

# *Building a Shared Legacy of Service*



## *2011 Annual Report*



Washington Commission for National and Community Service

*State commissions administer national service programs to promote civic engagement and foster the ethic of service while meeting real community needs. Local community-based organizations, school districts, and state agencies apply for AmeriCorps grants through their state commissions.*



The Washington Commission for National and Community Service (WCNCS or the Commission) was created in 1994 to implement national service initiatives, provide training and technical assistance, evaluate programs, and leverage federal dollars with local, state, and private-sector resources. For the past 17 years, the Commission has administered \$181.2 million in federal grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

## Our Programs

In 2011, 1,504 AmeriCorps State members served in areas of education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, economic opportunity, veterans and military families, and disaster response programs funded by the WCNCS. In addition, more than 1,359 AmeriCorps National members and 205 AmeriCorps VISTA members served in programs funded directly by the CNCS.

## 2011 AmeriCorps State Programs

Clallam County Family YMCA – North Olympic AmeriCorps  
 College Success Foundation – College and Career Advising Corps  
 Community Youth Services – AmeriCorps-Youth in Service  
 Washington Department of Ecology – Washington Conservation Corps  
 EarthCorps – EarthCorps AmeriCorps  
 Educational Service District 112 – Northwest Service Academy  
 Employment Security Department – Washington Reading Corps  
 Employment Security Department – Washington Service Corps  
 Girl Scouts of Western Washington – Leaders in Service  
 Kitsap Community Resources – KCR/AmeriCorps  
 Life Works – Cowlitz AmeriCorps Network  
 Opportunities Industrialization Center of Washington – YouthBuild AmeriCorps  
 Pasco School District No. 1 – Regional Service Corps  
 Solid Ground – JustServe AmeriCorps  
 NE Washington Educational Service District 101 – Spokane Service Team  
 Washington Department of Veterans Affairs – Vet Corps

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## Planning Grants Funded in 2011

Washington State Association of Boys and Girls Clubs – Beyond Our Walls  
 Washington State University – Horizons

*Cover photo: Megan Anderson, Washington Reading Corps member through Community Youth Services, tutors students at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary in Tumwater.*



We are fortunate to live in this great state, a place of abundant natural beauty that beckons travelers from around the world. However, the Evergreen State is also known for another kind of beauty – thousands of Washingtonians volunteering their time and talents to make positive differences in their communities. We see this beauty in Reading Corps volunteer tutors, in those donating their time on environmental restoration projects, and in the countless other volunteer hours generously contributed by citizens across our state.

The stories of service in this report not only reflect the beauty of our state, but also reveal an inner beauty that thrives in Port Angeles and Pasco, in Spokane and Longview, rooted in small communities and large. These stories, and the spirit of service they represent, will form traditions, creating pieces of our shared legacy that will be passed from one generation to the next. We thank the volunteers represented in these stories, and all those who have served to make Washington a better place to live.

We invite you to be part of this unique experience by continuing a tradition or by forming a new one – that of service and volunteering. Some of the stories are of individuals just beginning their journey of service and others highlight long-standing traditions that parallel the growth of our state. As we face the need for expanded services, driven by the lingering economic downturn, we hope you can devote your most precious commodity – your time – to a volunteer project of your choice. There are people in need waiting for you to make your contribution.

The individuals you read about in this report probably never considered that they were making history or building a shared legacy. However, they are doing extraordinary things and are a vital part of a generation that stepped up and served at a time when we needed them the most. We welcome you to join us.

Sincerely,

Bill Basl  
Executive Director,  
Washington Commission for  
National and Community Service

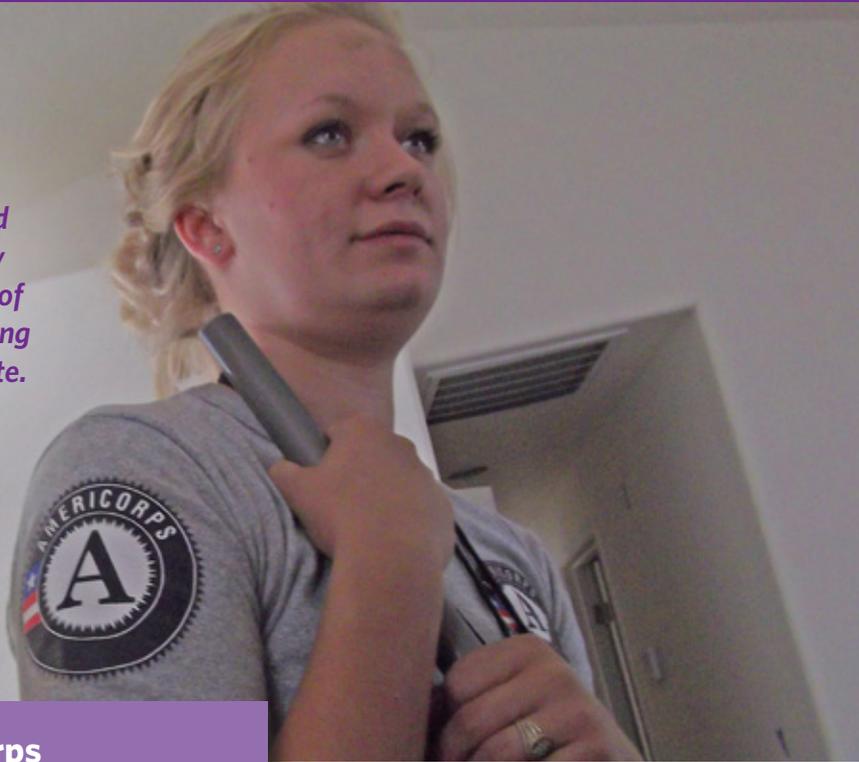
Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor,  
State of Washington

