

Massachusetts Service Alliance

Building Stronger Communities through Service and Volunteerism



Spring 2016

MSA Welcomes a New Staff Member!



Maura Hackett is excited to join the Massachusetts Service Alliance team as a Program Officer. She has extensive experience working with volunteer-supported organizations throughout the US where she mainly focused on introducing students and volunteers to STEM, coastal ecology, and history through sailing traditionally-rigged vessels. Most recently Maura directed Science Club for Girls' STEM-based teen programs in Greater Boston, and developed the education and volunteer programs aboard a historic fishing vessel with Gloucester Adventure, Inc. Maura is originally from New Jersey and first moved to Boston while attending Boston University, where she received a Master's degree in Environmental Public Health. In her spare time Maura enjoys traveling and sailing schooners for which she possesses a 100 Ton captain's license.

Spread the Word! Commonwealth Corps Host Sites Accepting Applications Now!

By taking on a year of service, Commonwealth Corps members can positively impact their community while gaining skills and experience. Stipended full-time and half-time service positions are available across MA, and members of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to apply.



The mission of the Commonwealth Corps is to engage Massachusetts residents of all ages and backgrounds in service to strengthen communities, address unmet community needs, and increase volunteerism. Corps members provide direct service, build capacity, and recruit, organize, and mobilize additional volunteers.

Commonwealth Corps members will serve for 10.5 months with one of our 19 host site partners from August 15, 2016 through June 24, 2017. Benefits include a focus on member training and development, as well as a bi-weekly stipend, a completion award, and other opportunities and supports. Applicants must be Massachusetts residents who are 18 years of age or older.

Please share this opportunity with anyone who might be interested!

Full-time and Half-time Positions Across the Commonwealth:

Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development Focus Area:

- International Institute of New England (Greater Boston; Full-time)
- More Than Words (Greater Boston; Full-time)
- Square One (Western MA; Half-time)
- United South End Settlements (Boston; Full-time)

Education Focus Area:

- 826 Boston (Boston; Full-time)
- Buzzards Bay Coalition (Southeastern MA; Full-time)
- CitySprouts (Greater Boston; Full-time)
- The Home for Little Wanderers (Greater Boston; Full-time)
- Homework House (Western MA; Full-time)
- Housing Families, Inc. (Greater Boston; Half-time)
- Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound (Western MA; Full-time)
- Westport River Watershed Alliance (Southeastern MA; Full-time)



Health and Nutrition Focus Area:

- Community Healthlink (Central MA; Full-time)
- Island Health Care Inc. Community Health Center (Cape/Islands; Half-time)
- Middlesex Community College (Northeastern MA; Half-time)

Youth Development/Youth Violence Prevention Focus Area:

- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell (Northeastern MA; Full-time)
- Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire & North Quabbin Regions (Western MA; Full-time)
- Soccer Without Borders (Boston; Full-time)
- The Trustees of Reservations (Boston & Southeastern MA; Full-time)

Applications should be submitted ASAP directly to host sites of interest, as each agency has its own rolling deadline.

Click [here](#) for more information!

The Power of Service!

MSA Celebrates National Volunteer Week



This spring, MSA celebrated our 25th Anniversary and National Volunteer Week by partnering with 10 grantees across the Commonwealth to provide volunteers the opportunity to serve their neighbors and local community from April 10th - 16th. Between prepping and building garden beds, to repairing and improving homes for low-income families, our volunteers made an incredible impact in just a matter of days. Almost 2,000 volunteers supported MSA and our partners throughout the week, and reminded us of what we can accomplish when we join together. Projects that occurred throughout the week included: building community gardens, creating literary kits for youth, building reading benches and mini-libraries for schools, collecting and assembling military care packages, clothing and supply drives, planting fruit/vegetable crops for food pantry donations, trail maintenance, and beach and park repair work. As always,

we are so thankful for both the volunteers, whose time and dedication made these projects happen as well as our partner agencies who spent months planning, recruiting, and making sure everyone had an incredible experience.

Service Enterprise

MSA is in the midst of our third year of implementing the Service Enterprise Training and Certification Program for the state of Massachusetts. We have expanded this curriculum into three regions of the Commonwealth including, Cape Cod, the SouthCoast, and Greater Boston. Each year, a cohort of agencies participates in a training curriculum and pledges to work with a coach to implement best practices in volunteer and

organizational management over a 12 month period, culminating with an official certification from MSA and Points of Light. MSA is excited to announce our newest certified sites as of spring 2016: **Harwich Conservation Trust, United Way of Greater New Bedford, and Cotuit Center for the Arts!** Many of our other sites are gearing up to apply for certification and we can't wait to see all of the progress they have made over the past year!



For more information about participating in the Service Enterprise Program for Massachusetts, please contact: Shana Lothrop, Program Officer for Volunteer Initiatives, slothrop@mass-service.org or visit <http://www.pointsoflight.org/service-enterprise-initiative> for more information about the national initiative.

FY2017 State Budget Update

Strong Support for Service & Volunteerism in House & Senate Budgets

We are excited to share that both the House and Senate FY17 budget proposals included the Massachusetts Service Alliance's full request of \$1.4 million to support the service and volunteerism infrastructure across the state. State funding helps to support AmeriCorps and Commonwealth Corps programming as well as volunteer initiatives like the Service Enterprise Initiative, Youth Development Volunteer Initiative and National Days of Service. We are very grateful for the strong leadership and support in both chambers including Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, Senator Eric Lesser, Senator Dan Wolf, Representative Stephen Kulik and Representative Michael Moran - and for all of the advocacy efforts of our friends and supporters in the field.



What's next? A six-member Conference Committee will convene this month to negotiate a final budget to send to Governor Baker. Stay tuned!

Atlantic National Service Training Conference Recap

The Massachusetts Service Alliance, in partnership with America's Service Commissions (ASC) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), hosted the Atlantic National Service Training Conference in Springfield, MA from May 2 - 4. This regional conference brought together 480 national service professionals from across 14 states and territories. Participants attended a wide range of engaging workshops such as "The Art & Practice of Evaluation," "A Recipe for Your Social Strategy," and "Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Members and Volunteers."

Highlights of the conference included a keynote opening address from Wendy Spencer, CEO of CNCS, a video from Senator Elizabeth Warren thanking conference attendees for their important work, state commission videos spotlighting service in the Atlantic region, and a closing address from Vicki Floyd Clark, owner of Building the Capacity of Organizations. In addition, conference participants attended a peer networking reception at The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, which featured a story slam organized by Massmouth, Inc. Conference participants' daily service work came alive through the exchange of unforgettable stories from the field.

We want to thank conference participants, presenters, speakers, and sponsors for making the conference a success!



Peer networking reception at the Basketball Hall of Fame



AmeriCorps Alums Boston Update

AmeriCorps Alums Boston is seeking new board members! If you are interested in joining the board, please complete the [board member application](#) and contact [Elizabeth](#) with questions. The AmeriCorps Alums board is a fun opportunity to connect with fellow alums and strengthen the experience for thousands of alums in Massachusetts. You can also attend events and become an ambassador, be sure to follow the action on [Facebook!](#)

Please also share your graduation ceremony dates with us and let us know if you would be interested in having a table with information from AmeriCorps Alums Boston! Contact [Gayle](#) for more information.

Save the Date! 2016 AmeriCorps Opening Day

Friday, November 4, 2016 at 10:00 am

Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center



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