

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

2003 Annual Report Highlights

Honoring Volunteers

Continually striving to acknowledge the contributions volunteers make to the state of Iowa, the ICVS helped coordinate and host recognition ceremonies for the Governor's Youth Leadership, Iowa Community Betterment, and Governor's Volunteer awards, as well as the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame.

To celebrate the accomplishments of Iowans involved in national service programs (Learn & Serve America, AmeriCorps, and Senior Corps), two special events were held: Iowa Celebration of Youth Service Day; and, National Service Recognition Day in Iowa.

Governor's Conference on Volunteer Service

The 2003 conference provided training on a variety of volunteer-related topics as well as networking opportunities for more than 300 attendees. Future conferences will be held biennially.

Promoting Volunteer Service

To encourage more Iowans to get involved in volunteer service and help them find interesting and fulfilling opportunities to serve in their communities, ICVS staff and commissioners made presentations and hosted resource booths during several conferences and events.

The first annual "Volunteer Iowa!" television program premiered on January 12, 2003. This live broadcast is similar to a typical telethon, but viewers are asked to make a pledge of their time rather than a financial donation. Callers from all over the state pledged more than 434,000 hours of service to help organizations in their communities.

Iowa Community Betterment

Nearly 7,000 volunteers contributed more than 30,000 hours of service and raised more than \$3.3 million to complete the 52 projects nominated for awards during the final Iowa Community Betterment competition cycle.

Iowa's Promise

The ICVS continued its work with the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development to help bring additional resources for children and youth to Iowa, further improve and expand current positive youth development initiatives, and to achieve the commission's goal of having Iowa declared a State of Promise by America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth.

To help encourage more young Iowans to get involved in community service, the ICVS provided "Iowa's Promise ... Our Youth" grants totaling \$7,500 to 38 youth groups from across the state to complete local projects.

AmeriCorps

Just \$76,000 of state funds leveraged more than \$2.4 million of federal funds and more than \$1 million in local contributions.

Iowa's AmeriCorps programs engaged 17,000 citizen volunteers in 80,000 hours of service to their communities and more than 250 AmeriCorps members provided 161,415 hours of direct service to Iowans.

National Service in Iowa

Iowa enjoys a unique partnership between the three agencies that administer national service initiatives across the state: the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service; the Iowa Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service; and the Iowa Department of Education.

During 2003, these agencies continued a long-standing tradition of working together to encourage citizen involvement in volunteer service and co-hosted a variety of participant training and recognition events.

Annual Calendar of Events (tentative)

January

AmeriCorps program proposals due
ICVS Executive Committee meeting
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (national Day of Service)

February

Volunteer Iowa! volunteer-a-thon
Legislative reception
AmeriCorps proposal revisions due
ICVS Commission meeting
Ground Hog Job Shadow Day (national Day of Service)

March

2004 — Awards presentation ceremony (Governor's Youth Leadership Awards, Iowa Community Betterment Awards, Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame). *Future awards will be presented during Governor's Volunteer Awards regional ceremonies each autumn.*

ICVS Executive Committee meeting
Competitive AmeriCorps proposals due to CNCS
2005 — Governor's Conference on Volunteer Service

April

ICVS Commission meeting
National Volunteer Week
National Youth Service Day (national Day of Service)
AmeriCorps / Senior Corps Spring Training conference

May

2005 — Governor's Conference on Volunteer Service
ICVS Executive Committee meeting
Iowa Celebration of Youth Service Day
Join Hands Day (national Day of Service)

June

ICVS Commission meeting

July

no official activities planned

August

National Service Recognition Day in Iowa
ICVS new commissioners' orientation
ICVS annual planning retreat
ICVS Commission meeting
Formula AmeriCorps proposals due to CNCS

September

Governor's Volunteer Awards regional ceremonies
ICVS Executive Committee meeting
One Day's Pay (national Day of Service)
AmeriCorps / Senior Corps Program Directors' Planning Retreat

October

Governor's Volunteer Awards regional ceremonies
ICVS Commission meeting
National Kids Care Week
Make a Difference Day (national Day of Service)
AmeriCorps / Senior Corps Fall Training conference

November

ICVS Executive Committee meeting
National Family Volunteer Day (national Day of Service)

December

ICVS Commission meeting



Honoring Volunteers

Governor's Youth Leadership Awards

2003 marked the first year the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service partnered with the Office of Drug Control Policy to present Governor's Youth Leadership Awards during the Governor's Conference on Volunteer Service April 15 in Des Moines.