Eleanor Andersen  
Chair,  
Washington Commission for  
National and Community Service

## AmeriCorps

*AmeriCorps members in Washington State serve at a variety of nonprofit and faith-based organizations, and state and local government agencies. In 2011, they performed more than two million hours of service, improving the lives and well-being of thousands of residents across the state.*

*Marissa Dire, YouthBuild member with Spokane Service Team, NE Washington Educational Service District 101, assessing the features of the house she and her team built for a family in need – learning practical skills and the value of service.*



## AmeriCorps Education Awards

Over the past 17 years, the Commission has administered \$181.2 million in federal grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Since 1994, more than 34,000 people have served in AmeriCorps programs in Washington. Education awards valued in excess of \$97 million\* earned by these members were used to help cover educational costs, primarily in Washington State's post-secondary institutions during this same time period (as of February 2012).

\* National Service Trust

## Strengthening Families

- Provided services to more than 98,705 disadvantaged children and youth
- Assisted with independent living services, including respite care, to help 4,155 clients live independently in their homes in community-based settings
- Engaged 9,475 “baby boomers” in AmeriCorps-sponsored service

## Building Prosperity

- Generated 68,934 volunteers
- Mentored 35,114 individuals, including children of incarcerated parents
- Engaged 3,038 disadvantaged children and youth in meaningful service opportunities

## Educating for the Future

- Tutored 6,622 K-6 students through the Washington Reading Corps
- Engaged 2,274 peer and cross-age tutors who donated 21,368 hours of service to make connections across grade levels
- Conducted more than 160 family literacy events bringing 62,503 parents and caregivers into their children's schools and early learning centers

*Kitsap Community Resources/AmeriCorps members Jillayne Newquist and Kristina Didricksen helped collect over 4,300 pounds in food donations for the Send Hunger Packing Food Drive in November 2010.*

## Protecting the Environment

- Planted more than 500,000 native plants to improve natural habitat
- Constructed or improved 214 miles of trails and boardwalks
- Involved 5,969 community volunteers as Stream Team members, weed warriors, nursery attendants, or as interpretive trail docents

## Protecting Health and Safety

- Prepared 1,044 AmeriCorps members for deployment in support of local, state, or other disasters
- Responded to 17 local disasters and three national disasters
- Treated or improved 758 acres of public land to benefit citizens across Washington State



## Citizen Corps

Since 2003, the Washington Commission for National and Community Service has served as the State Citizen Corps Council, as determined by the Governor. The WCNCS administers the Citizen Corps Program and supports increased statewide preparedness by encouraging local communities to participate in programs under Citizen Corps, and to engage community members in disaster preparedness and response.



Citizen Corps councils and programs are increasing across the state. More citizens have received Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, are supporting safety and preparedness through safety fairs and National Night Out activities, and are a resource to the first responder and emergency management agencies of Washington.

In addition, the state-sponsored 2011 NW Citizen Corps Expo included CERT, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and amateur radio volunteers working together in a realistic disaster exercise. Nearly 400 people were involved in the daylong exercise.

WCNCS supports these activities through grant management and program assistance. Information is available to interested individuals and program managers through [www.citizencorps.wa.gov](http://www.citizencorps.wa.gov).

## AmeriCorps - A Life Changing Experience

Rachel moved to Spokane in 2009 to “start my life over with my children.” After completing a drug rehabilitation program, she moved to St. Margaret’s Shelter, where she was re-united with her daughters. While there, she learned new parenting and life skills, enrolled in a college course, and began to see success in everything she put her mind to! She learned about AmeriCorps at an orientation meeting organized by St. Margaret’s – and was determined to serve. Now on an AmeriCorps assignment as manager of the Spokane Community Warehouse, she finds good used furniture for homeless families. Rachel is very aware of the importance of providing a piece of stability to families in crisis. After her AmeriCorps assignment, Rachel plans to pursue a career in social work.

—Lesley-Anne Stormo, Vocational Resources Program Coordinator, St. Margaret’s Shelter, Spokane

“I have lived in Spokane since I was five. I married young, started a family and even attended college for three years – my life seemed to be going in the right direction. However, things changed as they often do. Unable to work, I resorted to public assistance. During that time, I made some poor choices and needed a place to stay. Fortunately, my daughters and I found St. Margaret’s Shelter, a transitional living facility for women and children. It was there that I met my best friend Rachel Baker and attended an orientation meeting on AmeriCorps. As an AmeriCorps member, I now assist struggling readers at Adams Elementary School. Being able to serve others as others have served me and my daughters, has been an empowering experience. AmeriCorps has provided me an opportunity to learn, serve and build a future for my family and myself.”

