



Serve Wisconsin 2019-2020 Annual Report

AmeriCorps in Wisconsin

782 AmeriCorps members served over 690,000 hours of service in Wisconsin communities during the 2019-2020 program year

Thanks to AmeriCorps members in Wisconsin



3,239 students improved their academic performance and/or academic engagement

670 students completed college preparation and academic support programs

5,212 students received nutrition education

3,384 youth who have run away or are experiencing homelessness have returned to their homes or a safe alternative placement



1,528 individuals with disabilities participated in therapeutic recreation activities

307 individuals enrolled in health insurance and scheduled a doctor's appointment



414 individuals participated in health education programs focused on leading healthier lives

487 individuals with substance use disorders created a recovery service plan

136 acres of parks or public land and **14** miles of trails or rivers were improved or treated



3 homes were constructed for purchase by low-income families or individuals with disabilities

58 organizations received capacity building services to increase their impact on the people of Wisconsin



9,179 volunteers provided **99,555** hours of volunteer service in support of AmeriCorps programs and the individuals they serve

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AmeriCorps
members
served in
45 counties
across
Wisconsin



AmeriCorps
Wisconsin



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

Dear Friends in Service and Volunteering,

One of the best things about Wisconsin is how the people of our state—like the Wisconsin AmeriCorps members—seek ways to help others and positively impact their communities. This has never been more clear than over the past year as our state addressed one of the greatest public health threats we've faced: the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the unprecedented challenges we've faced, Wisconsinites across the state pitched in to help their neighbors and communities, and AmeriCorps members are a wonderful example of folks who have stepped up to serve and made a difference for those in need.

Every year, Wisconsin AmeriCorps members provide critical services throughout the state in education, conservation, health care, substance use disorder recovery, and disaster response, and they support an array of other local projects as well.

These services became even more vital to our state when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. As COVID-19 began to spread, Serve Wisconsin took on new, additional roles to support state efforts and launched initiatives to coordinate relief and fight the pandemic. These initiatives included providing virtual assistance to students, packing and distributing meals at food banks and school meal programs, assisting with contact tracing and patient follow-up calls, assembling and distributing face masks, answering COVID-19 hotline calls, assisting community organizations serving those in need, and so much more. This incredible work exemplifies our shared Wisconsin values of empathy, compassion, service, and taking care of our neighbors.

The pages of this annual report will vividly demonstrate how AmeriCorps members provided invaluable service in communities in every corner of our state. They helped their fellow Wisconsinites address immense challenges and contributed hundreds of thousands of hours of service. **Wisconsin is stronger because of their commitment to helping others.** I am proud to support the Wisconsin AmeriCorps members and the goals of Serve Wisconsin to expand the scope and reach of AmeriCorps programs and volunteer efforts. I look forward to continuing our work to increase service in Wisconsin and help foster the spirit of volunteerism demonstrated time and again by the folks in our state.

Sincerely,

Governor Tony Evers
State of Wisconsin

Impact of AmeriCorps on Wisconsin 2019-2020 Program Year

Numbers of Students Reached by AmeriCorps in Wisconsin

18,886 total pre-kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and college students in Wisconsin were served through multiple types of educational programming

277 pre-kindergarten students participated in early learning programs

920 elementary students and **244** secondary students participated in literacy programs

410 high school students participated in mathematics tutoring programs

547 students completed general tutoring and mentoring programs

2,052 students participated in after-school and summer education programs

210 students participated in STEM education programming to boost academic engagement

2,052 students participated in college preparation and readiness programming

1,569 post-secondary students participated in academic support programming

3,566 students were taught by AmeriCorps members serving as teachers in classrooms in low-income communities

5,021 students participated in nutrition education programming





Nutrition Education

5,021 students participated in five or more nutrition education lessons

1,627 nutrition lessons were taught by AmeriCorps Farm to School Nutrition Educators

447 local food items were integrated into school tasting activities or as a part of school meals

112 farmers were supported for local food supply, school presentations, and/or school visits



