority of directing these programs at the state level. We join with our peers from the New England Governors' Conference in urging Congress to support reauthorizing the National Community Service Amendments Act, in order to improve the law's current language. As their resolution notes, we support the bill's "devolution provisions that add authority and flexibility to states . . . [to] provide Governor-appointed state commissions more control over program selection."

Community service is a vital element in the chemistry of our existence as a society, renewing our sense of community and civic initiative. It is the glue that bonds free peoples together. We in Montana have seen how vitally important this is, recently having completed our state Governors' Summit on Youth, and witnessing the real necessity of promoting opportunities for young people to give back to others. Through community service they learn what it's like to belong to something good and solid and decent. AmeriCorps helps provide that opportunity and truly puts the states in the driver's seat, which translates into meaningful ownership, and impact, at the state and local level.

Marc Racicot, a Republican, is governor of Montana.

Religious groups play bigger AmeriCorps role

Agency begins fifth year of helping students, towns

By Larry Wilham
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

AmeriCorps opens its fifth year of national volunteer service today, marking the involvement of 100,000 college students who increasingly do their community work via religious agencies.

The religion-related segment under the Corporation for National Service, a Peace Corpslike agency begun in President Clinton's first term, has reached 8 percent of all volunteers since 1994.

AmeriCorps officials said that sector is "rapidly expanding."

The AmeriCorps budget also has grown. Congress gave it \$438.5 million for next year, an \$18 million increase over 1998.

"We got into AmeriCorps as soon as we could," said John Stoesz of the Greater Dallas Community of Church. "Volunteers we get from churches are very dedicated, but they are not there every day and every week."

Since the national agency opened in 1994, the Dallas coalition of 300 churches has had about 50 of AmeriCorps' full-time college students assisting its community work annually.

AmeriCorps gives the students a living stipend, of which groups like the Community of Church must provide 15 percent.

Students also get a \$4,725 voucher to pay college costs. A student may serve in AmeriCorps a maximum of two years.

A strength of such programs, Mr. Stoesz said, is that a funded core of volunteers inspires more temporary volunteerism and increases community donations. "We can raise money locally when we have a good program," he said.

The Sisters of Notre Dame were an AmeriCorps site from the beginning as well, and in the District the sisters for three years have operated a service project out of Trinity College in Northeast.

"We've never made any appeal for people in the parishes to help us," said Sister Joanne Schneberger. "The AmeriCorps volunteers are just great young people."

Her 12 volunteers each year have helped District residents complete GED tests, and

also helped immigrants learn English.

The National Council of Churches (NCC) Ecumenical Program for Urban Service has been a primary outlet to religious agencies. This year, it will coordinate about 5,600 AmeriCorps volunteers at 5,000 sites.

The locations are churches, synagogues and mosques, said Charles Rawlings, the NCC's director of urban programs. "We started as a small program with a grant of \$400,000," he said. "Now we have grants in the area of \$3.2 million."

All such programs must pay their own bills, and then file for reimbursement from AmeriCorps, participants said.

The NCC project awards only the college voucher. The living expense of an AmeriCorps volunteer is covered by the religious groups.

While some college students are from middle-class families and go to expensive universities, others are minorities attending community colleges — and they benefit greatly from the voucher, participants said.

The church council tries to "target needful populations." As a result, 30 percent of the AmeriCorps awards go to work with blacks and 30 percent to assist Hispanic concerns. The rest goes to general work by volunteer religious agencies, Mr. Rawlings said.

None of the participants reported disputes over the church-state issue of federal money being dispensed through a faith-based organization.

Sister Schneberger said that while they operate out of a religious college, there is nothing sectarian to the work. "I pray a lot for the volunteers," she said.

In Dallas, Mr. Stoesz said a picture of Jesus may hang on a church wall where volunteers conduct a program, but no one is teaching Sunday school. "We're not going to take the picture down," he said.

Similarly, the NCC work follows a well-established pattern in which church agencies receiving government money neutralize the religious setting of the work.

"We police it very carefully," Mr. Rawlings said. Still, he said, religious groups in partnership with government funding "is a good adjustment in American culture."

Volunteers bring shine to Rainbow

By Dave Curtin
 Denver Post Staff Writer

Inside the Rainbow House, a free day-care center for children with AIDS or special needs, hangs a young child's self portrait that reads: "I Have AIDS. Please Hug Me. I Can't Make You Sick."

On Saturday, 20 volunteers donned work gloves and sweat shirts to spruce up the Rainbow House, in northeast Denver, scheduled to open next month after a five-month hiatus.

The effort was part of national Make a Difference Day, coordinated by the Volunteers of America, a national non-profit organization with a chapter in Colorado. This marks the sixth year for Make a Difference Day.

Several of Saturday's volunteers were from AmeriCorps, a domestic Peace Corps devoted to community-service projects.

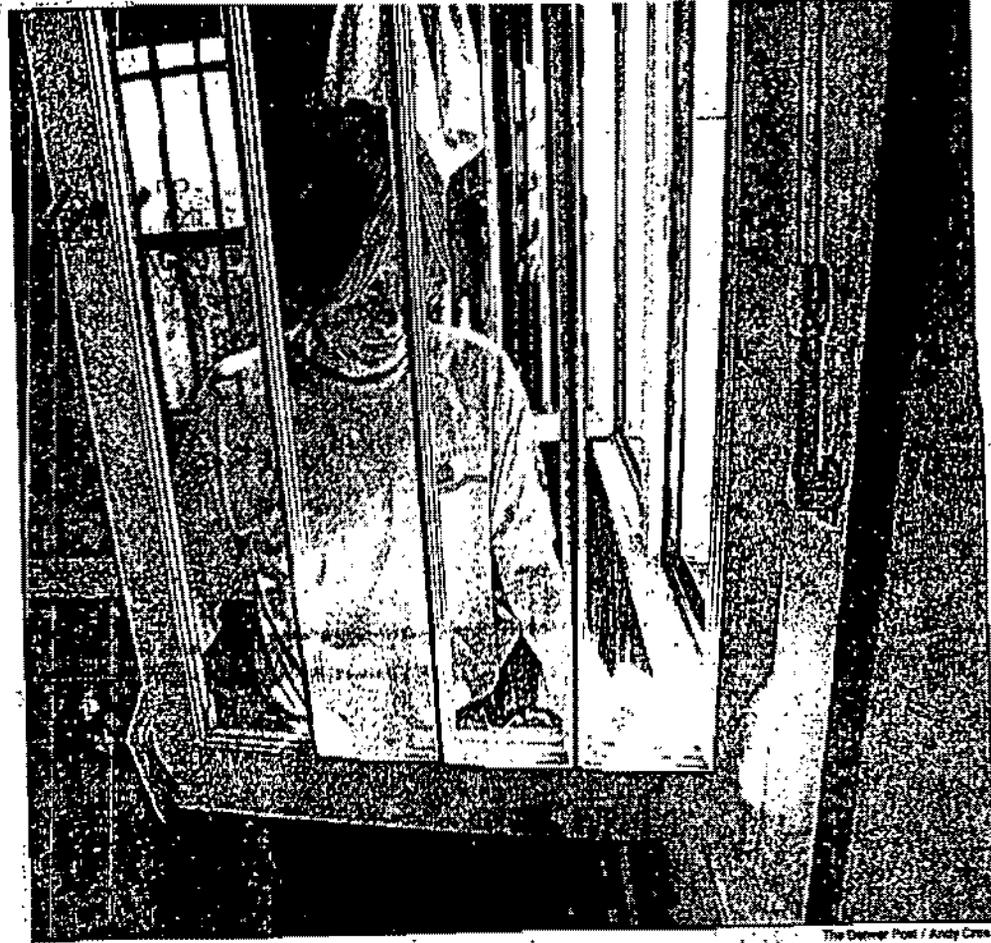
The Rainbow House, 3400 Bruce Randolph Ave., has been closed since May for relicensing by the state.

Volunteers of America took over the facility in July and hopes to reopen it in two to three weeks, said Catherine Pisano, Rainbow House director and a Volunteers of America project coordinator.

"It's the only child-care facility in this area that serves this population," she said.

The license is expected to arrive as soon as the staff is in place, Pisano said. The center is to be licensed for 25 children and 6 infants, serving children 6 weeks to 12 years old, five days a week, year-round.

It will offer hot meals, snacks, a clothing bank, holiday and birthday



The Denver Post / Andy Green

AmeriCorps volunteer Angel Podraza washes a window Saturday in an old home next to the Rainbow House child-care center in northeast Denver. Twenty volunteers gathered

to work on the building, which will be renovated and used as a support facility for the center. The Rainbow House caters to children with AIDS or special needs.

gifts for the youngsters, holiday parties and on-site counseling by the Mental Health Association of Colorado and the Mental Health Corporation of Denver, including a program called "Living and Learning with HIV."

While the child-care center is shiny clean and ready to reopen, volunteers worked Saturday on an ancillary house next door whacking waist-high weeds, trimming trees, scrubbing floors and walls and hauling trash.

"I think it's very important to give back to the community and to people that are in need," said volunteer Louisa Coons, as she took a break from the smell of ammonia emanating from the house. "There's a lot of people in need who have less than I have," said Coons, a former geological technician for Amoco who resigned three years ago and now gives more of her time to volunteer work.

The once run-down property, previously used for storage, will be renovated and used as a support facility for Rainbow House, though its exact use has not been determined, Pisano said. The backyard probably will be used to expand the current playground, she said.

"A lot of contract work needs to be done but it's a start," Pisano said.

Children with AIDS or exposure to the virus from immediate families with HIV/AIDS are eligible for day care at the Rainbow House. Children with other special needs also are considered. Call 303-355-9581 for eligibility information.

New crop of volunteers



AmeriCorps worker Autumn Dial plants a Sitka spruce on Ebey Island Friday after a swearing-in ceremony at Naval Station Everett.

AmeriCorps to the rescue

Volunteers help themselves by helping communities

By **JIM HALEY**
Herald Writer

EVERETT — When Jacob Kirwin started high school, he was a little overwhelmed.

He had trouble with grades and lacked self-esteem.

That changed when he found something he could grab hold of in the context of a young student's life.

His life ring was the art of debate, his love for it and the requirement that he get his grades up in order to complete. He did.

So Kirwin, now 23, has himself become a life ring to freshmen students at Snohomish.

He's one of 500 mainly young people who were sworn in Friday as AmeriCorps volunteers during a ceremony at Naval Station Everett.

AmeriCorps is a national organiza-

tion established five years ago by President Clinton and a bipartisan coalition of congressional leaders with the aim of providing domestic community service.

Work can vary from stenciling pollution warnings on storm drains to living with and caring for the disadvantaged.

With the volunteers sworn in Friday in Everett and 16 other locations around the country, 100,000 people have signed up for one or two years of service.

Volunteers get a small monthly payment and earn credits to pay for education. Most are under 25 years old, although there are some volunteers approaching 60, said Danika Best, spokeswoman for the Washington Commission for National and Community Service.

Last year, Kirwin wound up at his

old high school as an AmeriCorps volunteer giving one-on-one attention to students with reading disabilities.

"It's not just for the money because we're being paid a stipend of \$700 a month, which is actually less than minimum wage," he said. "It takes something more inside. I get to go out every day and make a difference. I get to help kids who were in a predicament like I was in when I was first in high school."

Outside of satisfaction, Kirwin and the other volunteers are earning education credits. He wants to use his debating skills by going to law school.

Kirwin is starting his second year in the program. He was one of three AmeriCorps speakers at Friday's ceremony.

He told the other recruits that some

See CORPS, Page 4B

"I get to go out every day and make a difference. I get to help kids who were in a predicament like I was in ..."

— Jacob Kirwin, AmeriCorps worker

CORPS

from Page 1B

young people he sees in school are bullied by others if they are a bit slow or don't quite fit in.

"The bullies we face today are insecurity, fear and lack of education," he said, commending his fellow AmeriCorps members as people willing to help make the world a better

coming obstacles.

Local organizations sponsor various AmeriCorps chapters. One such organization is the Neutral Zone in Mountlake Terrace, where young volunteers have been credited with reducing crime by finding constructive things for youths to do.

Those sworn in Friday were from chapters around the state.

Helen Jackson, widow of the late Sen. Henry M. Jackson and chairman of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation said her husband

Corps projects.

Speaker U.S. Sen. Patty Murray told the volunteers their service will change them.

"You will grow. You will find your community is much bigger than you thought it was," she said. "This will be a year that will change your lives forever."

Following the ceremony, about 300 of the new volunteers were bused to Ebey Island east of here to help in a Snohomish County Surface Water Management restoration effort.

The volunteers planted 1,200 Sitka spruce

HARTFORD

AmeriCorps Is Prepared For Start Of A New Year

By STEVEN GOODE
Courant Staff Writer

It was early and cold, but Tim Green was right where he wanted to be, standing on the steps of city hall in Hartford.

"This is the day I've been waiting for," said Green, who endured the morning chill Tuesday with about 20 other Hartford AmeriCorps members to kick off this year's community service program.

Now in its third year in the city, the group traditionally begins its program with encouraging words from Mayor Michael P. Peters and Hartford AmeriCorps Program Director Jeffrey E. Parks and calisthenics to get people warmed up. Then it is off to city classrooms, where they will be assisting for the school year.

The local program's objectives include improving educational achievement, offering English and mathematics tutoring, implementing or supporting existing community learning centers and homework clubs, recruiting parents to participate in their children's education, mentoring and sponsoring weekend community service projects. Members will work in Betances, Parkville SAND, Sanchez and Wish schools.

For Green, 20, the journey to SAND School, where he will be working, began during the summer. Green, who was unemployed after working as a cook, looked into the national program on the advice of his sister Mary, who had gone through it two years ago.