—Reflections by Brandy Skinner, Washington Reading Corps member

Catholic Charities and Lesley-Anne Stormo, the Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist for St. Margaret’s Shelter, in partnership with NW ESD 101, served as the catalyst for Rachel and Brandy to continue in a life of service to others.

## Missouri Legislature Honors AmeriCorps for Service in Joplin

In past years, Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crews deployed to states as far away as Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to help residents affected by floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes. On April 27, 2011, a massive storm system spawned more than 200 deadly tornadoes in Alabama and six other southern states. The Federal Emergency Management Agency requested help from the WCC.

Two WCC crews that had previously been sent to St. Louis to help with tornado cleanup were redeployed to Joplin after a May 22 twister ripped through the city, killing 161 residents and destroying more than 7,000 homes, churches, schools, and businesses. The WCC teams in Joplin, from Skagit and Yakima counties, worked closely with AmeriCorps St. Louis to establish a distribution center, missing-persons hotline, and volunteer intake center.

On January 18, 2012, Missouri State representatives William “Bill” White, from the 129th District, and Charlie Davis, from the 128th, offered a resolution honoring the AmeriCorps teams that came to Joplin to supervise more than 60,600 volunteers, and for providing more than 579,000 hours of volunteer service since the tornado. WCC member, Alex McCarty, who had served in Joplin, accepted the commendation during a ceremony at the Missouri State Capitol.



Brandy Skinner, Leslie-Anne Stormo, and Rachel Baker



*On October 22, 2010, an enthusiastic crowd of more than 1,000 AmeriCorps members gathered at the Seattle Center to pledge their personal commitment to "get things done for America" during their year of service in Washington State.*

### AmeriCorps Launch

The annual event drew its largest crowd ever, proving that more and more citizens are choosing to serve during these difficult economic times. Among the new inductees was Kara Hayes, a Gulf War veteran who is serving in the Vet Corps, a program sponsored by the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs. As part of the swearing-in ceremony, Hayes shared why she's honored to continue a mission of service to her country. "Veterans have so much to teach others and are being given the opportunity to use their skills to improve communities and inspire others through AmeriCorps national service programs," she said.

As part of the day's activities, more than 500 AmeriCorps members received training to help them become better prepared in the event of an emergency, and to learn about the important role that national service can play in disaster preparedness and response efforts. Tracy Connelly from the City of Seattle Office of Emergency Management offered an engaging and informative session on how to put together an emergency preparedness kit on a budget. After completing the training, each member received a 72-hour personal preparedness kit courtesy of WCNCS.

### Northwest Leader Corps

The Washington Leader Corps was held in Olympia on December 1-2, 2010. The training is directed at individuals who exhibit leadership traits, but have not had the opportunity to expand their skills in this area. Leader Corps is a two-day training experience that provides approximately 40 AmeriCorps and VISTA members from Washington State the opportunity to build leadership skills, such as self-awareness, effective communication and listening, and conflict management.

### Volunteer Generation Fund

In 2010, Washington was one of 19 states to receive a Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. This grant allowed the capacity of 10 volunteer centers to increase, rejuvenating the state association of volunteer centers. In the first year of the grant, 3,831 volunteers were leveraged, including 450 veterans and military families, and 90 new skill-based volunteers. The "U Can Serve" campaign was developed to recruit active duty and military personnel and their families to community service.

### Seattle Mariners Salute to Volunteers

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, the Seattle Mariners, Bonneville Seattle Radio, and WCNCS joined on April 12, 2011, for "Salute to Volunteers Night." Pre-game ceremonies included a special tribute to 46 distinguished volunteers who represented a cross section of the estimated 63 million Americans that donated their time last year. The ceremonial first pitch was thrown out by five-year-old Sable Holmes of Richland, a recipient of the 2011 "Governor's Volunteer Service Award." In addition to the pre-game ceremony, a volunteer bazaar was located on the main concourse of the ballpark with information on how people can get involved in volunteering. Representatives from various nonprofit groups were on hand to answer questions about their particular organizations and to match individuals with volunteer opportunities.



## Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

To recognize the countless acts of service performed by one of Washington's most valuable assets – its volunteers – Governor Chris Gregoire proclaimed April 10-16, 2011, as Washington Volunteer Recognition-Week. Gregoire urged all citizens to join her in recognizing and supporting those who volunteer and serve. To celebrate, the Governor hosted the Seventh Annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards on April 11 to recognize the contributions of 46 volunteers for their dedication and commitment to improve their communities through service. Local volunteer centers, Citizen Corps councils, and Senior Corps, Learn and Serve, and AmeriCorps programs nominated the honorees from across the state.



## Northwest National Service Symposium

On May 19-20, 2011, about 200 national service members attended the 16th Annual Northwest National Service Symposium held at Portland State University. Each year, members from across Oregon and Washington transform their service experiences into writing, art, and performances. Genres include service stories (short creative nonfiction pieces inspired by service); poetry and fiction; visual arts (painting, sculpture, and photography); and performing arts (dance, video, and music). Education Northwest publishes members' symposium submissions in a book, *Stories of Service*.

