



# Volunteer Virginia

A newsletter for the service and faith community

Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service | October, 2015

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## Information is Good



Tell a friend or colleague about this issue.

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## Nominate an Amazing Volunteer Today!

Do you know an extraordinary individual who is dedicated to serving others? How about an organization making a huge impact in your community? Nominate them for the [2016 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism and Service Awards!](#) The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, 5 p.m., December 16, 2015. The awards are presented annually on behalf of the Governor of Virginia in partnership with the Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Service (OVCS) and the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism. [Watch a video about the awards.](#)



## Virginia Volunteerism Conference is Huge Success

### Celebrating Everyday Heroes at Volunteerism Conference

The [2015 Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference](#), September 30-October 1, hosted 540 community service leaders, volunteer coordinators, and national service members in Roanoke. The conference was also the site of the [swearing in ceremony for Virginia's AmeriCorps program members](#). AmeriCorps State and National Director Bill Bass participated in the ceremony. Conference attendees not only attended sessions on everything from technology to self defense, but also participated in a massive service project effort throughout the Roanoke community. Volunteers at these service projects:



- Packed 10,220 pounds of food items at Feeding America Southwest Virginia.
- Packaged 11,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now
- Collected and sorted 3,000+ items for The Salem VA Medical Center
- Performed various duties at the Rescue Mission, including stuffing 30,000+ envelopes for their Annual Fundraiser.
- [See photos from this year's event.](#)

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Volunteerism Conference a huge success! [Read more about this year's conference.](#)

### Teresa Thompson Receives Robert Wone Award

Reading for Life AmeriCorps member Teresa Thompson was honored as the winner of the 2015 Robert Wone Award for Exemplary Service at the Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference on October 1. Teresa serves as a member of Reading for Life in Carroll County Public Schools tutoring at-risk students (grades 6-12) at the Regional Alternative Education (RAE) Center. Her previous background working with at-risk teens as a support person through Mt. Roger's District Counseling Services, made her a natural choice to assist students at the center. [More.](#)



## Virginia's AmeriCorps State RFP for Program Year 2016-17

It's that time of the year again! The AmeriCorps Team at the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service is preparing the Request for Proposals (RFP) for AmeriCorps Programming for the 2016 - 17 program year. This cycle would support AmeriCorps members engaged to meet a compelling community need. Successful applicants will create evidence-based program designs and be prepared to fully track and document impact. The Corporation for National and Community Service offers extensive technical assistance by going to <http://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2016/ameri-corps-state-and-national-grants-fy-2016>. Please watch [vaservice.org](http://vaservice.org) for information about our RFP release.



## New Fatherhood Survey Needs Your Input

[archives.](#)

## Contribute

Have a news item or calendar event you want to see on *Virginia Volunteer*? Send comments to [info@vaservice.org](mailto:info@vaservice.org)

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is interested in learning more about support, groups, and/or activities offered to fathers through your agency or organization. The purpose of this survey is to assess the current services available throughout the state and to identify programmatic priorities and technical assistance needs that may exist at both the state and local level. VDSS will use the survey results to help promote local services and inform the planning, direction and framework for the state fatherhood program. Questions concern focus areas, populations served, curricula and data specifically related to fatherhood programs. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Contact [makita.lewis@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:makita.lewis@dss.virginia.gov) if you have questions. [Take the survey now.](#)



## AmeriCorps in Virginia

### 2015-16 AmeriCorps State Programs Take Pledge for Service

More than 250 AmeriCorps members took the oath to serve at the 2015 Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference on October 1, in Roanoke. Members gathered to pledge to "get things done for America," kicking off their year of service to communities in need. There are [27 AmeriCorps State programs](#) gearing up to meet critical community needs in education, economic opportunity, veteran and military family services, health, the environment, and disaster services. Since 1994, more than 13,000 Virginia residents have served over 20 million hours and qualified for AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$41,110,000.



- [See photos from the launch.](#)
- [Read special feature in CNCS Official Blog about the Roanoke launch.](#)

### Does Your Organization Need the Help of an NCCC Team?

Could an AmeriCorps NCCC team be the solution to getting things done in your community? Each year, AmeriCorps NCCC engages its teams in communities across the U.S. Service projects, which typically last from three to eight weeks, address critical needs related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development. Members have mentored students, constructed and rehabilitate low-income housing, responded to natural disasters, clean up streams and watersheds, helped communities develop emergency plans, and addressed countless other local needs throughout Virginia. [More.](#)



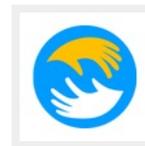
### NCCC Makes Summer Memories at Camp Easter Seals

For seven years, Virginia AmeriCorps NCCC members have spent their summer with Camp Easter Seals at a residential summer camp for children and adults with disabilities. This year one of the AmeriCorps NCCC teams worked with three different camps including camps for the blind/vision impaired, a performance arts camp, and a camp for those with intellectual disorders such as Down syndrome and autism. The seven members of the team worked more than 3,500 hours in six weeks! Easter Seals Camp Director Alex Barge says that, prior to the help of NCCC, the camps had faced challenges finding staff/volunteers who are 18-24. [More.](#)



### Make a Difference Day is October 24

For more than 20 years, [Make A Difference Day](#) has been a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Millions of volunteers from across the nation will unite in a common mission to improve the lives of others on Make A Difference Day, October 24. It has become the nation's largest day of community service and is currently a USA TODAY initiative, backed by the Gannett Company and supported by Points of Light and Newman's Own. Find a project or start your own today!