After passing a written test that included an essay and English and mathematics questions, Green went through an arduous series of interviews before finally getting the call that he was accepted into the program.

In mid-September, the group's members, who are 17 to 25 and must have at least a high school diploma, gathered for training sessions in stress management, sexual harassment, expectations, goals and



STEPHEN DUNN / THE HARTFORD COURANT

FROM THE STEPS OF CITY HALL in Hartford Tuesday, Mayor Michael P. Peters watches as this year's Hartford AmeriCorps members do calisthenics to warm up for their duties assisting in city schools. In foreground Heather DeDominicis of East Lyme, left, and Geysey Andino of Hartford.

Green's favorite, child-care development.

Parks said the members, who are expected to put in a minimum of 1,700 hours, receive a stipend of about \$160 a week, transportation allowances and a \$4,500 educational

award for college or vocational schooling if they complete the program. He said they receive little tangible reward for their efforts, but that that is not why they enrolled.

"They are interested in making a difference in a child, a school and a

community," Parks said.

Occasional stories reporting Tim Green's experiences in the Hartford AmeriCorps program will appear on this page. More information on the program is available at (860) 296-3521.

120
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BURRELLE'S

New AmeriCorps volunteers ready to take on world

By Collin Johnson
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

If the 600-plus AmeriCorps volunteers sworn in Friday had any doubts about what they could accomplish, they shouldn't have.

All they had to do was look at the event's guest speaker.

On the stage before them, Tony Melendez played guitar, belting out classics like *La Bamba* and *Twist and Shout*. He finished with a flourish and stayed after the show to sign autographs for his fans.

And he did it without arms.

More than 25,000 around the country volunteered for AmeriCorps — the domestic Peace Corps — on Friday. All told, 950 Mississippians signed up to volunteer one year to community service.

Melendez, born without arms due to his mother's use of the drug thalidomide, has been playing guitar with his toes for 20 years.

He's played at prisons and before

the Pope. On Friday, he had the Crowned Plaza shaking with the enthusiasm of 600 new AmeriCorps members.

"I get something out of singing," Melendez said. "It inspires them, but the feedback inspires me. It makes me feel good."

The volunteers will carry that inspiration into difficult and varied tasks, said Marsha Meeks Kelly, executive director for the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services.

"They will be going into neighborhoods they normally wouldn't want to go into," she said. "AmeriCorps volunteers will tutor children, organize community watches, help build housing and work with senior citizens."

AmeriCorps, now in its fifth year, has had "a huge impact on this country," Kelly said. "It will change their lives. They will always look at the world a little different after this year."



Brian Broom/The Clarion-Ledger
Cherie Label (left) of Oxford and Tequilla Shipp of Holly Springs take their oath as they and 650 others become AmeriCorps volunteers Friday.



BURRELLE'S

279 08
PAGE

'The gift of reading'

Collegians get first-graders off to a good start

By ANALISA NAZARENO
Herald Staff Writer

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Accepting the help offered to students and staff at Kinloch Park Elementary School was easy for Principal Leticia Milian.

"Our students did not do well in reading. Our reading scores were not very high," Milian said.

The principal readily agreed when district administrators offered the Flagami neighborhood school help through the America Reads tutoring program.

Teachers were struggling to give students — most of whom live at or near the poverty level — individual attention in their crowded classrooms, much less all the help they needed to master reading.

THE NEED TO



"I know that our children need this. It has been a weak area for our children," Milian said.

President Clinton introduced the America Reads Challenge two years ago, calling on college students, churchgoers and other volunteers to tutor elementary school students who needed help learning to read, especially those still behind by third grade.

Nationwide, more than 1,000 colleges have taken up the challenge. They dedicated some of their federal work-study dollars for students willing to serve as reading tutors at area schools.

Here, Miami-Dade Community College organized a coalition of local colleges and universi-

PLEASE SEE READING, 4B



CANDACE BARBO

INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION IS CRUCIAL: Tutor Cristobal works with Bianca Diaz, 7, at Kinloch Park Elementary.

first-graders build foundation for a lifetime of learning

Forty schools with more critical reading needs were already participating in a district program called Success for All.

Last year, 34 schools participated in Miami Reads School and district officials are singing its praises.

'Kids love it'

"The results are excellent," said Margarita Barrett, the district's reading specialist. "The kids love it because the tutors make them feel so special."

"What happened was that we were so successful, we have states that are buying our curriculum guide," said Alicia Moreyra, reading supervisor for district's division of language arts.

Moreyra said the tutoring program fits perfectly with the district's emphasis on reading.

Last fall, first-graders at the 34 schools took a reading exam. Students who could not identify at least 20 letters in the alphabet, understand what a word was, or read more than 80 percent of the words on a list were placed in the tutoring program.

At Kinloch Park, 83 of 150 first graders were tutored. In May, when they took the test again, 85 percent demonstrated the necessary skills.

This year, first-graders at the 38 participating schools took the exam right after school began. Teachers will begin placing students who need tutoring this week.

Since the program is new and lacks funding for formal study, the local college coalition has not analyzed whether it has improved reading districtwide, said Jeanne Schumm, chairwoman for the University of Miami Department of Teaching and Learning in the School of Education.

'Built on sound principles'

"The program is built on sound principles and it's manageable for the college students," she said.

Though the plan is a good one, Schumm said, other measures including reducing class size, may be more effective in giving stu-

dents the opportunity to get the one-on-one attention they need.

"Teachers need support. They want to give the students the individual attention they need, but they can't," Schumm said. "We have to think creatively on how to provide students and teachers with additional support."

"It would be ideal to have one-to-one with a trained professional, but things that are desirable are not feasible with the limited resources that many schools have."

The individual attention students get from tutors, Schumm said, is critical for them.

At schools like Kinloch Park, where 88 percent of students live at or near the poverty level, individual attention is crucial. Children who live in poverty are more likely to have parents who are not formally educated, and thus less likely to read to their children at home, Schumm said.

Parents' reading a factor

Another factor complicating reading at Kinloch Park Elementary is that 46 percent of the students primarily speak a language other than English.

"The kids are learning to read in English, but they don't speak English and their parents don't read English, and that's tough for the children," reading specialist Barrett said. "The individual attention helps give those students the confidence to learn and not feel shy or intimidated."

Barrett said many parents who don't speak English don't read to their children in their native language either because they worry it will conflict with them learning English.

"So what they get at school is all they get," said reading tutor Natividad Treminio, 19, an MDCC psychology student who tutors at Kinloch Park with her sister Cristobalina, 18, a criminal justice major.

Read in any language

Barrett said school officials are encouraging parents to read to

their children, no matter what language they speak.

"Demonstrating reading, showing them how to read -- reading is the same skill, whatever language it is," Barrett said.

Coordinators for the Miami Reads program said they are

developing a parental involvement component with federal VISTA volunteers.

"The tutors said that we have to do something to get the parents more involved and we know that's going to be hard," said Joshua Young, director of the MDCC

Center for Community Investment. "Whether it's having sessions, getting them into adultacy programs or making visits, we recognize it's not

"But we're going to do something to promote parental involvement."

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454
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32...8

One-fourth of Oakland adults cannot read above third-grade level

Two-thirds of Oakland public school students do not read at their grade level

Experts agree reading well by third grade is crucial

FRONT PAGE

MENTORS WANTED



RON PRESTERER -- Staff

Oakland Schools Superintendent Carole Quan (right) speaks at the kickoff Wednesday of a drive for volunteer reading tutors. Mayor Elihu Harris and Mills College President Janet Holmgren (left) look on.

By Jonathan Schorr
and L. Shazn Gholston
STAFF WRITERS

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Volunteers mount campaign against illiteracy

Illiteracy is an epidemic in Oakland. One adult in four cannot read beyond the third-grade level. Two out of three public school students cannot read at the level expected for their grade.

There is opportunity, however, to help change the dismal numbers.

The Oakland schools have set a goal: All third-

graders should read well. That goal, seen as crucial by experts on reading, also is central to the Clinton administration's America Reads initiative.

By that standard, Oakland's students

have a long way to go: In a test last spring, only 23 percent of third-graders turned in satisfactory reading scores.

Please see Reading, NEWS-9

Reading: Just 115 of 500 mentors enlisted so far

Continued from NEWS-1

In the service of that goal, both the city and federal AmeriCorps VISTA workers have been trying to find volunteer reading tutors. They can't find enough.

"The shortfall is significant," said Brenda Lynch, senior program director with the Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute, the agency, which oversees Oakland's school volunteers, hopes to recruit 500 mentors, but so far has found and trained only 115.

day's news conference at City Center Plaza. "Ours is a knowledge-based economy. People who cannot read would not be able to compete."

Experts agree that if students do not read well by the third grade, they rarely catch up — with disastrous consequences. Studies show children who cannot read well in the early grades are more likely to drop out and to get pregnant as teenagers.

"The child who's still struggling in third grade or fourth grade is in real trouble"

and not fall behind," said Darlene Hardin, the school's literacy coach. "It's essential that they get that help as soon as there's the first sign of them beginning to fall behind."

John Bassel, a retired biophysics researcher who tutors at Allendale, said the individual attention he gives seems to have a significant impact.

"You can feel like you're really doing some good," he said. "The possibility of making a difference in these children's lives is real."

TREASURE VALLEY

AmeriCorps volunteers will start at Bogus

After orientation, they'll help others around the area

By Kathleen Mortenson
The Idaho Statesman

New AmeriCorps members will spend the next three days at Bogus Basin, learning the ins and outs of service.

That's appropriate, considering they've just signed on to volunteer a year of their time to the national equivalent of the Peace Corps.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that uses adults of all ages and backgrounds to work with national, state and local non-profit organizations.

In exchange for 1,700 hours of service, AmeriCorps volunteers receive a modest stipend to pay for living expenses. At the end of this one-year contract, each also will receive an education award worth \$4,725 at any accredited college, university or trade school.

"Some of them serve because they simply want to give a year of service to their country or state," Kelly Houston, executive director of the Idaho Commission for National and Community Service, said. For others, AmeriCorps is their one shot at a college education.

Now in its fourth year, the program has 40,000 volunteers

"It's not so much about growing economically, but helping the people of Idaho really become invested in their community."

KELLY HOUSTON
executive director of the
Idaho Commission for National
and Community Service

For more ...

To learn more about AmeriCorps, check out the organization's Web site at www.americorps.org or call 1-800-942-2677.

nationwide serving in more than 600 programs.

In Idaho, those programs include:

- The Idaho TRIO AmeriCorps Program, involved with tutoring and mentoring projects.

- The Young Community Builders, who work on construction projects such as Habitat for Humanity.

- The Idaho State Parks in



Cleaning up the town: Teamed up with a buddy for the day, Cindy Mendeshall, an AmeriCorps volunteer from Kamiah, and Daniel, 14, from the Nampa Boys Home, tackle graffiti in an alley behind buildings on Jefferson Street earlier this year.

Education Program, involved in environmental education and related service projects.

About 80 people are involved in this weekend's training session, entitled "Making Idaho Grow."

"It's not so much about growing economically, but helping the people of Idaho really become invested in their community," Houston said.

Volunteers will learn what AmeriCorps is, how they fit into the national picture, and what they can do to better work together as a team. They'll also learn more about Idaho's cultural makeup, and how to develop an appreciation for diversity. While most of the volunteers are from Idaho, some are not.

"It's hard sometimes to feel

like you're part of that greater whole here in Idaho," Houston said. "We let them know what's happening on a national level."

Several activities, such as hikes and a talent show, are aimed at building team spirit.

In the past, volunteers have ranged from 18-year-olds to a 73-year-old woman. Most Idaho volunteers are in their late 20s.

Q&A/Anthony deGuzman

Going One on One With the Very Young

By MIMI G. SOMMER

It all began in New Haven in 1993 with two students at Yale University, Aaron Lieberman and Rebecca Weintraub. It's called Jumpstart, a one-on-one mentoring system for preschoolers that is now a member of the Americorps National Service Network with programs in Manhattan; Washington, D.C., and Boston, the head office.

Jumpstart New Haven is now run by 28-year-old Anthony deGuzman, its executive director. The program, meant to bolster educational efforts like Head Start, continues to recruit college student mentors for 3- to 5-year-olds.

Mr. deGuzman, a graduate of Georgetown University, class of 1992, became a member of Teach for America, part of the Presidential educational and service initiative called Americorps and in 1994 and 1995 taught elementary school in the Bronx.

At Jumpstart, he is continuing an American tradition of combining education and service to community that reaches far back. Under President Franklin Roosevelt, there was the G.I. Bill, college education, for military service. President Kennedy's Peace Corps took needed help to other countries. President Bush signed into law in 1990, and President Clinton in 1993, the National and Community Service Trust Acts that spawned Americorps.

In Jumpstart's new offices at the corner of Grove and Church Streets in New Haven, Mr. DeGuzman recently discussed Jumpstart's contemporary niche. Excerpts from that conversation follow.



George Rabe for The New York Times

Anthony deGuzman recruits college students to work with preschoolers.

classroom space, supplies, summer housing for the college students. We make the best use of the community's resources. Because of the program America Reads, President Clinton's initiative to have all children read independently by the end of third grade, the Federal Government will pick up 100 percent of the Federal work/study money used to support college students working in America Reads projects. Jumpstart is an America Reads project.

Q. What is your association with the Bush Center in Child Development and Social Policy in New Haven, and Yale University?

A. We have a strong connection to both. The Bush Center evaluates the effectiveness of the program. Yale is working hard in improving its relations with the community.