## Leadership Forum for National Service Executives

For the last 11 years, the Washington Commission has partnered with the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs to offer a unique learning opportunity designed specifically for AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve program staff. The 2011 course, "Performance-Based Budget Management," was intended to focus students on the role that budgets and fiscal management strategies play in the management of nonprofit organizations and government agencies. The session was held August 8-12, 2011, in Seattle.

The innovative curriculum is comprised of three one-week courses that take place over consecutive summers. Classes are purposely kept small so attendees have an opportunity to dialogue with award-winning faculty on issues facing national service programs. Attendees complete masters-level coursework designed to enhance their skills for building a sustainable organization, performance-based budgeting, and program assessment in an environment that values shared experiences and insights from fellow attendees and faculty. Those who complete the course series earn a Certificate in Nonprofit and National Service Management from the University of Washington.

## Northwest Network

On March 7-9, 2011, the WCNCS and Oregon Volunteers co-sponsored the Northwest Network at Portland State University. This cross-stream event is designed to meet the training and professional development needs of national service program directors and staff by providing insights into how organizations can strengthen the health of their community, and ideas for how national service can evolve, adapt, and tell its story to become a significant force in economic recovery. The year's theme was "What Role Does National Service Play in Hard Economic

Times?" Discussions focused on how national service needs to respond and adapt to become a more significant factor in strengthening communities, and the transforming role of national service and the health of civic life in our region.

The event featured two speakers: Dr. Andreas Schroer, internationally known scholar in the field of civil society, who presented the most recent findings on civic life in the Northwest, and Shirley Sagawa, a national leader in the service movement, who shared her insights on national service and its transformative role. Conference participants received her thought-provoking book: "The American Way to Change: How National Service and Volunteering are Transforming America."

## 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, WCNCS supported the "Blitz Build" service project in White Swan. This project served as a powerful example of cross-stream collaboration among AmeriCorps, VISTA, NCCC, and faith-based volunteers who responded to the call to serve by helping construct a three-bedroom home for one of the residents whose home was lost in a devastating fire. On February 12, 2011, 70-mile-per-hour winds ripped through White Swan, a small, unincorporated town on the Yakima Indian Reservation in rural Eastern Washington. Limited resources made it impossible for the community to contain a fire of this magnitude. The fires destroyed 19 homes and damaged 46 others.

Since February, VISTA Leader Brian Campfield has played a critical role in coordinating the recovery efforts among the local agencies and national service programs. An NCCC team of nine was deployed there from June 27 until July 11. They served alongside AmeriCorps, VISTA, and community volunteers from Washington-based programs, such as the Washington Conservation Corps and Washington Reading Corps, and national direct members from Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic.





## Empowering Young People to Succeed

College Success Foundation (CSF) AmeriCorps members served a diverse group of students – from those living in poverty to those from more-affluent families, from students newly immigrated to the country to those who can trace their American lineage back over a hundred years. Some of the students struggled with learning disabilities, while others had 4.0 GPAs. CSF members served students who came from loving, supportive families, and students who are in the foster-care system. Within these variances, a common denominator was the CSF AmeriCorps members' belief that all of the students had a right to an education. Their service to empower these young people will be realized as the students transition from middle school to high school, and probably go on to post-secondary education.

–Sue Byers, Chief Academic Officer, College Success Foundation

## Vet Corps Members Serve Country, Community

Given that our focus is not only on veterans who are receiving services, but also the VetCorps members themselves, we have greatly benefitted from having Timm Lovitt serving as a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) project coordinator this year. Timm, an Army veteran who served two combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, returned to the Seattle area after his deployment and rededicated himself to service through the Vet Corps. Suffering from a TBI himself, Timm met with all the Vet Corps members and referred some of

them to the Veterans Administration for TBI screening, given some of their signs and symptoms that come from military experiences. To me, this is a great story. Timm also works with college staff and other college veterans to educate them about TBI and accommodations that colleges can provide to student veterans with a TBI.



*Timm Lovitt, Vet Corps member, talks about service in a national service public service announcement filmed in Seattle*



–Mark Fischer, Program Director, Vet Corps



## Engaging Students in Environmental Stewardship

In 2011, EarthCorps began marketing our services to schools with more focus and emphasis. We developed curriculum for schools that aligns with state standards and concentrates on environmental education, specifically the environmental restoration cycle. Our AmeriCorps members go to the classroom to begin developing relationships and trust with the students, and introduce environmental service. The members then lead these students in service work and reflection, completing the service learning cycle.

–Erin Thomas, EarthCorps Operations Manager

“Becoming an AmeriCorps member enabled me to serve again. Whether it was taking time to rebuild a park on Make a Difference Day, issuing cold weather clothes for veterans at the Mid-Columbia Veterans Stand Down and Benefit Fair, or helping vets navigate the educational system, I found chances to serve my community again. Thanks to AmeriCorps, I was given the chance to organize other veterans in service to their community and service to other veterans.”

