



# 2018-2019 Annual Report Serve Wisconsin



# AmeriCorps in Wisconsin

775 AmeriCorps members served over 771,000 hours of service in Wisconsin communities during the 2018-2019 program year

## Thanks to AmeriCorps members in Wisconsin



**3,239** students improved their academic performance and/or academic engagement

**670** students completed college preparation and academic support programs

**5,212** students received nutrition education



**3,384** youth who have runaway or are experiencing homelessness have returned to their homes or a safe alternative placement

**1,528** individuals with disabilities participated in therapeutic recreational activities



**307** individuals enrolled in health insurance and scheduled a doctor's appointment

**414** individuals participated in health education programs focused on leading healthier lives

**487** individuals with substance use disorders created a recovery service plan



**128** acres of parks or public land and **26** miles of trails or rivers were improved or treated

**5** homes were constructed for purchase by low-income families or individuals with disabilities

**58** organizations received capacity building services to increase their impact on the people of Wisconsin



**9,179** volunteers provided **99,555** hours of volunteer service in support of AmeriCorps programs and the individuals they serve

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AmeriCorps  
members  
served in  
41 counties  
across  
Wisconsin





# Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

May 29, 2020

Dear Friends in Service and Volunteering,

One of the great things about Wisconsin is how we care for each other and how that plays out every single day. When times get tough, we rally together, roll up our sleeves and get to work to help our neighbors and communities. AmeriCorps members are a wonderful example of how everyday ordinary people pitch in to help out of the generosity of their hearts.

As Governor, I have witnessed the significant impact that AmeriCorps members have throughout our state. I have had the opportunity to serve alongside them at schools, visit disaster recovery sites where AmeriCorps members helped communities recover from storm damage, meet with AmeriCorps members helping those in recovery from substance abuse, and to hear numerous accounts of the difference they are making for the people of Wisconsin.

As the pages of this annual report for Serve Wisconsin will demonstrate, AmeriCorps members in Wisconsin have committed to helping their communities in numerous ways in all corners of our state. They provide an invaluable service to our state and their local communities, contributing hundreds of thousands of hours of service to help the citizens of Wisconsin.

I am proud to support the AmeriCorps members who serve across the state of Wisconsin and the goals of Serve Wisconsin to expand the scope and reach of AmeriCorps programs and volunteer efforts throughout our state in the coming years. I look forward to increasing national service in our state and helping to foster the spirit of volunteerism demonstrated by the people of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

Governor Tony Evers  
State of Wisconsin

# Impact of AmeriCorps on Wisconsin 2018-2019 Program Year

## *Numbers of Students Reached by AmeriCorps in Wisconsin*

**17,746** total pre-kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and college students in Wisconsin were served through multiple types of educational programming

**92** pre-kindergarten students participated in early learning programs

**1,127** elementary students participated in literacy programs

**374** high school students participated in mathematics tutoring programs

**398** students completed general tutoring and mentoring programs

**2,245** students participated in after-school and summer education programs

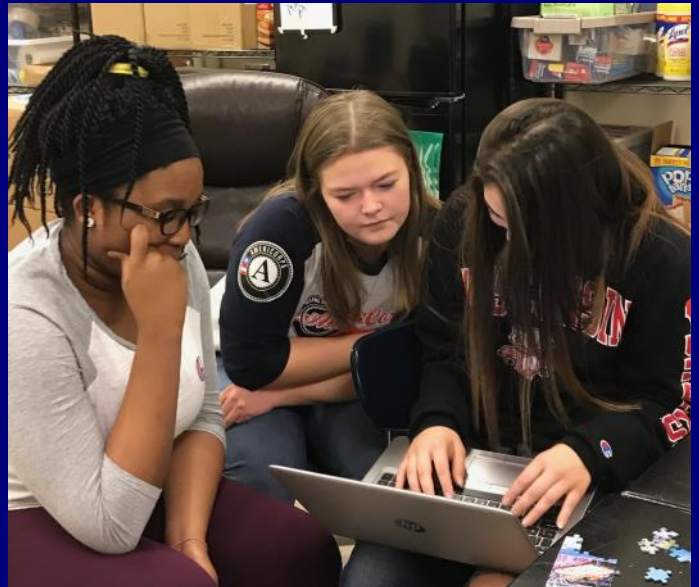
**300** students participated in STEM education programming to boost academic engagement

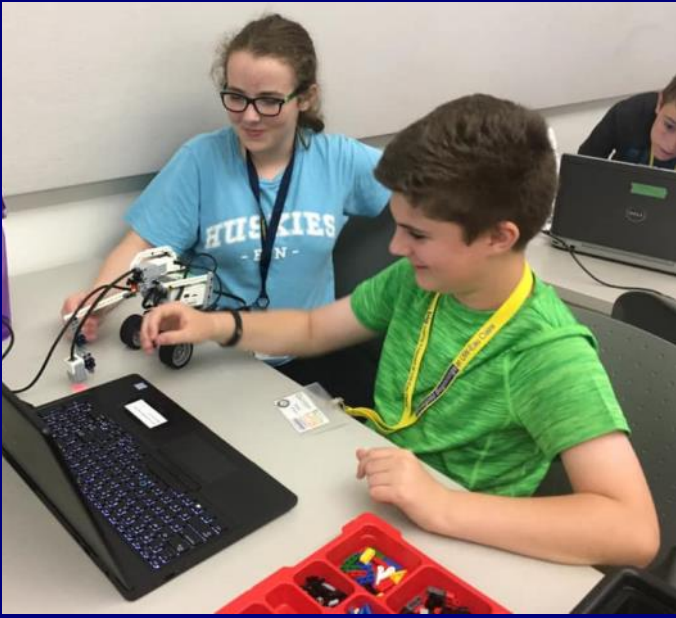
**763** students participated in college preparation and readiness programming

**1,001** post-secondary students participated in academic support programming

**5,394** students were taught by AmeriCorps members serving as teachers in classrooms in low-income communities

**6,277** students participated in nutrition education programming





## Student Improvement

**2,087** students that completed AmeriCorps educational programs showed improved academic performance

**1,152** students that completed AmeriCorps educational programs showed improved academic and school engagement



## College Readiness and Academic Support

670 high school students completed college preparation and academic support programs

1,001 post-secondary students that are economically disadvantaged or have special or exceptional needs participated in academic support programs



## Nutrition Education

**5,212** students participated in five or more nutrition education lessons

**1,849** nutrition lessons were taught by AmeriCorps Farm to School Nutrition Educators

**241** local food items were integrated into school tasting activities or as a part of school meals

**193** farmers were supported for local food supply, school presentations, and/or school visits





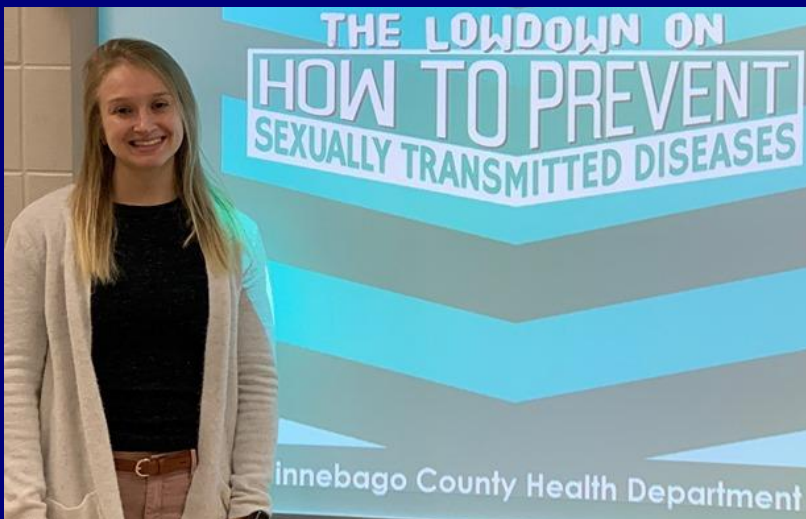
## Healthier Lifestyles

**2,024** individuals received information on health insurance and accessing health programs

**307** individuals enrolled in health benefits or insurance and scheduled a doctor's appointment

**414** individuals participated in health education programs focused on leading healthier lives

**487** individuals with addiction abuse disorders created a recovery service plan



## *Creating Economic Opportunity*

**5** single-family homes / housing units were constructed and sold to low-income individuals, families, or people with disabilities