Q. Given some skepticism about the efficiency of broad public programs, can you attest to Jumpstart's managerial excellence?

A. The Corporation for National Service — they make sure that we administer the Americorps grant appropriately. We have internal accounting. We have an audit every year.

Q. Is a community service program made more effective, if run as a business?

A. Yes, when service organizations think more entrepreneurially, they create more opportunities, not only for the people within their organization, but people within the community, to get involved — important to create a sustainable funding base.

Q. What does Jumpstart do?

A. We recruit college students and train them to work with preschool children, one on one, children in Head Start and other early child care programs from low-income neighborhoods.

We work with parents and schools to prepare children to enter kindergarten. School readiness is one of the most important factors in the child's success in education. We build skills, so that the first day they enter kindergarten they're prepared to participate in activities and develop literacy and mathematical skills.

Q. Literacy and mathematical skills at that age?

A. What a lot of people don't recognize is that children are constantly learning from age zero on, and they're learning preliteracy skills, such as how to hold a book, colors, if they can write their name, read signs. Cooking, for example — there are measurements. We work with the family to understand that reading to their child is such an important component to their education.

Q. Are there criteria for choosing children for Jumpstart?

A. There are. We ask teachers to identify children who are somehow struggling in their preschool classrooms. By struggling, I mean developmentally behind. In addition to the academic realm, there's the social and mental. Academic and social needs of the child play into our selection process.

Q. Why target 3- to 5-year-olds?

A. Generally, programs work with children in the late elementary ages and up. It's incredibly important to

work with children who are younger — to prevent a lot of problems, to really mentor children.

Q. What of children who could benefit from Jumpstart but don't get to preschool for the chance of being selected?

A. That's a real challenge. There are young children, particularly in inner cities, also in rural areas, that never have a preschool experience. We would like to provide services to all young children from low-income neighborhoods.

The parent is a child's first teacher. If the parent is doing a great job, their child will be prepared to learn when entering kindergarten. Realistically, that doesn't always happen. Single-parent homes and mothers needing to work, they need help.

So I think programs like Head Start and working with 3- to 5-year-olds is important. Children need stimulating experiences.

Q. How do you get the word out to families with children at risk?

A. In Connecticut, there was legislation this year to broaden the reach of preschool programs.

Q. What distinguishes day care from preschool?

A. Day care is less academic. Preschool has an academic tinge to it, has trained professionals in the field of early childhood development.

Q. How does Jumpstart differ from Head Start?

A. It's a service program designed to enhance preschool services. Every school needs help from the com-

munity to work with certain children in families that need extra help. A lot of children get lost in Head Start classrooms, all classrooms, because there are few adults.

A lot of children unfortunately are put on a special ed track. We're strong proponents for working with every child to make sure that if they are not special ed, they don't go to special ed, which ends up saving every taxpayer money, because special ed is expensive. Working one on one can identify what a child's specific needs are and then build the curriculum around them.

Q. What makes Jumpstart unique?

A. Other than the fact that we work with young children, what truly separates Jumpstart from other service organizations is the quality and amount of training we provide. We hire professionals to participate in the training. We've designed a program where college students can have a direct impact. One parent likes to say, "Jumpstart saved my child from going into the educational junk drawer. Now, he's an honor roll student in second grade."

Q. What is the program's major challenge?

A. Language. Children we work with have a limited vocabulary. We try to strengthen the child's primary language, whatever they're most comfortable speaking. That leads to success when you learn to read.

Q. How is Jumpstart funded?

A. Our budget in New Haven is from a combination of sources — from Americorps, local private foun-

Q. Do you support the idea of compensating Jumpstart's college students for their community service?

A. College students need to earn money. I don't see any reason why they shouldn't be paid, particularly when that money is going into their education. When you complete the Jumpstart program, you receive an Americorps Education Award — used to pay student loans, tuition or for future loans, graduate school. Americorps creates service opportunities.

Q. What triggered your interest in community service?

A. If I could point at one thing, it has to be my experience with the Teach for America program in New York City, where I taught 6th grade for two years. I was interested in helping a community like the one I actually came from. I was born in inner-city Washington, D.C. Biologically, my father was African-American, my mother was Irish. I was adopted when I was 1 year old.

Q. Has the diversity in your background enhanced your career skills?

A. Very very much so. My father is Filipino, my mother is Caucasian. They have two biological children. My younger brother is half African, half European, also adopted. Diversity has never been an issue. We proved it can work.

Q. Is Jumpstart expanding nationally?

A. We're opening two new sites, one in San Francisco, and one in Los Angeles. Our goal is to have a 1,000 college students working by the year 2000, which translates into over 10,000 children per year. ■



RUSSELL

11.11

New era sees new forms of vocations

Sisters become partners in program to aid the poor

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON

No one needs to tell Sr. Ann Kendrick, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, about the vocations shortage.

"We just don't have women joining our order like we once did," she said.

But despite the decline in numbers, she still said she feels like a "missionary of a new era" overseeing a "new crew of missionaries."

She's hardly talking about empty convents, but of working side by side with young adults from across the United States — members of the Notre Dame AmeriCorps, a program run by her order in partnership with the federal AmeriCorps program.

The volunteers work in some of the sisters' long-established programs in low-income neighbourhoods across the country, tutoring children and adults, setting up after-school programs, training people to resolve conflicts or to be better parents.

In exchange for their service, the volunteers receive a weekly stipend of about \$8,000 and get a \$4,725 educational grant after a year to pay off student loans or to use for future education.

This partnership with AmeriCorps, which started in 1994, has grown from six volunteers to 129.

"It's like a dream," the program's director, Sr. Katherine Corr, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, told Catholic News Service during a recent five-day orientation program for the volunteers in Washington.

She said her order was one of the first faith-based groups to become partners with AmeriCorps, U.S. President Bill Clinton's domestic program fashioned after the Peace Corps.

The groundwork for such a partnership was already established by the sisters, who have been working for years in cities and rural areas across the country. Four years ago, Carr, working in her province's administration office, attended a meeting where she found out about the newly established AmeriCorps. Then and there she knew she had a perfect match for her order's service work. She applied for funds and received a grant to get started.

She views the partnership as not only a financial one, but as a way of working together to do what the government and the religious communities cannot do alone to best help the nation's poor.

The volunteers are primarily in their 20s, but some are older and may include single parents who want to finish their own schooling. Kendrick, who has worked with Florida's farm workers for nearly 30 years, is joined this year by 12

Notre Dame AmeriCorps volunteers. Typically, she said, half the volunteers are from the local community, eager to learn more skills and "get a leg up" on a career or their education. The rest tend to come from a more privileged background with a college degree.

"It's so thrilling to put those two together," and see the dynamics and friendships form, she said.

Silvia Donaire, a 29-year-old who is returning for her second year as a volunteer in Apopka, is a single mom of three boys who hopes to go back to school next year.

"I fell in love with my community," she said. "You don't just see

the needs of the child, but the needs of their parents as well."

One of the more rewarding parts of her work was teaching a 75-year-old man how to read.

'This is the wave of the future'

"You feel sad. You wish you could stay with them your whole life and make a difference in their lives," she said.

That's the kind of optimism Kendrick calls a gift in the arm for the sisters who've been working with the poor for years and could

easily get cynical or jaded.

She said the volunteers come to them "fresh and full of energy" while she and the other sisters are like "tired old workhorses (who) still have a lot to offer because we've been doing this for a long time and we do a good job."

She describes the new recruits as people who "get it," meaning they understand the bottom line of mission work. "It's not just a job. It's not tutoring kids. They see it in the big context."

And she's confident they'll carry that understanding with them

over the next 50 years, volunteering to help in various community causes.

Kendrick wishes every nun of her order could have seen the volunteers' orientation session — where they got tips on solving conflicts, tutoring and living in community — just to see the energy these young people bring.

"This is the wave of the future for the Sisters of Notre Dame," she said, adding that it certainly beats meetings where the sisters only discuss how to prepare for retirement.

SUNDAY STAR-LEDGER

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FINANCIAL AID

Seek and ye shall find funds

6297AT Americas

By Morgan Peterson
Special to The Star-Ledger

Paying for college has become just as big a part of the college experience as attending classes.

Nowadays, most students rely on some type of financial aid to help foot the ever-increasing bill of their higher education.

Government and private loans, grants, scholarships and work-study programs are the usual forms of aid. But, within each category, there are little-known products available to help students and their families.

"If a student is willing to do some research, they will find a lot out there," said Catherine Boscher-Murphy, director of financial aid at Bloomfield College.

Boscher-Murphy's comments echo those of many financial aid experts throughout the state. They

point to a state loan program, federally sponsored work-study programs, college- and community-based scholarships and scholarship-finding Web sites on the Internet.

"The New Jersey CLASS (College Loans to Assist State Students) Loan is an attractive way to finance an education," said Claire Alasio, director of financial aid at Monmouth University, in West Long Branch. "It is one of the better loan programs in the country."

Under the supplemental loan program, students or their families can borrow up to the cost of attendance—that includes tuition, room and board, books and fees—minus any other aid the student is receiving, Alasio said.

The loan is funded by the state and offers a flexible repayment

Continued on next page

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schedule. A borrower can make monthly payments plus interest while the student is in school, or defer the principle and pay just quarterly interest.

"You can prepay the loan while the student is in school, so they don't come out with a huge debt," she said.

The loan, she said, is ideal for families with a good credit history—a credit check is involved.

Alasio said she encourages families to take advantage of this program, to the point that last year, Monmouth University tripled the number of

CLASS loans its students took out. That number represents one-third of the CLASS loans taken out from throughout the state.

New Jersey students attending college in other states would be eligible; out-of-state residents attending New Jersey schools also are eligible. It can be used for two- and four-year undergraduate and graduate programs.

Loan applications are available at the colleges or through the New Jersey Office of Student Assistance.

Two federal programs, the America Reads program and the Americorp program, help foster community involvement while learning, said Benjamin Silliman, acting director of Financial Aid at New Jersey City University.

"These programs develop stronger self-esteem, work skills and time management," Silliman said.

Last year, nine students at New Jersey City University took part in the America Reads program,

which brings college students into kindergarten classrooms to read to the children and get them interested in books. Silliman said the school initially targeted education majors

The Americorp program brings students out into the community to refurbish housing and playgrounds.

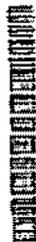
who wanted to teach.

Each student receives minimum wage and a differential for transportation. It is a form of federal work-study.

The Americorp program, very popular at New Jersey City University, brings students out into the community to refurbish housing and playgrounds, Silliman said.

Students receive a stipend and credits toward a reduction of student loans, or they receive a tuition voucher worth up to \$5,000.

Continued on next page



BY MICHAEL S. ...

12

Workers give second life to ghost town

Americorps youths stabilizing remaining structures

junior at the University of Florida in Boca Raton.

IMAS FORKS — High above my heart community of Silverton, a 20-something worker weathered wood and rusty metal to a half-dozen buildings on a plateau covered with Indian trash and cacti.

They have ignored numerous abandoned mines in the mountains above Silverton. They also rode the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

"It's beautiful up here," said Darci Hertel, a college graduate from North Dakota. "I can't believe how much history is in these mountains."

They have ignored numerous abandoned mines in the mountains above Silverton. They also rode the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

"This is great learning about how a mining town came to be and ceased to be," said Dave O'Neill, a

None of the six workers had ever

real fund to stabilize the six remaining buildings at Animas Forks.

Most of the buildings were collapsing and wood was rotting. Beverly Rich, a historical society member, said the group wanted to preserve what little history of Animas Forks is left.

Prospectors built the town in 1873 when they were looking for prime silver and gold mining sites. In the summer, the town's population reached 450. Miners deserted the town when it began to snow; winters at Animas Forks were too harsh for them. The town became inaccessible.

A fire in 1891 destroyed most of the town. By the 1920s metal prices fell worldwide and the town slowly transformed into a ghost town. In 1941, an avalanche wiped out half of what remained.

The disasters weakened the buildings and prompted the historical society to apply for emergency stabilization funds.

"Keeping a roof on and keeping water out of structures will do more for the stabilization of the buildings than anything," Rich said.

The Americorps workers have dug trenches along the outside walls of the buildings hoping to divert water from melting snow. Roofs that have caved in have been rebuilt with used tin or wood shingles. Workers also latched up building frames to keep them from collapsing.

Durango residents Rod and Donna Coot disabled an old barn on their property and donated the wood, tin and nails to the San Juan Historical Society. Rich said the old materials were in good enough shape to use in the stabilization project.

"It's so great because the wood is already weathered and in a lot of places you can't even tell it's not the original material," Rich said.

Some buildings are in better shape than others, she said. Several also have visible reminders of mining life. Shreds of linen used in wallpaper still hang from inside walls. Brick chimneys that are intact still have soot on them.

Rich said Animas Forks is an important part of San Juan County's mining history. In addition to preserving it, the historical society is teaching the Americorps work-

ers an educational lesson.

Americorps is a volunteer program that college students or graduates age 18 to 28 can apply to for tuition money or to pay off student loans. Created by President Clinton, AmeriCorps is modeled after the Peace Corps that President Kennedy started in the 1960s.

The workers at Animas Forks are part of the National Civilian Community Corps, an arm of the Department of Labor that is modeled after the AmeriCorps.

"This is great learning about how a mining town came to be and ceased to be," said Dave O'Neill, a

been to Silverton before. Stabilizing the buildings at Animas Forks is the last project for this group. They have spent 10 months completing 40 projects throughout the country.

In Michigan, they rebuilt a YMCA. They provided disaster relief in Nebraska. After the North Dakota floods, they built new houses for flood victims. They recently worked on a trail-building project in Colorado.