–Jason Alves, Vet Corps member



*Jason Alves, a U.S. Navy Veteran, and Vet Corps member at Washington State University/Tri-Cities assists veterans with benefits and information about completing their education.*

## Serving Those Who Need it Most

Olympia's AmeriCorps Youth in Service program helps kids with their skills and homework in reading, writing, mathematics, science, music, and art. There are extra after-school programs for children to learn while having fun, and youth receive compassion, kindness, consideration, and love from all 25 of us.

Whenever a teacher needs assistance, we're there. If a child gets hurt, we're there to make it all better. We provide a shoulder to lean on, and ears for listening to a multitude of problems. There are satellite food bank programs in place with our aid. There are safe places to go, and they wouldn't exist as easily without the support we provide. We serve those who need it the most, especially in the current state of the economy.

—Kristina Mageau, Community Youth Services/Youth in Service member



## Truly Making a Difference

Girl Scouts Beyond Bars is a program for daughters of incarcerated parents, designed to build self-esteem and life skills for the girls. Troop 48100 is led by mothers at the Washington Corrections Center for Women. Our Leaders in Service AmeriCorps members assist in planning and preparing activities for troop meetings of the women and their daughters, including various physical activities in the gym. One of the activities in 2011 was to create a giant maze developed and led by the Cadette Patrol, based on lessons about bullying, positive peer interactions, forgiveness, and acceptance. As one AmeriCorps member remarked, "I have watched the girls thrive and get excited about visits with their mothers. I believe this is the best program I could have ever served in. I feel as though I'm truly making a difference in the lives of these girls."

—Genell Hennings, Program Manager, Girl Scouts of Western Washington



## Helping Kids Stay Safe

At the annual Spring Bike Rodeo, members of the Regional Service Corps promote youth safety by assisting Tri-Cities organizations in providing information and hands-on learning about various safety issues. Members assist with everything from the event set up and take down, to E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills in The Home), water safety, bike and multi-sport helmet use, and proper car seat safety checks.

—Stephaen Harrell, Program Director  
Regional Service Corps



RSC member Dusti Thuman fits a child with a free bike safety helmet donated by Safe Kids Benton-Franklin



## AmeriCorps Members Add Muscle to Playground Collaboration

AmeriCorps/YouthBuild members helped install new playground equipment at Wixon Park in Selah, the result of a joint effort between the city, Selah civic groups, and Selah-based Northwest Recreation. The city paid half of the \$32,000 price with the other half coming from donations by the Selah Parks Foundation, Selah Kiwanis Club, Selah Lions Club, and community members. Northwest Recreation negotiated lower prices on the equipment and donated the installation of the equipment. If purchased and installed at standard prices, the cost of the project to the city would have been more than \$60,000.

—Darrel Armstead, Youth Program Director  
AmeriCorps/YouthBuild Program  
Opportunities Industrialization Center of Washington

## Serving With Pride in AmeriCorps

“I promise you, every day we are representing our ‘A’s with pride, and people notice. Two of my students this week told me that they finally figured out what they want to do once they graduate...they want to join AmeriCorps and help communities and students like I do! These aren’t kids who hang out with each other either, so they didn’t get together beforehand and decide to tell me just so I’d feel good. They meant it. When I run into students and their parents at the store, I’m not their school tutor, or their ‘Y’ tutor, I’m their AmeriCorps tutor. The team, and what AmeriCorps stands for, means a lot to me. I chose to do AmeriCorps because I believe in what we do, and though I can only speak for myself, I think everyone else does, too. I guess I just wanted you to know that I care. Not just about my students, or the ‘Y,’ or my own schooling, but about who we are and what we stand for.”

—Reflections by Laura “Lola” Hassan-Adams  
member of North Olympic AmeriCorps



## AmeriCorps Leads to Job in Teaching

RaeAnn Francis graduated with her teaching degree from Washington State University in 2008. With the failing economy, only two of the students in her cohort got jobs – and those jobs were out of state. RaeAnn began substituting in the Kelso School District, where she became acquainted with a person serving as an AmeriCorps member at Wallace Elementary. As much as she liked “subbing,” and appreciated the learning experience, RaeAnn didn’t feel that subbing allowed her to make important connections with the kids in the way that the AmeriCorps member had accomplished. During the summer, RaeAnn decided to apply to the Cowlitz AmeriCorps Network and was enlisted to serve at Wallace, where she dedicated a year of service. When a teaching position at the same school opened the following summer, RaeAnn applied and was hired. She credits her AmeriCorps experience for the opportunity to work “in an amazing school.”

—Excerpts from interview with RaeAnn Francis  
second-grade teacher at Wallace Elementary in Kelso



Former Cowlitz AmeriCorps member RaeAnn Francis in her second grade classroom with current Washington Reading Corps member, Jessica Christmas, at Wallace Elementary in Kelso



## “Hardest Hitch” Yields Major Accomplishments

“Our hardest hitch was a 32-mile mobile log out from Ebbetts to Sonora Pass. The trip was expected to be difficult, but none of us realized what that really meant until we were out there. Okay, hitch planned. We all carry personal gear, group gear, tools, one dinner, and our own breakfasts and lunches. Sixty pounds of tools later when we set out, the going was slow. We covered only about five miles a day and the work was grueling. Our stats: 39 trees logged out, 300+ drainages dug, and 32 miles of brush lopped. We experienced an incredible full moon and breathtaking views of Sierra Nevada mountain ranges in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness area.”