**14** economically disadvantaged AmeriCorps members in Youth Corps programs obtained a GED / HSED and **48** obtained employment



## Services for Individuals with Disabilities and their Families

**1,528** individuals with disabilities participated in therapeutic recreational activities

**435** parents or caregivers of individuals with disabilities reported a reduction in stress and an increased quality of life



## Services for Veterans and their Families

**46** veterans and **164** family members participated in weekend camps for veterans and their families



## Environmental Stewardship

128 acres of parks or public land were improved or treated

26 miles of trails or rivers were improved or treated

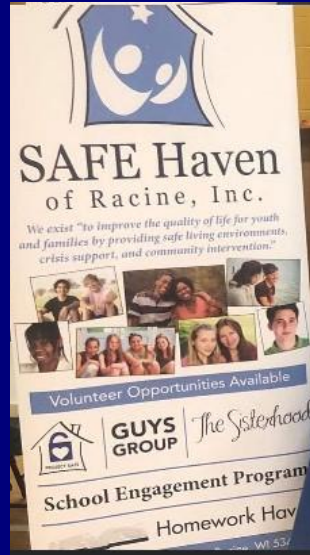
9,000 people participated in environmental education programming



## Helping Homeless or Runaway Youth

**3,384** youth who had runaway or were experiencing homelessness have returned to their homes or a safe alternative placement

**3,885** youth who had run away or were experiencing homelessness received additional services



## Supporting Non-Profit Organizations and Recruiting Volunteers

**58** organizations received capacity building services to make positive changes in their level of competence and/or increase their levels of success serving people

**9,179** volunteers provided **99,555** hours of volunteer service in support of AmeriCorps programs



# 2018-2019 AmeriCorps State Programs

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

**SPARK** – AmeriCorps members provide tutoring sessions and small group reading activities to students in grades K-3 in order to improve literacy.

**Camp Whitcomb/Mason Environmental Education Initiative** – AmeriCorps members create, implement, and lead youth through environmental education lessons and activities.

**Arts Initiative** – AmeriCorps members develop, manage, and implement a comprehensive arts program and serve youth ages 6-18 in visual and performing arts in afterschool clubs.



## College Possible – Milwaukee

AmeriCorps members provide intensive coaching and support to low-income high school and college students in order to make college admission and success possible.



## Dane County Department of Human Services – Partners for After School Success (PASS)

AmeriCorps members are placed in predominately low-income or resource scarce communities to enhance the academic achievement and school engagement of middle and high school youth through positive relationships, literacy tutoring, extended learning programs, and volunteer service.



## Easterseals Wisconsin

AmeriCorps members provide intensive personal care and lead or facilitate therapeutic recreation activities for individuals with disabilities and their families at Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp. AmeriCorps members also provide therapeutic recreation activities for veterans and their family members at Veteran Family Camps.



## Marshfield Clinic Health System AmeriCorps Afterschool



AmeriCorps members provide support to afterschool programs through promoting academic success, personal/social development, and healthy active living for youth ages 8-18.



## Marshfield Clinic Health System AmeriCorps Recovery Corps



AmeriCorps members are trained in the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) model of recovery coaching and serve as recovery coaches. Their focus is to reduce prescription drug, opioid, and other substance use disorders through one-on-one contact, outreach phone calls, and community education in the northcentral Wisconsin region served by the HOPE Consortium.



## Marshfield Clinic Health System AmeriCorps Volunteer Wisconsin



AmeriCorps members are placed in non-profits across the state to increase their capacity to effectively engage and utilize volunteers.





## Milwaukee Christian Center – YouthBuild

AmeriCorps members make a tangible impact on their community through the construction of affordable, energy-efficient housing and accessible home modifications, while gaining job and leadership skills, improving their education, and developing community through service.



## North Central Community Action Program AmeriCorps Team – Greater Wausau Area

AmeriCorps members provide direct services to youth and their families as mentors and tutors during and after school. Members serve elementary, middle school, high school, and adult learners.



## Public Allies Milwaukee

AmeriCorps members work on service projects that enhance and expand the capacity of nonprofit organizations to deliver critical direct services to Milwaukee residents.



## Renewal Unlimited, Inc. – Fresh Start Program

AmeriCorps members construct two single-family homes that are sold to low-income and moderate-income families. While working on the houses, members develop educational, pre-employment, job, independent living, and leadership skills.



## Teach for America – Milwaukee

AmeriCorps members lead classrooms across the city of Milwaukee while growing and strengthening the movement for educational equality and excellence.



## United Way Fox Cities –Weight of the Fox Valley

AmeriCorps members deliver health education sessions, with a focus on physical activity and/or healthy eating, as part of a multi-dimensional approach towards obesity prevention in Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties.



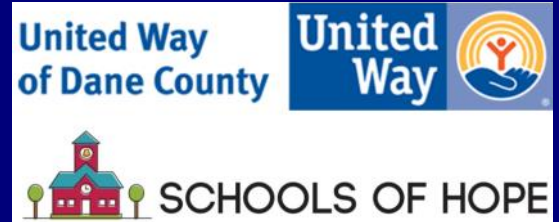
## United Way of Dane County — Achievement Connections

AmeriCorps members tutor high school students in math and leverage additional volunteers to provide tutoring with the goal of increasing the number of students who pass Algebra by 10th grade.



## United Way of Dane County — Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project

AmeriCorps members serve as literacy tutors and tutor coordinators in high-need elementary schools where they work with staff to increase the literacy skills of students in kindergarten through fifth grade.



## University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire – Blugold Beginnings

AmeriCorps members engage youth in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through robotics and coding after school clubs, STEM camps, tutoring, and mentoring in northwestern Wisconsin.



## University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire – ECLIPSE

AmeriCorps members provide one-on-one interventions to 3-5 year old children who are at risk and/or from low income families in order to help them grow in the areas of language, literacy, social interaction, and initiative skills.



## Western Dairyland EOC, Inc. - Chippewa Fresh Start YouthBuild

AmeriCorps members construct new homes for income-eligible families in the local community while working on achieving high school diplomas/HSEDs, developing career goals, improving self-esteem, and alleviating barriers to economic self-sufficiency.



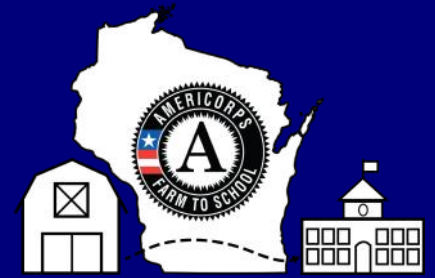
## Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services

AmeriCorps members provide street outreach services to homeless youth and respond to referrals from police departments, schools, and other youth-serving agencies.



## Wisconsin Department of Instruction – Farm to School

AmeriCorps members build up the capacity of Wisconsin communities to support farm to school programming through nutrition education lessons, local food taste tests, integrating local foods into school meals, local procurement education, school gardens, farmer engagements, and community volunteers.



## Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association – Wisconsin HealthCorps

AmeriCorps members are placed in community health centers, public health departments, and health focused non-profits in order to serve as patient navigators, health educators, and community outreach specialists.