"This is great learning about how a mining town came to be and ceased to be," said Dave O'Neill, a

While working on projects, they are living at a campsite down the canyon. Each night the group meets a new person from Silverton who has something to teach them about the town's mining history.

They have ignored numerous abandoned mines in the mountains above Silverton. They also rode the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

"It's beautiful up here," said Darci Hertel, a college graduate from North Dakota. "I can't believe how much history is in these mountains."

Corporation for National Service: Update on Press and Marketing Efforts

Public Service Announcement:

- AmeriCorps television and radio PSA's have received more than \$23 million in free airtime over past 18 months.

OpEds:

- David Gergen "The nation's new patriots" *U.S. News & World Report*, November 2, 1998
- Stephen Ambrose "Preserve the Citizen Service Tradition", *Wall Street Journal* October 23, 1998
- Marc Racicot, governor of Montana "Community service that works" published in *The Washington Times* on August 31, 1998 and *The Hill* on September 2, 1998

Editorials:

Top 50 Newspapers:

- *Wall Street Journal* "Who should teach?" July 15, 1998
- *The New York Times* "Punishing AmeriCorps" September 19, 1998
- *Houston Chronicle* "Serving Houston: Youth Corps here demonstrated its value" May 10, 1998
- *The Dallas Morning News* "Building Blocks: Well-regarded program shows the value of AmeriCorps" May 26, 1998
- *The Philadelphia Inquirer* "Return of the dollar: Congress should keep investing in AmeriCorps" June 1998
- *The Columbus Dispatch* "AmeriCorps: National Service program seeks renewal" July 28, 1998
- *Columbus Dispatch* "Bright spots: Program gets youths thinking, helping" June 3, 1998
- *The Salt Lake Tribune* "Support National Service" April 26, 1998

Other Newspapers:

- *Concord Monitor* "No more games: Public service programs like AmeriCorps deserve support" July 22, 1998
- *South Bend Tribune* "Slashing AmeriCorps budget would have local consequences" July 23, 1998
- *Philadelphia Daily News* "Jettison AmeriCorps? No, expand it" July 29, 1998

- *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* "Savaging Service: Why is Congress stalling on extending AmeriCorps?" August 27, 1998
- *The Providence Journal* "Let AmeriCorps Serve" September 27, 1998
- *The Oregonian* "The few, the proud: AmeriCorps proves a useful alternative to military" January 14, 1998
- *Johnson City Press* (TN) "Why not national service?" April 19, 1998
- *The Tribune* (Mesa, AZ) "Continue national service effort" April 20, 1998
- *Bradenton Herald* (FL) "Your Tax \$ at work" May 2, 1998
- *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* "National Service" May 4, 1998
- *Courier-Journal* "Corps' constituency" October 3, 1998

Press Highlights:

- *Catholic Register* "New era sees new forms of vocations" October 21, 1998
- *Chicago Sun Times* "Harnessing American Ideals" July 3, 1998
- *The Chronicle of Higher Education* "AmeriCorps at 5 Years" September 25, 1998
- *Clarion Ledger* "New AmeriCorps volunteers ready to take on world" October 24, 1998
- *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* "President salutes U.S. youth volunteers" June 4, 1998
- *Consumer Reports* "The College Challenge": AmeriCorps used as an example of how to pay off college debt August, 1998
- *The Dallas Morning News* "Cool Crew: N. Texas heat prompts group to install donated air conditioners" July 28, 1998
- *The Denver Post* "Volunteers bring shine to Rainbow" October 25, 1998
- *The Denver Post* "Workers give second life to ghost town" August 15, 1998
- *The Hartford Courant* "AmeriCorps Is Prepared For Start Of A New Year" October 7, 1998
- *Idaho Statesman* "AmeriCorps volunteers will start at Bogus" October 8, 1998
- *Miami Herald* "The gift of reading" September 6, 1998
- *The New York Times* "Going One on One With the Very Young" September 27, 1998
- *The Oakland Tribune* "Volunteers mount campaign against illiteracy" October 8, 1998
- *Time* "Clinton's Pet Program Makes Many Friends" October 26, 1998
- *The Washington Times* "Religious groups play bigger AmeriCorps role" October 23, 1998.

Web:

- AmeriCorps site receives nearly 140,000 hits per month.



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Getting Things Done in Florida. AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, gives people of all ages the opportunity to serve their country here at home and receive money for college. Working through local nonprofits and schools, AmeriCorps members tutor children, coordinate after-school programs, build homes, organize neighborhood watch groups, clean rivers, recruit volunteers, and accomplish other things that improve and strengthen Florida communities. This year, AmeriCorps will provide more than 1,500 individuals with the opportunity to solve problems and build stronger communities in 72 projects across Florida.

A Track Record of Accomplishment. In just four years, more than 100,000 people have joined AmeriCorps, a milestone it took the Peace Corps more than two decades to achieve. AmeriCorps members have served more than 32 million people, recruited nearly 2 million volunteers, taught, tutored, or mentored more than 2 million children, operated after-school programs for a half million at-risk youth, provided 200,000 seniors with independent living assistance, and built or rehabilitated 25,000 homes. This year, more than 40,000 people will serve in AmeriCorps.

Expanding Educational Opportunity. AmeriCorps uses the GI Bill model – after completing a year of service, AmeriCorps members receive up to \$4,725 to help finance college or pay back student loans. To date, 1,835 Florida residents have completed their AmeriCorps service and have qualified for education awards of more than \$6,975,000.

Helping Communities Meet Local Needs. AmeriCorps sponsors include national, state, and local nonprofit and faith-based organizations. To ensure that members meet critical local needs, two-thirds of AmeriCorps grants are made by the Florida Commission on Community Service, whose members are appointed by the governor. Other members serve with national nonprofits, AmeriCorps* VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and the AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).

AmeriCorps is operated by the Corporation for National Service, which also manages the programs of the National Senior Service Corps and Learn and Serve America. This year the Corporation will provide more than \$13,000,000 for Florida communities through its support of AmeriCorps.

Florida Commission on Community Service

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James Shimberg, Jr.
LeVester Tubbs
Roberta Zipperer

"Helping our neighbors build strong families and communities is essential for a healthy Florida. Service-oriented organizations like AmeriCorps and its volunteers are helping to strengthen the fabric of our society. I applaud AmeriCorps' tremendous efforts and its dedication to serving the needs of our citizens in the Sunshine State."
Governor Lawton Chiles

What's Inside...

- ☑ Accomplishment Highlights
- ☑ Member Profiles
- ☑ Contacts
- ☑ List of Programs



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Accomplishment Highlights

"AmeriCorps... works because it provides a constructive, character-building outlet for idealistic citizens to make a real difference in other people's lives through volunteer service. That's a great way to stretch tax dollars and build an engaged, committed citizenry."

Bradenton Herald editorial, May 2, 1998

"AmeriCorps leads by example. The members demonstrate the epitome of what my family and I call "civic rent" -- giving back to the community that has served each of us so well. It is my hope that AmeriCorps will continue to inspire all of us to offer our services to those who need it most."

State Senator Toni Jennings, President of the Florida Senate

American Red Cross Rapid Response Corps

Miami

The AmeriCorps members based in Miami responded to six national disaster assignments, trained more than 10,000 children and youth in fire safety and hurricane preparedness, and responded to 100 local fire incidents. Most importantly, the addition of the AmeriCorps program enabled the chapter to reduce its local disaster response time from four hours to under two hours. A speedy response ensures that victims of local disasters will have a place to spend the night and food to eat.

Notre Dame AmeriCorps Farmworker Youth Empowerment

Apopka

Twelve Notre Dame AmeriCorps members directly assisted 1,022 farm worker and immigrant children in five area schools. Members tutored students in small groups and one-on-one settings. Results from tracking 120 students indicated an improvement in 100 percent of those responding in completion of in-class assigned tasks and homework, reading comprehension, and attitude about school. In addition, the members taught 120 students in a Boys and Girls Club summer program and 183 GED and ESL adult learners through the GROWS Family Learning Center.

Habitat for Humanity

Statewide

AmeriCorps*VISTA members assigned to Habitat for Humanity affiliates were instrumental in the construction of 30 houses throughout the state of Florida. More than 110 family members moved into these new homes. To achieve this goal, AmeriCorps*VISTA coordinated projects, garnered monetary and supply resources, coordinated services to the Habitat families, and recruited and trained volunteers.

AmeriCorps ElderServe

Lee and Brevard Counties

AmeriCorps ElderServe members assisted 400 elders at risk of institutionalization and their caregivers. Members provided assistance to caregivers to delay the institutionalization of elders through respite, education, and support services. The members started a new project called Shared Housing which matches frail elderly with students or other qualified people in need of housing. In return for free housing, the new roommates provided care for the elderly so that they can remain at home.



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Accomplishment Highlights

"Our nation's problems are best solved when Americans come together in their local communities. Programs like AmeriCorps are helping to strengthen our communities, in Florida and across the nation, by encouraging our youth to engage in community service to make for a brighter tomorrow."
Congressman Allen Boyd

"Dear Vista Volunteer, We appreciate your help all year. Reading is important to me because if I couldn't read, I couldn't spell and when I get older if I couldn't read the signs on the road, like construction signs, stop signs, life would be hard. I wouldn't be very smart either. I probably wouldn't pass Second grade. Thanks for helping us!"
Sincerely, Eliza"
Second grade student

AmeriCorps*NCCC with FEMA and the American Red Cross Tallahassee and Daytona

A total of 67 AmeriCorps*NCCC members from four regional campuses helped fight the devastating fires during the summer of 1998. The members served on the fire lines, helped with mop-up operations, provided logistical support at base camps, and assisted the American Red Cross in mass care efforts.

Florida State Rural Development Council Statewide

AmeriCorps*VISTA members secured statewide corporate donations valued at more than \$118,00 including food and clothing, which were disseminated to nonprofit organizations in 24 rural counties. Members organized the construction of six homes through the State Housing Initiative Program, targeted for low-income families. Members organized a partnership workshop between owners, contractors and designers/engineers to provide affordable main line system water and sewers to local residents. Members also obtained approval of an 18-unit development providing low-income housing for 36 families.

Literacy*AmeriCorps - Palm Beach County Delray Beach

Last year five AmeriCorps members served a cumulative total of 8,774 hours, with four of the five members serving well over the required 1,700 hours. The members served as adult and family literacy facilitators at many sites, including Faith Farms, the Boynton Beach and West Palm Beach Libraries, the County Jail, the Children's Home Society, the Glades Tri-City Family Education Program, and New Hope Charities.

University of Central Florida Orlando

An AmeriCorps*VISTA member was instrumental in securing a \$30,000 grant from the Able Trust Foundation to the Ebony Beauty Academy of Central Florida, Inc., a vocational rehabilitation and training program for low income, minority individuals. Members provided technical assistance and resource development to a group of 30 nonprofit organizations. For this group, members have developed a computerized list of 400 funding sources.



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Member Profiles

AmeriCorps is going into neighborhoods and improving the lives of many at-risk children and families. It's teaching people to be empowered — just like the Peace Corps has been doing abroad since the early 1960s. In the long run, AmeriCorps will be helping Americans from all different levels of society to achieve a better way of life."

Robert L. Crowder,
Sheriff of Martin County

"The AmeriCorps Child Victim Rapid Response partnership is believed to be the nation's first school-based program of its kind. The AmeriCorps members play an important role in early identification and intervention programs which are critical to any effort to break this vicious cycle and reduce domestic violence and juvenile crime."

Bob Butterworth,
Attorney General of Florida

Alison Marie Higgins

Student Conservation Association, National Key Deer Refuge, Big Pine Key

Alison is an AmeriCorps member with the Student Conservation Association's AmeriCorps Education Awards Program. She serves as the lead environmental educator for the four National Wildlife Refuges found in the Florida Keys. She has initiated outreach to over 1,000 school children. Summarizing her experience, Alison said, "This AmeriCorps experience has confirmed my desire to pursue a lifelong career in environmental education and volunteer coordination, as well as provided the means to obtain it through education awards provided by the Corporation for National Service."

Juanita Devine

AmeriCorps Hillsborough Reads, Tampa

Juanita has served two years at AmeriCorps Hillsborough Reads, where she teaches reading skills to at-risk children in Tampa. Juanita made a profound impact on most of the kids she helped tutor, but one child in particular stands out. A troubled fifth grader who didn't like to talk much was put in her group. Noticing the young boy enjoyed writing, Juanita, asked him to keep a journal. He soon learned to communicate his thoughts and feelings better. Others children learned to understand him as well. Soon the boy began to open up and read along with the rest of the group. "He went from failing spelling tests to making all A's. When you see these kids improve, it makes you want to do more," Juanita said.

Gordon Leopold

Habitat for Humanity, Fort Walton Beach

AmeriCorps*VISTA member Gordon Leopold developed a construction manual and increased house production by 50 percent. Although Gordon finished his AmeriCorps*VISTA service, he continues to volunteer with the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate as well as the Red Cross and other organizations.

Andrea Hafley

Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition, Inc., Delray Beach

As a parent trainer for the Book Buddies Program at the Children's Home Society, Andrea created new reading readiness materials and spent many extra hours searching for resources and referrals to assist her parent clients with their problems and needs. Andrea was responsible for developing a parent-child group as well as for establishing resource materials for future planning of the group, in order to ensure that the program continued after her term of service ends.



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Member Profiles

"This is a model partnership. The mission and vision of the Childrens Home Society and the Corporation for National Service VISTAs are very compatible, and it is exciting that these agencies join forces. This partnership demonstrates collaboration at its best."

Governor Lawton
Chiles

"We are proud to partner with the Florida Commission on Community Service. Community service is about making a difference one life at a time -- because lifting one person up lifts us all."