The Governor's Youth Leadership Award recognizes individual youth and youth organizations that exemplify positive leadership in their community and school. Youth nominated must have demonstrated leadership and involvement in school and community activities, as well as service to others.

The State of Iowa Youth Action Committee (SIYAC) reviews nominations and selects three individual youth and one youth organization for awards each year. The 2003 Governor's Youth Leadership Award recipients were:

Danny Dresher, Adair	DeEtta Bohling, Greenfield
Lynn Frank, Fontanelle	Youth Answering the Call of the Community, Union County

Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame

Each year, up to five individuals and organizations are inducted into the Volunteer Hall of Fame to recognize extraordinary donations of volunteer service to their communities.

A special Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held in Des Moines on April 15 in conjunction with the 2003 Governor's Conference on Volunteer Service. Each inductee received a plaque, a photograph of them receiving their award, and a mini-grant of \$500, given in their name to the nonprofit group or cause of their choice. Names of 2003 inductees now appear on the permanent Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame plaque in the Iowa Historical Building:

Gene L. Fuelling, Fayette County (Individual)	Laura Froyen, Marion County (Youth)
Harlan FFA Chapter, Shelby County (Nonprofit Organization)	Margie I. Conrad, Polk County (Lifetime Achievement Award)



Honoring Volunteers (Cont.)

Iowa Celebration of Youth Service Day

More than 700 students in grades 1-12 visited the Knapp Center at Drake University to celebrate their volunteer service accomplishments both during class time and outside of school.

Celebrities on hand to assist with the morning festivities included Secretary of State Chet Culver and Drake University President Dr. David Maxwell. In addition, the Odgen Stomp Troupe and Lincoln High Railettes and Railmen Drill Team provided entertainment. The afternoon was filled with fun activities designed to increase students' team-building and leadership skills.

21st Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards

Coordinated by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, a multi-agency steering committee, and the Governor's Office, this program gives state agencies a way to honor the dedicated volunteers who devote their time to benefit the work of state government.

In September, Governor Vilsack, Lt. Governor Pederson, and First Lady Christie Vilsack presented awards to more than 500 community volunteers, organizations and businesses during recognition ceremonies held in Marion, Ankeny, and Storm Lake.

The ICVS is collaborating with the Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center to expand the 2004 program beyond participation solely by state agencies. The improved program will provide Iowa's nonprofit organizations with an easy way to honor their dedicated volunteers with a prestigious Governor's Volunteer Award.

National Service Recognition Day in Iowa

This annual gathering recognizes the contributions that hundreds of national service participants make to the state of Iowa each year. The 2003 event began with an evening picnic at Living History Farms for AmeriCorps members and directors as well as two AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) teams serving in Iowa.

The following morning, an event took place at the Johnston Business Center that was attended by more than 130 representatives of AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps*VISTA, RSVP, Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents, and Iowa's Volunteer Centers. Attendees heard inspirational speeches from fellow participants, First Lady Christie Vilsack, and Steve Siemens, "The People Builder".



Governor's Conference on Volunteer Service

The Governor's Conference on Volunteer Service was held April 15-16, 2003 at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott. Plenary speakers included Lt. Governor Sally Pederson, Rudy Simms, Executive Director, Iowa Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice, and Greg Alan Williams, Iowa native, author, and Emmy Award winning actor.

Workshops topics included: Youth; Senior Volunteers; Volunteer Management; General Interest; Building Partnerships; and Nonprofit Resources. Conference attendees had the opportunity to attend an exhibit fair and roundtable discussions where attendees could informally network or participate in facilitated discussions on a variety of topics related to volunteerism.