# WisCorps

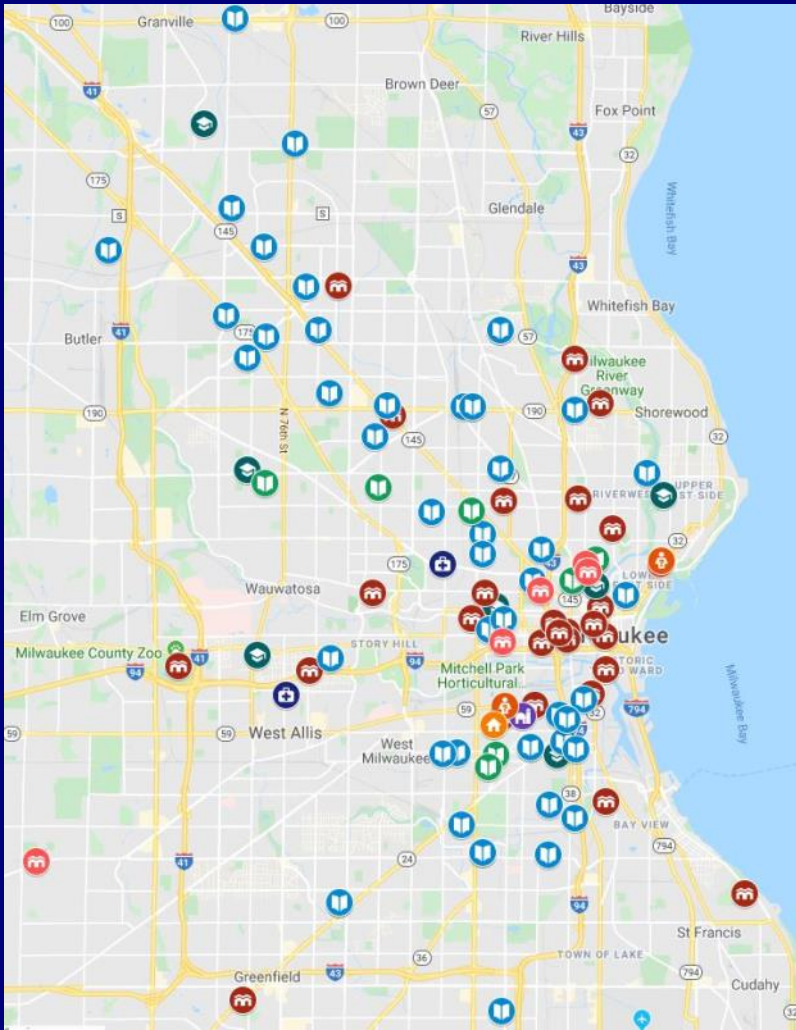
AmeriCorps members complete high priority conservation projects across the state of Wisconsin. Members are responsible for improving public land, planting trees, establishing firebreaks at homes, establishing or maintaining trails, installing or restoring rain gardens, and engaging individuals in environmental education programs.



## 2018-2019 Wisconsin AmeriCorps Service Locations



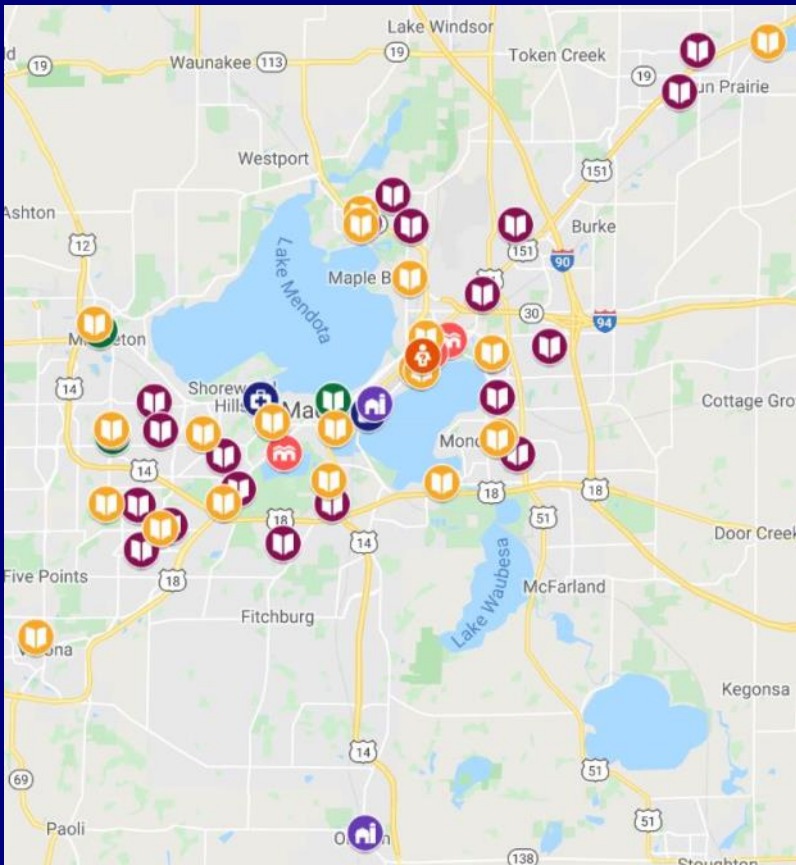




# Milwaukee Service Locations

2019  
**TOP 10 AMERICITIES**  
— LARGE —  
Places that produce the most *AmeriCorps* members per capita  
**#7 MILWAUKEE**  
WISCONSIN  
JoinAmeriCorps.gov

**Milwaukee was ranked #7 nationally for cities producing AmeriCorps members in 2019, having been previously ranked in the top 10 in 2015**



# Madison Service Locations

2018  
**TOP 10 AMERICITIES**  
— LARGE —  
Places that produce the most *AmeriCorps* members\*  
**#6 MADISON**  
WISCONSIN  
#AMERISTATES  
\*per capita

**Madison was ranked in the top 10 nationally for cities producing AmeriCorps members from 2015-2018**

# Snapshots from the 2018-2019 AmeriCorps Program Year

## Opening Ceremony - October 9-10, 2018

AmeriCorps members from programs throughout the state gathered in the Wisconsin Dells to celebrate the beginning of their service.

The opening ceremony featured guest speakers, workshop sessions to help build up their skills, and concluded with the hundreds of members present taking the AmeriCorps Pledge.

The opening ceremony was also a time for AmeriCorps members from programs across the state to network with each other and learn about each other's service.





## National Days of Service

Throughout the year, each AmeriCorps program in Wisconsin participated in at least one national day of service outside of their regular service in their communities. These included Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, Veterans Day, Make a Difference Day, and others during the year.



PASS AmeriCorps members helped clean up Tenney Park in Madison for 9/11 National Day of Service



NCCAP AmeriCorps members and local volunteers delivered messages of support to first responders in the Wausau area for 9/11 National Day of Service.

The MLK Day of Service project hosted by UW-Eau Claire ECLIPSE was organized by AmeriCorps member Leah Barron and had nearly 60 participants, including the UW-Eau Claire Wrestling and Softball teams.

ECLIPSE AmeriCorps members served lunch at The Community Table and participants then served at Feed My People Food Bank, Girls on the Run, the Humane Society, and Hope Gospel Mission.



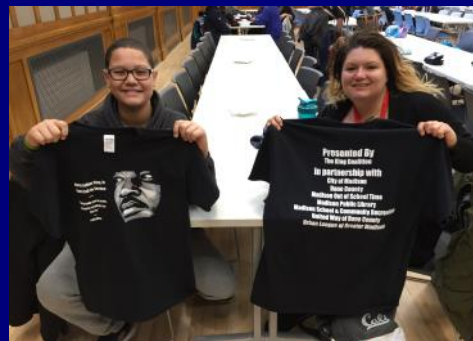
Leah Barron  
UW- Eau Claire AmeriCorps Eclipse Program





More than 50 AmeriCorps members and staff from College Possible and Teach for America participated in MLK Day of Service as part of four different community volunteer activities in collaboration with other area nonprofits in Milwaukee. Joining with them at some of the project sites were Governor Tony Evers, Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes, and Attorney General Josh Kaul.

Public Allies Milwaukee volunteered at True Skool for MLK Day of Service. Throughout the day, 40 AmeriCorps members from Public Allies organized equipment, cleared out spaces, and painted multiple rooms. They were joined by two state representatives from Milwaukee, David Bowen and Jonathan Brostoff, who both served with Public Allies Milwaukee.



PASS AmeriCorps members served at the MLK Youth Call to Service Event where nearly 100 middle and high school youth from Madison came together to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the annual MLK Outstanding Youth Recognition Breakfast, which had more than 900 youth, families, volunteers and community leaders participating.

## AmeriCorps Week - March 10-16, 2019

AmeriCorps Week was a celebration of all things AmeriCorps – from the programs and organizations that make this national service initiative possible in communities across the country, to the members who have pledged to “Get Things Done” since the program’s inception in 1994.