“Our sponsors told us that this was probably the hardest hitch a Northwest Service Academy team completed in the history of the partnership. Maybe they were just making us feel good, but we know we did some major work! We exceeded elevations of 10,000 feet and crossed numerous snowdrifts in our efforts. As usual, I fell a lot. One teammate, in a valiant attempt at crossing a particularly treacherous snowfield, ended up with a twisted ankle. Fortunately, the hitch was all but over and we were a mile from emerging at Sonora to await our shuttle. Whew, we were beat. So there is the abridged version of our hardest hitch, which also included some interesting experiences with a tree, eating food off the ground, and dehydrated black beans.”

—Reflections by Kathryn Hilton, Trail Team Member  
Northwest Service Academy, Pacific Crest Trail Team

## Opening a New Door to Home

*“I have learned more while building this house than any other job. I learned about carpentry, roofing, caulking, tiling and many other skills. But what will be my most prized memory is the memory of today; the day that we get to give this house to Brianna Solis and her family”.*

—YouthBuild member, Marissa Dire

Brianna Solis, a mother of two, wiped a tear from her eye as she unlocked the door to her new home in the community of Covey Glenn. “I keep thinking that one day I will wake up and it will all be a dream, but it’s actually a dream come true,” she said. “Home is where my family is. It is a place where I feel safe and my boys are safe, and there is a sense of community. I am so proud to have my own home.”

AmeriCorps members in the Northeast Washington Educational Service District have long been involved in the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing in the Spokane area. This, however, was the first constructed in partnership with First Story, a non-profit based in Bend, Oregon. Students, under the supervision of trained professionals, built the home from the ground up. The students were YouthBuild members, co-enrolled as minimum-time AmeriCorps members. “They gain an education, learn many new skills, receive job training, and help a family right here in need in the Spokane Valley,” remarked Shon Rae, executive director of First Story.

—Mandy Edwards, Program Manager, Spokane Service Team  
NE Washington Educational Service District 101



## Jump-Starting a Brighter Future

More than two-thirds of the JustServe AmeriCorps team at Solid Ground focuses on intervention and prevention for youth at risk of violence and incarceration. Members work directly with local youth throughout central and south Seattle, and south King County, who are experiencing poverty, violence, and racism.

At El Centro de la Raza, JustServe AmeriCorps member Aliza Flores helped organize, in collaboration with the Seattle Police Department, a “Know Your Rights” workshop for Proyecto Saber\* and other students at Ballard High School. Several students were interviewed and featured in KING 5 TV news coverage of this event. Aliza also supported four Summer Youth Employment Program interns to work at El Centro de la Raza, where they gained leadership development and work experience. The summer interns also got a jump-start on fall college application planning, with support from Aliza and her site partner, Amanda Lopez.



\* Proyecto Saber is a Seattle School District program that serves both Spanish and non-Spanish speaking Latino students. It provides instructional and support services to Latino students with an emphasis on academic assistance, cultural enrichment, intervention, and school-home liaison

—Tera Oglesby, Program Supervisor  
JustServe AmeriCorps at Solid Ground

## Working Together to Complete Service Projects

At host agencies, Kitsap Community Resources/AmeriCorps members recruited, trained, and managed 2,090 volunteers and worked alongside 663 community volunteers at nine service projects in the first half of the program year. More than 75 active duty U.S. Navy personnel assisted in two of these projects, helping provide firewood for low-income energy assistance clients who depend on wood heat. They also helped with trail work and campsite cleanup at Illahee State Park and Bremerton's Stephenson Canyon Preserve.

*—Russell W. Donahue, Program Director, Kitsap Community Resources/AmeriCorps*



*Kitsap Community Resources/AmeriCorps member Will Cook splits wood with U.S. Navy volunteers for the Stephenson Canyon Preserve Service Project in October 2010.*

## "How Can We Help?"

In 2010-2011, 25 Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) members and staff responded to flooding in various parts of the state. The ability of the WCC to respond to disasters at a moment's notice proved invaluable time and again. When Jeff Newschwander returned home in Ellensburg one evening in January 2011, he found the "seasonal" irrigation ditch at his house overflowing its banks. This wasn't a problem for him but could be for his neighbors downstream, and he spent the next two hours out in his pasture trying to divert water away from their house. By the time he got back to his own home, however, water was crossing the road, rising around his foundation and pouring into the crawlspace.



About that time, two blue trucks drove by with flashing yellow lights. "I had no idea who they were, but they appeared to be driving around looking for homeowners in need of help. I yelled from my yard to get their attention," Jeff said. Within a few minutes, at least 12 members of the WCC were hauling sandbags across his yard and building a diversion around the north end of the home. "The only questions they asked were 'How can we help?' and 'Where do you want the sandbags?'"