More than 300 volunteer program directors, AmeriCorps directors and members, Iowa Community Betterment participants, local leaders and volunteers, youth group leaders and members attended. The Iowa Department of Human Rights' Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning provided \$1,000 in scholarships for youth attendees.

Special ceremonies were held during the conference to present the 2003 Governor's Youth Leadership awards, Iowa Community Betterment awards and induct the newest members of the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Promoting Volunteer Service

Outreach Activities

During 2003, ICVS staff and commissioners made presentations and hosted resource booths at several events to educate attendees about programs and services available through the ICVS and to encourage individuals to get involved in volunteering in their communities.

Conferences and events attended included:

ComServ grantee meeting
Getting to Know Iowa Dept. of Economic Development
Governor's Conference on Volunteer Service
Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Task Force meeting
Business Horizons
America's Promise State Forum

Iowa Diversity Conference
Storm Lake Community of Promise meeting
Empowerment Board meetings
Early Childhood Care & Education Congress
Iowa State University Job Fair
Risky Business conference
Legislative Reception

Volunteer Iowa! Volunteer-a-thon

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service partnered with Iowa Public Television to present the first annual "Volunteer Iowa!" volunteer-a-thon on January 12, 2003.

Broadcast live on statewide Iowa Public Television, program hosts Greg Alan Williams and Pat Boddy encouraged individuals to call in to pledge the number of hours they would volunteer in 2003. During the event 434,682 volunteer hours, valued at more than \$7.2 million¹, were pledged by volunteers from across Iowa.

Callers received information about how to find volunteer opportunities in their communities and in their areas of interest to fulfill their pledge.

According to surveys conducted in June 2003 and January 2004, many volunteer-a-thon callers actually completed more hours than they had originally pledged. Volunteers have been active in helping many worthy organizations, including:

American Heart Association
American Legion
Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Cemeteries
Centers for the Arts
Chambers of Commerce
Churches
Dollars for Scholars
Farm Bureau

Food banks
Foster Grandparents
Helping Hands
Hospitals
Humane societies
Iowa Beacon of Life
Libraries
Nursing homes

Parks
Quilts for Africa
RAGBRAI
Retirement homes
RSVP
Salvation Army
Schools
Share
The World's Window

¹ The figure used to calculate the monetary value of volunteer time is \$16.74 (for 2002) per hour and is based on research completed by Independent Sector. Details are available at www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html.

Iowa Community Betterment

Although 2003 marked the final year of the Iowa Community Betterment program, the ICVS and Iowa Department of Economic Development will continue to offer technical assistance and recognition ideas for community volunteer groups working on local improvement projects.

The youth groups that received 2003 Iowa's Promise . . . Our Youth grants were automatically included in the review process for Iowa Community Betterment awards, which brought the total number of projects considered for awards to 52.

73% of the projects were completed in communities with fewer than 10,000 population

30,527 volunteer hours were contributed, which is valued at approximately \$523,000

1,068,978 is the combined population of the communities benefiting from the projects, which ranged from community landscaping and gardening projects, to providing cell phones for senior citizens, building and installing picnic tables, and collecting and distributing back-to-school supplies for financially troubled families.

More than \$3.3 million was raised locally through various fundraising events, grants, and donations of equipment, land or buildings.

In addition to the youth grant projects, nominations for 2003 Iowa Community Betterment awards were submitted by:

Arcadia	Grafton (award winning project)
Bolan (award winning project)	Greene
Carrollton	Hubbard
Corning (award winning project)	Hubbard-Radcliffe-Garden City (award winning project)
Corydon	Marcus
Council Bluffs (award winning project)	Mason City
Creston	Murray (award winning project)
Denver (Overall Grand Prize project)	Odebolt
Des Moines / Indianola	Waterloo (2 neighborhood projects)
DeWitt	Waterloo / East High School (award winning project)
Fort Dodge	

The 2003 Iowa Community Betterment Yearbook includes a description of all the projects considered for awards and can be downloaded from www.volunteeriowa.org.

