

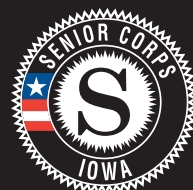


VOLUNTEER IOWA

Fiscal Year 2005 Annual Report

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

IOWA
life | changing™



IOWA'S PROMISE
THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

VOLUNTEER IOWA

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Vision: To create an Iowa where all citizens are empowered through volunteer service to meet community challenges and make lives better.

Mission: The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service promotes, supports, and recognizes volunteer service.

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THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SALLY J. PEDERSON
LT. GOVERNOR

Dear Friends,

From the barn raisings of our early settlers, the Iowa tradition of neighbor helping neighbor sustains the strong social fabric of our communities. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service keeps that tradition alive through volunteer promotion and recognition events, the State of Promise initiative, and AmeriCorps programs.

Through these three facets of volunteer promotion, the commission provides meaningful results to the communities of Iowa. Last year, I asked all state agencies to streamline their programs to achieve one or more of five major results-areas for the state of Iowa: Improve Student Achievement, Improve the Health of Iowans, Transform the Economy, Improve Community Safety particularly for Vulnerable Iowans, and Improve the Quality of our Natural Resources. The commission demonstrated significant results in all five areas. When understood in the context of Iowa's tradition of community service, this should come as no surprise. Iowa ranks 3rd in the country with 40.3% of its adult population volunteering on a regular basis.

The Lt. Governor, First Lady and I are strong believers in volunteer service and the work the commission is doing, and I am happy that you are as devoted to supporting and promoting volunteerism and community service as we are. I invite you to review the rest of this annual report to learn more about the commission programs and the significant results that the commission provides to our communities. Together, we CAN make Iowa a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor

Volunteer Promotion

Iowa has the third highest rate of volunteerism in the country with 40.3% of its adult population (age 16 and above) volunteering on a regular basis. In order to sustain this extraordinarily high level of volunteerism, Volunteer Iowa continues efforts to recognize and promote volunteer service through events, including the Volunteer Iowa! broadcast, the Governor's Youth Leadership Awards, the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame, the Iowa Celebration of Youth Service Day and the Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards.

Volunteer Iowa! Broadcast

Volunteer Iowa partners with Iowa Public Television to broadcast a volunteer drive for one-hour of live primetime television. During the February 2005 broadcast, thousands of Iowans made a commitment to spend time volunteering in their communities. Callers pledged 1,554,017 hours, which are valued at nearly \$27 million.¹

Governor's Youth Leadership Awards

The Governor's Youth Leadership Award recognizes individual youth and youth organizations that exemplify positive leadership in their communities and schools. Nominated youth have demonstrated leadership and involvement in school and community activities.

Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame

Each year, Iowa inducts five individuals and organizations into the Volunteer Hall of Fame to recognize extraordinary donations of volunteer service to their communities. A special Hall of Fame induction ceremony is held in Des Moines.

Iowa Celebration of Youth Service Day

Each year, students in grades 1-12 gather to celebrate their volunteer service accomplishments. This year, over 600 students attended the event at the Knapp Center at Drake University.

Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards

This program gives state agencies and nonprofits a way to honor the volunteers who devote their time to benefit their agency. Last year, the Governor presented awards to nearly 500 recipients at three regional ceremonies held in Storm Lake, Marion and Des Moines.

The Iowa Training Conference for National Service

Volunteer Iowa hosted a three day Iowa Training Conference for National Service in October 2004. Over 150 participants from AmeriCorps*State and National, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and Senior Corps attended grant writing, resource development, conflict resolution, disability outreach, and poverty alleviation workshops. The Iowa Training Conference provided the opportunity for participants to advance their careers while networking between service programs.

¹ The current figure used to calculate the monetary value of volunteer time is \$17.19 per hour and is based on research completed by Independent Sector. Details are available at www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

Fulfilling Iowa's Promise to Children and Youth

On December 13th, 2004, America's Promise named Iowa as a "State of Promise." The Iowa's Promise designation was a result of an effort by numerous state agencies, led by Volunteer Iowa, to uphold their responsibility to provide Five Promises to Iowa's children and youth:

- 1) Caring Adults: ongoing relationships with caring adults – parents, mentors, tutors or coaches
- 2) Safe Places to Learn and Grow
- 3) A Healthy Start and future
- 4) Marketable skills through effective education
- 5) Opportunities to Serve: opportunities to give back through community service.