In addition to celebration events with their fellow AmeriCorps members, many programs performed additional service projects to make an added difference in their local communities.



AmeriCorps members from Blugold Beginnings hosted a 'Blanket the Valley' service project with their students to make blankets to donate to the Beacon House to help local families experiencing homelessness in the Chippewa Valley.



AmeriCorps members from PASS AmeriCorps and Schools of Hope sorted and organized donations at Porchlight to use in its efforts to reduce homelessness and provide temporary emergency shelter in Dane County.



**NATIONAL SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY**

**AMERICORPS SERVE WISCONSIN**

**NATIONAL SERVICE IN WISCONSIN**

- 900 local service sites
- 8,300 Senior Corps & AmeriCorps members
- \$36 million CNCS and local funding
- \$101.2 million AmeriCorps scholarships earned since 1994

NationalService.gov/Wisconsin

STATE of WISCONSIN

OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

*WHEREAS*, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants address the most pressing challenges facing our communities; they educate students for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs, fight the opioid epidemic, respond to natural disasters, and support veterans and military families; and

*WHEREAS*, national service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and

*WHEREAS*, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants serve in more than 50,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic and neighborhood organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and

*WHEREAS*, national service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve, both through their direct service and by managing millions of additional volunteers; and

*WHEREAS*, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

*WHEREAS*, national service participants demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

*WHEREAS*, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with local leaders nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and in joining with the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, Cities of Service, and local leaders across the country for National Service Recognition Day on April 2, 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the state of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2019 as

**NATIONAL SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY**

throughout the state of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all of our citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2019.

*Tony Evers*  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:  
*Douglas La Follette*  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State

## National Service Recognition Day 2019

Annually in April on National Service Recognition Day, local leaders across the country honor AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers for the difference they make in local communities.

On April 2, 2019, Governor Evers celebrated the impact made by national service participants in Wisconsin at an event in Racine alongside numerous elected officials from Racine and Kenosha and local AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers.



## Celebrations of Service

AmeriCorps members from programs throughout the state gathered for three regional events to celebrate the coming end of their service and to connect with AmeriCorps members from other programs.

## Beaver Creek Reserve (April 29-30, 2019)

Over forty AmeriCorps members and program staff came together at the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall River, WI for a celebration of service and to complete service projects around Earth Day. Over the course of two days, multiple projects were completed around the reserve, including the clearing of trail, painting and cleaning cabins, and other upkeep and maintenance on the grounds. Additionally, members and staff enjoyed hiking on the reserve and the opportunity to come together with other programs to celebrate their time with AmeriCorps.







## Madison (May 29, 2019)

Over fifty AmeriCorps members and program staff from the Madison area came together at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in Madison to celebrate their year of service with AmeriCorps. As part of the event, members had the opportunity to reflect on their service, engage in interactive sessions with guest presenters, hike the surrounding trails, participate in various games and competitions, and come together with other programs to celebrate their time with AmeriCorps.





## Rib Mountain State Park (July 31, 2019)

Roughly seventy AmeriCorps members and program staff, family members, and other guests from five Northern and Central Wisconsin AmeriCorps Programs attended a Celebration of Service on July 31 at Rib Mountain State Park near Wausau. The potluck picnic included a performance by a local Hmong dance group, a scavenger hunt to locations throughout the park, activities with therapy dogs, a "service poetry" table, musical performances, and other activities to allow everyone to celebrate the achievements of members during their terms of service. As a reminder of their commitment to serve over the past year and beyond, AmeriCorps members were led to renew their AmeriCorps pledge by Jeanne Duffy, the Executive Director of Serve Wisconsin.



## Trainings for AmeriCorps Programs and Organizations

Serve Wisconsin hosted several in-person and digital trainings for AmeriCorps program staff to help enhance their programs and for organizations exploring creating an AmeriCorps program in Wisconsin.



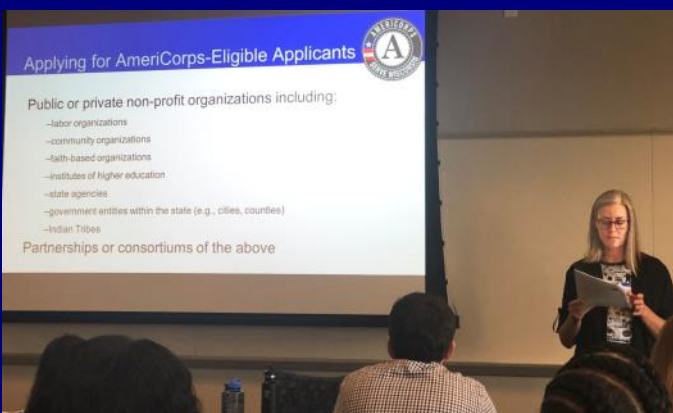
### New Program and Staff Bootcamp

This annual training provided an overview of the larger landscape of AmeriCorps and national service, rules and regulation, program management, site management, compliance, and enhancing the experience for their AmeriCorps members.



### AmeriCorps Program Director Workshop

This annual training brought together staff from all AmeriCorps programs in the state to provide training on new policies or procedures and relevant topics for the upcoming program year.



### AmeriCorps Grant Writing Workshops

This training was held prior to the two grant application requests for proposals that are issued each year. The training helped current and potential programs become more familiar with the AmeriCorps program grant application process and requirements, including the application instructions, program narrative, budget, logic models, performance measures and data collection.

## Disaster Recovery Projects

Serve Wisconsin has expanded the ability of Wisconsin AmeriCorps programs and members to respond to local disasters, through sponsoring recovery projects and coordinating with Team Rubicon and local governments.

In July 2019, Serve Wisconsin helped mobilize volunteers for its first week-long disaster recovery project in response to flood damage. The team worked with Team Rubicon completing projects in Adams, Juneau, and Monroe Counties to clean debris from creeks, rebuild homes, clean out basements of flood damaged homes, and restoring Glenwood Park in Kendall, WI.

Additionally, Serve Wisconsin has mobilized volunteers in response to severe storms in Northern and Central Wisconsin in 2019.



## Excellence in AmeriCorps Awards

Alexis Dean, an AmeriCorps member with United Way of Dane County - Schools of Hope was honored with the national Excellence in AmeriCorps Award for the Most Impactful Member Service on September 19, 2019 at the AmeriCorps State and National Symposium in Arlington, VA. Alexis was one of only two individuals, who along with three programs, were honored for their service at the ceremony.

Alexis served at Mendota Elementary School in Madison during the 2018-2019 school year.

Prior to winning this national award, Alexis was honored by Governor Tony Evers with the 2019 AmeriCorps Member of the Year award at the Governor's Service Awards on June 6, 2019.



Congressman Mark Pocan met with Alexis Dean in Washington, DC the day after the ceremony to discuss his AmeriCorps service and its impact on his students and the school community

Alexis Dean at the awards ceremony with Barbara Stewart (CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service), Chester Spellman (Director of AmeriCorps State and National), and members of his family (above) and Serve Wisconsin staff (below)



# 2018-2019 AmeriCorps Stories of Service and Member Reflections

## Bright Ideas 2019: Be a loud 'yes' for black and brown students when everyone else says 'no'

By Reginald Lee and Ilaina Smith, Scholars of Excellence coordinators at Cherokee Middle School

By Negassi Tesfamichael in The Capital Times on December 31, 2018 as part of the Bright Ideas 2019 series

Students of color need a program that is 100 percent committed to their excellence. Along with Madison School and Community Recreation, we created Scholars of Excellence, which started earlier this school year. It fosters a community of self-growth, acceptance, high expectations and accountability rooted in a place of love for 25 black and Latino students at Cherokee Heights Middle School.

Students in Scholars of Excellence have varying degrees of challenges in school. Within the first half of the school year, students have seen a steady improvement in both academics and behavior. More importantly, they have created a space where these scholars can thrive.



*Ilaina Smith and Reginald Lee with members of Scholars of Excellence at Cherokee Heights Middle School*

Photo by Sharon Vanorny - [sharonvanornyphotography.com](http://sharonvanornyphotography.com)

Like Scholars of Excellence, we need to be dedicated to teaching our black and brown students to celebrate the beauty and dopeness of being a person of color, despite what society might say. Adults can only push students to go places where they truly believe they are capable of going.

