



News from the Massachusetts Service Alliance

Massachusetts AmeriCorps State and National Programs receive \$29,514,034 in funding



More than 325 organizations across the country will get a major boost in their efforts to address education, health, poverty, and other pressing social issues thanks to \$234 million in federal AmeriCorps grants announced by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

The AmeriCorps grants, the first made under the bipartisan Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act signed last year, carry out the vision of the landmark law to expand AmeriCorps and target it on addressing critical national issues of strengthening education, expanding health services, assisting veterans and military families, building a green future, and fostering economic opportunity.

Massachusetts received the largest allocation of competitive funding for national and state grants in the country. CNCS awarded grants to Massachusetts-based programs as small as \$130,000 and as high as \$8.9 million. The large range of awards clearly demonstrates the scope and scale of programs serving throughout the Commonwealth.

The CNCS grants will support more than 57,000 new AmeriCorps members who will serve with a wide range of national and local nonprofit organizations, community and faith-based groups, educational institutions, and Indian Tribes. In addition to the competitive AmeriCorps funding, the Corporation is also awarding \$129 million in formula funding to Governor-appointed state service commissions and territories, a 49% increase over last year, which will be used to make additional AmeriCorps grants this summer.

The grants make a focused investment in the five national issue priorities laid out in the Serve America Act of education, healthy futures, clean energy and the environment, veterans and economic opportunity.

June 2010

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Massachusetts: Taking a Lead in the Nation's Call to Serve



On Tuesday, June 8, staff and board members from the Massachusetts Service Alliance attended the "State of Service" event, hosted by the MassINC Associate Board and the

The grants will continue AmeriCorps support of entrepreneurial organizations that bring innovative business-based approaches to citizen problem-solving. They will also continue AmeriCorps emphasis on expanding capacity by recruiting and managing other volunteers. Last year, AmeriCorps programs mobilized and managed 2.4 million volunteers for the organizations they serve with.

For more information from CNCS, [click here](#).

Commonwealth Corps Celebration!

**COMMONWEALTH
CORPS**
INSPIRE. UNITE. ACT.

The Office of the Governor and the Massachusetts Service Alliance hosted the Commonwealth Corps End-of-Service Year Celebration at Fenway Park on May 26. The event was a great success! The purpose of this event was to recognize over 240 Commonwealth Corps members for their dedication to their communities and provide a chance to celebrate, reflect, network and unite in service.



We would like to thank our wonderful hosts at The Red Sox Foundation for providing Fenway Park for the event site. In addition, thank you to Aramark for generously donating the refreshments. This event would not have been possible without their generous support.

AmeriCorps Alum Board - Boston Chapter. The "State of Service" is an event series about improving service programming in Massachusetts. It brought together key service organizations, business leaders and higher education institutions to build on the state's active and deep-rooted service community.

The event was kicked off with a keynote address by Joseph Porcelli, Chief Executive Neighbor of Neighbors for Neighbors, and was followed by discussion among participants with topics ranging from best practices for volunteer recruitment to what can be done to improve collaboration among organizations and individuals.

We are looking forward to future events to continue the discussion around how agencies can collaborate across the state to use service as a tool in addressing the key issues affecting our communities.

For more information about MassINC, AmeriCorps Alums and the event, please [click here](#).

**Serve America Act:
One Year Later**

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 



Lastly, many thanks to Governor Deval Patrick for taking the time to speak at the event recognizing the achievements of the corps members for their service to the Commonwealth.



Thank you to the corps members, programs and guests that participated. As a group, you donated 50 pounds of food that day to the Greater Boston Food Bank. In addition, volunteers participated in a service project that afternoon sorting 3,650 pounds of food; making 2,772 meals possible for individuals and families in need.

MSA administers the Commonwealth Corps Program, a statewide civic engagement initiative of Governor Patrick's Office that has placed over 500 diverse individuals at 117 organizations across Massachusetts for a year of volunteer service - tutoring at-risk youth, revitalizing homes and neighborhoods and delivering critical health information to the elderly.

One year after the enactment of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, volunteering is up, momentum is strong, and a new vision for service is taking effect. Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, brought that message to the nation's service leaders at a luncheon to honor Senator Kennedy's legacy and the anniversary of the legislation.