Steve Monahan,
Regional Vice
President, Allstate
Insurance Company

Connie Epperson

Literacy Volunteers of Leon Count, Bristol

Seeing that the Bristol library was filled each afternoon with students who had no place to go because their parents were working, AmeriCorps*VISTA member Connie Epperson organized a LATCH - KEY program which provides tutoring and mentoring services to 72 students. Members of a Future Homemakers of America class from the local high school serve as tutors and mentors for the children. Prior to registering their children, parents must agree to attend one parenting workshop each quarter. Topics include parenting, nutrition, and domestic violence.

Elizabeth Leventhal

*Shalom Zone Youth Group Ecumenical Program for Urban and Rural Service
Coconut Grove*

Elizabeth started a reading program that involved at-risk youth reading books for one hour a night, three nights weekly. The youth took turns reading aloud, reviewed vocabulary words and answered questions after each chapter. The students expressed an interest in learning about the Holocaust. Elizabeth organized a visit for the entire Shalom Zone Youth Group to the Holocaust Memorial in Miami. The youth were amazed and awestruck as they looked at the wall with engraved names of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust. The outing was a powerful learning experience for the youth and left a long lasting impression.

Jill Olen

Habitat for Humanity, Fort Pierce

AmeriCorps*VISTA member Jill Olen served with the Martin and St. Lucie county affiliates. While involved with Project Coordination, Jill played a key role in bringing St. Lucie county into affiliate status. She was able to recruit, train and develop a 20 member board of directors and establish an affiliate office. During her time there, the affiliate completed 8 houses and relocated more than 20 people into decent shelters.



AmeriCorps in FLORIDA

Contacts

AmeriCorps was designed to help meet critical local needs of communities. Its sponsors include national, state, and local nonprofit and faith-based organizations. Programs represented in Florida include:

AmeriCorps*State: Two-thirds of AmeriCorps grants are made by state commissions on service appointed by the governor. For more information on AmeriCorps*State programs in Florida, contact Fred Sanguiliano at (904) 921-5172.

AmeriCorps*National: Other assignments in Florida are made by national non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, some of which may operate in Florida. For more information on AmeriCorps*National programs in Florida, contact Marlene Zakai at (202) 606-5000.

AmeriCorps*VISTA: For more than 30 years, AmeriCorps*VISTA members have been serving disadvantaged communities. The program increases the capability of people to improve their lives. Members of AmeriCorps*VISTA work and live in the communities they serve, creating and strengthening programs that continue after they complete their service. For more information about AmeriCorps*VISTA in Florida, contact Michael Murphy at (407) 648-6117.

AmeriCorps*NCCC: A full-time residential service program, AmeriCorps*NCCC combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service. Members of AmeriCorps*NCCC work in teams on service projects that help children and youth, protect the environment, promote public safety, and respond to natural disasters. Florida is served by the AmeriCorps*NCCC campus based at Charleston, South Carolina. In the past year, AmeriCorps*NCCC teams have served on projects in Belle Glade, Daytona, Deerfield Beach, Kissimmee, New Smyrna Beach, North Tampa, Ocala, Palatka, Panama City, City of Parker, Port Orange, Tallahassee, West Palm Beach, and many other cities. For more information about AmeriCorps*NCCC efforts in Florida, contact Jeff Biel at (803) 743-8600.

AmeriCorps*Education Awards: In these programs, members serve and receive education awards, while nonprofit sponsors provide most of the support for the members' year of service. For more information about AmeriCorps*Education Awards, contact Kerry Galea at (202) 606-5000.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows: AmeriCorps Promise Fellows will serve with community organizations working to meet the goals set at the 1997 Presidents' Summit for America's Future to help at-risk youth get the resources they need to succeed. For more information on AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, contact Henry Hicks at (202) 606-5000.



AmeriCorps in Florida

Primary City	Program Name Program Sponsor (if different) ¹	Number of Members	Program Type
Apopka	Farmworker Youth Empowerment Project Office for Farmworker Ministry	15	AmeriCorps* National
Blountstown	Calhoun County Public Library	10	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Brooksville	Mid-Florida Community Services	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Brooksville	School Board of Hernando County	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Clearwater	AIDS Coalition of Pinellas	3	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Delray Beach	Literacy* AmeriCorps Palm Beach County Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition	25	AmeriCorps* National
Florida City	AmeriCorps Farm Share Farm Share	16	AmeriCorps* State
Florida City	AmeriCorps Youth Pride Centro Campesino	22	AmeriCorps* State
Fort Lauderdale	AmeriCorps 100 South Florida	20	AmeriCorps* National
Fort Lauderdale	AmeriCorps Fort Lauderdale Reads Communities in Schools in Broward County	48	AmeriCorps* State
Fort Pierce	Children's Home Society of Florida	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Ft. Lauderdale	Legal Aid Service of Broward County	2	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Ft. Lauderdale	Naeh-Broward Community Development	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Highland City	United Way of Central Florida	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Homestead	Farm Share	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Jacksonville	AmeriCorps Jacksonville Urban Schools Initiative Florida Community College at Jacksonville	21	AmeriCorps* State
Jacksonville	AmeriCorps NE FLA: Working To Make A Difference Department of Children & Families --District 4	20	AmeriCorps* State
Jacksonville	Florida Office of the Attorney General Office of the Attorney General	24	AmeriCorps* State
Jacksonville	Children's Home Society of Florida	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Jacksonville	Habitat for Humanity International	17	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Lake Mary	Seminole Community Volunteer Programs	11	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Land O'lakes	School Board of Pasco County	16	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Lane Kissimmee	Osceola County Council on Aging	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Miami	Summerbridge Miami	13	AmeriCorps* National
Miami	Miami Habitat* AmeriCorps Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami	10	AmeriCorps* National

¹ If there are two program names listed within a single entry, the second is the sponsoring organization.
If there are two identical programs with separate entries, they are different grants to the same organization.

² This is an AmeriCorps* Education Awards Program.



AmeriCorps in Florida

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Clearwater	AIDS Coalition of Pinellas	3	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Delray Beach	Literacy* AmeriCorps Palm Beach County Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition	25	AmeriCorps* National
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Fort Pierce	Children's Home Society of Florida	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Ft. Lauderdale	Legal Aid Service of Broward County	2	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Ft. Lauderdale	Naeh-Broward Community Development	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Highland City	United Way of Central Florida	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Homestead	Farm Share	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Jacksonville	Children's Home Society of Florida	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Jacksonville	Habitat for Humanity International	17	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Jacksonville	AmeriCorps Jacksonville Urban Schools Initiative Florida Community College at Jacksonville	21	AmeriCorps* State
Jacksonville	AmeriCorps NE FLA: Working To Make A Difference Department of Children & Families --District 4	20	AmeriCorps* State
Jacksonville	Florida Office of the Attorney General Office of the Attorney General	24	AmeriCorps* State
Lake Mary	Seminole Community Volunteer Programs	11	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Land O'lakes	School Board of Pasco County	16	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Lane Kissimmee	Osceola County Council on Aging	5	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Miami	Summerbridge Miami	13	AmeriCorps* National
Miami	Best Buddies International	6	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Miami	Dade County Public Schools	7	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Miami	MDCC Center for Community Involvement	7	AmeriCorps* VISTA

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AmeriCorps in Florida

Primary City	Program Name Program Sponsor (if different) ¹	Number of Members	Program Type
Miami	Nach-Camillus House	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Miami	Miami Habitat* AmeriCorps Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami	10	AmeriCorps* National
Miami	National Rapid Response Corps American National Red Cross - Miami	10	AmeriCorps* National
Miami	Ready! Set! Grow! Miami-Dade Community College	30	AmeriCorps* State
Miami	Shalom Interfaith Outreach Network ² EPRUS/AmeriCorps Outreach Network	26	AmeriCorps* National
Miami	Urban Education Service Corps- Miami Dade Florida International University	20	AmeriCorps* National
Miami Shores	AmeriCorps Barry University Academy for Better Communities -Barry University School	18	AmeriCorps* State
Milton	Santa Rosa County School Board	3	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Niceville	AmeriCorps OWCC Okaloosa-Walton Community College	30	AmeriCorps* State
North St. Petersburg	St. Petersburg Police Department	8	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Ocala	AmeriCorps Homelessness Resource Project Volunteer Service Bureau of Marion County	12	AmeriCorps* State
Orlando	University of Central Florida	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Orlando	AmeriCorps UCF University of Central Florida	20	AmeriCorps* State
Orlando	Athletes in Service to America University of Central Florida	18	AmeriCorps* National
Palm Beach	Palm Beach LISC AmeriCorps	10	AmeriCorps* National
Panama City	Early Childhood Services	4	AmeriCorps* National
Quincy	AmeriCorps Gadsden Reads The School Board of Gadsden County	33	AmeriCorps* State
Sanford	Central Florida Legal Services	3	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Sarasota	Volunteer Center of Sarasota	6	AmeriCorps* VISTA
St. Petersburg	St. Petersburg Junior College	40	AmeriCorps* State
St. Petersburg	AmeriCorps Hi-Five Eckerd Family Youth Alternatives	24	AmeriCorps* State
St. Petersburg	Career Options of Pinellas, Inc YouthBuild St. Petersburg	25	AmeriCorps* National

¹ If there are two program names listed within a single entry, the second is the sponsoring organization.
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AmeriCorps in Florida

Primary City	Program Name Program Sponsor (if different) ¹	Number of Members	Program Type
St. Petersburg	People Achieving Self Sufficiency Department of Children and Families-D 5 PASS	20	AmeriCorps* State
Statewide	Ecumenical Program for Urban Service (EPRUS)	90	AmeriCorps* National
Statewide	AmeriCorps Promise Fellowships Demonstration Program	11	AmeriCorps Promise Fellows
Statewide	Florida Reads Statewide Initiative	210	AmeriCorps* State
Tallahassee	United Way of the Big Bend	40	AmeriCorps* State
Tallahassee	American Red Cross/Capital Area Chapter	2	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Tallahassee	Elder Care Services	17	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Tallahassee	Florida Department of Children & Families	7	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Tallahassee	Florida Department of Corrections	13	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Tallahassee	Florida Department of Elder Affairs	2	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Tallahassee	Florida Department of Juvenile Justice	10	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Tallahassee	Florida Rural Development Council	22	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Tallahassee	Literacy Volunteer of Leon County	9	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Tallahassee	AmeriCorps Elderserve Florida Department of Elder Affairs - Comp	48	AmeriCorps* State
Tallahassee	AmeriCorps Elderserve Florida Department of Elder Affairs	36	AmeriCorps* State
Tallahassee	AmeriCorps Florida State Parks DEP, Division of Parks and Recreation	70	AmeriCorps* State
Tampa	Mayor's B. Program - National Recycling Coalition	1	AmeriCorps* VISTA
Tampa	AmeriCorps ArtsUSF College of Fine Arts, University of South Florida	24	AmeriCorps* State
Tampa	AmeriCorps Hillsborough Reads Hillsborough Education Foundation	168	AmeriCorps* State
Tampa	National Farmworker Environmental Education Prog. Florida Dept. of Ed. Adult Migrant Program and Services	6	AmeriCorps* National
Taveres	Partners For Success Lake County Board of Commissioners	15	AmeriCorps* State
Vero Beach	Youth Volunteer Corps Volunteer Action Center	11	AmeriCorps* National
West Palm Beach	AmeriCorps Weed & Seed Palm Beach Board of County Commissioners	20	AmeriCorps* State

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² This is an AmeriCorps* Education Awards Program.

ANTICIPATING OPPOSITION

As more people have been in AmeriCorps and more organizations have come to find AmeriCorps a valuable resource, our adversaries have looked to other potential weaknesses. This is a catalog of the issues on which AmeriCorps' detractors have focused.

Management issues

- ⇒ auditability of books
- ⇒ weak management practices- procurement, record-keeping, Y2K
- ⇒ insufficient monitoring of grants
- ⇒ staff size- the Corporation is too large for what we do

Old controversies

- ⇒ Investigation of Partnership
- ⇒ Acorn Housing grant
- ⇒ Michael Woo question- keeping political appointees on staff

Cost issues

- ⇒ cost per member
- ⇒ cost (size) of Corporation
- ⇒ spending on public relations
- ⇒ attrition

Policy Questions

- ⇒ paid volunteering
- ⇒ not a good way to pay for college- Pell Grants are better
- ⇒ utilization rate for education awards
- ⇒ interfere with military recruiting
- ⇒ specific policy controversies- "abortion clinics," condom distribution, needle-exchange programs

"USA TODAY hopes to serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation."

—Allen H. Neuharth
Founder, Sept. 15, 1982



David Mazzarella
Editor

Karen Jurgensen
Editor of the
Editorial Page

Thomas Curley
President and Publisher

Today's debate: Public service

AmeriCorps comes up short

OUR VIEW Modeled after G.I. Bill, costly program's scholarships underused.

When AmeriCorps was created in 1993, its supporters predicted it would do for community volunteerism what a volunteer force does for the military — popularize national service.

What's more, AmeriCorps' educational benefits were touted as a G.I. Bill for the public sector — grants that would turn college into a reality for a people who otherwise wouldn't have access to higher education.

Five years later, AmeriCorps is making much of the fact that the federal service corps has just sworn in member number 100,000.

Even better, some of AmeriCorps' most vocal congressional critics have shifted their attention elsewhere. After a half-hearted attempt to kill off the program, Congress increased AmeriCorps' annual budget to \$436 million.

But AmeriCorps still is falling short of its architects' vision.