Iowa's Promise

Iowa has many great things happening to help infuse positive youth development policies within state government agencies, schools, communities, and local youth-serving organizations.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) has joined forces with the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) to help Iowa become designated as a State of Promise¹ by America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth². In addition, the ICVS offers training opportunities as well as financial and technical assistance to communities as they go through the process of becoming a Community of Promise³.

The ICVS and ICYD provide technical assistance and resources to help communities collaboratively plan and implement positive youth development initiatives locally. Programs and initiatives promoted by this partnership are specifically designed NOT to replace current youth-focused programs, but to enhance and expand local efforts, and help develop a common positive youth development language and philosophy among youth service providers.

In September, a team of seven Iowa representatives from various state agencies, business and Cedar Valley's Promise attended a forum sponsored by America's Promise in Alexandria, VA. Seventy people, representing 13 states, spent the two day forum discussing how the resources and framework of America's Promise can help strengthen states' and communities' youth development policies and services.

Iowa's Current Communities of Promise

Cedar Valley (Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County) —
*designated by America's Promise as a Community of Promise
"demonstration site" — one of only 13 in the nation.*

Dickinson County

Iowa (statewide effort) — Iowa Commission on
Volunteer Service

Iowa's Newest Start-up Communities of Promise

Lamoni

Spencer

Dubuque

Storm Lake

¹ **State of Promise** — a public/private partnership that develops and supports a network of sustainable community coalitions in order to fulfill all Five Promises for the state's children and youth. The partnership enjoys the support of the governor and engages representatives from state agencies, youth-serving organizations, professional associations and the state's business community.

² **America's Promise** — founded following the April 1997 Presidents' Summit for America's Future with the mission to mobilize people from every sector of American life to build the character and competence of our nation's youth by fulfilling Five Promises:

Ongoing relationships with caring adults — parents, mentors, tutors or coaches;

Safe places with structured activities during nonschool hours;

Healthy start and future;

Marketable skills through effective education; and

Opportunities to give back through community service.

³ **Communities of Promise** — focus on fulfilling the Five Promises for local youth. Communities of Promise are deliberate about connecting the resources of all community partners by facilitating collaboration, thereby serving young people with greater resources than they would otherwise receive if partners remained separate, disconnected entities.

Iowa's Promise . . . Our Youth Grants

In 2003, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service once again partnered with Iowa State University Extension Youth Development to allocate \$7,500 of Iowa Summit funds¹ to 38 youth groups representing numerous counties throughout the state of Iowa.

To receive an Iowa's Promise . . . Our Youth grant, local youth groups must partner with at least one other community group to plan and carry out a community service or community improvement project. Upon completion, the group must submit a report so other communities can replicate the project.

Young people working on the projects ranged in age from elementary school to high school. Groups participating included 4-H clubs, FFA groups, National Honor Society chapters, Girl Scout groups, Boy Scout groups, church youth groups, classrooms and Talented and Gifted classes.

The projects included a wide range of activities, such as:

- mentoring elementary students
- building picnic tables
- restoring and researching old cemeteries
- purchasing and packing items to help the Salvation Army with children/families in need
- sewing cancer caps for patients in treatment and fleece lap robes for nursing home residents
- purchasing books to donate to crisis homes and local school libraries
- painting buildings and fences, remodeling community kitchens
- planting vegetable gardens for senior citizen housing units
- planting and maintaining a butterfly garden
- removing litter from a bike path
- providing reading materials and activities in local libraries to promote literacy
- planning monthly activities at a nursing home

Groups submitting their final project report on time were automatically included for consideration for Iowa Community Betterment Awards.

Projects were completed by youth groups in the following Iowa counties:

Adair (5 projects)
Audubon
Buchanan
Carroll
Cass (2 projects)
Clarke

Clay² (5 projects)
Dickinson
Dubuque
Floyd
Franklin
Harrison

Jefferson
Lee
Mahaska (2 projects)
Marion
Mills
Palo Alto / Emmet

Pottawattamie
Sac² (3 projects)
Scott
Van Buren
Warren
Webster² (2 projects)

¹ Iowa Summit funds are private and corporate donations raised to support ICVS Promise efforts.

² One project selected for an Iowa Community Betterment award.