Healthier Lifestyles

2,024 individuals participated in programs or sessions to receive information on health education, healthy living, health care access, and community resource navigation

486 individuals with addiction abuse disorders created a recovery service plan



Creating Economic Opportunity

3 single-family homes / housing units were constructed and sold to low-income individuals, families, or people with disabilities

14 economically disadvantaged AmeriCorps members in Youth Corps programs obtained a GED / HSED and **48** obtained employment



Services for Individuals with Disabilities and their Families

435 individuals with disabilities participated in therapeutic recreation activities

119 parents or caregivers of individuals with disabilities reported a reduction in stress and an increased quality of life



Services for Veterans and their Families

19 veterans and **79** family members participated in weekend camps for veterans and their families



Environmental Stewardship

136 acres of parks or public land were improved or treated

14 miles of trails or rivers were improved or treated

9,380 people participated in environmental education programming



Helping Homeless and Runaway Youth

1,363 youth who had run away or were experiencing homelessness have returned to their homes or a safe alternative placement

14,368 youth who had run away or were experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity received assistance services



Supporting Non-Profit Organizations and Recruiting Volunteers

66 organizations received capacity building services to make positive changes in their level of competence and/or increase their levels of success serving people

6,048 volunteers provided **41,376** hours of volunteer service in support of AmeriCorps programs

2019-2020 AmeriCorps State Programs

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

BGCGM - AmeriCorps Academic & Career Planning

AmeriCorps members provide college preparation and career readiness programming, including academic tutoring, assistance with college exploration and application, job readiness, and financial literacy education to low-income high school students.



BGCGM - Club Corps

SPARK – AmeriCorps members provide tutoring sessions and small group reading activities to students in grades K-3 in order to improve literacy.

Camp Whitcomb/Mason Environmental Education Initiative – AmeriCorps members create, implement, and lead youth through environmental education lessons and activities.

Arts Initiative – AmeriCorps members develop, manage, and implement a comprehensive arts program and serve youth ages 6-18 in visual and performing arts in afterschool clubs.

BGCGM - Inspire HOPE

AmeriCorps members work with K-8 students in after-school programs to support social-emotional development programming through large-group, small-group, and individualized instruction.



College Possible – Milwaukee

AmeriCorps members provide intensive coaching and support to low-income high school and college students in order to make college admission and success possible.



Dane County Department of Human Services – Partners for After School Success (PASS)



AmeriCorps members are placed in predominately low-income or resource scarce communities to enhance the academic achievement and school engagement of middle and high school youth through positive relationships, literacy tutoring, extended learning programs, and volunteer service.



Easterseals Wisconsin

AmeriCorps members provide intensive personal care and lead or facilitate therapeutic recreation activities for individuals with disabilities and their families at Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp. AmeriCorps members also provide therapeutic recreation activities for veterans and their family members at Veteran Family Camps.



Marquette University - 414 Fellows

AmeriCorps members engage low-income children, ages 0-3, in one-on-one and group literacy and language building activities to increase school readiness through gains in language and literacy skills.



**Marshfield Clinic
Health System
AmeriCorps**



MCHS - Afterschool

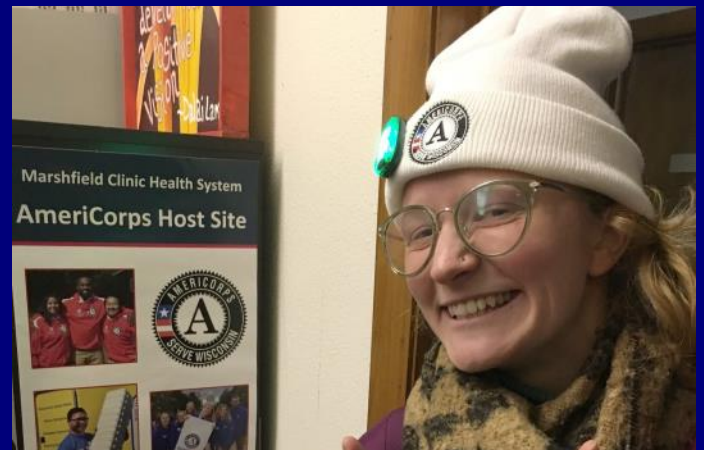
AmeriCorps members provide support to afterschool programs through promoting academic success, personal/social development, and healthy active living for youth ages 8-18.