"Service is the great force that unites us all as Americans," Corvington said in the keynote address. "As Senator Kennedy often noted, Americans want to serve. All we have to do is ask. The Serve America Act is doing the asking. One year later, the good Senator would be pleased to know, the American people are answering yes."

Americans are answering President Obama's call to serve in record numbers - 1.5 million more people volunteered last year over 2008.

Corvington outlined four major goals the Corporation has set for implementing the legislation:

- To make service a solution to our national challenges such as historic unemployment levels and poverty;

-

Massachusetts Celebrates AmeriCorps Week

May 9 - 15, 2010

The fourth annual AmeriCorps Week was a major success. From building homes and neighborhood cleanups to planting community gardens and signing up new volunteers, AmeriCorps members and alums celebrated AmeriCorps Week by doing what they do best - service. They also took time to thank their community partners, spread the word about AmeriCorps, and recruit more Americans into service. At a time when AmeriCorps is expanding, millions of Americans learned about AmeriCorps' value and impact through school presentations, recruitment fairs, open houses, social media, and press coverage. AmeriCorps Week was also a time to say "Thank You" to AmeriCorps members and alums. Members of Congress, Governors, Mayors, businesses, nonprofits, and people who've benefited from the helping hands of an AmeriCorps member all took time to salute the men and women of AmeriCorps for their dedication and accomplishments.

Locally, the Massachusetts Service Alliance awarded grants for its AmeriCorps Week Project Initiative to support projects that highlight current AmeriCorps programs, as well as heighten awareness of AmeriCorps in Massachusetts. The following projects were awarded:

- AmeriCorps Cape Cod in Barnstable organized a Coastal Mitigation Nursery Project in collaboration with the Town of Barnstable. The Coastal Mitigation Nursery Project took place from May 10-14th and engaged over 200 volunteers in creating garden beds and artificial dunes; planting native species for coastal remediation; and service learning and reflections. The week concluded with a community picnic to celebrate the project, recognize local partners, thank volunteers, and highlight the service of AmeriCorps members in Cape Cod.
- Social Capital, Inc. organized the SCI AmeriCorps Family Week project in Milford and Dorchester. Family Week included a variety of events throughout AmeriCorps Week, centering on issues of violence and bullying. Events in Milford included a Family Dinner Night, a Family Movie Night, and a volunteer project to renovate the Milford Youth Center. Dorchester hosted MyDorchester Night, which will

- To expand opportunities for more Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve;
- To build the capacity of individuals, non-profits, corporations and communities by giving them the tools they need to succeed; and
- To embrace innovation by expanding proven programs and seeding promising emerging ones.

The Corporation moved swiftly to implement the legislation after it went into effect on Oct. 1, 2009. To date, the Corporation has made more than \$420 million in grants available to expand the agency's programs and carry out new initiatives authorized under the Act, including the Social Innovation Fund, Volunteer Generation Fund, Nonprofit Capacity Building Program, and the Learn and Serve America Summer of Service program. Last month, the Corporation awarded \$2 million in Summer of Service grants to 17 organizations that will engage middle school-aged youth in service this summer.

For more information, visit NationalService.gov.

included a bullying PSA by SCI Dorchester's Film Crew teens, exhibition of the SCI Dorchester teens' artwork, and performances by local student, dance, and music groups. Both Milford and Dorchester hosted a speaker on bullying, as well as a family basketball game.



AmeriCorps Alumni Spotlight

Kevin McGravey

After graduating from Haverford College, joining Woburn-based Social Capital Inc. (SCI) for a year of service was a natural for Kevin McGravey.

Kevin jumped into his duties co-facilitating the Woburn Youth Council, and the program continued to engage teens in addressing a host of community problems. When SCI set out to document its Youth Council program into a formal leadership curriculum that would facilitate the future sustainability and replication of the program, Kevin volunteered to help.

Kevin quickly gravitated toward a central role in the curriculum development, collaborating with SCI's Founder David Crowley and Curriculum Consultant Michael Goldstein. The six unit curriculum that he helped to write is now the basis for SCI youth leadership program in 6 Massachusetts communities. David notes that "Kevin has a great ability to thoughtfully engage youth in skills and concepts related to social capital and service."