AmeriCorps

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is charged with the responsibility of administering and providing training opportunities for Iowa's federally-funded AmeriCorps*State¹ and AmeriCorps Promise Fellows² programs.

Since 1994, more than 250,000 men and women have served in AmeriCorps, providing needed assistance to millions of Americans. AmeriCorps provides trained, dedicated people to help nonprofits accomplish more and make more effective use of volunteers. President Bush has asked AmeriCorps to expand its work in public safety, public health, and disaster relief to assist in homeland security and has proposed expanding AmeriCorps as part of his USA Freedom Corps initiative.

In 2003:

Just \$76,000 of state funds leveraged more than \$2.4 million of federal funds and more than \$1 million in local contributions.

12 AmeriCorps programs engaged 17,000 citizen volunteers in service to their communities for a total of 80,000 hours of service, which is valued at more than \$1.3 million.

261 AmeriCorps members served their communities by providing 161,415 hours of direct service to Iowans.

AmeriCorps Members Impact in Iowa during 2003:

Environment

- 17 miles of trails and public parks maintained and/or cleaned
- 16 acres of public lands conserved
- 44,241 citizens were trained in environmental awareness and prevention

Education

- 5,367 students, grades K-12, were tutored
- 358 students served through organized service-learning activities
- 7,513 students received in-class environmental enrichment programming
- 2,068 at-risk students were served in after-school and summer programs

Human Needs

- 108 individuals or families received homebuyer education and assistance

Public Safety

- 582 students received Masters of Disaster or Facing Fear curriculum
- 5,824 people received anti-victimization counseling, assistance in negotiating the justice system, and violence prevention training
- 55 immigrant victims of domestic violence received direct assistance from members

Community Strengthening

- Built interagency collaborations — worked with more than 343 community agencies
- Planned community service projects — 224 projects, 129,614 citizens

¹ AmeriCorps is made up of three programs: AmeriCorps*State and National, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps). Created in 1993, AmeriCorps is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also oversees Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America. Upon completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps members are eligible for higher education scholarships.

² AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are part of a special partnership between AmeriCorps and America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth. Nearly 500 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows serve with national, state and local organizations to mobilize communities to expand, strengthen, and invigorate efforts to deliver the Five Promises to local youth.

AmeriCorps projects in Iowa

Davenport — UNITED NEIGHBORS AMERICORPS

Paul Fessler, Program Director
United Neighbors, Inc.
808 Harrison Street
Davenport, Iowa 52803
Phone: 319.322.7363 FAX: 319.323.9907
Fessler99@aol.com
www.unitedneighbors.com

AmeriCorps members in this program serve in the areas of homeland security, public safety, educational/recreational activities for young people and environmental programs. Members assist with development and strengthening of neighborhood watch and public safety activities. Several members support homeland security efforts through their service with the Citizen Corps Council. Provision of quality after-school and summer programming is the role of some members and other members assist with the summer park ambassadors program.

Des Moines — AMERICORPS SERVICE PROJECT

Jody Heuberger, Program Director
City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation
2501 SE Maury
Des Moines, IA 50317
Phone: 515.248.6380 FAX: 515.263.8746
jdheuberger@dmgov.org

Members serve through the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department, providing educational presentations and volunteer recruitment for the Partners in Parks program. Members also coordinate the summer program for area youth, offering educational, enrichment, nutrition and recreational opportunities.

Iowa City — YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Pat Meyer, Program Director
Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County
2651 Roberts Road, PO Box 2491
Iowa City, IA 52244
Phone: 319.358.0438 FAX: 319.358.0484
pat-meyer@ncjc.org
www.ncjc.org

This AmeriCorps program increases support and services to children and youth living in areas served by the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County. The service areas include several lower income housing areas. Members assist with mentoring, after-school programming, teen enrichment activities and skill-building programs. Through local partnerships, members also assist with a variety of activities that address neighborhood and community needs.

