



Volunteer Virginia

A newsletter for the service and faith community

Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service | November, 2015

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Have a news item or calendar event you

We'd Like to Say "Thank You!"

The Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Service would like to extend our gratitude for everyone who made the 2015 Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference such a huge success. We would like to especially thank the support and efforts of the Virginia Service Foundation who made this event possible. We would also like to thank our event sponsors and partners: AARP; Diamond Hill Retreat; Sonny Merryman, Inc.; Stop Hunger Now; the Virginia Credit Union; and Microsoft. Because of you, more than 540 Virginia service leaders came together to get to work making Virginia an even better place to live!



2016 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism Awards

Shine a light on those making a difference!

Nominations are now open for the 2016 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Every year individuals and organizations are honored who have made a commitment to service over the past year. Categories include individual awards for Adult, Youth, and Seniors; and group awards for Families, Faith-Based Organizations, Corporations, Small Businesses, and Community Organizations. Spread the word to everyone you know who works with volunteers! The deadline for nominations is December 16, 2015. [More](#).



Record Number of Volunteers Participate in Day to Serve

Annual regional event makes a huge impact!

Day to Serve 2015 (September 11-October 10) had another exciting year as Virginians joined with their neighbors -- Maryland, West Virginia, Washington, D.C., Kentucky, and North Carolina. Volunteers participated by collecting food donations, cleaning parks, renovating schools, and more! This year, more than 70,000 volunteers participated (up nearly 30 percent from last year!) and nearly 27,000 youth volunteers were part of the movement. In Virginia, more than 19,000 volunteers participated -- up 12 percent over last year. Volunteers served more than 69,000 service hours, collecting more than 221,000 pounds of food and collecting more than 4,500 bags of trash. [Download the Day to Serve infographic](#).



The Virginia Department of Transportation organized more than 1,000 volunteers for more than 1,800 hours of service. Volunteers in every corner of the Commonwealth collected an amazing 1,213 bags of trash on September 11! In Springfield, three churches partnered with the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management for their Day to Serve Project. Nearly 100 volunteers received preparedness training and proceeded to deliver more than 2,000 preparedness packets to 5,000 residents of nearby neighborhoods. McLean Baptist hosted Feeding 1000 during the Day to Serve week, a well-run endeavor to prepare and assemble breakfasts, lunches, and dinners and distribute them to 15 social service agencies in Fairfax County. [See photos from Day to Serve](#).

Virginia AmeriCorps News

Is Your Organization Right for AmeriCorps?

Is your organization looking for a way to expand service in your community and further your mission? Virginia's AmeriCorps State Program may be a good fit and a good strategy for your organization to consider. The Virginia Service Commission's annual Request for Proposals (RFP) is available for review. Go to <https://eva.virginia.gov/>, click on 'Solicitations, Quick Quotes and Awards,' and use the Keyword Search 'AmeriCorps.' Note that this RFP includes opportunities for pursuing funding directly from the Corporation for National and Community Service through Virginia's process (called 'Competitive' funding), as well as our



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more traditional 'Formula' funding. These two types of funding have different timetables and deadlines, outlined in the RFP. OVCS will host a series of phone calls for questions and answers over the coming weeks, also identified in the RFP. The Commission looks forward to hearing from you!

New Initiative to Honor Vets Who Continue to Serve

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has launched a new national initiative called National Veteran Corps, which will recognize veterans who have continued serving their country as a civilian through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. As part of Vet Corps, members will be presented with a special pin by members of Congress and other leaders at various Veterans Day ceremonies. In Virginia, a National Veteran Corps pinning ceremony is planned for November 6th in Tazewell. [More](#).



Carroll County Schools Impacts Hunger on Make a Difference Day

The [Carroll County Schools LIFT UP AmeriCorps Tutoring Program](#) made a huge impact on hunger in Southwest Virginia on Make a Difference Day, October 24. LIFT UP AmeriCorps held food drives at five area grocery stores. Members and volunteers collected 1,500 pounds of food for various food pantries and churches in the region. Congratulations to the team for getting things done!



Virginia Colleges & Universities Launch National Service Initiative

October 4-5, Virginia college and university leaders participated in the [Virginia Governor's Higher Education Presidents' Summit on the Service Year](#), hosted by the Governor and First Lady of Virginia. Higher education has the opportunity to play an enormous role in promoting national service. Virginia's goal is to take the lead in that effort. [Share this short video](#) which describes the vision and highlights the event. The next Higher Education Presidents' Summit will take place at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, February 9, 2016.