- On May 15, 2010 Tenacity's AmeriCorps members hosted Advantage: Boston, an AmeriCorps Service Week project. Corps Members and several volunteers gathered to clean up five parks throughout Boston which serve as Summer Tennis and Reading Program Sites for Tenacity. Sites included Carter Playground in Roxbury, Constitution Beach in East Boston, English High in Jamaica Plain, Moakley Park in South Boston, and Martini Shell in Hyde Park.

Over 100 volunteers ranging from Corps members, friends, community members, Tenacity staff, and more spent a Saturday afternoon clearing away trash, raking, painting, and planting flowers. After a hard, but enjoyable day of work, each site had been revitalized for the upcoming summer. "It was great to lead a project that benefited not only Tenacity, but also the larger community. The day was a great success" said AmeriCorps Member Peter Erhartic.



Thinking through the best way to teach emerging leaders concepts of social capital and how to apply the ideas to address community needs tied in with Kevin's academic interests. After graduating from the SCI AmeriCorps program in June 2009, Kevin headed to the Duke Divinity School, where he is pursuing his interest in religion, ethics and political theory.

While his Masters program is now his first priority, Kevin continues to pursue his interests in social capital and service. He currently volunteers at the Duke Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE) and also continues to serve as a resource for SCI's ongoing efforts to expand its curriculum.

Kevin recently reflected on what he has learned through his studies and service experience, "Democratic society demands that citizens be able to argue fervently, disagree peacefully, and ultimately come together to move forward. The only way to do this is to develop the habits of citizenship."



- United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) in Lowell held the Peace in Action event. Peace in Action 2010 involved a community barbeque where teens could engage in fun activities that help foster an atmosphere of nonviolence. A variety of performances were included in the Peace in Action event ranging from spoken word to singing to dancing. At the end of the event, participants were encouraged to sign a Peace Pledge to promote nonviolence in their communities.

To learn more about AmeriCorps Week, visit www.AmeriCorpsWeek.gov.



Funding Opportunity

Tom's of Maine, which takes pride in promoting its "goodness philosophy" over the past 40 years, has teamed up 50 States for Good for a second year in a row to encourage Americans to get their "good" on. This friendly little competition is awarding \$100,000 or \$20,000 to each of the top five voting-receiving charities. In fact, everyone is encouraged to tell their favorite non-profit to join in the program and be bold in sharing how they can best use new volunteers to benefit the community, says a news release for the contest.

Here's how it works:
Represent your state or region by entering qualifying 501(c)(3) organizations for consideration through July 2, 2010, using this online application form. Project sponsorship applications must then be submitted by

Statewide Service Learning Conference



On Tuesday, May 4, 2010, approximately 300 students, teachers, educators, and community partners participated in the annual Statewide Service-Learning Conference held at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Service Alliance. Attendees were invited to a day of sharing strategies to implement, improve and embed service-learning practice in Massachusetts' schools. The conference began with a dynamic keynote presentation from Alexander Diaz, a local businessman who has worked with schools in Auburn and residents of Central MA to

collect over 100,000 pairs of shoes for Soles 4 Souls. Workshop and plenary sessions focused on project sharing, skills and tools for improving practice, strategies and policies for institutionalizing CSL, and ideas for collaboration and linkages with other educational and service initiatives.

All attendees were invited to display service-learning success stories. Project displays were scattered around the conference center for viewing throughout the day. Displays reflected elements of high-quality service-learning including: academic connections, service that meets real community needs, youth voice and reflection.

Service-Learning Leader Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following educators and partners who were selected as this year's Service-Learning Leaders! The CSL Advisory Council to the Board of Education presented the CSL Leader Awards.

Teacher Leader Awards

Christine Ahearn, Conley Elementary School, Whitman-Hanson
Molly Meczywor, Drury High School, North Adams
Lynn Walker-Muñoz, Nathaniel Morton Elem. School, Plymouth

Principal Leader Award

Patricia Haggerty, Bryn Mawr School, Auburn

Superintendent Leader Award

James Montepare, North Adams

Community Partner Leader Award

Dr. John Woods, AARP Tax-Aide, Whitman-Hanson
Shawn Cleaves and Brion Keefe, Pond Meadow Park, Braintree

Higher Education Partner Leader Award

Civic Engagement Center, University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth

National Volunteer Week

April 18 -21, 2010

National Volunteer Week, a signature event of Points of Light Institute, celebrates ordinary people doing extraordinary things to improve communities across the nation.

the qualifying non-profit organization. Next comes preliminary judging, which will narrow the field of applicants to a select group of 40 finalists (in honor of Tom's of Maine's 40th anniversary) for public voting. The top five vote-getting charities will be announced on October 4, 2010.