The idea of citizen soldier has yet to catch fire with the public. AmeriCorps members dutifully perform public-service activities ranging from park cleanups to tutoring in 1,200 communities. Yet the T-shirted brigade is most well known nationally as the youthful backdrop for White House photo ops.

More importantly, the program has yet to serve as an effective magnet for attracting a new breed of college student. On average, only slightly more than half of the program's gradu-

ates use their \$4,725 education grants. And two-thirds of its members already were attending college or holding degrees.

AmeriCorps officials predict the number of college-bound participants will increase, since the education awards are good for seven years. Even so, when it comes to expanding educational opportunities, AmeriCorps doesn't compare to the G.I. bill model. About 80% of World War II veterans used the educational benefits, though the current use is lower.

Unfortunately, even AmeriCorps' limited mission involves substantial costs. Under an agreement with Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, AmeriCorps has promised to cut per-participant costs from a much-criticized \$18,000 in 1996 to \$15,000 in 1999.

Plenty of explanations are offered for AmeriCorps' problems. Supporters contend the pared-down program approved by Congress denied AmeriCorps the chance to be as successful as President Clinton envisioned.

Meanwhile, critics claim that the administration has needlessly politicized AmeriCorps by using its members as cheerleaders for pet education and environmental programs.

Both charges have merit. And taken together, they help explain why AmeriCorps doesn't measure up to the military-service model it was designed to emulate.

Until it can muster bipartisan support and national enthusiasm, AmeriCorps won't fulfill its original mission. And the nation will be left with an expensive way of combining public works and college scholarships.

Program's purpose is service

ANOTHER VIEW Expand AmeriCorps so more can use funds.

By Harris Wofford

Since 1994, more than 100,000 AmeriCorps members have pledged "to get things done for America."

They have taught, tutored and mentored more than 2.2 million children; recruited and trained nearly 2 million volunteers; helped make thousands of schools and neighborhoods safer; and done much more to strengthen our nation's hard-pressed communities.

Together, these AmeriCorps members have earned \$250 million in education awards (\$4,725 for a year of service). They have seven years to use their vouchers to pay for college, and almost 70% of AmeriCorps' first graduating class already have used their awards. Under the current G.I. Bill, by contrast, roughly half of those eligible use their awards.

Like the armed forces, the purpose of AmeriCorps is service, not scholarships. Like the G.I. Bill, the AmeriCorps education award is an investment in those who have served their

country. Should AmeriCorps open the doors to college even wider? Yes. The way to do this is to expand AmeriCorps.

President Clinton and many others of us envisioned AmeriCorps as a way to help hundreds of thousands of young people serve their country and pay for college.

Congress decided to start small — with 20,000 AmeriCorps positions in the first year. Thanks to increased congressional funding, this year more than 40,000 will serve with AmeriCorps. I hope Congress will continue to increase the number, so far more young people have this opportunity.

AmeriCorps is built on the principle of reciprocity and mutual obligation. It asks young people to give something back to the community in exchange for help with college.

As an Army Air Corps World War II veteran who went to college on the G.I. Bill, I'm glad to see that kind of opportunity offered — on a growing scale — to the new patriots on the home front who answer the AmeriCorps call to service.

Harris Wofford is the CEO of the Corporation for National Service.

**Through
the
Looking Glass**



A CAGW SPECIAL REPORT

AMERICORPS THE PITIFUL

October 30, 1998



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Internet Address: www.cagw.org

CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating the American public about waste, mismanagement, and inefficiency in the federal government.

CAGW was founded in 1984 by J. Peter Grace and nationally-syndicated columnist Jack Anderson to build public support for implementation of the Grace Commission recommendations and other waste-cutting proposals. Since its inception, CAGW has been at the forefront of the fight for efficiency, economy, and accountability in government.

CAGW has a national membership of more than 600,000. Since 1986, CAGW and its members have helped save taxpayers more than \$596 billion.

CAGW publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Government Waste Watch*, and produces special reports, monographs, and television documentaries examining government waste and what citizens can do to stop it.

CAGW is classified as a Section 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and is recognized as a publicly-supported organization described in Section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(A)(vi) of the code. Individuals, corporations, companies, associations, and foundations are eligible to support the work of CAGW through tax-deductible gifts.

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Leslie K. Paige, *Senior Vice President*
for Policy and Communications

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AMERICORPS THE PITIFUL

An Investigative Report from Citizens Against Government Waste

Introduction

In 1992, presidential candidate Bill Clinton pledged he would renew the spirit of community service by creating a program to promote volunteerism on the part of high school and college students. What he didn't say is when educational awards, living stipends, and administrative costs were factored in, his AmeriCorps program would cost an average of \$27,000 annually per "volunteer."

Although the president claims that AmeriCorps volunteers are "doing work that won't get done any other way," volunteer and charitable activity is, in fact, flourishing among college students across the country. In reality, instead of an army of selfless do-gooders envisioned by the president, AmeriCorps recruits have become just another layer of taxpayer-subsidized bureaucrats, working in government agencies or mimicking the work of lobbyists and political organizers for agenda-driven community organizations.

AmeriCorps' track record of imbuing students with a sense of "opportunity and responsibility" is dismal. Nearly 40 percent of AmeriCorps employees drop out of the program.¹ Meanwhile, the program's budget has doubled, from \$217 million in 1994 to \$438.5 million for fiscal year 1999.

The Genesis of AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, which was heralded as a domestic version of the Peace Corps, is the largest national and community "service" program since the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. Its parent organization, the Corporation for National Service (CNS), was created in 1993 to administer several federal service grant programs, including AmeriCorps. The program has three statutory goals: to advance youth volunteerism; to use volunteers to address pressing community problems; and to leverage private sector financial support using CNS grants as seed money. These goals are supposedly achieved by giving volunteers an "educational award" to help pay for college or pay off student loans. Thus, AmeriCorps helps those students who would normally not be able to afford college tuition.

AmeriCorps is open to young adults who are at least 17 years of age, and who have earned a high school diploma (or the equivalent) or will earn it during their

¹ Kenneth Weinstein, "Time to End the Troubled AmeriCorps Program," ("Weinstein"), *Government Integrity Project Report No. 13*, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C., May 22, 1997, p. 3.

AmeriCorps tenure. AmeriCorps recruits who fulfill their end of the bargain can earn an award of \$4,725 for their college education. They earn the full amount in exchange for full-time service and half of that amount for part-time service. A minimum of 1,700 hours of service within a year, or 10 months of work, is required to earn the full \$4,725 award. In addition to the educational award, full-time participants receive a living allowance stipend that ranges between \$7,640 and \$15,280 annually, as well as other benefits, including health insurance and child care.²

Withered Volunteerism

The most obvious and striking anomaly about AmeriCorps is that, despite all the grand rhetoric, it is not a volunteer program at all. Rather, it recruits college-age students for paid positions and then uses taxpayers dollars to subsidize the organizations and agencies that hire these recruits. Organizations that would like to be certified as AmeriCorps sites must submit proposals and compete to be selected by state commissions. In 1995, according to the General Accounting Office (GAO), there were more than 400 certified AmeriCorps sites.³ Until 1996, other taxpayer-funded federal agencies, such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the Department of Energy could qualify as AmeriCorps sites.⁴ In this scenario, federally funded agencies and departments hire unskilled, entry-level workers from another federally funded agency and call it "volunteerism."

The recruits hired by AmeriCorps cost taxpayers a bundle. An August 1995 GAO audit of 93 AmeriCorps grantees found that "programs operated by nonprofit, state, and local agencies received about \$25,800 in cash and in-kind contributions per participant. . . in contrast to \$31,000 for federal agency grantees."⁵

Current AmeriCorps Director Harris Wofford argues that AmeriCorps is necessary because people are volunteering less and that most of their volunteer work consists of baby-sitting or singing in a church choir. Thus, reasons Wofford, if the nation wants to give local groups more control over important community functions and activities, taxpayers should pay volunteers to strengthen those organizations.

There are several problems with this argument. First, Wofford argues that civic enterprises are flagging, and second, he asserts that the reason for this

² U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), *National Service Programs: AmeriCorps USA – Early Program Resource and Benefit Information* ("AmeriCorps USA Report"), (GAO/HEHS-95-222), Aug. 28, 1995, p. 4.

³ GAO, *National Service Programs: Role of State Commissions in Implementing the AmeriCorps Program* ("State Commissions Report"), (GAO/HEHS-97-49), Feb. 20, 1997, p. 7.

⁴ GAO, *U.S. National Service Programs: Status of AmeriCorps Reform Efforts* (Correspondence), (HEHS-97-188R), Sept. 3, 1997, pp. 2-3.

⁵ GAO, *AmeriCorps USA Report*, p. 9.

phenomenon is the paucity of volunteers. However, the facts contradict him on both points.

The volunteer sector in the United States is fundamentally robust. According to a biennial survey by Independent Sector, a Washington-based nonprofit group that monitors volunteerism, almost 93 million Americans put in a combined 20.3 billion hours of community service in 1995. This is up from 89.2 million volunteers who offered 19.7 billion hours of service in 1993.⁶ Campus-based student volunteer groups are expanding, and more schools are encouraging students to volunteer by broadening their regular curricula to include service jobs.⁷ Americans spend an average of more than 4 hours a week working in soup kitchens, tutoring, and building low-income housing, for example.

By comparison, 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers are a relatively insignificant portion of the overall volunteer picture. Critics say that efforts such as babysitting and bake sales should not be counted as volunteering, but who is to decide what constitutes volunteerism? The beauty of traditionally understood volunteerism is that it flourishes outside the purview of any reporting and regulatory apparatus and is not required to meet any government's definition of community service.

In addition to its inherent contradictions, AmeriCorps is not a transparent program. Program recruits do not receive money directly. Instead, funds flow through multiple layers, first to the groups selected by state commissions, and then, in many cases, further downstream to subgrantees, and lastly to the recruits. Although it can be argued that many of the AmeriCorps sites are engaged in traditional charitable work, many of the groups and organizations who take on AmeriCorps recruits are political in nature, governmental in origin, and national in scope. Indeed, thousands of taxpayer-financed AmeriCorps recruits were assigned to work for political advocacy organizations that either were heavily dependent upon federal funding or had missions to agitate for increased federal spending:

- The *Los Angeles Times* reported that, in 1994, AmeriCorps funded a project that used the program's recruits to protest legislation designed to put violent criminals in prison for life after a third violent crime.⁸

⁶ Carol Horowitz, "Paying Americans to Volunteer," *Investors Business Daily*, May 6, 1997, p. A1.

⁷ Mary Jordan, "Hot Courses on Campus: Volunteerism 101," *The Washington Post*, Mar. 2, 1992, p. A1.

⁸ Don Feeder, "Kill AmeriCorps Before It's Too Late," *The Boston Herald*, Sept. 18, 1995, p. 25.

- In 1995, AmeriCorps gave a large grant to an advocacy group called ACORN (Association for Community Organizations for Reform Now). AmeriCorps recruits were assigned to lobby for legislation, collect dues, register voters, and participate in political demonstrations. After its activities came under scrutiny by AmeriCorps' own Inspector General, the ACORN Housing Corporation was forced to return a \$1.1 million grant.⁹
- Although federal agencies can no longer receive AmeriCorps grants, local subgrantees of federal agencies can still qualify as AmeriCorps sites. In the past, AmeriCorps recruits have been tasked to the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Legal Services Corporation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. AmeriCorps placed nearly 3,000 of its first 20,000 recruits in such federal agencies.¹⁰

AmeriCorps funding was touted as an enabling mechanism to increase private volunteer activity. According to President Clinton:

While the federal government will provide seed money for national service, we are determined that the participants — the individuals who serve the groups that sponsor their service — will guide the process. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy would be self defeating.¹¹

Yet 83 percent of AmeriCorps funding continues to come from the taxpayer. A GAO report found that in 1994-95, total resources available per AmeriCorps participant averaged \$26,654, of which about \$17,000 came from AmeriCorps, \$3,200 from other federal sources, and \$4,000 from state and local governments. The remaining amount —roughly \$1,800, a meager one percent — came from the private sector.¹² Further, AmeriCorps recruits cannot claim to attract volunteers for the organizations they work for. A study of the program for the Independent Sector found that the presence of AmeriCorps recruits created only a "3.5 percent increase in hours volunteered by genuine volunteers."¹³

⁹ Jason Lewis, "For the Good of the Taxpayer, Unload Pricey AmeriCorps Volunteers," *Star-Tribune Newspaper of the Twin Cities Mpls.-St.Paul*, Aug. 7, 1995, p. 11A.

¹⁰ Weinstein, p. 4.

¹¹ President Bill Clinton, "National Service — Now," *The New York Times*, Feb. 28, 1993.

¹² GAO, *National Service Programs: AmeriCorps USA — Early Program Resource and Benefit Information*, Testimony by Linda Morra, Director, Education and Employment Issues, Before the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Washington, D.C., Oct. 17, 1995.

¹³ John Messer, "Disparities Between National Service Outcome Measure and Goals: Core Susquehanna AmeriCorps: A Case Study," 1997 *Independent Sector Spring Research Forum*, Alexandria, VA, 1997, cited in Weinstein, p. 6.

That figure should come as no surprise since nearly half of the AmeriCorps recruits either quit or are fired from their paid positions before their year long term is up. The GAO discerned a troubling pattern of recruits being fired as a result of chronic truancy and criminal activities, including felonies. Some quit midstream for other jobs, which is ironic because AmeriCorps is supposed to awaken a sense of duty and community responsibility in its volunteers.¹⁴

And the president's vision of helping recruits attend college has also not materialized. Though AmeriCorps was supposed to help young people pay for college in exchange for community service, only 54 percent of those eligible for educational awards have actually used them.¹⁵ In Des Moines, Iowa, "nearly one in five AmeriCorps workers. . . already has a college degree and more than half in the program are 26 or older."¹⁶ Contrary to the aims of the program, it seems many AmeriCorps members either are not planning to attend college or are not college graduates saddled with student loans. In form and substance, AmeriCorps has become a public jobs program.