MCHS - Recovery Corps

AmeriCorps members are trained in the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) model of recovery coaching and serve as recovery coaches. Their focus is to reduce prescription drug, opioid, and other substance use disorders through one-on-one contact, outreach phone calls, and community education in the Northcentral Wisconsin region served by the HOPE Consortium.

MCHS - Volunteer Wisconsin

AmeriCorps members are placed in non-profits across the state to increase their capacity to effectively engage and utilize volunteers.



Milwaukee Christian Center – YouthBuild

AmeriCorps members make a tangible impact on their community through the construction of affordable, energy-efficient housing and accessible home modifications, while gaining job and leadership skills, improving their education, and developing community through service.



North Central Community Action Program AmeriCorps Team – Greater Wausau Area

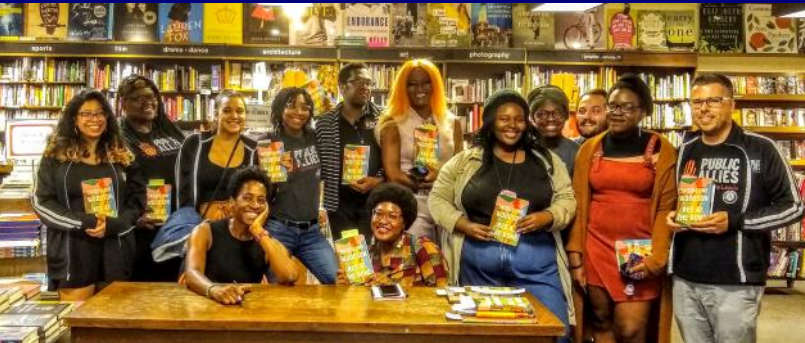
AmeriCorps members provide direct services to youth and their families as mentors and tutors during and after school. Members serve elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult learners.





Public Allies Milwaukee

AmeriCorps members work on service projects that enhance and expand the capacity of nonprofit organizations to deliver critical direct services to Milwaukee residents.



Racine Zoo AmeriCorps Project

AmeriCorps members provide environmental education programming to elementary school, middle school, and high school students to reinforce grade-level science curriculum through inquiry and research activities, environmental presentations, and programming for participating classes at the zoo.



Renewal Unlimited, Inc. — Fresh Start Program

AmeriCorps members construct two single-family homes that are sold to low to moderate income families. While working on the houses, members develop educational, pre-employment, job, independent living, and leadership skills.



Teach for America — Milwaukee

AmeriCorps members lead classrooms across the city of Milwaukee while growing and strengthening the movement for educational equality and excellence.



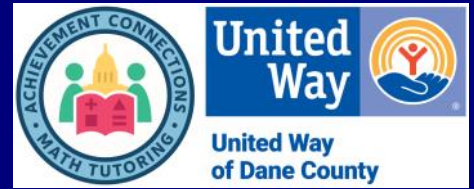
United Way Fox Cities — Be Well Fox Valley

AmeriCorps members deliver health education lessons and provide capacity building services to improve physical, mental, and social health and well-being throughout Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties.



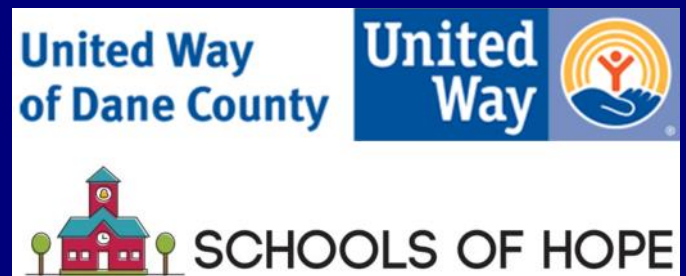
United Way of Dane County — Achievement Connections

AmeriCorps members tutor high school students in math and leverage additional volunteers to provide tutoring with the goal of increasing the number of students who pass Algebra by 10th grade.