Dubuque — PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Penny Ehlinger, Program Coordinator
Dubuque County Extension
Clarke College Mail #1546
1550 Clarke Drive
Dubuque, IA 52001
Phone: 563.584.8644 FAX: 563.584.8643
penny.ehlinger@clarke.edu
www.extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/ameriCorps.htm

The program addresses academic and social skills needs of students. Members serve at ten schools, two community centers, and two local parks during the school year and summer programs. Members provide academic tutoring/mentoring and cultural/recreational activities that focus on literacy, academic support and computer technology enrichment.

Storm Lake — PROJECT UNITE

Jennifer Movall, Project Director
Storm Lake Comm"UNITY" Education
419 Lake Avenue
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588
Phone: 712.732.5711 FAX: 712.732.5712
jmovall@storm-lake.k12.ia.us
www.storm-lake.k12.ia.us/CommEd/Pages/AmeriCorps.html

This program focuses on education through its mentoring/tutoring program, including tutoring for English Language Learner (ELL) students and matching volunteer mentors from Buena Vista University with students.

Statewide (main office located in Des Moines) — REACH (Rural Education and Community Help)

Lynnette Irlmeier, Program Director
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
2603 Bell Avenue, Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Phone: 515.244.8028 FAX: 515.244.7417
icadv@aol.com
www.icadv.org

The mission of this program is to provide assistance to battered women and their children in rural Iowa and in minority communities where these services are minimal or non-existent. Members provide counseling, referral services, crisis intervention and legal advocacy. Members also conduct conflict resolution, sexual harassment, diversity, and dating violence educational programs in local communities.

Statewide (main office located in Ames) — GOVERNOR'S AMERICORPS AFTER-SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Keli Tallman, Program Director
Iowa State University
Extension 4-H Youth Building
Ames, IA 50011-3630
Phone: 515.294.0688 FAX: 515.294.4443
ktallman@iastate.edu

Members serve at ten sites in Iowa, providing after-school and summer activities for middle school students. Activities are designed to increase homework completion rates, enhance students' sense of civic responsibility and build/strengthen local community partnerships. Members provide mentoring and academic assistance to students, aid students in developing service learning opportunities and provide enrichment activities.

Statewide (main office located in Des Moines) — KEEPERS OF THE LAND

Linda Terry, Program Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
900 E. Grand
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034
Phone: 515.281.8959 FAX: 515.281.6794
linda.terry@dnr.state.ia.us

This environmental program is designed to address Iowa's most pressing environmental needs, including environmental education and outreach, ecosystem management and improvement and volunteer recruitment. Member service activities include: waterway stabilization through planting of trees and plants, intensive trail repair, prairie restoration and river clean-ups. Members also provide educational presentations and strengthen community participation through partnership development and volunteer recruitment.

Statewide (main office located in Des Moines) — AMERICAN RED CROSS AMERICORPS COMMUNITY DISASTER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Julie Struck, Program Coordinator
American Red Cross
2116 Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50312
Phone: 515.243.7681 FAX: 515.243.4380
struckj@desmoines-redcross.org
www.iowa.org/redcross

Members provide Masters of Disaster and Facing Fear curricula to students through local schools in order to help students understand and prepare for unexpected disasters as well as natural disasters. These efforts are part of the Corporation for National and Community Service's Homeland Security portfolio.

Statewide AmeriCorps Promise Fellows program (main office located in Des Moines) — STORIES 2000/LITERACY COMMUNITIES

Mary Cameron, Supervisor
State Library of Iowa
East 12th & Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515.281.7572 FAX: 515.281.6191
mary.cameron@lib.state.ia.us
www.christievilsack.org/stories_2000

The America's Promise Fellow serves to increase awareness and provide assistance to local communities around the Literacy Communities initiative of First Lady Christie Vilsack. The Promise Fellow also assists with a variety of other literacy efforts, including the presentation of a book to each kindergartner in Iowa, the annual Spring Fling literacy event at Terrace Hill and Literacy Community Recognition activities during the Iowa State Fair.

AmeriCorps Reflections

"I didn't realize in all my efforts to have a positive effect on the children, what effect they were having on me."

"AmeriCorps forced me to look at how I was as a person to make sure I was doing things that were positive and encouraging."