### Preparing for Tax Season

#### Volunteers Needed for IRS Tax Preparation Programs

The IRS is currently seeking volunteers to support partners that provide free tax help to individuals. Anyone can volunteer to help the [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\)](#) and the [Tax Counseling for the Elderly \(TCE\)](#) programs, which are community-based partnerships managed by the IRS. The programs provide free tax return preparation assistance to low-to-



moderate income taxpayers, seniors, people with disabilities and non-English speakers. [More](#).

### Become a Member of TON Network

The [Taxpayer Opportunity Networking Update](#) provides the latest developments, resources and stories from the field to help support your tax preparation work. Members receive monthly mailings, have access to webinars and peer-to-peer learning, receive taxpayer stories. The network also provides access to the Tax Prep Dispatch -- easy-to-understand explanations of difficult tax subjects and practical advice to help navigate the challenges of VITA site management and tax law. Members can also utilize Listservs to connect, ask questions and share strategies. The TON has also released a list of [resources to help expand financial capability at tax time](#).

### October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month

Throughout the month of October, help the [National Network to End Domestic Violence](#) (NNEDV) raise awareness about domestic violence and join in efforts to end violence. Here is what you can do:



- Follow NNEDV on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), [Instagram](#), and [Google+](#). Each day in October, NNEDV will be sharing a different survivor's story using #31n31.
- Wear purple during the month of October and join the [national #PurpleThursday thunderclap](#) on October 22!
- Participate in [2015's Week of Action October 19-23](#).

### Nonprofit Resources

#### Grants, Recognition and Awards

- A new [Virginia Grants](#) website has been launched by Governor McAuliffe which will serve as a hub for taxpayers to search for grant opportunities, and have a better idea of how federal tax dollars are being spent, and which grants present opportunities for state and local governments as well as private businesses and organizations.
- [Virginia Community Capital \(VCC\)](#) has received \$2.6+ million in funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury's Community Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund to support its community development efforts in the Commonwealth. That grant includes a \$1 million Healthy Food Financing Initiative award, design to help make investments in healthy food projects serving low-income communities.
- [Healthy Communities Action Teams for Obesity Prevention Grants](#) are being funded by the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth which is seeking to improve access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity to prevent and reduce childhood obesity in Virginia.
- [Virginia Main Street 2016 Grants](#) is currently accepting applications for new designations in the Virginia Main Street organization.
- [Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program Funding](#) is available to local, state and national organizations to test incentive strategies to help SNAP participants better afford healthy foods. Applications are due December 16, 2015.
- [More Funding and Grant Opportunities](#)

#### Training and Events

- [HandsOn Day](#) is October 17! Find a project and sign up today!
- The [2015 Virginia Rural Health Association Conference](#), October 13-14, in Staunton, is an opportunity for the people and organizations that serve rural population from across the Commonwealth to meet.
- A [Mental Health First Aid Training](#) for non-clinical staff and volunteers will be held November 7 at the Hilton Short Pump in Richmond. This national certification is designed to reduce the stigma often attached to mental illnesses and build mental health literacy by helping the non-clinical staff identify, understand, and respond to signs that a mental health problem might be developing or worsening.
- The [Nonprofit Learning Point Summit](#), November 10 in Richmond, will feature local tales of inspiration, national speakers, and creative performance.
- [More Special Events and Training Opportunities](#)

## Resources and Data

- [The Resounding Resiliency of Grandfamilies](#) shines a light on the financial vulnerability of grandfamilies.
- Check out these [7 Tips for Nonprofits on How to Use LinkedIn](#) utilizing ConnectVA's resources.
- The [Think, Act ,Grow \(TAG\)](#) initiative has been launched by the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) and features a website and materials designed to "improve the health and healthy development of America's 42 million adolescents."
- [Gaining Visibility and Control: How Service Operations Management Can Put You on a Path to Improved Customer Service](#) explains how IT operations management can help improve your customer service programs.
- It's cold and flu season again! [Share this information](#) on how to keep your organization and constituents healthy.

## Upcoming Events

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### October

[Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#)

[National Bullying Prevention Month](#)

1-Dec. 16 - Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards Nomination Period

18-24 - [National Teen Driver Safety Week](#)

18-24 - [America Safe Schools Week](#)

24 - [National Food Day](#)

24 - [Make a Difference Day](#)

### November

[National Runaway Prevention Month](#)

3 - General Election

11 - Veterans Day

14 - [World Diabetes Day](#)

15 - [America Recycles Day](#)

14-22 - [National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week](#)

16-20 - [American Education Week](#)

18-20 - [Virginia Governor's Housing Conference](#)

21 - [National Family Volunteer Day](#)

### December

16 - Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards Nominations End

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