We want all of our students to be college, community and career ready, but our students need more targeted support to help conquer the complex barriers life has thrown at them outside of the classroom. We believe all of our Scholars of Excellence are college-bound. Students of color in MMSD face an uphill battle and need adults who will fight for them and with them so they get the education that they deserve. Scholars of Excellence focuses on building self-value in our students by forming a small village of support and encouragement along with their parents. We need more collaboration and individualized support if Madison is ever going to make a dent in the longstanding achievement gap. Adults need to say yes, you can reach your goals when the statistics say no.

*Ilaina Smith completed her second term as an AmeriCorps member at Cherokee Heights Middle School with Partners for After School Success (PASS). Reginald Lee is a PASS AmeriCorps alumnus coordinating after school programming at Cherokee Heights Middle School through Madison School & Community Recreation.*

# Building Brighter Futures in Milwaukee

By Angie Mason, Milwaukee Christian Center

Printed in the November/December 2019 edition of NAWIC Today

Official Publication of the National Association of Women in Construction

“I am what success looks like.” It wasn’t until this year that Jasmine, a 22-year-old young woman from Milwaukee, could repeat this mantra with confidence.

Nine months ago, Jasmine visited the Milwaukee Christian Center’s (MCC) food pantry to help a friend who was in need of food and diapers. While there, she came upon the opportunity to join MCC’s YouthBuild, a program in Milwaukee that empowers young adults, ages 18-24, to overcome challenges and move towards family-sustaining careers through education and hands-on construction training while building affordable homes for low-income families.

“Since I was 13 years old, I have been one of the sole providers in my family. I’m a lover of language—a writer—but high school was never easy for me. I haven’t had a lot of structure in my life, and while I’ve been in lots of programs to get my high school diploma, it wasn’t until YouthBuild that I felt I could do it. Here, I’ve been surrounded by genuinely caring people who want me to succeed,” Jasmine shares. “Math has always been my biggest obstacle. My YouthBuild teachers helped me sharpen my skills and made me feel more confident. They showed me my improvement and helped me face my fear.”

YouthBuild has also provided Jasmine an opportunity to learn construction skills while building affordable, single-family homes in the neighborhood. “I can’t tell you what it feels like to build a garage from the ground up and to know that I was a part of it,” Jasmine confesses. “Just the other day, when we were working on a roof, I climbed a ladder to the top and asked a friend to take a photo of me up there. It seems silly, but I wanted proof, something to hold on to, to remind myself that I am what success looks like.”

This May, Jasmine completed her GED and received her high school diploma at the Milwaukee Area Technical College’s graduation ceremony. Earlier in the year, she attended a National Association of Women in Construction workshop and made a connection with OPCMIA Local 599—a plasterer’s and cement masons association. They took an interest in her and are planning to meet with her in the near future to explore potential apprenticeship opportunities.

Jasmine has been a great asset to YouthBuild this year and has come incredibly far. This was illustrated by a recent YouthBuild service project she completed for a homeless shelter in Milwaukee. The shelter needed higher tables in their kitchen that could accommodate storage carts underneath. Jasmine helped redesign and deliver the tables. It wasn’t until she was at the shelter that she remembered staying there as a child. “Through YouthBuild, I have been able to give back to where I came from,” she says proudly.

“I still have my ups and downs,” Jasmine admits, “but YouthBuild has helped me feel like I belong somewhere. For the first time in my life, I can look in the mirror and say with confidence, ‘I am what success looks like.’”

*YouthBuild is a program of the Milwaukee Christian Center, which is a multi-service organization that works to build strong neighborhoods full of opportunity. It approaches that work through four core areas: housing, youth development, older adults, and food security – serving over 7,500 people each year. What began with American Baptist roots providing outreach to immigrants on Milwaukee’s south side in 1921, MCC now serves youth, families, and older adults of all races, ethnicities, and ages throughout Milwaukee County.*



Autumn 2018-2019





I serve because...

- I enjoy helping the community. Serving my community has always created great experiences for me.
- I know now that I can make a difference.

Jessica 2018-2019





I serve because... I thought it would be a great opportunity to grow both personally and professionally! I wanted to join AmeriCorps, so I could experience giving back for an entire year and look back on the experience in the future to remind myself of the importance of service and how it can create change!

Joseph 2018-2019





I serve ... to consistently engage with local communities for the sake of enacting creative solutions to sociopolitical issues.

Ahren 2018-2019





I serve because... I wanted to make a difference in someone's life. To learn how to be a better role model.

Tenzin 2018-2019





I serve because... I am treated like a responsible, educated professional. I get to take on the roles of tutor, teacher, volunteer coordinator, and friend. & it's a great way to GIVE back.




Bianca 2018-2019





I serve because... I love my community and want to be part of our social justice story.

Alexis 2018-2019

I serve because... This year I've had the chance to be a: Mud Runner. School DJ. A SandBagger. The School "Self Control Role Model." A Hip Hop Performer For 4th and 5th grade. A School Song Writer. A Triathlon Co-Chair. A Power Pup. Assistant Production Manager For A Musical. A Read Your Heart Out Reader. Photographer. Job Fair Greeter. A Mentor. A TUTOR. And more. I Serve To Experience All These Moments.



Elyse 2018-2019





I serve because... Giving back to the community I live in is important to me. Especially the future generation.

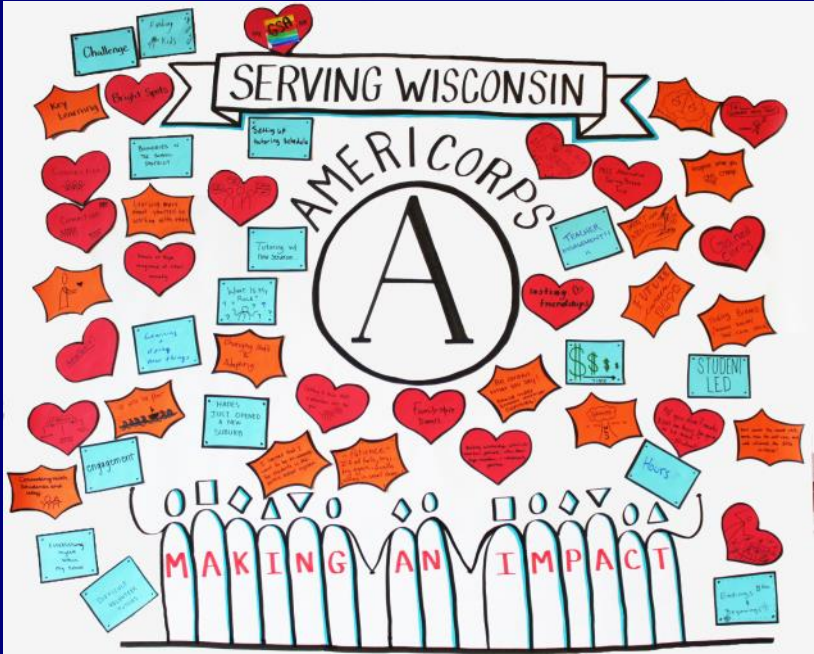
Liz 2018-2019

I serve because... "children are a gift we send to a future we will never see."



Poster created as part of reflections on their service by AmeriCorps members at the 2019 Celebration of Service in Madison





# Milwaukee construction program trainee looks to college

By Sarah Lipo of Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service  
November 18, 2018

Jotshua Vega Marcon arrives at the South Side home construction site two hours before his shift starts, and he usually packs up to head home about an hour after the rest of the team leaves for the day.

Vega Marcon is determined to learn the construction trade, and the house is providing a great learning opportunity. When Vega Marcon, 23, first started working on it a year ago, “It was an open house you could see through, like a skeleton,” he said. Back then, he said he barely knew how to correctly hold a hammer, and he watched videos to teach himself how to build stairs.

Vega Marcon, a resident of West Allis, is a participant in the Milwaukee Christian Center’s YouthBuild program, which provides young adults ages 18-25 with hands-on construction training, while creating homes for low- or moderate-income families.