To support Iowa's Promise, Volunteer Iowa administers Iowa's Promise Youth grants, supports local Communities of Promise initiatives and has developed a State of Promise AmeriCorps planning grant. Volunteer Iowa allocates \$8,000 to various youth groups throughout the state. Youth Grants are in the amount of \$250 used to pay for their service projects. To receive an Iowa's Promise Youth grant, local youth groups must partner with at least one other community group to plan and execute a community improvement or service project.

Volunteer Iowa offers financial and technical assistance to communities as they plan and implement positive youth development initiatives in the process of becoming a Community of Promise. Programs and initiatives promoted by this partnership are specifically designed NOT to replace current programs, but to enhance and expand local efforts. They also develop a common positive youth development language and philosophy among youth service providers.

ISU Extension/4-H Youth Development is planning an AmeriCorps program that places members in communities to build and assist local youth development collaborations and to build a collaborative relationship with early childhood and local Empowerment Boards efforts.



AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a national service program that unites diverse Americans in improving our neighborhoods while strengthening citizenship, fostering the ethic of service, and helping communities. In addition to a living allowance while serving, AmeriCorps members are eligible for higher education scholarships upon completion of a term of service.

Iowa AmeriCorps Program Portfolio

AMERICAN RED CROSS AMERICORPS COMMUNITY DISASTER EDUCATION (Statewide)

- Conducted 476 school Masters of Disaster and Facing Fear presentations preparing 1,578 students for natural disasters
- Presented to 42 community groups reaching 850 people
- Responded to 41 local emergencies helping 364 people

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (Statewide)

- Involved 1,367 community volunteers in 18 Iowa Habitat affiliates in building more 0% interest homes for families in need and educating more people about the housing issues of our state and nation

EASTERN IOWA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE (11 Eastern Iowa Counties)

- Re-established and/or managed 1,032 acres of local habitat
- Restored 27 miles of recreational trails
- Educated 7,500 Iowans about our natural resources and the importance of environmental stewardship

PROJECT UNITE (Storm Lake)

- Tutored more than 100 ELL students: 80% of the students increased their reading and math scores
- Recruited 667 non-AmeriCorps volunteers who worked at 50 sites for a total of 5,117 hours

YOUTH CONNECTIONS (Iowa City)

- Provided 30 hours of mentoring to 49 youth served by Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, including many lower income youth
- Assisted the Institute for Social and Economic Development with a job readiness/placement program for teens

UNITED NEIGHBORS AMERICORPS (Davenport)

- Assisted with six after-school and summer programs benefiting more than 250 youth
- Supported homeland security efforts with the Citizen Corps Council by creating 15 neighborhood safety patrol groups
- Monitored 25-30 local parks to assist law enforcement, and enrolled groups to adopt the parks for maintenance.

UPPER EXPLORERLAND (Northeast Iowa)

- Trained community members to identify and better address environmental issues and to increase participation in environmental education
- Assessed and maintained trails for recreational use

REACH-Rural Education and Community Help (Statewide)

- Made over 8,000 domestic abuse victim contacts and offered them referral services, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, and education programs
- Trained 35 new volunteers in providing culturally sensitive services including obtaining advocacy certification

KEEPERS OF THE LAND (Statewide)

- Provided 448 environmental presentations educating 10,171 people
- Restored, improved, and maintained 74 miles of trail for recreational use in State Parks
- Recruited 115 community volunteers that provided 1,900 hours of service to clean-up Iowa's rivers

GOVERNOR'S AMERICORPS AFTER-SCHOOL INITIATIVE (10 Sites Statewide)

- Tutored 445 students resulting in homework completion rates increasing by 28%
- Assisted 284 middle school students in participating in 5,174 hours of service
- Assisted 99 high school and adult mentors in providing 2,708 mentoring hours to 153 middle school youth

PARTNERS IN LEARNING (Dubuque)

- Tutored/mentored more than 4,200 students at 10 schools, two community centers, and two local parks resulting in 70% of students showing an increase in math and reading scores
- Supervised cultural/recreational activities resulting in 70% of students showing an increase in positive social behavior

AMERICORPS SERVICE PROJECT (Des Moines)

- Organized summer camp program for 185 youth providing enrichment, recreation, and literacy activities through the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department
- Created 60 community gardens
- Recruited more than 1,000 community volunteers to assist with summer camp programs and provide educational presentations for the Partners in the Parks program



Iowa AmeriCorps

- Over the past five years, 1,200 AmeriCorps members have served 805,552 hours, valued at \$10.8 million (Source: Independent Sector – Dollar Value of Volunteer Time)
- Since 1999, AmeriCorps members have engaged an additional 58,313 community volunteers in providing 282,146 hours of service
- Every state dollar invested in AmeriCorps programs leverages more than \$22.70 in federal funds
- More than 400 AmeriCorps members are expected to serve in Iowa this year