United Way of Dane County — Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project

AmeriCorps members serve as literacy tutors and tutor coordinators in high-need elementary schools where they work with staff to increase the literacy skills of students in kindergarten through fifth grade.



**University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
– Blugold Beginnings**

AmeriCorps members engage youth in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through robotics and coding after school clubs, STEM camps, tutoring, and mentoring in northwestern Wisconsin.



University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire – ECLIPSE

AmeriCorps members provide one-on-one interventions to 3-5 year old children who are at risk and/or from low income families in order to help them grow in the areas of language, literacy, social interaction, and initiative skills.



Western Dairyland EOC, Inc. - Chippewa Fresh Start YouthBuild

AmeriCorps members construct new homes for income-eligible families in the local community while working on achieving high school diplomas/HSEDs, developing career goals, improving self-esteem, and alleviating barriers to economic self-sufficiency.



Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services

AmeriCorps members provide street outreach services to homeless youth and respond to referrals from police departments, schools, and other youth-serving agencies.



Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association – Wisconsin HealthCorps

AmeriCorps members are placed in community health centers, public health departments, and health focused non-profits in order to serve as patient navigators, health educators, and community outreach specialists.



Wisconsin Department of Instruction – Farm to School

AmeriCorps members build up the capacity of Wisconsin communities to support farm to school programming through nutrition education lessons, local food taste tests, integrating local foods into school meals, local procurement education, school gardens, farmer engagements, and community volunteers.