"We had a great experience helping with the floods in Ellensburg," said Mike Stowell, WCC crew supervisor in Yakima. "One evening, we received a call at 6:15, just 45 minutes after getting off work for the day, saying that our help was needed. Two crews from Yakima re-called all of their members and by 7:45 we had an additional 11 people in place, filling, transporting, and placing sandbags until just after midnight. We were glad to be able to give a hand to others in need."

*—Bridget Mason, Washington Conservation Corps Coordinator*

## Thousands of Volunteer Hours Help Children Learn

The Washington Reading Corps (WRC) placed 260 AmeriCorps members in 99 elementary schools and 28 early learning sites throughout Washington in the 2010-2011 program year. More than 6,620 struggling readers were tutored by Reading Corps members, who also recruited 4,677 community volunteers, resulting in 63,856 hours of donated tutoring service. In addition, 2,274 peer and cross-age tutors were also part of the solution. Members work in high-needs schools where free/reduced lunch participation averages 60 percent or higher.

*As the lead organization for Seattle's "Cities of Service Initiative," the North King County Washington Reading Corps developed a great deal of momentum around volunteer recruitment, training, and management during the 2010-2011 school year. On a city-wide level, the initiative has highlighted the importance of volunteer service in supporting education programs, and has helped the WRC develop several key partnerships for volunteer recruitment and volunteer program capacity building*



*"Through the WRC, we often interact with students in a small group setting that allows us to know students and give them the individualized attention they normally don't receive. It shows an immense amount of personal growth for the student and also the importance of the Washington Reading Corps program in struggling schools."*

*—WRC Teacher*



## UW Dental Students Serve in AmeriCorps

In 2011, the Washington Service Corps partnered with the University of Washington Dental School to pilot a program in which dental students provided services in under-served areas of the state. Five first-year dental students participated as full-time AmeriCorps members for eight weeks between the first and second years of dental school.

Two dental students assisted with clinic function and outreach activities at SeaMar clinics in Whatcom and Skagit counties; one worked at the Lower Elwha Indian Health Service Clinic in Port Angeles; and two worked in various counties on the SmileMobile, operated by the Washington Dental Service Foundation. The dental students/AmeriCorps members also each recruited 10 to 20 other dental students to assist in the work.

## 'People From All Walks of Life Helping People'

Making a life change at 46 years old, Ester Pomerantz drove 2,700 miles alone from Accord, New York, where she had always lived, to Okanogan, in north central Washington, to join the Intermountain AmeriCorps team.

"I'll never forget how I felt the day I decided to pursue AmeriCorps at my daughter's suggestion. The pictures I saw on the national web site represented to me what America was in my heart: People from all walks of life helping people. My passion has always been helping people. I was a volunteer EMT Squad Leader for 10 years and a volunteer firefighter for two years. When you're in that line of work, you're dealing with people who are sometimes having the worst day of their lives. It often seemed that holding a hand meant more than all the bandages in the world."

"In my AmeriCorps position, my main focus is serving in the Okanogan Food Bank and running the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. The first thing I noticed was how humbled and insecure these people were – they weren't just hungry, they needed hope. So every time I give them food I make sure I give them something much more – my time. I have learned first-hand that being compassionate is the first answer to every question, and combined with the skills AmeriCorps has given me, I will continue to 'get things done'."

*—Ester Pomerantz, member of Intermountain AmeriCorps, a program of the Washington Service Corps*



**A wide range of financial contributions are necessary to meet the critical needs of the state, coordinate thousands of AmeriCorps members and volunteers, and promote national service in Washington. Local cities, counties, and school districts have made commitments to identify needs in their communities and address them. For service programs to provide solutions to serious needs in communities, there must be ongoing support from local and state organizations, which will ensure national service is part of a long-term strategy to address those needs.**

Local communities have been very supportive in providing funding and training, as well as books for students; building materials and technical support for low-income housing construction; safety equipment for environmental restoration and disaster response activities; and space for after-school youth activities.

During the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2011 (FFY 11), the Washington Commission for National and Community Service received \$16,963,207 in federal funding to provide support for AmeriCorps State programs across Washington. These programs included seven Competitive, nine Formula and two Planning Grants.

AmeriCorps programs also leveraged a total of \$12,327,026 in state, local, private, and in-kind match support – a total of 42 percent of the total program costs. Federal support is used primarily for member

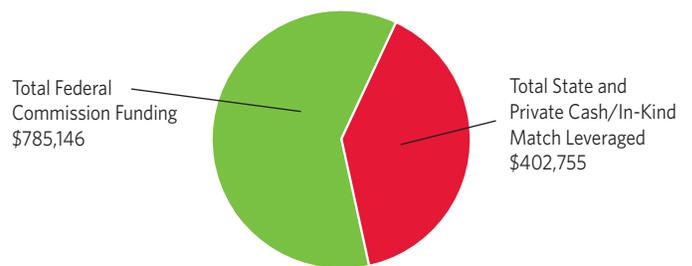
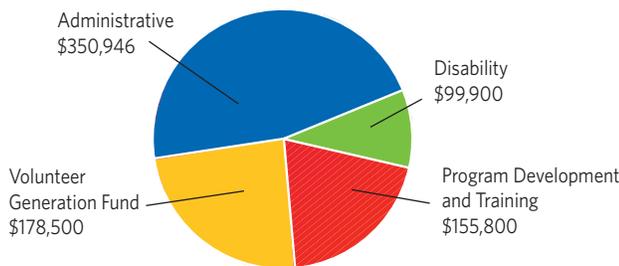
living support and operational costs needed to maintain an AmeriCorps program. The inputs are relatively small compared to the positive outcomes seen in communities.

