

THE KVC STAR

A monthly newsletter from your friends at the Kansas Volunteer Commission



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
SERVE • ENGAGE • EMPOWER

KVC Commissioners Shaping the Vision!



The Kansas Volunteer Commission staff and commissioners participated in an overnight retreat to shape the vision and mission of the KVC. The retreat included a quality workshop by commissioner, Joe Marlow, who facilitated a training based on Peter Drucker's, *Five Most Important Questions*. Additionally, the group discussed the state service plan and how to expand KVC's reach throughout the Kansas.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Mini-Grant Recipients

The Kansas Volunteer Commission has awarded mini-grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to support Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service projects in Kansas. **Congratulations to the 2017 MLK Mini-Grant Recipients!**

Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence

RSVP of Four County

Friends of JCDC, Inc

Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas

Reno County Communities That Care

Rosedale Development Association

Youth Volunteer Corps of Kansas City



JCDs Community Services collaborated with Havencroft Elementary to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr Day. Volunteers built kits for Friday Funday at Havencroft which included a book for every child that attended and activities celebrating MLK Jr. and his legacy.



The **Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence** hosted the "One Dream: Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration" gallery with **Lawrence USD 497**. KS AmeriCorps members led visitors in a MLK Jr. matching game, civil rights leaders puzzles, and a bookmark making station.



TEAM HARVESTERS -- Getting things done in KS!

*Samanthe Burton-Bosket, Ariel Marusak, and Susan Richardson are just three of the Kansas AmeriCorps members currently serving at **Harvesters** in Kansas City, KS. Together, they help combat food insecurity and get things done for AmeriCorps.*



Ariel Marusak says her favorite part of teaching nutritional classes is showing children how healthy food can taste good. She loves hearing how the children are able to apply the healthy lessons from the Kids in the Kitchen program after each class.



Susan Richardson assists on-site with mobile food pantries as a resource for individuals and families who have questions about the SNAP program. Susan says the impact of her outreach can be seen the next day with an increase of call volume.

Samanthe Burton-Bosket serves as a



part-time AmeriCorps member while working on her master's in organizational leadership. Originally from Philadelphia, Samantha is passionate about changing the food desert situation in large cities and believes Harvesters is part of the solution in the Kansas City area.

Service-Minded Individuals Apply!



The KVC is looking for champions of service to join its ranks of **state commissioners**. The commissioners are responsible for developing and communicating a statewide vision and ethic of service in Kansas. Commissioners serve for a three-year term and commit to six bimonthly meetings held throughout the state. If you are interested in serving as a commissioner, please contact Jessica Noble at jnoble@ksde.org.

Build Capacity in Kansas as an AmeriCorps VISTA



Full-time VISTA positions are available in the Greater Kansas City area, Lawrence, Manhattan, Topeka, and Wichita. Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is an AmeriCorps national service program that brings volunteers and community organizations together to build capacity, provide indirect service, and create sustainable solutions to move people out of poverty.

VISTAs earn a modest living allowance of \$11,880 and after a year of service are eligible for an Education Award of \$5,775 or a post-service stipend. These positions require a one-year, full-time commitment. See the list of the opportunities, descriptions, and qualifications: [HERE!](#) For questions contact Angela Gaughan, angela.gaughan@wichita.edu or 316-570-1309.

Free Tax Returns for AmeriCorps!



Each year, AmeriCorps Alums partners with MyFreeTaxes.com to offer **free** federal and state tax return filings to alums and current members. Visit this website for more information visit: [FreeTaxesforAlums](#)

NEW REPORT from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) shows alumni of the AmeriCorps program credit their year of service for leadership skills that bridge divides and solve problems and open doors to opportunities that advance their careers and education.

- **Nine out of 10** AmeriCorps alumni reported that their experience improved their ability to solve problems.
- Nearly **80 percent** of alumni are involved or plan to become actively involved in their community post-service, compared to 47 percent prior.
- **Eight out of 10** alumni say AmeriCorps benefited and advanced their career path.
- The report also found AmeriCorps alumni believe their national service experience broadened their understanding of society and different communities.

To see the full report, click here: [HERE!](#)

Save the Date!

Kansas AmeriCorps Week Celebration

Friday, March 10th from 10am - 3pm (Topeka)

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Kansas Volunteer Commission | 900 SW Jackson Street Suite 105, Topeka, KS 66612

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