"AmeriCorps has made me realize I have been very blessed in my life. I have been given a lot of opportunities."

"I did not realize how the smallest things I did would make such a difference. My experiences with AmeriCorps have been nothing short of amazing."

"I am so thankful to have been able to give back to my community and touch people's lives in such meaningful ways."

"Life is an experience, and we do nothing but grow in every moment. AmeriCorps have given me the chance to see this."

"My experience was incredible. Helping others brought great joy to my life."

"After the first few weeks of the program, I realized that working with children is where my heart truly lies and went up to school to change my major to elementary education. Although this means an extra year of school, I know now I will get to spend the rest of my life doing something that I truly enjoy."

"AmeriCorps is for getting things done for America—to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I just hope that enough people see that, and realize that."

"When I first signed up for AmeriCorps I don't think I had any clue how I was about to be changed."

"Through my experience with AmeriCorps, I have learned more than I could ever write about in one little reflection. I feel like I could write a whole book about what I've learned."

National Service in Iowa

Three agencies are charged with administering Corporation for National and Community Service Programs in Iowa:

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (AmeriCorps*State and AmeriCorps Promise Fellows)

Nationally, 50,000 Americans are serving their communities 20 to 40 hours a week through AmeriCorps. Most AmeriCorps members are selected by and serve with local and national nonprofit organizations, as well as with smaller community organizations, both secular and faith-based. In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of \$4,725 that can be used to pay for college or graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. See AmeriCorps section of this report for details about programs in Iowa.

Iowa Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service (Senior Corps, AmeriCorps*VISTA)

Senior Corps is a network of programs that tap the experience, skills, and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges. Through its three programs – Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP (the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) – more than half a million Americans age 55 and over assist local nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations in carrying out their missions.

Senior Corps in Iowa, 2003

Foster Grandparent Program

- 535 Foster Grandparents served 554,996 hours
- 2997 children were paired with a Foster Grandparent

Senior Companion Program

- 290 Senior Companions served 319,904 hours
- 862 adult clients were paired with a Senior Companion

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

- 7814 RSVP volunteers served 862,659 hours in the following areas:

Community and Economic Development	Homeland Security
Disaster Recovery/Relief	Housing
Education	Human Needs
Environment	Public Safety
Health/Nutrition	