John Kaye, a project director at MCC, is in charge of housing efforts. He said individuals can “go to school half time, work on getting their GED (diploma) or high school equivalency and also learn to build a house.” All trainees are members of AmeriCorps.

Construction on the 13th Street house began in October 2017, about the same time Vega Marcon joined the program after hearing about it from a friend. Construction can take longer than a year, Kaye said, since trainees only work half days.

As long as individuals show up for work, they receive scholarship funds. Vega Marcon is now a full-time AmeriCorps member serving as a construction assistant for YouthBuild.

“Now that I am a full-time member, I get more scholarship money,” he said.

He’s earned \$6,000 so far. He added that as soon as he has enough money, he plans to go to Milwaukee Area Technical College and become an electronics technician.

Lois Nugent, the MCC YouthBuild coordinator, noted that many individuals have felt anxious about starting a new, unfamiliar job. “But, few of us have ever been handed a hammer and asked to go build a house,” she said.

Vega Marcon set goals to finish his high school education and seek training that would lead to permanent family-sustaining employment, Nugent said, adding that he has earned a high school diploma and multiple industry certifications.

Along with building a house, Vega Marcon said he learned to cooperate with others and worked to improve himself.

“It’s not easy. You got to be willing to be open-minded,” he said. He added that he loves being productive and busy.

Nugent said Vega Marcon stands out for several reasons. “Jotshua realizes learning doesn’t stop when you get your diploma,” she said, adding that he looked for opportunities to go above and beyond to help others. For example, Vega Marcon often volunteers at the MCC Senior Center, which provides healthy meals, recreation opportunities and health checks for those over 60.

Nugent added that leaders look for opportunities to make things better even when there’s little personal gain, while also supporting their team. In addition to providing job opportunities for young adults and creating homes for low-income families, the program also demonstrates how far a person can go when given the opportunity, Nugent said. It also shows the impact they can have on their community, she added.

YouthBuild “also helps stabilize the rest of the block,” Kaye said.

“When people move in, they become part of a neighborhood,” added Nugent. They are “invested in the neighborhood, and people take pride in their property.” She mentioned a “rollover effect” on the neighborhood, adding that the residents living next door to the completed YouthBuild house recently put up new siding on their house.

*YouthBuild is supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Department of Labor (through a partnership with the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board), the City of Milwaukee Community Development Grants Administration, HUD, and others, according to its website.*

*The nonprofit news outlet Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service provided this article to The Associated Press through a collaboration with Institute for Nonprofit News.*



# Crawford County Farm to School teaches children about food waste

By Charley Preusser - Crawford County Independent & Kickapoo Scout

June 26, 2019

**CRAWFORD COUNTY** - Food waste was the topic of a unique presentation at North Crawford Elementary School last month.

Dana Scheffen organized the event for the third grade classes of Jean Ottoway and Chelsea Beinborn. Scheffen is the Crawford County Farm-to-School Community Outreach Coordinator & Nutrition Educator.

The third graders began by sorting locally grown sweet potatoes. Then, they had a chance to eat some of them. “The idea was to help the students understand that not all food that is produced is sold,” Scheffen said. “However, some of what is not sold can be used—even if it is not perfect.”

The sweet potatoes had been donated to the Viroqua-based Community Hunger Solutions because they were not suitable for sale due to size or other imperfections. Although the sweet potatoes were ‘seconds,’ many, but not all, were quite suitable for the dinner table.

Jeannette Burlingame, the Community Hunger Solutions Program Coordinator, brought the sweet potatoes to the school and explained the situation to the students.

Burlingame also taught the students how to identify what was a usable sweet potato and what would have to be composted.

Burlingame wasn’t the only one helping the students understand food waste and the possible solutions to it. Also activated for the presentation were high school students in Candace Petersen’s family and consumer education class, who assisted with a hands-on demonstration.

Under the direction of their teacher, the high school students assisted the third-graders in making purple sweet potato hash browns. Farm-to-School Coordinator Scheffen explained that she reached out to the high school class for a little help, when she realized this part of the presentation was going to involve hot oil and a grater.

When the half-hour event was over, Scheffen was confident the students had learned something about food waste and maybe how good locally grown sweet potatoes can taste.

“I love working with that school,” Scheffen said of North Crawford. The Farm-to-School Coordinator is an AmeriCorps volunteer position that works with eight local school districts on a variety of presentations and projects.

One of the program’s goals is to bridge the gap between food service directors in the schools and area farmers, according to Scheffen. The Farm-to-School Coordinator visits each of the eight districts once every month.

Some of the other events Farm-to-School was involved in locally this year included demonstrations on fermentation and making humus at the Soldiers Grove Library and participating in the Winter Wellness Event at the Gays Mills Community Commerce Center.

Scheffen’s term as the Farm-to-School Coordinator will end in August. She is currently busy working to make the job easier for the next Crawford County AmeriCorps Farm-to-School Community Outreach Coordinator & Nutrition Educator.



*North Crawford third graders, from left, Lorelai Young, Reese Seiser and Lilli Pettit with a tray of purple sweet potato hash browns made with the help of the high school family and consumer education class as part of a recent Farm-to-School food waste presentation.*

## Member Reflection from Jeremy Ault Teach for America Milwaukee

The spring in Milwaukee has been very cold and snowy. This has negatively impacted migrating birds. They are unable to build nests and find food and are, in general, in a weakened state. Recently, we've been working through a unit on spring, talking about the weather and the animals. My students took an interest in the story about the birds and requested we read some more books. So, we read through two books that discussed birds, one of which highlights what birds do over the winter and their migration back north in the spring. The students, in turn, decided to make their own bird feeders to help the birds out with finding food. The students, along with my assistant teacher and I all built bird feeders with Popsicle sticks. The bird feeders themselves aligned well with K5 and 1st grade math curriculum. Students were asked to count out a special amount of sticks and then organize them in rectangles in an alternating pattern. The craft itself was an excellent kinesthetic activity that challenged their 1:1 correspondence, special recognition, and their fine-motor skills.



Reflections created by AmeriCorps members at the 2018 Opening Ceremony expressing why they were serving with AmeriCorps during the upcoming year



## Twin Service - Serving Students in Two AmeriCorps Programs

While there are many ways that we think of twins as being similar, making a simultaneous decision to dedicate a year to national service working with students through AmeriCorps is typically not one of them. Taylor and Jessie Zimmerman though did make that decision, as they were looking for an opportunity to build upon their skills working with youth in the Madison area after they both completed their master's degree in social work. While both wanted more direct experience putting their coursework into action working with youth, they chose different AmeriCorps programs and ages of students being reached for their service. Taylor has spent her term of service with AmeriCorps serving with Partners for After School Success (PASS) and working with high school students, while Jessie has served with Schools of Hope and worked with elementary students.

AmeriCorps had always been on Taylor's radar as a way to give back in a meaningful way, as "it was always on my bucket list to join a program such as AmeriCorps. I wanted to take my personal experiences and learning and apply it to giving back to a community." She has cherished the supportive environment she found with PASS that has brought together people with different interests and backgrounds and has given her the opportunity to connect to both young people and the city of Madison through direct service

The favorite aspect of Jessie's AmeriCorps service with Schools of Hope AmeriCorps has definitely been working with the kids, finding that "as much as you are teaching them, they are definitely teaching you just as much. They remind you of the importance to smile, laugh, and just find a way to enjoy each and every day. They always have something to share and teach us if we take the time to listen."

While both are with different programs, Taylor describes how "it is always great to have someone to share what occurred throughout our day to day service in our programs and be able to relate to both the accomplishments and sometimes the struggles we encounter. Since being in AmeriCorps together we get to share in similar but separate experiences and go on this journey together. We have always been a pair and it is nice to continue our journey together through AmeriCorps." This journey of having a positive impact is set to continue, as both plan on finding ways to continue working with youth and families in the social work field, hoping to continue making a difference for communities and the lives of others.

# Kindergartners take part in first ever Wisconsin School Garden Day

Courtesy of WJFW News Watch 12 -- Original story by Dan Hagen

May 23, 2019

**ARBOR VITAE** - Do you know where your food comes from? Kindergartners at Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elementary do. They have been growing their own fruits and vegetables all year.