2004 Accomplishments

Education

- 5,431 K-12 students were tutored or mentored
- 2,068 participated in after-school and summer activities
- 70% of participating students' grades improved
- 75% of mentored students reported increased self-esteem
- 60% reported improved performance and attitudes about school



Public Safety & Homeland Security

- 590 students received training in disaster response and preparedness (Masters of Disaster & Facing Fear)
- 6,177 people received anti-victimization and violence prevention training and counseling services
- 3,000 elderly individuals received donated cell phones
- Responded to 20 local emergencies, benefiting 208 people

Environment

- 44,241 citizens trained in environmental awareness & protection
- 7,513 students received environmental enrichment programming
- Planted 25.5 acres of native trees in public parks
- 140 miles of trails maintained and restored
- 93 acres of public land conserved or restored

Other Human Needs

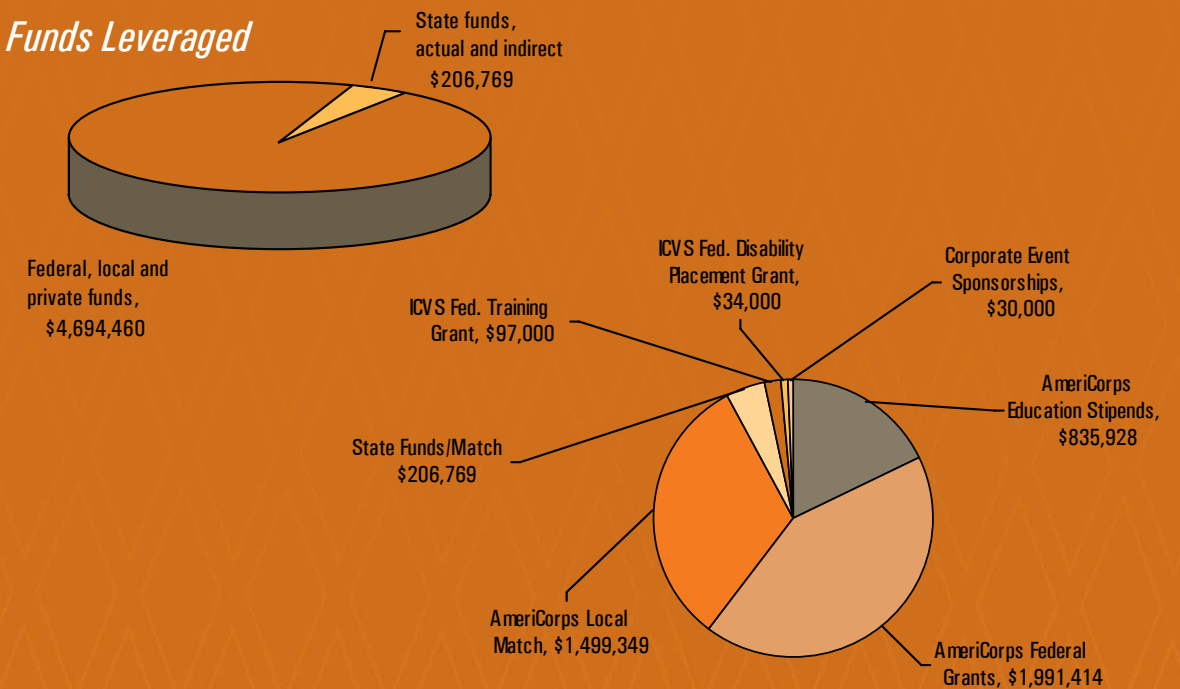
- Organized 224 service projects with 129,614 volunteers
- Partnered with more than 343 local agencies
- Increased neighborhood watch coverage by 38% in Davenport



High Return on Investment

The state funds leverage over \$4,694,460 in Federal, Local, and private funds for ICVS Programs, a 2271% return on the investment. In addition, ICVS Programs recruited over 560,000 volunteer hours and provided over 162,000 hours in direct service.