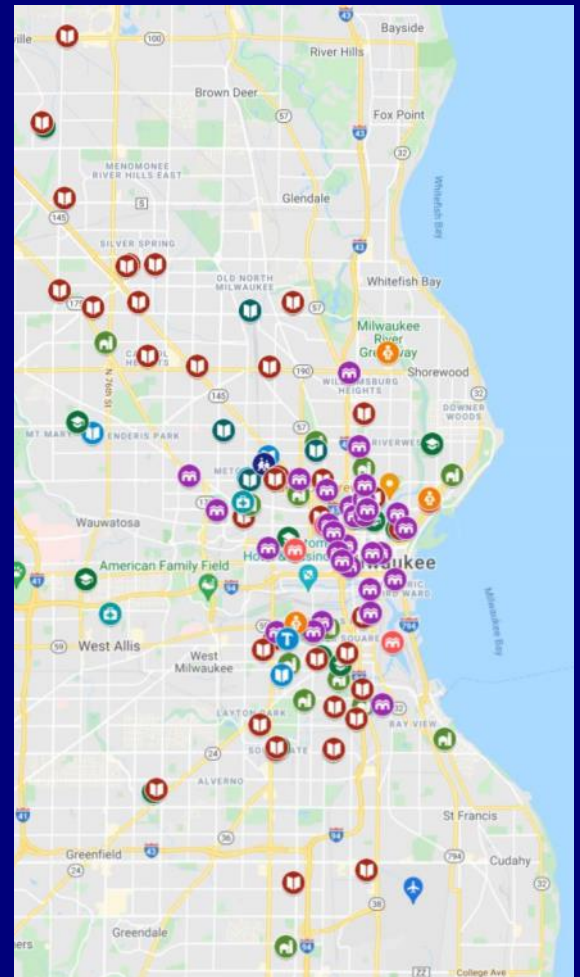


WisCorps

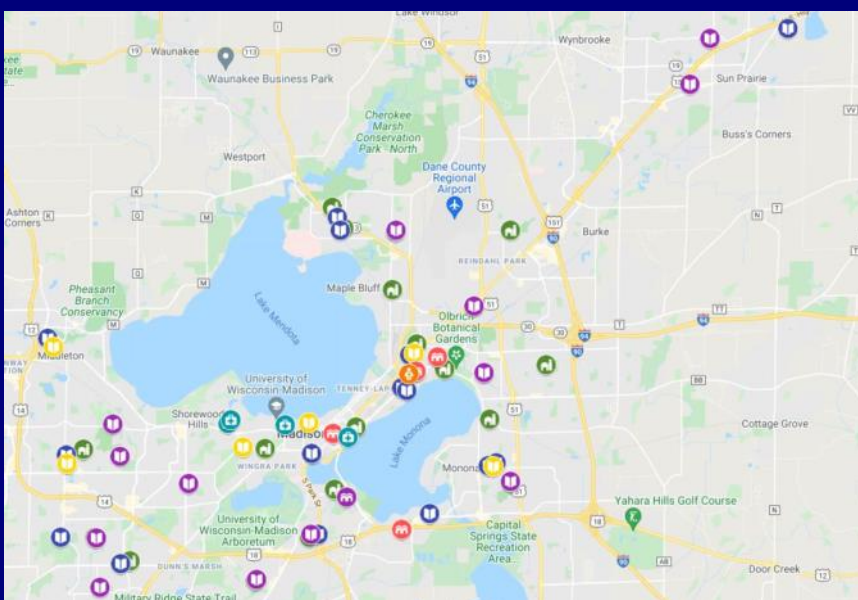
AmeriCorps members complete high priority conservation projects across the state of Wisconsin. Members are responsible for improving public land, planting trees, establishing firebreaks at homes, establishing or maintaining trails, installing or restoring rain gardens, and engaging individuals in environmental education programs.



2019-2020 AmeriCorps Service Locations for Serve Wisconsin programs



**Milwaukee
Service Locations**



Madison Service Locations



**AmeriCorps
Wisconsin**

COVID-19 Response

The spread of COVID-19 had a significant impact on the service provided by AmeriCorps members in Wisconsin, with the closure of schools, community centers, and local nonprofits. AmeriCorps members stepped up to get things done for the people of Wisconsin, as the need for their service only increased during the pandemic. To respond to these growing needs, AmeriCorps members found ways to transition their current service to virtual platforms and began assisting with local and statewide COVID-19 relief efforts to help those impacted by the pandemic.

They provided virtual assistance to students completing coursework at home, packed and distributed meals at food banks and school meal programs, assisted with contact tracing and patient follow-up calls, assembled and distributed face masks, created virtual content on community resources, answered COVID-19 hotline calls, and assisted various community organizations and local projects serving those in need.



AmeriCorps Responds



Wisconsin AmeriCorps members answering the call for assistance with 211

Over 40 AmeriCorps members throughout the state assisted 211 Wisconsin in response to the growing need to provide assistance to Wisconsinites with questions and concerns regarding COVID-19. To assist with this increased demand, AmeriCorps members were trained to answer statewide calls related to COVID-19, helping to both alleviate issues surrounding the number of people calling in for assistance and allow previously trained volunteers to continue providing localized guidance to individuals needing assistance with other issues.



Below are excerpts from reflections from five AmeriCorps members that served with Marshfield Clinic Health Systems AmeriCorps Volunteer Wisconsin that answered 211 calls as part of this effort.

Elisha Adelman -- MCHS AmeriCorps Volunteer Wisconsin at Sunshine House Inc. in Sturgeon Bay

The opportunity to help field 2-1-1 calls for the Wisconsin system has been informative and a personal way to give back to those who are in need, which these days, is a lot of people. The experience of answering calls can be tough when people are afraid and lacking in basic resources, but many callers seem to feel a bit of relief knowing there are organizations and programs out there designed to help. Furthermore, these calls provide an opportunity for people to feel like they are not alone, both in their experiences and in the world. With our inability to make daily contact with others, just getting to connect with another person for a few brief moments is so important, for people on both sides of these calls. It's clear our resources are stretched thin, but I hold out hope that through systems like 211 we have the feedback loop to help fill in the gaps for those in need. I am grateful to be part of this service and thank those who keep this program going.