Rotten to the AmeriCorps: Persistent Waste and Abuse

Not only is AmeriCorps ineffective, it also wastes a lot of money in the process of failing to achieve its mission. Examples from two recent studies of local AmeriCorps programs demonstrate how mismanagement and waste have run rampant:

- The Casa Verde Builders Program, a Texas-based site where recruits help build energy efficient homes, was awarded a \$2.5 million AmeriCorps grant. Only 23 of the 64 AmeriCorps recruits assigned to Casa Verde completed their tour, yet Casa Verde was able to keep its entire grant. The ultimate estimated cost to taxpayers per participant was more than \$100,000.¹⁷
- The Educational Conservation Corps (ECC), in which participants work to help improve water quality and thereby increase the salmon population, got a \$1.7 million grant. Of the 97 AmeriCorps recruits tasked to the ECC, only 20 used their education awards. The cost to taxpayers was \$86,000 per recruit in administrative costs, plus the \$4,725 per recruit in individual educational awards.¹⁸ The ECC pocketed the difference.

¹⁴ GAO, *National Service Programs: Enrollment and Education Award Data on Selected AmeriCorps Projects. Supplemental AmeriCorps Project Data (B-276474)*, Mar. 19, 1997.

¹⁵ GAO, *State Commissions Report*, p. 12.

¹⁶ Mary Hill, "Too Many Insiders Getting AmeriCorps Jobs?" *Des Moines Register*, Feb. 2, 1996, p. 1.

¹⁷ Anny Shin, "The Value of Service," *National Journal*, June 1, 1997, p. 4.

¹⁸ GAO, *State Commissions Report*, p. 22.

Despite several audits of AmeriCorps' books by the GAO and the CNS's own Inspector General, its financial records were pronounced "unauditable."¹⁹ And the CNS itself has been riddled with mismanagement and financial abuses. The accounting firm Arthur Andersen found that the CNS's "internal controls were not adequate for an independent auditor to perform an effective and efficient financial statement audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards for fiscal years 1994 and 1995."²⁰ Auditors came to the same conclusion in 1996.

Reading for Funding and Profit

Despite the litany of failures and abuses, AmeriCorps not only survives, it thrives. The Clinton White House apparently regards the program as part of its legacy and has fought long and hard to protect it from budget hawks. For a chance to live to see another fiscal year, AmeriCorps officials have not only repeatedly promised to improve the management of the program, but have also tried to morph themselves into a literacy program.

At the President's Summit for America's Future, held in Philadelphia in April 1997, President Clinton announced his goal of putting one million volunteer literacy tutors in public schools around the nation. The president, who recognized an opportunity to capitalize upon a popular political issue and give the AmeriCorps program a new *raison d'être* at the same time, asked college presidents to convert federal work-study (FWS) slots into AmeriCorps positions for his new initiative, America Reads.

This sort of bureaucratic mission creep is a hackneyed but reliable tool for bureaucrats and politicians seeking to sustain funding for government programs that have failed or outlived their usefulness. It will help blur the distinction between AmeriCorps and the widely used and highly popular FWS program on college campuses.

In the FWS program, students are allowed to perform on- and off-campus jobs at an hourly rate that is higher than minimum wage. Federal funds are funneled through the university to subsidize employers. The FWS program receives 75 percent of its funding from the federal government and universities kick in the remaining 25 percent. Under the president's new America Reads initiative, all FWS slots devoted to America Reads would be fully funded by the federal government.

Ideally, America Reads was supposed to mobilize a citizen army of reading volunteers to help ensure that all children could read at their grade level by eight

¹⁹ John Walters, "Truly, Madly, AmeriCorps. . .and Bill Clinton's Money Pit," *The Washington Times*, Mar. 22, 1996, p. A21.

²⁰ Corporation for National Service, Office of the Inspector General, Report 97-09, Dec. 9, 1996.

years of age. President Clinton asked for a \$2.5 billion increase in AmeriCorps spending over three years to fund this program. Though Congress cut this request sharply (to \$200 million over three years), the White House is still moving ahead with plans to merge FWS and AmeriCorps into America Reads. In this way, AmeriCorps money would begin to flow into an even wider pool of recipients (colleges and universities), thus broadening the program's constituency and political support, making its eradication more difficult.

In 1997, the CNS sent a memorandum to colleges with tips on how to facilitate the integration of "FWS participants into national service programs supported by the Corporation for National Service." It noted that colleges can use up to 10 percent of FWS money to support AmeriCorps and other national service programs and that, in turn, AmeriCorps money can be spent to "support campus-based community service programs that include FWS students as participants."²¹

However, flooding elementary schools with reading volunteers, most of whom have not yet graduated from college and are untutored in the intricacies of reading pedagogy, may actually be counterproductive. Recent testimony and articles by G. Reid Lyon, Ph.D., director of the National Institute of Child Health and Development, make it clear that tutors unschooled in reading techniques will not stem the tide of children's illiteracy:

The need for informed instruction for the millions of children with insufficient reading skills is an increasingly urgent problem. Unfortunately, several recent studies and surveys of teacher knowledge about reading development and difficulties indicate that many teachers are underprepared to teach reading. . . At present, motivated teachers are often left on their own to obtain specific skills in teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency, and comprehension by seeking out workshops or specialized instruction manuals. Many teachers report that they are tied to "packaged" reading programs, regardless of the quality of the programs or their usefulness for all children, because *they do not understand the reading process well enough to augment the programs or to select different instructional strategies for different children. Thus the requirements that a student may be expected to satisfy for a college degree may bear little relationship to the requirement for a teaching certificate.*²²

²¹ "America Reads: National Service and Federal Work Study Working Together." Memorandum, Corporation for National Service, Feb. 1997.

²² Statement of G. Reid Lyon, Ph.D., acting chief, Child Development and Behavior Branch, National Institute of Child Health and Human Service Development, National Institutes of Health, Before the Committee on Education and the Workforce, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, July 10, 1997 (emphasis added).

Conclusion

AmeriCorps was hailed by President Clinton as a catalyst for strengthening community service and youth volunteerism. Instead, it stands as the antithesis to this idea by inviting nonprofit organizations to hold their hands out to the federal government for help and advancing the notion that volunteers should be paid with taxpayer dollars. It has redefined volunteering as a compensated activity.

AmeriCorps has become a showcase for the waste, abuse and cynical political manipulation inherent in many federally subsidized civic enterprises. Paying a stipend to these high school and college-age volunteers demeans the efforts of thousands of other young adults who volunteer simply because they care. Indeed, AmeriCorps recruits, nearly 40 percent of whom drop out of the program, have failed to catch the volunteer "spirit," despite getting paid for their work. Nor is there the slightest evidence that the program has infected others with the volunteer "bug." AmeriCorps is the no-show job of the new millennium.

In the private voluntary organizations of America, such bloated overhead, inappropriate diversion of funds, and persistently inauditable books would be grounds for the dismissal of executives, the overhaul of the governing board, management shakeups, and possibly an IRS audit. Yet, under the not-so-watchful eye of the Clinton Administration, not only have mismanagement and abuse gone uncured, but these practices have been rewarded with budget increases, underwritten with the involuntary contributions of taxpayers.

Because AmeriCorps has failed to fulfill its mission or manage its books successfully, it continues to exist now only because of the Clinton Administration and its proponents in Congress. AmeriCorps, which was supposed to encourage volunteerism in the private sector, is now being reconstituted into a literacy program. This will do nothing to raise literacy scores, but is sure to furnish the president with a plethora of rousing sound bites and touching photo opportunities.

In the final analysis, AmeriCorps is one of the most expensive and longest running political commercials in history. Taxpayers, and especially the 90 million American volunteers who give of themselves to important causes without government help, deserve better.

**Comments by General Colin Powell at the
South Carolina Promise Summit
October 28, 1998**

“...I kept seeing all these things and I kept trying to figure out how I could do something about it, how I could serve my country in a new way. And that's when President Clinton and President Bush asked me to chair the Presidents' Summit on America's Future in Philadelphia in April of 1997, and to work with great leaders who were going to be partners in that summit such as Harris Wofford, a man who has given so many years of service to his nation. And earlier this week in a program a lot of people thought was not going to work, the Corporation for National Service, and especially AmeriCorps; the 100,000th AmeriCorps volunteer was sworn in this week and now everybody knows that program works. That program is terrific as are the other programs that are under Harris Wofford's supervision, and he was going to be my partner...”

RECENT EDITORIALS ON AMERICORPS

“CORPS’ CONSISTENCY”

“AmeriCorps is like the GI Bill: It rewards public service with educational opportunity. Some 40,000 volunteers, including more than 400 in Kentucky, are giving a year’s service to non-profit groups such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, the American Red Cross and faith-based groups. They’re tutoring, mentoring and building homes for the poor. AmeriCorps isn’t one of those top-down federal initiatives... it’s a real collaboration with the states.... That explains why it is so popular among governors of both parties.... If it can survive, AmeriCorps may well become another Head Start, which eventually won over its enemies – so much so that it’s hard to recall that it ever had enemies.”

THE COURIER-JOURNAL, Louisville, Kentucky, October 3, 1998

“LET AMERICORPS SERVE”

“Critics of AmeriCorps are once again trying to dismantle it...But AmeriCorps, which enters its fifth year this month, has delivered impressive results...Its success in awakening a new generation to community-oriented values is sufficient to justify its continuation. Many participants say the experience has had a tremendous impact on them, and affected their choice of career...The Senate has voted to continue the \$425 million program; its wisdom should prevail.”

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, Providence, Rhode Island, September 27, 1998

“PUNISHING AMERICORPS”

“AmeriCorps members perform a host of needed tasks to help strengthen communities, providing tutoring and mentoring for thousands of at-risk children, for example, and working with local non-profit groups to restore blighted neighborhoods and clean up the environment...AmeriCorps can show tangible accomplishments in all 50 states and has earned renewal without a messy and demoralizing fight.”

THE NEW YORK TIMES, New York, New York, September 21, 1998

“SAVAGING SERVICE: WHY IS CONGRESS STALLING ON EXTENDING AMERICORPS?”

“As this nation faces social and economic change, the value of maintaining a strong ethic toward voluntarism in our communities is great. Congress should develop its own ethic of providing quick and hearty support every year for AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service.”

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 27, 1998

“AMERICORPS: USE NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM TO REVITALIZE PENINSULA”

“Rather than let houses and buildings in old, established cities decay, a worthy effort is having youth and adults do renovations, then reward them with funds to finance their college or vocational education....Let AmeriCorps spread to spaces in need of revitalization and to people seeking education and training.”

DAILY PRESS, Newport News, Virginia, August 21, 1998

“SAVE AMERICORPS”

“Critics of AmeriCorps claim that it is another effort by Big Brother to control local communities. That argument is specious. States and localities choose who serves in the corps, and most projects are home-grown....It would be tragic if the program fell victim to political squabbles when there is money to pay for it and the need remains.”

THE HARTFORD COURANT, Hartford, Connecticut, August 14, 1998

“JETTISON AMERICORPS? NO, EXPAND IT”

“Many older Americans grouse about the supposed lack of work ethic and commitment to the broader society by today’s younger generation. Conservatives, especially, detect a deterioration in family values. How could anyone who takes those as givens in good conscience oppose AmeriCorps? Don’t just save this treasure: Expand it.”

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1998

“AMERICORPS: NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM SEEKS RENEWAL”

“...as Congress considers reauthorizing and funding [AmeriCorps] for the next year, the debate should stick to the questions of whether the program fills a need and [does] so cost-effectively....Against this, a program such as AmeriCorps that can marshal impressive statistics in support of lofty goals has a natural advantage.”

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH, Columbus, Ohio, July 28, 1998

“SLASHING AMERICORPS BUDGET WOULD HAVE LOCAL CONSEQUENCES”

“It is hard to understand the opposition to this program. If it is to spite President Clinton, who conceived the idea of AmeriCorps, that is petty. If it is because of the cost, \$425.5 million, that is short-sighted, considering all the good that is done. If it is to hold it hostage to facilitate the passage of some other bill, that is irresponsible politics. AmeriCorps is a good program that benefits all who are involved....It should be fully funded in the next fiscal year.”

SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE, South Bend, Indiana, July 23, 1998

“NO MORE GAMES”

“If you seek evidence that Washington has changed for the better – and who doesn’t? -- you might consider the Corporation for National Service. It is a success story that shows the effectiveness of setting a goal at the national level – encouraging volunteerism -- but implementing it locally....Though AmeriCorps began as a Democratic initiative, its structure is all Republican: decentralized and competitive.”

CONCORD MONITOR, Concord, New Hampshire, July 22, 1998

“WHO SHOULD TEACH?”

“...one of the brightest lights in New York City’s...school culture [is] the young teachers who’ve come via the AmeriCorps program Teach for America. These recent college graduates, with bachelor’s degrees from some of the top colleges in the nation, have helped to ease the city’s desperate teacher shortage.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL, July 15, 1998

“RETURN ON THE DOLLAR”

“Imagine a program that puts thousands of young Americans in service projects every year. They tutor kids, rehab homes, clean up neighborhoods and recruit other volunteers. Hardly a government deal, it sounds like something Ronald Reagan might have dreamed up. Actually, the germ of the idea was George Bush’s, and Bill Clinton embellished it: AmeriCorps....Like the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps is one of the best investments around. Congress ought to ensure its future by passing a five-year authorization bill, and by giving it the money for 1999 to expand.”

