In this issue

- MSA welcomes new staff and board members
- 2018 MLK Day of Service Highlights
- Commonwealth Corps Updates
- AmeriCorps Training Update
- Partner Spotlight: Silver Lining Mentoring

MSA welcomes new staff to the team

You may have noticed some new faces at MSA recently. We are so excited to have hired six

MSA staff volunteer at Pine Street Inn, the largest resource provider for homeless individuals in New England.
Boston Mayor Marty Walsh visits Boston Cares’ service project site at the Boston Latin School. (yes, six) new staff members! They are:

- Julianne DeFilippis, Commonwealth Corps Program Assistant
- Roger Dunn, Program Officer
- Katie Koski, Program Officer
- Lis Lohmueller, Administrative Coordinator
- Michael Stewart, Coordinator for Volunteer Initiatives
- Kimberly Valimont, Controller

Four of the six new staff members are AmeriCorps alums, and each brings fresh energy and new knowledge to the MSA team. Check out our staff bio page to read more about MSA staff.

In October, MSA also welcomed Jim Bourdon to our Board of Directors. A resident of Falmouth, Jim has over 35 years of experience in accounting and financing, and he now serves on MSA’s Finance Committee. Welcome, everyone!

MLK Day 2018:
A day for volunteerism and community engagement

Was your MLK Day a day on, not a day off? MSA partnered with nine nonprofits to host volunteer service projects on this National Day of Service.

Together, this initiative engaged over 4,500 community members (including 1,800 youth) as volunteers throughout the state! These volunteers revitalized classrooms and community spaces, provided educational resources and services to low-income families, created learning tools for immigrants and refugees preparing for their citizenship exams, prepared disaster supply kits, and more.

Many thanks to our partner organizations:

- Boston Cares
- Cambridge Community Foundation
- Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands
- Emmaus, Inc.
- Friends of St. Stephen’s Youth Programs
- Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
- Many Helping Hands 365
- Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
- Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
- YMCA Southcoast

Be part of the change!

Did you know that nearly one quarter (24.8%) of MA residents volunteer? You can join them by visiting Connect & Serve, our statewide volunteer portal. On Connect & Serve, you can browse volunteer opportunities, connect with 240+ organizations that are making a difference, and contribute to the causes that you care about most.
Commonwealth Corps Updates: 
Midyear Impact

We are incredibly proud of all that our Commonwealth Corps Members and Host Site Partners have accomplished thus far in the 2017-2018 service year. During the first half of their service term, our current Commonwealth Corps Members have served over 24,000 hours and impacted more than 8,000 beneficiaries across Massachusetts. In addition to members' own contributions, they have also engaged 1,816 community volunteers who have provided an additional 38,050 hours of service, furthering the impact of their programs.

Their projects include:

- Developing and implementing school garden curricula at Boston area middle schools
- Expanding outreach support and mentor recruitment
- Enhancing employment opportunities in Western MA
- And many, many more!

Through MSA- and Host Site-provided professional development opportunities, as well as on-the-ground experiences, members are enhancing their skills for the future, while leveraging their strengths to improve their communities.

2018-2019 Applications

We would also like to thank all those who applied to partner with MSA as a Commonwealth Corps Host Site for the 2018-2019 program year. We were excited to receive many more applications than in years past and are expecting a very competitive application process. We look forward to announcing our selected 2018-2019 Host Site Partners in the spring, after a thorough community review later this month.
AmeriCorps members pose with the "Understanding the Civil Rights of Your Immigrant Clients" trainers in early December.

**AmeriCorps Training Update**

MSA wants to send a **big shout out** to the following AmeriCorps programs for partnering with us to provide 3 excellent recent AmeriCorps member training opportunities:

- **AmeriCorps Legal Advocates** for the "Understanding the Civil Rights of Your Immigrant Clients" training that 26 members attended on December 4, 2017
- **Dial/Self, Student Conservation Association (SCA), and TerraCorps** who collaborated on the non-violent communication training that over 70 members attended on December 15, 2017
- **TerraCorps** for the implicit bias training that 31 members attended on January 16, 2018

Applications are still being accepted for member training events. Please contact Lisl Hacker at lhacker@mass-service.org for more information.

---

**Partner Spotlight: Silver Lining Mentoring**

In honor of National Mentoring Month, we are highlighting one of our **Youth Development Volunteer Initiative** grantees, **Silver Lining Mentoring** (SLM). Based in Boston, SLM empowers kids in foster care to flourish through committed mentoring relationships and the development of essential life skills. SLM is the only mentoring organization in the state that exclusively serves foster care youth.

Their **Mentors Program** pairs youth one-on-one with an adult mentor. The matches meet 8+ hours a month and receive ongoing support from SLM's clinically-trained program staff. Mentors commit to volunteering for a year, although the program's average match length is an
astounding 55 months! SLM also runs the LGBTQ Mentoring Initiative, connecting LGBTQ youth with LGBTQ-identified mentors. Additionally, the organization provides youth a support network to develop employment, health, and life skills through its Our Leaders Program. SLM served over 125 youth in its mentoring programs in 2017.

Inspired by their mission? They are seeking more mentors! Contribute to this incredible organization, and make a difference in a child's life - no special background required. Sign up for an info session to learn more!