Today five and six-year olds were able to show off their gardening skills to their parents, as their work culminated in a final celebration as part of the first-ever Wisconsin School Garden Day. The students also sorted seeds and learned about composting.

Each kindergartener has been partnered with a 5th grader throughout the year, who has been helping them with planting and weeding.

Organizer Adriane Morabito said it is important for young people to know where their food comes from.

"It teaches them important skills like empathy, compassion, and kindness," said Morabito. "It also helps them eat healthy," as throughout the year, kindergartners learned what a balanced meal looks like.

Morabito added she is looking forward to partnering with other schools in the Northwoods for garden-based learning.

Parent Michelle Hinkens thought her son Adam learned many important lessons this year.

"I think this is very important because it's a life skill that all kids need to learn and it's a very hands-on learning opportunity for the kids," said Hinkens.

*Adriane Morabito served as an AmeriCorps member with the Wisconsin DPI AmeriCorps Farm to School Program at the Howard Suamico School District.*



I am thankful for Easter Seals Wisconsin AmeriCorps program for teaching me about inclusion and acceptance towards individuals with different abilities.

Watching our campers enjoy camp, make new friendships, and try new things are just a few of the many reasons I keep coming back!



**CARLEE**



I am thankful for this incredible opportunity to serve the Barron Area Community.

I have always wanted to be able to pour into the youth and help them grow. Being a part of this organization has given me the ability to see students grow into incredible young adults and reach their dreams. As much as I have helped these students, they have helped me grow as a person as well.



**BOBBY**



I am thankful that my service with the Wausau School District has encouraged my passion for teaching.

From my experience working with students, I have witnessed many obstacles being overcome and I am grateful that I am a part of it.



**CHARLES**



Every day, I am beyond thankful for the 6,800+ hours I served as an After School Youth Development Specialist at the Lunda Center Boys & Girl's Club.

The experience provided me with a strong foundation in serving diverse populations of youth and was a key element in supporting my entry this Fall into a graduate program in School Psychology.

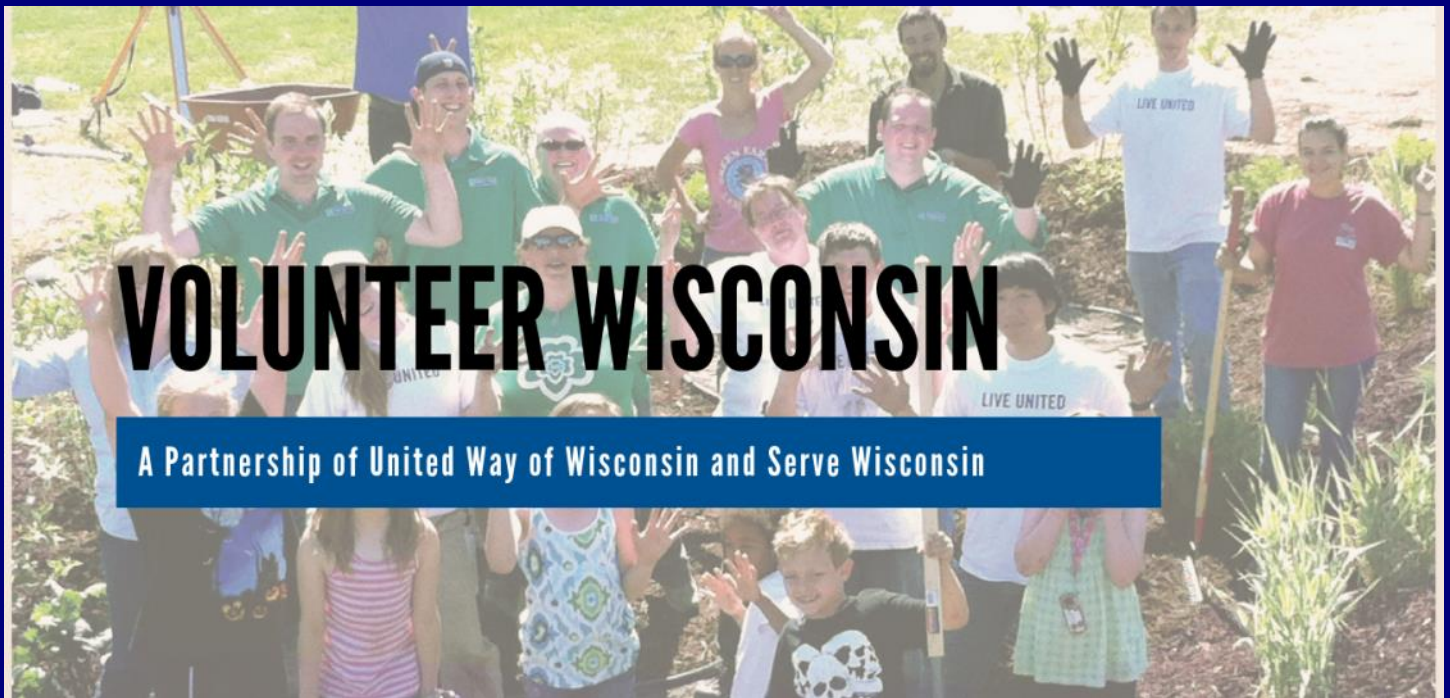
I am excited to continue with the next steps of my education and career, and I thank AmeriCorps for being an endless source of inspiration and for opening up continual doors of opportunity for me in the field of Education!



**JENNA**



# Volunteering in Wisconsin



## Volunteer Wisconsin Website — Connecting Citizens to Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Wisconsin was first funded in 2011 by the Volunteer Generation Fund Grant. Since then, Volunteer Wisconsin has been fulfilling its mission of connecting volunteers to nonprofits throughout the state, via its website, [www.volunteerwisconsin.org](http://www.volunteerwisconsin.org).

The Volunteer Wisconsin website is currently managed by the United Way of Wisconsin in partnership with Serve Wisconsin. Service projects are posted on the Volunteer Wisconsin website by individual organizations and through local volunteer centers.

### *Volunteer Wisconsin Statistics for 2019*

- 746** — Organizations posted projects
- 3,279** — Volunteer projects were posted
- 18,326** — Digital responses to posted projects



# Volunteer Centers in Wisconsin

## SOUTH EASTERN REGION/GREATER MILWAUKEE REGION:

Volunteer Center of Washington County  
*Washington County*

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County  
*Milwaukee, Waukesha, southern Ozaukee and Washington Counties*

United Way of Northern Ozaukee County  
*Ozaukee County*

Volunteer Connection  
*Walworth County*

Volunteer Center of Racine County, Inc.  
*Racine County*

## EASTERN REGION:

Volunteer Center of Door County  
*Door County*

United Way of Fond du Lac County  
*Fond du Lac County*

Volunteer Center of Brown County  
*Brown, Oconto, & Shawano Counties*

Volunteer Fox Cities  
*Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet Counties*

United Way Volunteer Center of Sheboygan County  
*Sheboygan County*

Tri-City Area United Way's Volunteer Connection Center  
*Marinette and Oconto counties*

## SOUTHERN CENTRAL REGION/MADISON REGION:

United Way of Dane County Volunteer Center  
*Dane County*

## CENTRAL REGION:

United Way of Marathon County  
*Marathon County*

Marshfield Area United Way  
*Northern Wood County, parts of Clark & Marathon Counties*

United Way Volunteer Center of Portage County  
*Portage County*

United Way of South Wood and Adams Counties  
Volunteer Center  
*South Wood County and North Adams County*