Ben Li -- MCHS AmeriCorps Volunteer Wisconsin at United Way of Dane County 2-1-1

... At United Way 211, we are working tirelessly to keep Wisconsinites informed and connect them with community resources to get them through this crisis. I am very thankful for this opportunity to be able to serve my state in this time of great need through AmeriCorps. I would also like to encourage folks to remember that the basic needs people are calling for help with right now, in particular finding food and stable housing, are the same needs that we were getting nearly 100 calls per day for before this crisis. For many Wisconsinites, these needs will not disappear when this pandemic is over. I hope that the issues exposed in our society by COVID-19 will continue to be a focus of communities moving forward and that together we can cut our call volume in half and someday bring it down to zero.

Alli Sukow -- MCHS AmeriCorps Volunteer Wisconsin at United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County

I am continuing to serve by taking calls for 211 and providing childcare for a full-time nurse/part-time EMT. With 2-1-1 phone answering, I feel like I am a huge help for the other volunteers and the people calling....The 12 hours a week taking these calls have opened my eyes to how many people have general questions, but no one that they can ask....Everything I am doing is making me grateful that I have this time to help other people that need it.

Natesha Davis -- MCHS AmeriCorps Volunteer Wisconsin at MCHS Center for Community Health Advancement remotely from Madison

I am an AmeriCorps Member who is serving to help United Way 211 answer the influx of calls they have been receiving since the start of this global health crisis. My first day serving was a few weeks ago when there was not as much information about the virus, so on that day I had a lot of anxiety....to answer calls and give good valuable information. United Way has made it easy to access pertinent information and so that has made it much easier to give out the right information, but weeks later it seems there is still a lot we do not know and people are aware of this and afraid....No matter where or who the call comes from, the commonality among all these different calls is that they are all afraid and like most of us do not know where to turn for answers or if they should trust the information they have been given.

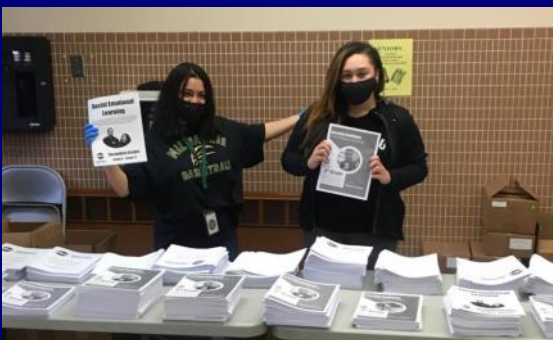
Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps members helping to distribute emergency food boxes to those impacted by COVID-19

After the closure of schools in the Marshfield area on March 16, 2020, three AmeriCorps members with MCHS Afterschool, Ashley Bloczynski, Kayla Ahles and Olivia Stillwell, continued serving Marshfield and the surrounding communities by packing and distributing emergency food boxes to alleviate food insecurities. They served at Soup of Socks, a food pantry and clothes closet in Marshfield, and helped 535 families receive necessary food and clothing.

Ashley Bloczynski reflected that "seeing their reactions and knowing how grateful they are keeps us motivated and grounded in this time of crisis," and shared the below story about one moment from their service:

"A man came to the food pantry asking for help with food. He had just moved here and was looking for an apartment. He didn't have a car and was concerned about how he was going to feed himself while waiting for his first paycheck. He had walked across town to get to Soup or Socks. I asked him if he would like to be on the delivery list for food and could he wait a few days until the next delivery. His eyes began to water and he looked down at the ground and said he wouldn't make it. Because he didn't have a car, we weren't sure how he was going to get everything home. We prepared a bag especially for him that he would easily be able to carry home and added some extra produce. When I brought the food out to him his face lit up. He thanked me numerous times and said this service was truly a gift to him.