Dates of interest:

Accepting Applications
Now - July 2

Preliminary Judging
July 3 - August 1

Public Voting
August 2 - September 10

Winners Announcement
October 4

To learn more, visit the **50 States for Good contest website**, and good luck!

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National Volunteer Week *April 18 -21, 2010*

National Volunteer Week, a signature event of Points of Light Institute, celebrates ordinary people doing extraordinary things to improve communities across the nation.



National Volunteer Week 2010 was an opportunity to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, while also -- Celebrating People in Action -- the theme. The week was about honoring individuals who take action and solve significant problems in their communities.

National Volunteer Week Highlights across Massachusetts:

Charles River Watershed Association

- "Great time. My students had a lot of fun and appreciated the great view of Boston while cleaning. Well organized and so easy to participate. Thank you for coordinating." --Wendy Lai, who brought a group of freshmen from The English High School to help in Boston
- "We pick up a furnace complete with burner, a car transmission, fencing, gas cans. Tires were tough to move buried in mud but we did it. We got everything!" -- Lisa Rafuse, BSA Venturing Crew 22 who cleaned up in Franklin
- "Wonderful event. Our volunteers had a lot of fun and were enriched by this event." -- Alice Chen, Boston Tzu Chings, who helped in Boston

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Mass Audubon's 2010 Statewide Volunteer Day

On April 24, 2010, approximately 670 people at 13 Mass Audubon wildlife sanctuaries joined in our 4th Annual Statewide Volunteer Day. Here's what was accomplished in just three short hours.

- Spread approximately 800 yards of mulch and wood chips
- Planted 229 plants
- Removed 175 bags of trash, including 16 pairs of shoes, 4 sinks, 3 tires, 2 basement oil tanks, and 1 sofa
- Cleared 6 acres of invasive species
- Spruced up 20 gardens
- Moved and stacked 3 cords of wood
- Put up 6 bird houses, which were occupied immediately
- Installed 200 feet of fencing
- In addition, we cleared trails, stained picnic tables, painted shutters, rebuilt stone walls, spread compost, and moved brush.



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Voices from the day:

- A hard-working volunteer at Mass Audubon's Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary on Martha's Vineyard remarked: "On a beautiful day like this, in a beautiful place like this I'm reminded of a quote by Bengali author Rabindranath Tagore: 'I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.'"
- A grandfather working with his grandson at Mass Audubon's Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary in Belmont offered: "Our family has been coming here for generations and it's time we gave a little something back."





St. Anna's "Little Red School House"

St. Anna's is a small Catholic elementary school in Leominster, Massachusetts. Serving fewer than two hundred students from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade, the culture at St. Anna's fosters working together with parents and community to ensure a quality learning environment for all of its students. To help reach this goal, St. Anna's Elementary School recently undertook a sizeable project during National Volunteer week 2010 - repainting several classrooms in their "Little Red Schoolhouse."

Improving the community, one day, one project at a time - that's what volunteerism is about. St. Anna's Elementary School recognized that it did not have the man power to complete a project of this magnitude on its own. The only way they would be able to make over several

classrooms in cost efficient fashion would be through volunteerism. By partnering with Community Builders and Target, St. Anna's accomplished what they set out to do and more, proving that much more can be achieved by working together.



Youth StreetReach

Youth StreetReach retreats are held three times a year. They provide teenagers the opportunity to work with the homeless in a meaningful manner. On Friday evening, youth and youth leaders gather with a selected group of formerly homeless individuals who share stories of how they became homeless. The evening includes ice-breakers, sharing, and a tour of the area with homeless folks as guides, showing youth where people have slept and died outside. The evening concludes with a movie about homelessness, The youth then sleep on the floor and are awakened at 6am to prepare breakfast for homeless guests who arrive at 7am. Donated clothing

is sorted and the youth set tables, cook breakfast, and prepare bag lunches to be given out. After breakfast, the whole group meets in small groups to hear talks, share stories and present summaries. Everyone breaks for lunch which is eaten outside in silence so that youth appreciate the loneliness of being homeless. Then all return for a closing circle sharing.



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