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 19, 1998

“BUILDING BLOCKS”

“There are only 47 full-time AmeriCorps workers in the Dallas ‘Building Blocks’ program, but they get around....Building Blocks workers probably could have found work that pays better. They couldn’t have found work that matters more.”

DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Dallas, Texas, May 25, 1998

“YOUR TAX \$ AT WORK”

“AmeriCorps...works because it provides a constructive, character-building outlet for idealistic citizens to make a real difference in other people’s lives through volunteer service. That’s a great way to stretch tax dollars and build an engaged, committed citizenry.”

BRADENTON HERALD, Bradenton, Florida, May 2, 1998

“SUPPORT NATIONAL SERVICE”

“[AmeriCorps] has blurred partisan battle lines and now enjoys significant conservative support. And why not? It always has featured the conservative virtue of fiscal efficiency: With a little government stimulation and direction, thousands of volunteers are effectively mobilized to perform good and necessary work.”

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 26, 1998

“CONTINUE NATIONAL SERVICE EFFORT”

“The Corporation for National Service is up for reauthorization in Congress....Despite the criticism, it’s a valuable program with a noble mission. It should be continued.”

THE TRIBUNE, Mesa, Arizona, April 20, 1998

“WHY NOT NATIONAL SERVICE?”

“Legislation has been introduced in Congress to extend national service into the 21st Century....Certainly, service to our own people, to our own communities is a top priority. We encourage our Members of Congress to approve the extension of the Corporation for the next five years.”

JOHNSON CITY PRESS, Johnson City, Tennessee, April 19, 1998

“THE FEW, THE PROUD”

“Our national security depends as well on the assurance of opportunity to compete fairly for American ideals and dreams. That must include access to education, health care, freedom from fear of random violence. AmeriCorps helps secure those ideals and bridge the gaps to those dreams for the economically and socially disadvantaged....Congress should recognize the value of those needs and affirm the President’s reauthorization bill.”

THE OREGONIAN, Portland, Oregon, January 14, 1998

NATIONAL SERVICE CALENDAR -- KEY DATES

MLK Day (January 18, 1999)

National Youth Service Day- 11th Anniversary (April 16-17, 1999)

National Volunteer Week and Big Help Week (April 18-24, 1999)

President's Service Awards (April/May)

Anniversary of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future (April 27-29, 1999)

AmeriCorps graduation ceremonies (Spring and Summer)

National and Community Service Conference (June 6-10, in Las Vegas)

City Year Convention- CYZYG (June, in DC)

Anniversary of Bill Signing (September, 1993)

Anniversary of Launch (September, 1994)

AmeriCorps Swearing-In Ceremonies (October)

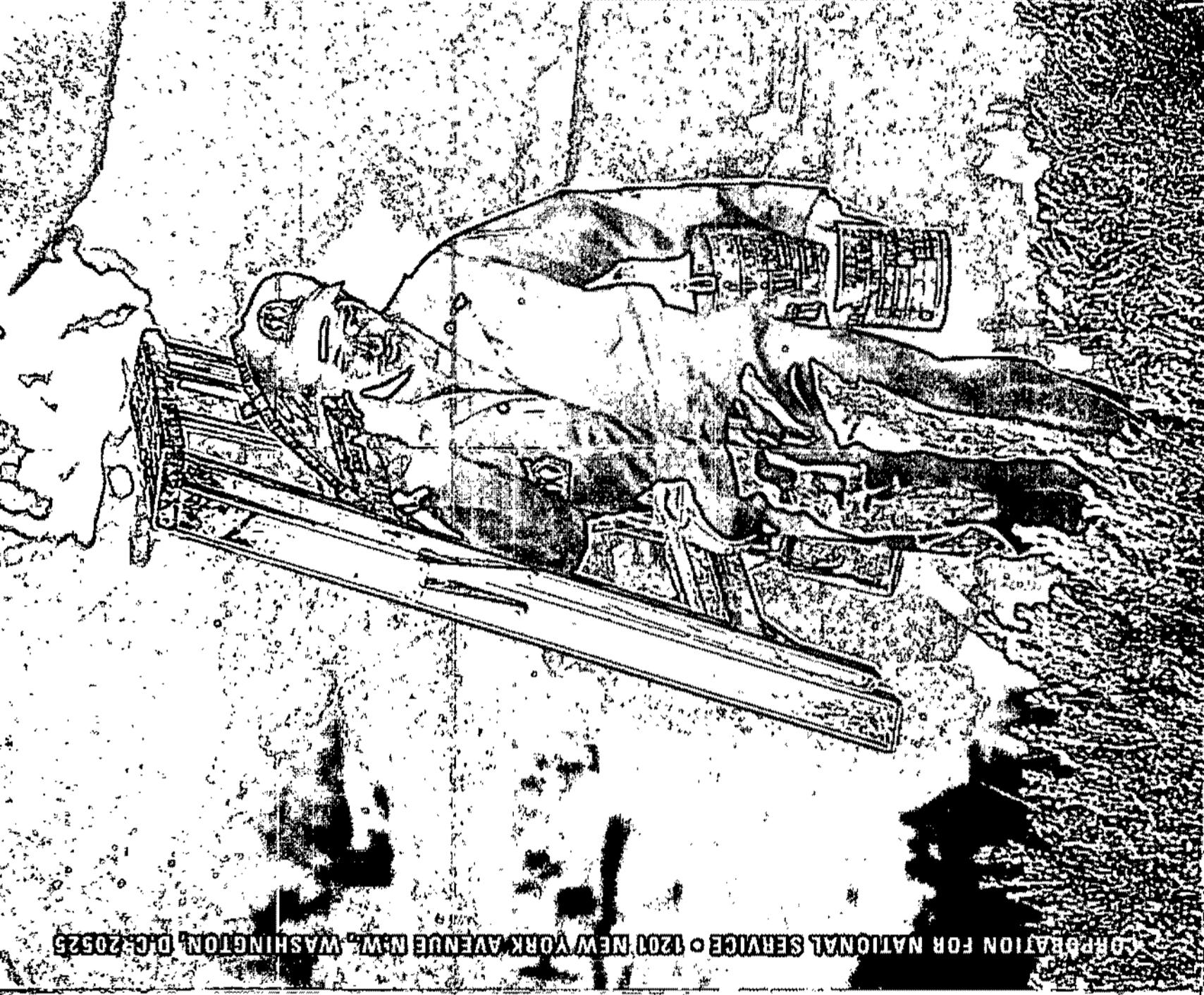
Make A Difference Day (October 23, 1999)

1-800-942-2677
TDD 1-800-833-3722
www.americorps.org

Created with bipartisan support by Congress, the President, and community groups nationwide in 1993, the Corporation for National Service is a public-private partnership that administers three national service initiatives — AmeriCorps, which includes more than 400 local and national sponsors, as well as AmeriCorps*VISTA and AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps; the National Senior Service Corps, which includes Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program; and Learn and Serve America, which provides models and resources for teachers integrating service into classrooms from kindergarten through college.

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A M E R I C O R P S



The AmeriCorps Service Network: Hundreds of Programs Nationwide

AmeriCorps sponsors include national, state, and local nonprofit organizations all across the nation. In order to meet the specific needs of their communities, programs recruit and train individuals who are willing to devote at least a year to serving as AmeriCorps members.

AmeriCorps also includes two national programs operated by the Corporation for National Service, AmeriCorps*VISTA and AmeriCorps*NCCC.

AmeriCorps*VISTA. AmeriCorps*VISTA members have served in disadvantaged communities for more than thirty years. The program is dedicated to increasing the capability of people to improve the conditions of their own lives. Members of AmeriCorps*VISTA work full-time and live in the communities they serve, creating programs that can continue after they complete their service. Members must be at least 18 years old — there is no upper age limit.

AmeriCorps*NCCC. AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a ten-month, full-time residential service program for men and women age 18 to 24. While members address education, public safety, and other issues, their first priority is improving the environment. AmeriCorps*NCCC combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership and team building. AmeriCorps*NCCC campuses are located in Perry Point, Md.; Charleston, S.C.; Denver, Colo.; and San Diego, Calif.

AmeriCorps is much more than a service program. It is a movement that unites diverse Americans in improving our neighborhoods. In communities large and small throughout America, AmeriCorps members are taking responsibility, learning valuable skills, and fulfilling their pledge to "get things done."

AmeriCorps is part of a tradition of service, and it represents America at its best — making a lasting difference while promoting the values of community, responsibility, and opportunity.



AMERICORPS

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is the national service program that provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with education awards in exchange for a year or two of community service. AmeriCorps members help meet the nation's critical needs in the areas of public safety, education, human needs, and the environment. Through more than 400 sponsors, AmeriCorps involves 25,000 people in results-driven community service.

What do AmeriCorps members do?

The work that AmeriCorps members do is as diverse as the sponsors and the individuals that make up AmeriCorps. You can apply to any one of the hundreds of organizations in AmeriCorps' service network — in rural and urban areas across the nation. In any of the programs, you will make a real difference.

As an AmeriCorps member, you might:

- tutor, teens or lead elementary school children in community service activities
- assist crime victims or walk the beat with community police officers
- recruit and train volunteers
- renovate low-income housing
- help homebound seniors or people with disabilities
- immunize children against preventable diseases
- provide immediate and long-term relief in areas affected by natural disasters
- restore national parks and coastlines
- develop community-based health care programs
- develop plans to revitalize neighborhoods and the environment
- establish credit unions in low-income communities

What do AmeriCorps members receive?

AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance and health coverage while participating in the program. After completing a year of service (at least 1,700 hours), you'll receive an education award of \$4,725. This award can be used to help pay off student loans or to finance college, graduate school, or vocational training. Beyond these benefits, you will learn new skills, take on new responsibilities, and know the satisfaction of building a community and helping our nation be everything it ought to be.



How do I apply?

If you're interested in joining AmeriCorps, call:

1-800-942-2677

TDD 1-800-833-3722

www.americorps.org

A m e r i C o r p s



FACT SHEET

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, engages more than 40,000 Americans in intensive, results-driven service each year, through more than 500 programs. Most AmeriCorps members are selected by and serve with local and national organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Boys and Girls Clubs. Others serve in AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and AmeriCorps*NCCC (the National Civilian Community Corps). After their term of service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards to help finance college or pay back student loans.

What AmeriCorps Members Do

AmeriCorps members train volunteers; tutor and mentor at-risk youth; build affordable housing; clean up rivers and streams; help seniors live independently; provide emergency and long-term assistance to victims of natural disasters; and meet other community needs.

AmeriCorps*VISTA members have served economically challenged communities for more than thirty years. The program is dedicated to increasing the capability of people to improve the conditions of their own lives. Members of AmeriCorps*VISTA serve full-time and live in the communities they serve, creating programs that can continue after they complete their service.

AmeriCorps*NCCC is a ten-month, full-time residential service program for men and women age eighteen to twenty-four. Members help meet the nation's critical

needs in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs. AmeriCorps*NCCC combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership and team building.

National Service

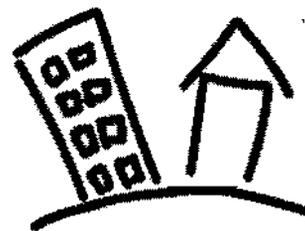
The Corporation for National Service—which oversees AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps—works with governor-appointed state commissions, nonprofits, faith-based groups, schools, and other organizations to provide opportunities for Americans of all ages to serve their communities.

For more information, call 1-800-942-2677 or visit www.americorps.org.



AMERICORPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

More than 100,000 Americans have served, or are currently serving, as AmeriCorps members—tackling critical problems like illiteracy, crime, and poverty. Following are just a few of their accomplishments over the past four years. In all, AmeriCorps members have served nearly 33 million people in more than 4,000 communities.



AmeriCorps members have improved the lives of people through health care, housing, and other service.



AmeriCorps members have helped children succeed in school and out of school.

2,640,096 Children taught, tutored, or mentored



AmeriCorps members have worked with police and community organizations to make neighborhoods safer.

40,500 Safety patrols established, operated, or expanded

25,179 Homes built or rehabilitated

2,429,700 Homeless individuals given food, clothing, or other necessities

208,500 Senior citizens given independent living assistance

564,000 At-risk youth served through afterschool programs

337,500 Persons provided with job or career counseling



AmeriCorps members have met important environmental needs.

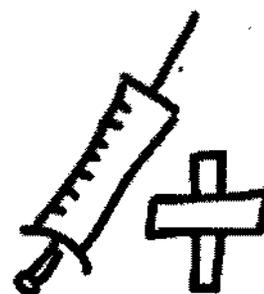
52,519,752 Trees planted

69,740 Tons of trash removed from neighborhoods



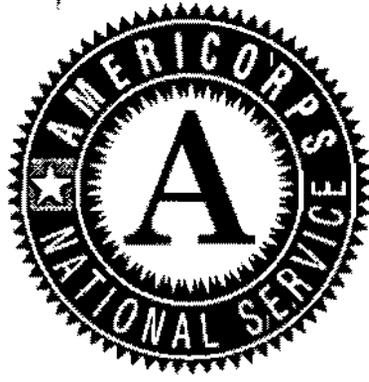
AmeriCorps members have strengthened nonprofits by increasing volunteer support.

1,691,220 Volunteers recruited, trained, or supervised



AmeriCorps members have served in clinics, VA hospitals, and other health-related facilities.

419,000 People immunized



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.

—AmeriCorps Pledge

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CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

Education.

Public safety.

Housing.

Health care.

Environment.

Disaster relief.

Citizenship.

Involvement.

Action.

National service.

