

Massachusetts Service Alliance

Building Stronger Communities through Service and Volunteerism



Summer 2017

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Serve in the Commonwealth Corps - Apply Now!

MSA is excited to partner with 17 Commonwealth Corps host sites for the 2017-2018 program year to help strengthen organizations and communities across Massachusetts. Partner organizations will host 37 Commonwealth Corps members from August 15, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Learn more about our Commonwealth Corps partners still accepting applications [here](#).



Graduating Commonwealth Corps Members Celebrate a Successful Year of Community Impact and Professional Growth

Thank you to our 32 Commonwealth Corps members and 16 host site partners for contributing over 46,000 hours of service during the 2016-2017 program year!



Shelly Dorfman (Commonwealth Corps Member with The Home For Little Wanderers)

"I lost my way before, but the Commonwealth Corps has helped me find it again; by offering engaging professional development trainings, by providing ongoing support, by empowering us to support our communities, and specifically for me, by connecting me to The Home for Little Wanderers, an organization that provides quality care in an inclusive environment. Because the Commonwealth Corps gave us the opportunity and push to request informational interviews and broaden our professional networks, and because my supervisor Taryn connected me to others at The Home, I learned about non-profit program evaluation as a career. I applied for a job in the Evaluation and Outcomes department that happened to open up a few weeks ago and I am proud that I will start a full-time position there on Monday morning."

Kobe Osei-Boaten (Commonwealth Corps Member with United South End Settlements)

"I remember praying for guidance & I remember the words of a commencement speaker replaying in my head about one's career after graduation. He said there were 2 kinds of people and one of them would never find satisfaction-"...there are people who want to be something and people who want to do something" Who am I? Finally, I listened to my gut, so I knew I had to look elsewhere. I sought an opportunity where I could truly engage the world in a positive manner with full sincerity, mutuality, and personal growth. It is only because of the Commonwealth Corp that I was able to find this."

Alex Buonfiglio (Commonwealth Corps Alumnus, Served with More Than Words in 2015-2016)

"I hope all of the new graduates can internalize the level of impact you had. I know it may not seem like a big accomplishment quite yet, but you've all instilled new systems, projects, and learned valuable skills that are transferable in your career and life. Your service has helped thousands of individuals all over Massachusetts. You are all now part of the incredible and select community of individuals who have started and completed a year of service. I hope you all are immensely proud of what you've accomplished."

7 Mass Nonprofits Earn Service Enterprise Certification

Congratulations to our newest certified organizations from the 2016 Service Enterprise Initiative!

**826 Boston
Cape and Islands United Way**

Chatham Marconi Maritime Center
Family Pantry
Mass Audubon Southcoast Sanctuaries
Neighborhood Falmouth
Southcoast Health

These organizations have been recognized by the Points of Light Foundation and MSA for applying leading practices in organizational and volunteer management. They have completed over 20 hours of training and have complied with the rigorous certification standards for this national program. Thanks to our partners at the United Way of Greater New Bedford and Cape and Islands United Way for another successful program 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 www.pointsoflight.org/service-enterprise-initiative for more information about the national initiative.

MSA's Commission Investment Funds Support Life After AmeriCorps Trainings Across the State

The Commission Investment Funds (CIF) expand the capacity of MSA and the 52 other State Commissions across the country to support their state AmeriCorps programs, state AmeriCorps Members and internal Commission staff.

One significant use of these funds went to the coordination of 6 regional trainings specifically designed for Service Members in an effort to promote a positive AmeriCorps member experience and life-long commitment to service. These regional member development events culminated in a half day "Life After AmeriCorps" training with beloved trainer Shoshanna Cogan which happened alongside our bi-annual statewide conference on service and volunteering on June 12, 2017 at the Sheraton Framingham.



Over 60 service members from different AmeriCorps programs across the state took part in "Get Things Done! Your Life after AmeriCorps Service" which focused on REAPing the Benefits of their Service Year & SOWing the Seeds of their Desired Future. In this training, members identified key learnings from their Service Year, assessed and articulated their valuable transferable workplace skills, passions, and competencies, clarified career goals and high leverage next steps to achieve their goals and milestones, and explored essential Life After AmeriCorps Tips and Resources including Branding, Social Media, Resumes, Network Building, Getting Noticed by Employers, and Delivering their Minute Message.

The training was extremely well received by members. One member left the training "feeling inspired to start a new journey" and another member remarked on the evaluation, "I will use this information to think more deeply about my long-term goals and what it will take for me to reach them. I really appreciated Shoshanna's positivity and focus on mindfulness...this workshop had me very focused."

2017 MA Conference on Service and Volunteering

The Massachusetts Service Alliance held its biannual Massachusetts Statewide Conference on Service and Volunteering on Monday, June 12 at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center. The conference convened nearly 300 nonprofit, public, and private sector leaders, service participants and volunteers throughout the Commonwealth for an inspiring day of learning, connection, and dialogue.

We would like to extend another congratulations to our 2017 Massachusetts Service & Volunteerism Award winners who were honored at a special awards luncheon during the conference:

Getting Things Done in Massachusetts

Awardee: Carline Palmer, DIAL/SELF AmeriCorps Member

Making A Difference/Outstanding Impact in Service & Volunteerism

Awardee: Community Servings

Working Together/Outstanding Collaboration in Service & Volunteerism

Awardee: Cambridge School Volunteers/NetPals



For access to workshop materials used by presenters, please visit our website [here](#). The remaining workshop materials will be uploaded soon.

Looking for volunteer opportunities? Check out some of the latest volunteer postings on Connect and Serve!

- [Fundraiser Committee](#)
- [Yard Work](#)
- [Child Care / Tutoring](#)
- [Food Pantry](#)
- [Matty Camp - Therapeutic Horseback Riding Camp](#)



CONNECT & SERVE

See more on MSA's Connect and Serve volunteer portal [here](#)!

Save the Date!

Massachusetts AmeriCorps Opening Day

Friday, November 3, 2017 at 10:00AM
Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center

Registration will open at the end of September



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