A participant arrived at SOS and I took down his information. He commented on my homemade mask and was thankful our staff was being safe. I let him know that one of our staff had made some to hand out and asked if he wanted one. He said absolutely! He informed me he had had a heart attack in the last month and suffered from lung problems. He said, 'It was worth it to come here just for the mask!' Because of the mask he would feel much safer going out for necessary supplies."



Blugold Beginnings full STEAM ahead despite pandemic challenges

Each summer, the AmeriCorps members with Blugold Beginnings at UW-Eau Claire serve as camp counselors for day camps that engage local youth in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) activities. Due to the spread of COVID-19, UWEC Diversity and Inclusion Executive Director Jodi Thesing-Ritter described that



AmeriCorps Responds

Blugold Beginnings "made the decision to switch to virtual camps after weighing our ability to keep students safe. " After making this decision, Blugold Beginnings worked with their local school districts, smaller rural school districts, and community organizations such as various Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H, and the Girl Scouts, to offer over 20 camps over nine weeks that will serve over 350 children.

The coding camp this year is a collaboration between ten Blugold Beginnings AmeriCorps members, who are also students at UW-Eau Claire, and over fifteen volunteers from local tech firms.

"I'm so happy to have been part of the camp this year," said Joe Rupslauskas, a UW-Eau Claire alumnus who works in the engineering department at Jamf. "Having been a part of the camp in years past with all the fun, face-to-face activities, I had some reservations as to whether or not it was even possible to bring it to an online platform. In the end, we came up with a fun week of activities."

WisCorps COVID-19 Disaster Response Crew

While they initially had a plan to deploy an AmeriCorps disaster response team this spring to address damage caused by storms and flooding, when COVID-19 started spreading this spring, WisCorps pivoted and redirected their disaster relief efforts to assist those impacted by the pandemic in the La Crosse area.



AmeriCorps Responds

WisCorps reimagined the service they would be providing, discovering that many local nonprofit organizations lost virtually all of their regular volunteers due to safety concerns, as they were often retired or had underlying medical conditions that forced them to stay at home. WisCorps designed their relief efforts to have their AmeriCorps members completing relief projects and other community support efforts in collaboration with these agencies.

As a result of their service, 385 meals and over 600 pounds of groceries were delivered to the elderly and high-risk individuals, numerous home repairs and outside maintenance projects were completed for seniors and others in need, community gardens were planted and maintained, and multiple additional relief projects were completed, as well as the removal of over 270 pounds of flood debris as part of the original mission of the crew.

Teaching outdoor skills to kids remotely as La-La the Knot-Ologist

Wanting to continue reaching the kids/campers served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee during the COVID-19 pandemic, AmeriCorps member Larie Norwood is creating digital content to help them learn skills and lessons they might have experienced at camp.

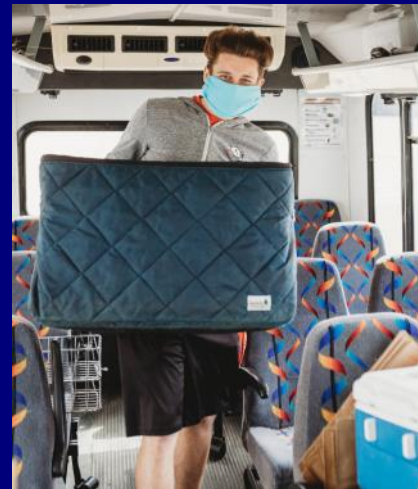
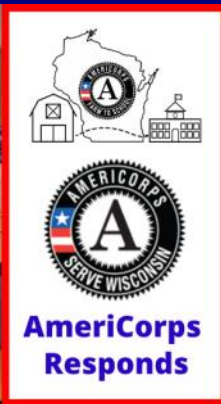
Under the moniker La-La the Knot-Ologist, he released a series of videos to teach a variety of knots to children and their families. As the Adventure Based Learning Specialist for kids attending camp at Camp Whitcomb/Mason, he teaches kids from the city of Milwaukee the basics of outdoor living (tent building, fire building, outdoor cooking, orienteering and survival skills), and he wants to continue to pass on these skills to children even when camp cannot be held in person.