## NORTHERN REGION:

Head of the Lakes United Way  
*Douglas County*

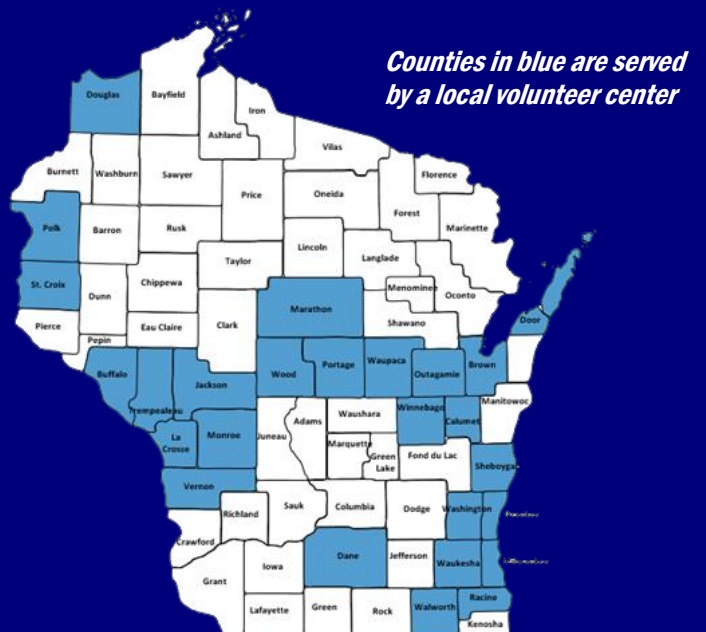
## WESTERN REGION:

Community Thread  
*Polk, Pierce, & St. Croix Counties*

Great Rivers United Way  
*Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, & Vernon Counties*

## STATEWIDE:

United Way of Wisconsin



# 2019 Governor's Service Awards



## HONOREES



**AmeriCorps Member of the Year**  
Alexis Dean - Schools of Hope

**AmeriCorps Program of the Year**  
Marshfield Clinic Health System -  
Recovery Corps

**AmeriCorps VISTA Member of the Year**  
Marco Marquez - Milwaukee Succeeds

**Senior Corps Volunteers of the Year**  
Richard Hoffman - RSVP of Dane County  
Mary Ann Steep - SWCAP Foster  
Grandparents Program

**Senior Corps Program of the Year**  
RSVP Interfaith of Washington County

**Veteran Volunteer of the Year**  
Steve Conto - Veterans of Foreign Wars

**Volunteer Coordinator of the Year**  
Rachel Guenther - The Beacon

**AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year**  
Khong Meng Her - Blugold Beginnings

Ashley Lee - Teach for America Milwaukee  
and Public Allies Milwaukee

Adrienne Strelcheck - Pathfinders Street  
Beat Outreach Team - WAHRS

**AmeriCorps VISTA Alumni of the Year**  
Ellen Carlson - Middleton Outreach  
Ministry

**Marty Stein Friend of National Service  
Exemplary Supporter**  
Brian Blahnik - Marshfield Clinic Health  
System AmeriCorps





**Marshfield Clinic Health System Recovery Corps AmeriCorps members and staff with Governor Tony Evers**



**Ashley Lee with Governor Tony Evers, Public Allies Milwaukee staff, and State Representative Jonathan Brostoff, an alumnus of Public Allies Milwaukee**



**Alexis Dean, AmeriCorps member with Schools of Hope, and State Senator Mark Miller**



**Governor Tony Evers and Brian Blahnik, an AmeriCorps program director with Marshfield Clinic Health System for the past 19 years**



**Khong Meng Her from Blugold Beginnings with State Representative Jodi Emerson and State Senator Jeff Smith**

# Wisconsin National and Community Service Board

Serve Wisconsin, the Wisconsin National and Community Service Board, was established January 28, 1994, by Governor Tommy G. Thompson under Executive Order “to encourage service and volunteer participation as a means of community and state problem-solving; to promote and support voluntary citizen involvement in government and private programs throughout the state; to develop a long-term vision and plan of action for community service initiatives in Wisconsin; and to serve as the state’s liaison to national and state organizations which support its mission.”

Serve Wisconsin is governed by a 21-member citizen body appointed by the Governor to support community service and volunteerism. Federal AmeriCorps resources from the Corporation for National and Community Service are awarded to organizations seeking to deliver services through an evidence-based approach to creating community solutions.

**Christine Beatty**  
Board Chair  
Older Adult Volunteerism  
Representative

**Angela Ahlgrim**  
Board Vice Chair  
Business Representative

**Secretary Joel Brennan**  
*Designee:* James Langdon  
Dept. of Administration

**Theresa Clark**  
Volunteer Sector  
Representative

**Anthony Hallman**  
Youth Development  
Representative

**Paula Horning**  
Community-Based Agency  
Representative

**Kate Jaeger**  
National Service Program  
Representative

**Ibrahim Jalloh**  
Public Representative

**Leah Lechleiter-Luke**  
Local Labor Organization  
Representative

**Benjamin Lehner**  
Local Government  
Representative

**Jane Moore**  
Youth Development  
Representative

**Susan Schwartz**  
Community-Based Agency  
Representative

**Yolanda Shelton-Morris**  
Volunteer Sector  
Representative

**State Superintendent  
Carolyn Stanford Taylor**  
*Designee:* Latoya Holiday  
Dept. of Public Instruction

**Patricia Takamine**  
Community-Based Agency  
Representative

**Benjamin Olsen**  
Corporation for National and  
Community Service  
EX-OFFICIO

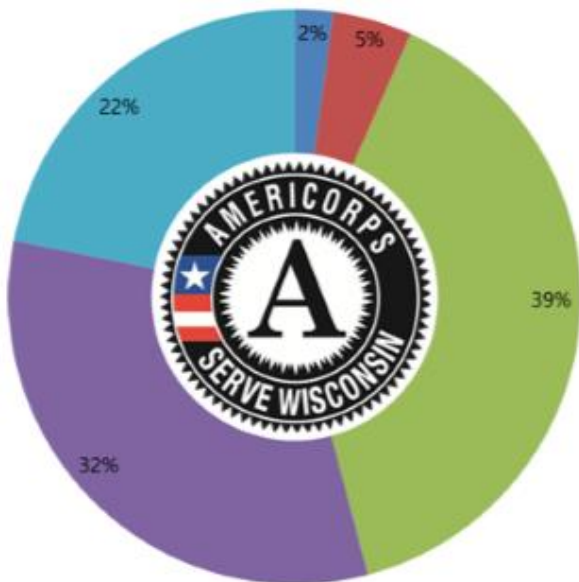
**Adjutant General Paul E. Knapp**  
*Designee:* Michael Hinman  
Dept. of Military Affairs  
EX-OFFICIO

**Secretary Caleb Frostman**  
*Designee:* Laura Doolin  
Dept. of Workforce Development  
EX-OFFICIO

**Secretary Mary M. Kolar**  
*Designee:* Donald Placidi  
Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
EX-OFFICIO

**Secretary Andrea Palm**  
*Designee:* Amy McDowell  
Dept. of Health Services  
EX-OFFICIO





- 2% State Appropriation—\$319,900
- 5% Federal Commission Support—\$749,872
- 39% Federal Grants to AmeriCorps Programs—\$6,264,093
- 32% Public and Private Match Funds—\$5,103,637
- 22% Federal Segal Education Awards—\$2,758,576

**TOTAL - \$15,196,078 in funding**

During the 2018-2019 program year, Serve Wisconsin operated with a state appropriation of **\$319,900**, which was then leveraged into **\$749,872** in federal grants to directly support Serve Wisconsin. **\$6.26 million** in federal AmeriCorps program funding was matched by **\$5.1 million** in private and public match funding to fund 22 AmeriCorps programs. Wisconsin AmeriCorps members earned **\$2.76 million** in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards from the federal government.

**For every dollar** appropriated by the state, this funding **yielded \$38** in federal commission support, federal program dollars, and private and public match funding.

## Serve Wisconsin Staff

**Jeanne Duffy**  
Executive Director

**Ruhamah Bauman**  
Program Officer

**Tracey Brent**  
Compliance and Training Officer

**Kyle Clower**  
Community Engagement Specialist

**Margie Kriel**  
Auditor

**Robin Lee**  
Fiscal Officer

**Alexis Matthews**  
Program Officer

**Steven Yule**  
Senior Program Officer



*Supported by the Corporation for  
National and Community Service*



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**Serve Wisconsin**  
**101 E Wilson St.**  
**6th Floor**  
**Madison, WI 53703**

[www.servewisconsin.wi.gov](http://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov)

**@ServeWisconsin**