AmeriCorps Responds to SC Flooding

CNCS has deployed more than 400 AmeriCorps members to areas devastated by massive flooding in South Carolina. Members, including those from the AmeriCorps NCCC and FEMA Corps, supported call centers, initial volunteer efforts and donations management, and worked directly with FEMA and the American Red Cross. In the coming weeks and months, AmeriCorps members could be utilized to provide additional donations and volunteer support, client services, home assessments, mucking and gutting of residences, and establishment of long-term recovery committees. [More](#).



International Service Opportunities Through Global Service Corps

[Global Service Corps \(GSC\)](#) is an international nonprofit that offers service-learning programs abroad, as mentioned on the [CNCS website](#). GSC is one of few international volunteer organizations that has the unique ability to process the [AmeriCorps Segal Award](#) for their programs through a partnership with the University at Albany, SUNY. GSC currently offers programs in [Cambodia](#), with an additional program in Cuba expected to launch early next year. In Cambodia, volunteers can participate in the [Global Public Health](#), [Teach English](#), [Buddhist Immersion](#), or [Orphanage Care](#) programs. Programs begin every month and range from two weeks to six months or longer. For more information, contact gsc@globalservicecorps.org.



George Mason University Awarded National Service and Civic Engagement Research Grant

George Mason University has been awarded nearly \$100 thousand in funding from the CNCS Office of Research and Evaluation. The grants were awarded to seven universities to increase the nation's understanding and knowledge about the importance of volunteering, national service, and civic engagement in America. George Mason's research will focus on the extent to which higher levels of social capital, civic engagement, and volunteering among immigrants are associated with greater economic opportunity and success for individuals and communities. Results will be distributed to policymakers and other constituents via online policy briefs, brochures, and public lectures as well as through academic conference presentations and publications. [More](#).



Poll Shows Increased Support for National Service Programs

A recent poll has revealed that there is increasing bi-partisan support by Americans for government support of national service programs. The survey, funded by Voices for National Service, found 66 percent of voters in nine presidential battleground states back spending tax dollars on federal service programs. The support cuts across party lines, with 56 percent of Republicans and 75 percent of Democrats backing the federal investment. [See the survey results.](#)



Grants & Funding

- [Urban Forestry Projects Grants](#) support innovative urban forestry initiatives in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods.
- [National Institute of Food & Agriculture Community Food Project Grants](#) supports programs working toward the improvement of community food security.
- [100 Resilient Cities Challenge](#) seeks to find cities that are ready to build resilience to the social, economic, and physical challenges that cities face in an increasingly urbanized world.
- [Paralyzed Veterans of America Innovative Educational Projects Grants](#) support projects that benefit, serve and enhance the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injury/disease, their families and caregivers.
- [More Grants & Funding](#)

New Resources

- [Investing in Dreams: A Blueprint for Designing Children's Savings Account Programs](#) represents the collective wisdom of the many practitioners, researchers, funders and others who administer or support Children's Savings Accounts (CSAs).
- [Claiming the Federal Adoption Tax Credit for 2015](#) details the rules regarding claiming the credit for 2015.
- [The Volunteer Income Tax Preparer's Toolkit](#) provides ways to encourage clients to save at tax time, guidance on how to use data, messaging, and insights from VITA sites' experiences in operating tax-time savings campaigns.
- [The Casey Foundation's new Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in the Juvenile Justice System Practice Guide](#) outlines how juvenile justice facilities can promote the safety and well-being of a particularly vulnerable population: lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth.
- [DMV 2 Go Mobile Customer Service Centers](#) now offer Virginia death, marriage and divorce certificates. The access to information is a result of expansion of the partnership between the DMV and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH)'s Division of Vital Records.

November Events & Training Opportunities

- [National Runaway Prevention Month](#) (November 1-30)
- [Family Involvement in Education Month](#) (November 1-30)
- [Telling Your Nonprofit's Story through Strategy Maps](#) (November 6 in Charlottesville)
- [National Veteran Corps Pinning Event](#) (November 6 in Tazewell)
- [Mental Health First Aid Training](#) (November 7 in Richmond)
- [VA Association of Free & Charitable Clinics Conference](#) (November 8-10 in Richmond)
- [Essential Grant Skills](#) (November 9-10 in Williamsburg)
- [Nonprofit Learning Summit](#) (November 10 in Richmond)
- [Veterans Day](#) (November 11)
- [Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week](#) (November 14-22)
- [America Recycles Day](#) (November 15)
- [American Education Week](#) (November 16-20)
- [Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop](#) (November 17 in Charlottesville)
- [VA Governor's Housing Conference](#) (November 18-20 in Hampton)
- [National Family Volunteer Day](#) (November 21)

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