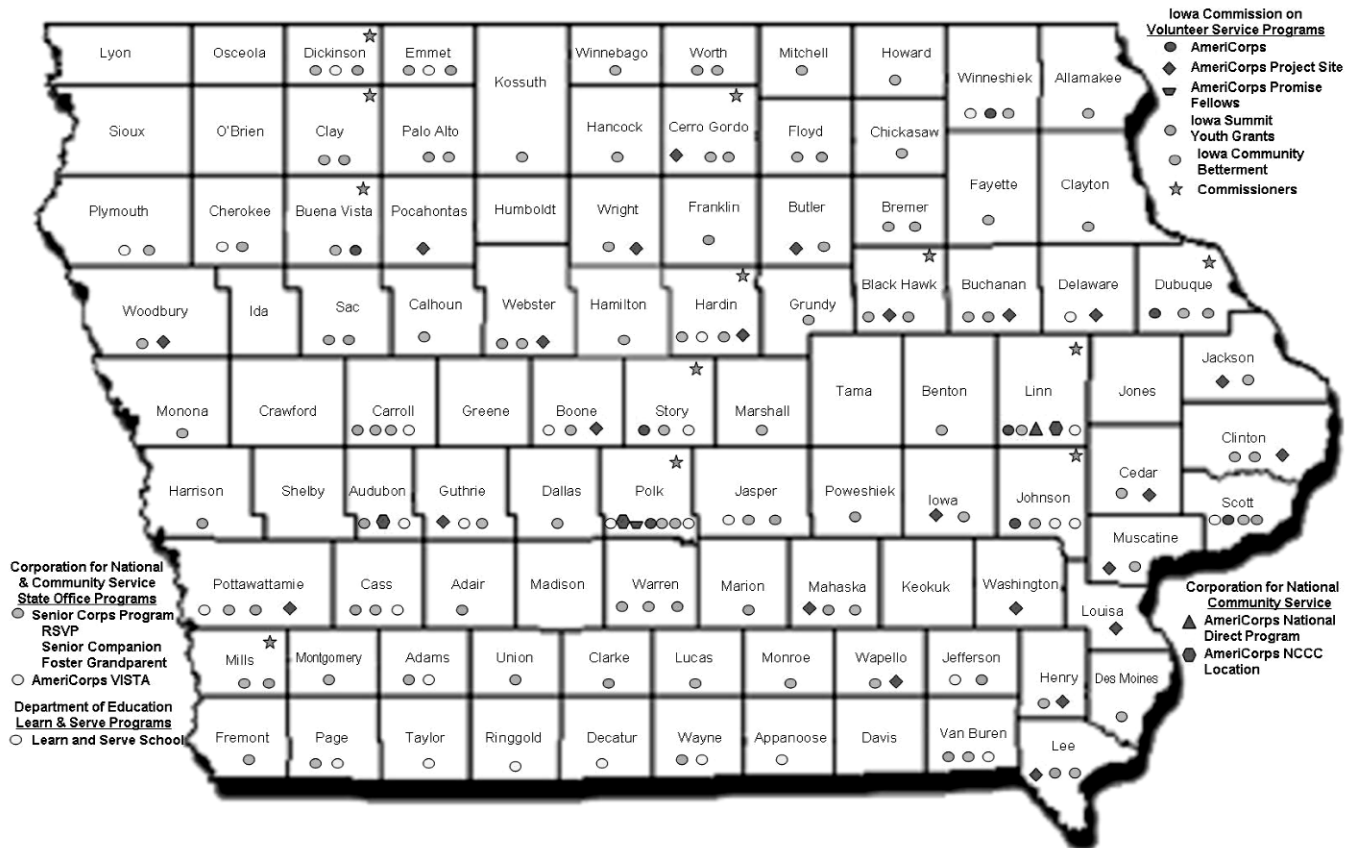
AmeriCorps*VISTA, which has approximately 6,000 members nationally, focuses on eradicating poverty and helping to meet the needs of people living in low-income communities nationwide. Members serve in nonprofit organizations and public agencies throughout Iowa — working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities or bridge the digital divide. They leave behind lasting solutions to some of our country's toughest problems. Forty-seven VISTA members served 9187 service days in Iowa during 2003.

Iowa Department of Education (Learn & Serve America)

Iowa's Learn and Serve America grant program, entitled "ComServ Iowa", is administered by the Iowa Department of Education and is designed to advance the concepts associated with service-learning by providing federal funds to local school districts who are interested in establishing, expanding, implementing or operating a service-learning program in a particular building or across the entire school district or curriculum.

Twenty-six school districts received a total of \$109,555 in service-learning grants that mobilized more than 11,000 students in grades K-12 as they learned about providing service to their school or greater community and enhanced what they were learning in the classroom.

Service in Iowa



ICVS Partners

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) gratefully acknowledges the contributions of our partners and sponsors whose generosity helps support the activities of the Commission and our mission to promote and support volunteerism, partnerships and collaboration. Please join us in thanking and supporting these fine organizations:

Alcoa Inc.
 American Legion of Iowa Foundation
 American Red Cross
 American Republic Insurance Co.
 America's Promise — The Alliance for Youth
 Anderson Erickson Dairy Co.
 Corporation for National and Community Service
 Des Moines Area Community College
 Drake University
 Frito Lay
 Governor's Office
 Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc.
 Institute for Character Development
 Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development
 Iowa Community Empowerment
 Iowa Department of Economic Development

Iowa Department of Education
 Iowa Department of Human Rights
 Iowa Mentoring Partnership
 Iowa Pork Producers
 Iowa Public Television
 Iowa State University Extension
 Keep Iowa Beautiful
 MidAmerican Energy
 Nextel
 Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.
 Principal Financial Group
 Private Donors
 Rockwell Collins
 The Des Moines Register
 Woodmen of the World

For more information about any of the activities and programs featured in this publication, please contact:

Jody Benz

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 Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

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