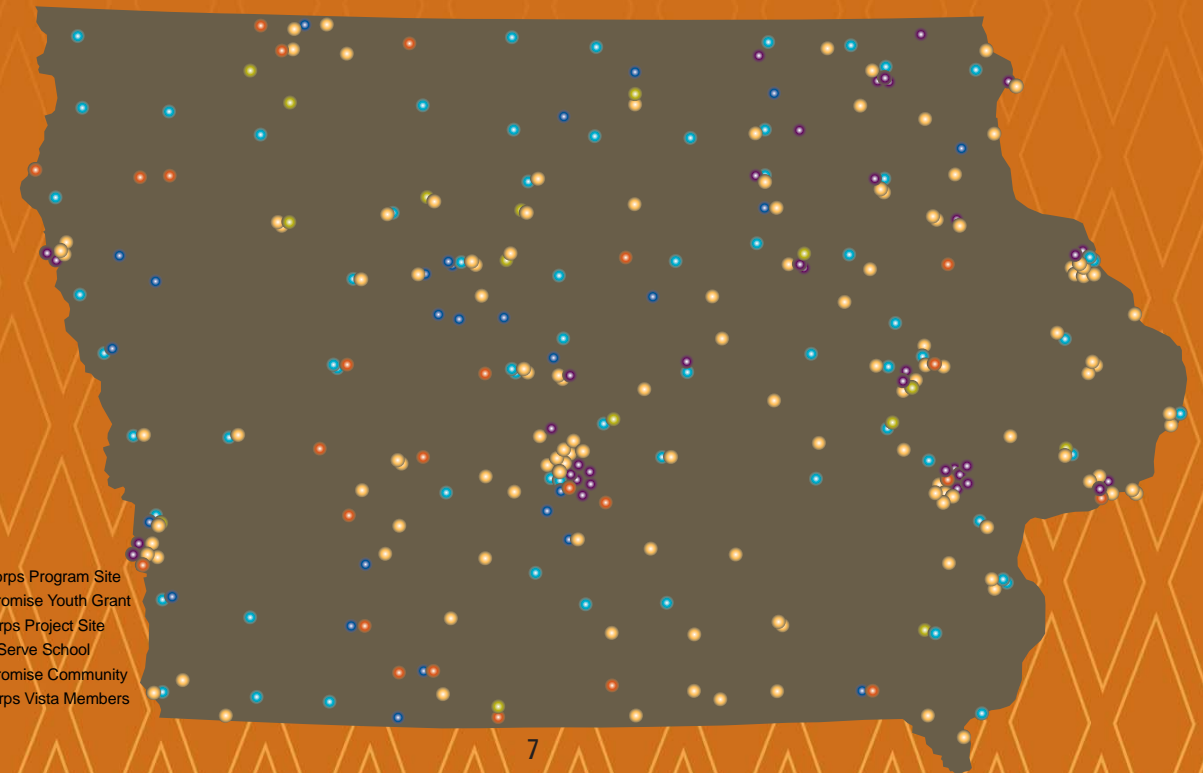
Funds Leveraged



National Service in Iowa

Legend

- SeniorCorps Program Site
- Iowa's Promise Youth Grant
- AmeriCorps Project Site
- Learn & Serve School
- Iowa's Promise Community
- AmeriCorps Vista Members



The Commission/Sponsors

2004-2005 ICVS Commissioners

Rev. Ken Gibson, Commission Chair, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque
 Joan McCulloch, Commission Vice Chair, RSVP, Spirit Lake
 Christie Vilsack, Commission Honorary Chair, Iowa's First Lady
 Todd Behrends, Iowa College Student Aid Commission, Des Moines
 Mary Bracken, Iowa Public Television, Johnston
 Jane Butler, Glenwood Resource Center, Glenwood
 Penny Ehlinger, Dubuque County Extension, Dubuque
 Elaine Hanson, RSVP / Waldorf College, Forest City
 Joe Herrity, Learn & Serve, Iowa Department of Education
 Jack Hotchkiss, Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers, Marion
 Vicki Hover-Williamson, Iowa Office, Corporation for National and Community Service
 Jodi Kluge, Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley, Waterloo
 Robert MacKenzie, Youth Homes of Mid-America, Johnston
 Justin Mason, Youth Commissioner, Ames
 Linda Miller, Iowa Department of Education / Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development, Des Moines
 Fred Moore, Buena Vista University, Storm Lake
 Chuck Morris, 4-H Youth Development / ISU Extension, Ames
 Linda Nelson, Iowa State Education Association, Des Moines
 Drew Sanders, Keokuk County, Sigourney
 Cindy Stull, Ankeny Schools, Randall
 Ron Thielenhaus, Kemin Foods, LLC, Des Moines
 Megan Wettach, Youth Commissioner, Mt. Pleasant
 Jim Wilson, MidAmerican Energy, Des Moines
 Floyd Winter, Cedar Valley's Promise, Waterloo

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Sponsors



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