We had an absolute blast at the 2019 Massachusetts AmeriCorps Opening Day! Held on Friday, November 1 at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury, the event convened over 900 Massachusetts AmeriCorps members serving with dozens of programs across the state.

This year's Opening Day speakers included Kimberly Y. Jones Board Vice Chair of MSA; Barbara Stewart CEO of CNCS; Emily Haber CEO of MSA; Congressman Seth Moulton of the 6th District of MA; and Kanna Kunchala Senior Vice President, Major Gifts City Year. After the AmeriCorps members took the AmeriCorps Pledge, they participated in service projects throughout Boston with organizations like Cradles to Crayons, Pine Street Inn, and The Greater Boston Food Bank.

You can check out photos from Opening Day at our Facebook page as well as the video below featuring some of our favorite moments.

Learn more about AmeriCorps in Massachusetts.
Our 2019-20 Commonwealth Corps program is in full swing! This year’s 33 members have already provided over 10,500 hours of direct service and capacity building across the Commonwealth, in conjunction with 15 partner agencies in communities in and around Boston, Chelsea, Worcester, Lowell, Westport, Springfield, and Holyoke. Learn more about some of this year’s members and partner agencies by checking out the latest Commonwealth Corps Newsletter.

Interested in hosting Commonwealth Corps members for the 2020-21 program year? We will be releasing the Host Site Partner RFP in early December. Each year, MSA partners with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and public entities across Massachusetts to support full- and half-time Commonwealth Corps members for 10.5 month terms of service. For more information on the Commonwealth Corps service internship program and host site application process, visit our website and sign-up for one of our upcoming technical assistance webinars.
Welcoming, Engaging and Supporting Volunteers with Diverse Abilities

Thursday December 12
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
New England Villages
664 School Street, Pembroke MA 02359
Cost: $15

This session will provide you with the tools needed to welcome, engage and support volunteers with diverse abilities to successfully participate in your program. Start with basic disability etiquette and introduction to diverse abilities. Explore best practices for the intake process, working with group homes/support providers & communication strategies that are found effective in creating or enhancing a culture of inclusion. Finish the session with a review of suggested inclusion strategies & tools that you'll find are beneficial to ALL volunteers. Work in small groups to solve "inclusion scenarios" by using the learned skills.

Facilitator: Lisa Drennan
Lisa has a 35-year career supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be active and engaged within their community. At New England Village in Pembroke, MA, she gained experience in working as a Direct Support Worker and eventually as the Director of The Sollar Wellness Center specifically designed for this population.

In 2014, she joined the South Shore YMCA as the first-ever Association Director of Inclusion, creating innovative programs and comprehensive staff trainings to build a culture of inclusion. In 2018 Lisa started her own company, MERGE Inclusion Consulting where she provides comprehensive consultation, staff training and systems implementation to community entities committed to recreation, sport and social program inclusion.

REGISTER HERE!

Service Enterprise Informational Sessions
Dates and locations: Ongoing!
Cost: FREE!

We are looking for organizations to join our 2020-2021 Service Enterprise Cohorts! Service Enterprise is a
Service Enterprise—transformational training program that enhances an organization’s ability to manage volunteers and advance their mission. This nationally recognized certification is the gold standard in volunteer management, and is proven to increase efficiency and programming across all levels of your organization.

Learn more about Service Enterprise by visiting our website!

We currently have Service Enterprise Info Sessions scheduled in the Metro West and South Coast regions!

**United Way of Greater Plymouth County**

**Where**
Catholic Charities
169 Court Street, Brockton MA 02302

**When**
Thursday December 12th

**Time**
9:00am-10:00am

**REGISTER HERE!**

**Go-To Webinar**

Can't make it to one of our in-person info sessions?

Watch our webinar to learn more!

WATCH HERE!

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Age Strong

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**Age Strong Public Awareness Campaign**

The City of Boston recently launched an Age Strong Public Awareness Campaign to break down the stereotypes around aging and to start a conversation about ageism. The campaign highlights the stories of 8 older Bostonians - age 59-103. One of them, Harry, is a Senior Corps Senior Companion member serving with the City of Boston Age Strong Commission under Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

**How Do You #AgeStrong?**
Commission. Each image has a common stereotype (our implicit biases), and then a picture of an older person and a little of their story that together dispel the stereotype. There is also a great video. More details can be found on our website below, so please check it out:

https://www.boston.gov/departments/age-strong-commission/how-do-you-age-strong

This campaign is only as good as the conversations it is starting so please help us spread the word and get involved. Here are three easy things you can do:

- **Share** the video on social media or the images (you can copy them from our webpage)
- Use #AgeStrong to tell us how you are aging strong - we are all aging so join the conversation!
- Let us know ideas you have for spreading the message - do you have someone we should partner with? Do you have access to digital screens that could display the campaign images?

If you are interested in partnering with the City of Boston on the campaign please fill out the [partnership request form here](https://www.boston.gov/departments/age-strong-commission/how-do-you-age-strong).

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**Massachusetts Disaster Volunteers**

Massachusetts Service Alliance recently launched a new resource to assist in times of disaster. The disaster web portal, [www.madisastervolunteers.org](http://www.madisastervolunteers.org), is designed to connect unaffiliated volunteers to agencies in need of volunteers during times of disaster. A person will go to the webpage and register as a volunteer. During the registration process the person will enter information about themselves including interests, skills, certifications, and availability that will assist disaster affiliated agencies in connecting with them for potential opportunities. Agencies who serve in times of disaster are also encouraged to register their agency on the site.

The agency will be able to list opportunities and needs from their agency that registered volunteers will be able to respond to if there is interest. The web portal is operated in cooperation with the Massachusetts VOAD and MEMA. For further questions about the disaster web portal, you may reach out to MSA Program Officer, Roger Dunn at [rdunn@mass-service.org](mailto:rdunn@mass-service.org).

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**New Faces at MSA**

*New Board Members*
Massachusetts Service Alliance is proud to welcome our new Board members. You can read more about them on our Board of Directors page.

### Talia Gee
Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer for the City of Springfield.

### Candace Burns
Director for Workforce Development at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) in Boston Massachusetts.

### Daphne Griffin
Executive Director at Scholar Athletes.

### Bowen Lee
Eighth grade lead teacher at Nativity School of Worcester.

### Larry Mayes
Vice President of Programs for Catholic Charities.

### Hallie Zenga-Josephson
Senior at Newton North High School in Newton Massachusetts.
Belle Allen
Communications & Operations Associate

Belle began her role as a Communications & Operations Associate at MSA in July 2019. After returning from teaching English overseas in China last summer, Belle began her 10-month service with SCI AmeriCorps as a volunteer Outreach Coordinator in September 2018. Belle has her Bachelors in English from UMass Boston and her Masters in Conflict Resolution and International Relations from Northeastern University. Belle has a passion for writing and has self-published three books as well as written for online TV review sites, traveling, and of course her pets. Belle’s goal is to visit at least one new destination per year.

Massachusetts Service Alliance
100 N. Washington St., 3rd Fl.
Boston, MA 02114
www.mass-service.org

Connect with Us: