



Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service)

Quarterly Report:

Jan. 1 – March 31, 2018

- **AmeriCorps**

- AmeriCorps Day at the Capitol was held March 13, as part of AmeriCorps Week activities taking place across the U.S. Volunteer Iowa staff, Commissioners, alums, and current members from across Iowa came together at the Capitol to celebrate AmeriCorps Week.



- AmeriCorps Week was March 12-17. During this annual event, individuals, programs, and organizations celebrate the contributions that 80,000 Americans make to their communities and the service of more than 1 million AmeriCorps alumni. Statistics for Iowa:
 - In the most recent full program year:
 - 1200+ members served in Iowa
 - 270 unique sites were served
 - More than 10,000 members have served in Iowa since 1994
 - Iowa members have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps education awards totaling more than \$34,570

- **AmeriCorps VISTA**
 - For MLK Day of Service, our two VISTA Leaders, along with our Iowa Mentoring Partnership VISTA, planned and coordinated a sanitary items and coat drive for Primary Health Care's Homeless Outreach program. The VISTA team partnered with local businesses to place boxes for this collection. They were able to collect 50 coats and create 72 sanitary kits out of the items collected. They also held a Facebook fundraiser and raised \$500. On MLK Day, the VISTA team was at Primary Health Care, putting together sanitary kits and stuffing folders for another one of their programs. Primary Health Care was extremely happy with the donations.

- **Disaster Response**
 - On January 20, Volunteer Iowa sent a second team on a deployment to the US Virgin Islands. The AmeriCorps team represented two AmeriCorps programs this round. There were three Habitat for Humanity of Iowa AmeriCorps members (Alyssa Nagel & Juliana Stahle from Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity site and Jena Adams from Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity site), one from Iowa AmeriCorps 4H Outreach Program (Maria Tapia from Midtown Family Community Center in Sioux City site), and two team leads that assisted with on the ground team support, communication, etc. (Christine Hall from Habitat for Humanity of Iowa and Les Stohs from Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity).

 - The team returned to Iowa on February 16. During the month they were there, our Iowa members partnered with AmeriCorps members and staff from Washington Conservation Corps, Texas Conservation Corps, and NCCC Teams from the Pacific Region. These members and teams formed the AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team (A-DRT) for the operation on St. Thomas, VI (in addition to the islands of St. Croix and St. John). AmeriCorps members were involved with mucking and gutting, roof tarping, home assessments, logistics and reporting on the island.

 - The A-DRT in St Thomas:
 - Performed 9 damage assessments (had assessments finishing up from previous deployment)
 - Mucked and gutted 35 structures
 - Cleared 1,884.5 cubic yards of debris
 - Collected or distributed 29,852 pounds of food
 - Collected or distributed 80 pounds of clothing
 - Sorted 38,009 pounds of donations

- **Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP) program actions**
 - January was recognized as Mentoring Month in Iowa with Governor Reynolds signing an official proclamation on January 23. Iowa Mentoring Partnership provided recognition certificates to more than 2,000 mentors across Iowa.

 - Several staff members, commissioners, and program staff, along with mentees, and Governor Reynolds participated in the #ThankYourMentor campaign. Social media was a powerful tool this year and many mentoring programs posted their own Thank Your Mentor images, tagging the Iowa Mentoring Partnership in their posts. Events

- with programs across the state highlighted the power of mentoring relationships, and we saw many media stories about the need for quality mentoring programs.
- Certifications: no applications for program certification were received during this reporting period.
 - **Iowa Reading Corps**
 - Nothing to report at this time.
 - **Recognition**
 - **50 Faces of Volunteers:** For completing a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service during the past 12 months, our social media posts and What's Your 50? blog (<https://volunteeriowa.wordpress.com/?s=50+faces>) recognized:
 - January – Jill Law
 - January – Shanna Northup
 - February – Rob Cook
 - **Excellence in Mentoring Award** recipients were selected in February and will be honored in the Capitol on April 17 during National Volunteer Week: Eric Spriet from the Quad Cities, and Edi Norris of Shenandoah.
 - **Give Back Iowa Challenge:** 4th annual challenge to engage Iowans in employer-supported volunteering was announced in February; employers with the highest average number of volunteer hours completed per employee during April and May will be recognized.
 - **Governor's Volunteer Awards** nomination materials were released in late February. This year marks the 35th year for this program, which provides an easy way to honor the dedicated people who volunteer their time and talent to help an agency or organization deliver on its mission. Several hundred awards are presented during regional ceremonies each summer.
 - **Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame** honorees were selected in February and will be honored in the Capitol on April 17 during National Volunteer Week: Dr. James Bell of Cedar Rapids; Deverie Kiedaisch of Keokuk; Harry and Terry Swanson, Clive; and, Pamela Wolter of Denver. During the month of March, the public was invited to submit votes for the Volunteer Hall of Fame inductee they felt deserved extra recognition through the People's Choice Award. More than 3,100 votes were received; the winner will be announced April 17 during the ceremony in the Capitol.
 - **National Service Member Spotlight:** Formerly "AmeriCorps Member of the Month", this recognition program was re-vamped to recognize ALL national service members. The Spotlight recognizes AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants through social media to highlight the great work they do to address local challenges and expand opportunities across the state. Highlighted: Melanie Bressler, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
 - **RSVP**
 - Nothing to report at this time.

- **Service Enterprise**
 - This research based, change management process trains organizations to effectively leverage the skills of volunteers to meet their mission. A new cohort was selected in February to participate in the Spring 2018 Des Moines Service Enterprise Initiative: EMBARC, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa, Amanda The Panda, and the Des Moines Urban Experience / Iowa Juneteenth Observance. An additional cohort in Waterloo led by the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley completed trainings this quarter.

- **Training**
 - **Volunteer Management Training Series (VMTS).** Six webinars were held between Jan. 11 and March 22, 2018. VMTS is geared toward individuals that are fairly new to managing or coordinating volunteers for nonprofits, schools, government agencies, faith-based organizations, and service organizations. Session topics included:
 1. Understanding Volunteering: Exploring the Heart of the Volunteer Sector
 2. Planning: Building A Solid Foundation
 3. Recruiting and Placement: Matching Volunteer Skills with Service Needs
 4. Training and Orientation: Achieving Service Excellence
 5. Supervision: Maximizing the Volunteer Experience
 6. Evaluation: Improving Results Using Data and Feedback

 - **AmeriCorps Program Training Offerings.** During the month of February, two training options were offered for AmeriCorps programs. One was an orientation for new program directors who had just started their role in the previous few months. We covered topics such as AmeriCorps 101, Grant and Member Management, and the life cycle of an AmeriCorps member. The other training was a Disaster Training to better prepare our programs to deploy during times of disaster. Some of the topics covered were Life on Disaster and Communications During times of Disaster.

- **Volunteer Iowa Day at the Capitol.** Originally scheduled as an in-person event for Feb. 20, severe weather across the state caused the event to be switched to a virtual format, with Commissioners and program staff calling or e-mailing their legislators to share information about Volunteer Iowa programs and priorities.

- **Volunteer Generation Fund**
 - Grant activities began on Jan 1, 2018 for the six grants awarded last quarter:

▪ Marion County Health Department	\$35,000
▪ Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley	\$13,774
▪ United Way of East Central Iowa	\$10,526
▪ United Way of Wapello County	\$20,000
▪ United Way of the Great River Region	\$5,000
▪ Iowa Campus Compact	\$20,000
▪ <u>United Way of the Dubuque Area Tri States</u>	<u>\$2,700</u>
▪ TOTAL	\$107,000