The Washington Commission for National and Community Service also receives federal support to ensure the strong administrative oversight of the many AmeriCorps grant programs that it oversees, to ensure AmeriCorps members with disabilities have access to reasonable accommodation, and AmeriCorps program staff has program development and training opportunities and resources.

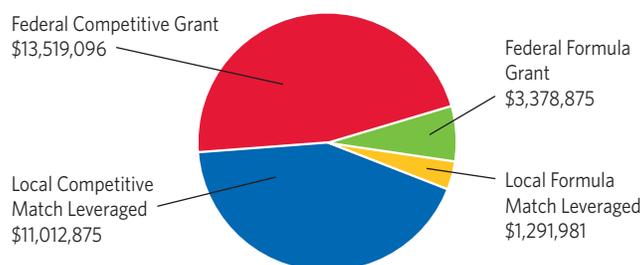
Total federal funding for Commission-related functions is 4 percent of the total federal funding that the state receives for both the AmeriCorps program and all Commission costs combined. The Commission also leverages approximately \$402,755 in state and private cash and in-kind support for primarily administrative costs. Of the total federal funding received for Commission costs, 45 percent was available for administrative support, 13 percent was earmarked for disability outreach and reasonable accommodation of sub-grantees, 20 percent was utilized for program development and training, and 23 percent was used for our Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grant.

Since 2005, the Washington Commission for National and Community Service has coordinated Citizen Corps efforts to help promote personal responsibility in developing preparedness plans; training in emergency preparedness; and working with disaster relief, law enforcement, fire, medical, public health, and community service organizations in promoting volunteer service in times of emergency. Funding obtained by the Commission through the Department of Homeland Security totaled \$252,606 for 2011.

### Commission Funding



### AmeriCorps Program Funding



## Commission Vision Statement

Our vision for Washington State is vibrant and caring neighborhoods and communities strengthened and sustained through service and volunteerism.

## Commission Mission Statement

We seek to expand the ethic of service throughout Washington State by inviting citizens of all ages and backgrounds to contribute their time and talents to strengthen and promote service and volunteerism as strategies for building healthy communities.

## About the Commission

In February 1994, Governor Mike Lowry established the independent, bipartisan Washington State Commission for National and Community Service. The WCNCS is made up of Commissioners appointed by the Governor. The Commission implements AmeriCorps programs in Washington; sets priorities for results-oriented community service programs; provides training and technical assistance; evaluates programs; and leverages federal program dollars with additional local, state, and private sector resources.



## WCNCS Commissioners Serving in 2010-2011

- Eleanor Andersen**, Chair, Junior Achievement of the Inland Northwest (retired)
- Alison Carl White**, Vice Chair, NPower
- Debbie Aoki**, Washington State Employment Security Department
- John Barnett**, AARP Washington State
- Thomas Bates**, U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Washington
- Federico Diaz**, Blue Mountain Action Council
- Lynne Dodson**, Washington State Labor Council
- Carol Findley**, RSVP of Kittitas County
- Kirsten Franklin-Temple**, Corporation for National & Community Service-Wash. State Office
- Beth Kelly**, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Timm Lovitt**, Vet Corps
- Nick Mott**, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Rhoretta Rhodes**, Whitworth University
- Axel Swanson**, Board of Clark County Commissioners
- Nicole Trimble**, Coinstar, Inc.
- Alan Walker**, United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties
- Susan Weiss**, Casey Family Programs

## Citizen Corps Commission Member

- Tony Mace**, Paine Field Fire Department

## WCNCS Staff

- Bill Basl**, Executive Director
- Denise Berns**, Administrative Assistant
- Bruce Lehman**, OFM/Governor's Office Accounting Unit
- Brian Lock**, Assistant Director
- Denise Mack**, Citizen Corps Program Coordinator
- Debbie Schuffenhauer**, Associate Director
- Mary Van Verst**, Program Development and Evaluation Coordinator



*Kara Hayes, a Gulf War Veteran serving in the Vet Corps, works on a service project along side her daughter.*

*On July 23, 2011, AmeriCorps members serving with the Vet Corps repaired the brick memorial walkway at the Soldiers Home in Orting. Members restored old donation plaques by touching up paint on walkway bricks. Washington Soldiers Home and Colony, located on 181 acres in the Puyallup Valley near Orting, serves up to 183 residents needing both skilled-nursing and assisted-living care. Established in 1891, this was the first of three homes built for Washington State veterans.*

Washington Commission for National and Community Service

For additional information,  
Call 360.902.0656 or visit our website at [www.ofm.wa.gov/servewa](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/servewa)

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To obtain this publication in alternative format, contact the Washington Commission for National and Community Service at 360.902.0657.

