



Volunteer Virginia

A newsletter for the service and faith community

Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service | December, 2015

In This Issue

[It's Not Too Late to Nominate an Outstanding Volunteer!](#)

[Could AmeriCorps Be Right for Your Organization?](#)

[2-1-1 Is One-Stop Resource for Assistance](#)

[Virginia AmeriCorps News](#)

[MLK Day of Service is January 18](#)

[Helpful Tax Resources for VITA Sites](#)

[Nonprofit Resources](#)

[December Events & Training Opportunities](#)

Funding & Grant Opportunities

[Farmers Insurance Corporate Contributions Program](#)

-

[Gibson Foundation Grants](#)

-

[Haring Foundation Grants](#)

-

[Everyday Young Hero Award](#)

-

[Beyond Words: Dollar General School Library Relief Fund](#)

-

More [funding and grant opportunities](#).

Information is Good



Tell a friend or colleague about this issue.

View Past Issues

Miss an issue of *Virginia Volunteer*? View the [archives](#).

Contribute

It's Not Too Late to Nominate an Outstanding Volunteer!

Every day, all over Virginia individuals and organizations are doing remarkable things in their communities. Students are organizing food donations and collecting coats. Churches and synagogues are reaching out to families living in poverty. Seniors are spending their retirement years serving as mentors to children and young adults.



Companies are implementing groundbreaking employee volunteer programs to tackle everything from literacy to hunger. It's important that we recognize these amazing individuals and organizations by nominating them for the 2016 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Governor McAuliffe will honor the winners at a special ceremony in April. The deadline for nominations is December 16, 2015. [More.](#)

The Office on Volunteerism and Community Service will host a special informational webinar, Friday, December 4 at 10 a.m., to answer questions and provide assistance. [Get the details on this webinar.](#)

Could AmeriCorps Be Right for Your Organization?

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. The Office on Volunteerism (OVCS) will host a series of phone calls for questions and answers over the coming weeks, also identified in the RFP. The deadline for applications is February 15, 2016.



2-1-1 Is One-Stop Resource for Assistance

The holiday season and winter months often mean an increase in the demand for services and assistance for those in need. Whether you need information on food pantries, human services, or cold weather assistance, we encourage you to visit our new and improved website at www.211virginia.org. It's the one place where you can find exactly what you need -- quickly and easily. The powerful database allows you to search by location and for specific services. Have a problem that needs a personal touch? 2-1-1 Call Specialists are available by phone 24/7. Just dial 2-1-1.

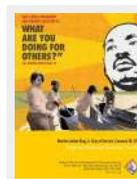


Is your organization registered on 2-1-1? The success of 2-1-1, and ultimately its impact on families and individuals, depends on the quality of information it can provide. If you are a nonprofit providing health and human services -- food, housing, clothing, medical care, equipment, counseling, etc. -- make sure your information is on 2-1-1! [Update or add your information.](#)

Virginia AmeriCorps News

MLK Day of Service Toolkit Available for Virginia AmeriCorps Programs

[MLK Day of Service](#) is January 18, 2016. Your program should already be thinking of potential service projects and ways to honor Dr. King on this national day of service. The Office on Volunteerism and Community Service as developed a special toolkit to assist your program as it plans its MLK Day activities. The toolkit features project ideas, registration information, social media marketing tools, and more. [Download the toolkit now!](#)



Special Training Opportunity: Maximizing Your Volunteer Program

Is your organization looking for ways to expand services, maximize your

Have a news item or calendar event you want to see on *Virginia Volunteer*? Send comments to info@vaservice.org

budget, and ultimately achieve your mission? Perhaps it's time to examine your volunteer programming. Volunteers could be the key to your program's success! The Office on Volunteerism and Community Service has space available in upcoming Volunteer Management Training events in Wytheville (December 8-9) and Fredericksburg (December 14-15). Each training will last 1 1/2 days, beginning at 9 a.m. each day. A modest lunch will be provided. [Information on locations and registration information.](#)

VetCorps Pinning Ceremony in Tazewell Honors Veterans

Dignitaries, family, colleagues, and friends gathered to honor 38 Senior Corps volunteers from the Clinch Valley RSVP and Senior Corps programs in Tazewell at a VetCorps pinning ceremony on November 6. The event was the first of many being held this month to acknowledge the important contributions of national service volunteers who are also veterans of military service, and volunteers who are providing service to military veterans. [More.](#)



AmeriCorps VISTA Positions Available!

The Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) is looking for AmeriCorps VISTA members to be placed in Continuums of Care (CoCs) across the Commonwealth. Members will provide key leadership and direction to help VCEH local partners achieve greater impact for their clients experiencing homelessness. Members will complete a community assessment and work with site supervisors, agency and community leaders and VCEH to build agency and community capacity to end homelessness. The deadline to apply is December 11, 2015. For more information, contact Philip Armstrong, philip@vceh.org, 804-332-2096. Click on the VISTA position links below:



- [VISTA Member \(CoC-level\)](#)
- [VISTA Member \(Service Provider-level\)](#)

For AmeriCorps Member Carl Schwartz – Life is People

"My AmeriCorps experience began after I rejected a desk job for a major corporation. I came to the realization that I am less motivated by money and more motivated by helping people and being an agent of change. Life is people. With this in mind, I found myself interviewing for CARITAS and, in the spring of this year, I completed a 900-hour AmeriCorps term as a man of many hats in the program. Working alongside the men from The Healing Place, our beautiful mission of sheltering and restoring dignity in men, women, and families gave me direct experience with different populations of people in crisis in our community." [More.](#)



Virginia College Advising Corps Celebrates Decade of Service

On October 17, the first ten cohorts of the Virginia College Advising Corps gathered in Charlottesville to celebrate VCAC's 10 Year Anniversary. From 14 college guides in 2005 to 532 college advisers today, more than 650,000 students have been served by the program. Over the past 10 years, VCAC's has accomplished the following:



- 143,093 one-on-one appointments with students
- 11,248 meetings with parents
- 24,711 classroom visits and workshops and 4,147 campus tours
- 7,995 students assisted with SAT preparation
- [More.](#)

New Initiative to Serve Rural Communities

Recognizing the need for innovative strategies for program delivery to rural communities, the White House Rural Council has launched "Rural Impact." This initiative will address the challenge of rural child poverty by bringing together federal agencies and public and private resources. As part of this initiative, the Corporation for National and Community Service launched Serve Rural, a national effort to enlist even more volunteers and local organizations to inspire more volunteering in rural communities. [More.](#)

MLK Day of Service is January 18

"What are you doing for others?"
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by volunteering on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday (January 18, 2016) to help their neighbors and communities. What will *you* do to make this day not just a day off, but a day on for service? Check out these great, **free resources**



for ideas and be sure to *register your project* so the whole county will know what you are doing for others.

- [Download MLK Day Project Toolkits](#)
- [Lesson Plans](#)
- [Register and Promote your Volunteer Service Project](#)
- Follow MLK Day on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Helpful Tax Resources for VITA Sites

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. If your organization is serving (or will serve this year) as a VITA tax prep site, there are countless resources at your disposal to help you get off the ground and be successful. [More](#).

Nonprofit Resources

Input Needed

- Complete the [2015 PEATC Parent and Youth Summit in Association](#) With DARS Needs Assessment for the Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services by December 15.
- Hurry and update your [Citizen Corps/CERT Registration System information](#) before December 4.

Funding and Grants

- [InterConnection Grants](#) strive to connect nonprofit organizations and underserved communities around the world to the computers and technology they need. Deadline: December 15.
- [Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive \(FINI\) Grants](#) support projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income consumers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by providing incentives at the point of purchase. Deadline: December 16.
- [The Walmart Foundation](#) seeks to award grants in the areas of hunger relief and healthy eating, sustainability, women's economic empowerment, and/or career opportunities. Deadline: December 31.
- [More Funding and Grant Opportunities](#)

Resources and Data

- Check out these [9 Technical Assistance Guides to the Network for Community Action Agencies](#). Each guide focuses on a Category of the CSBG Organizational Standards.
- The [American Almanac of Family Homelessness 2015](#) is new resource for organizations working to end homelessness offering information on what states are currently doing to address homelessness and what is working.
- [Empowering Prosperity: Strengthening Human Services Impacts Through Asset Integration](#) serves as a primer on asset building within human service organizations. It explores strategies and efforts already underway in agencies throughout the U.S.
- Find out [What's Driving Health Differences Across Your State and What Can Be Done to Close Those Gaps](#) with County Health Rankings and Roadmaps' new tool.
- [Making a Difference for You, Inc. Computer Technology Resource Center](#) offers FREE computer training to seniors, Monday-Friday from 6-8pm and Saturday-Sunday from 1-8pm.
- The [U.S. Fire Administration's Heating Safety Tips](#) lists simple steps to prevent a fire from happening in your home.
- [America's Prepareathon's How to Prepare for a Winter Storm Guide](#) has everything you need to get ready for the big chill.

December Events & Training Opportunities

- [Virginia Interfaith Center Annual Meeting](#) (December 8 - Richmond)
- [Live Broadcast of Financial Well-Being Summit](#) (December 8)
- [VDH Teen Dating Violence Prevention Curricula Showcase](#) (December 9 - Woodbridge)
- [Affordable Care Act 101 Webinar](#) (December 10)

- [2016 Governor's Volunteers Awards Nominations Due](#) (December 16)
- [Sharing Leadership: The Board-Staff Partnership](#) (December 17 - Charlottesville)

We respect your privacy and hate spam as much as you do. View our [Privacy Policy](#). **Unsubscribe instantly.**

Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service

801 E. Main Street, 15th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219

Toll free in VA: (800) 638-3839

Direct: (804) 726-7065