The “New Normal” — Working with Students Remotely at College Possible Milwaukee

Reflection by Kishauna Harper - College Possible Milwaukee

As high school students adjust to the "new normal" of lodging at home and carrying out classes online, they find solace in knowing they are in the majority. We are all trying to navigate these waters of uncharted territory. I, like everyone else, have had to make some major adjustments personally, while providing the constant support students deserve. Instead of meeting with students in school, I have been communicating with them through Google voice, phone calls, video chats and email to ensure I am providing them with as much support as they can possibly handle. Whether it is learning new platforms to help students with their online classes or picking up their school laptop while they are at work, I want students to be confident that they can lean on me while we are living in uncertain times.



PASS AmeriCorps members continue to "get things done" during the COVID-19 pandemic

When their service sites closed to their students, the AmeriCorps members with Partners for After School Success (PASS) adapted their service to the community. The PASS AmeriCorps members spent the month of March responding to student, site, and community needs related to COVID-19. Their activities included outreach to students and families to assess resources and needs, food packaging and delivery at community centers and larger food banks, as well as training to answer and respond to calls through the 211 hotline. Starting in April, many PASS members refocused efforts on serving students through host-site driven virtual platforms, which includes virtual academic tutoring, individual and small group mentoring and extended learning programming such as arts & crafts, trivia, book clubs, discussion groups, science clubs, sports activities, and more.



“My main task is SEL support for youths at this time and I have been doing that through emails and text messages. It is still hard to reach every youth because I do not have the numbers of all the youths, but I am doing my best to coordinate and update on youth check-in with my supervisor. This month I focused a lot on planning activities for tutoring sessions and hopefully ELP sessions next month. I have done tutoring with 3 students so far...The Hamilton social worker has also been setting up weekly Zoom calls with youths, my supervisor and I. Bayview is still making sure every resident has good WIFI access. The weekly meetings with my supervisor and AmeriCorps members have been super helpful because I get to process how I am feeling about a lot of things. I am thankful to have those meetings/discussions every week.” *Udon Thao, PASS AmeriCorps Member at Bayview Foundation*

“I have been able to sit in and participate in online ELP programming and recently I started helping to plan programming for Monday Girls Inc. I also have been helping in Transition Academy in reaching out to students and planning times to connect and tutor. I attend every Friday meeting with the PASS team and I have check ins with my supervisors and staff at least once a week. I reach out to students every week for tutoring as well as to check in on their emotional wellbeing.” *Iris, PASS AmeriCorps Member at Goodman Community Center*

“I am leading Korean language club through Zoom on Mondays, participating in community center Google Hangout meetings Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and facilitating homework club meetings on Thursdays. I've been able to connect with students about 4 times per week for hang out, homework help, or tutoring. I also have been attending Friday meetings for team development.” *Chamee, PASS AmeriCorps Member with MSCR at Jefferson Middle School*

“I have consent from students’ parents to continue tutoring them online, which starts next week. I have also been working with a teacher to compile a list of free fun academic websites for students & have been sending them out to students. I also wrote all my tutoring students a post card letting them know I am excited to begin tutoring again!” *Annika, PASS AmeriCorps Member with MSCR at Sennett Middle School*

“Instead of Online ELP programming, I have only been successful in talking to teens on the phone. We have had long conversations with teens and their families talking about what they doing, how they feel and are coping but not been able to provide any structured programming. The option is available to them when they want it. They just have not expressed interest yet. However, I still check in with them regularly and offer activities.” *Binta, PASS AmeriCorps Member at Goodman South Madison Public Library*

NCCAP AmeriCorps members remotely serving Wausau School District students

Even though they were no longer able to physically meet with their students, the AmeriCorps members with North Central Community Action Program (NCCAP) continued to work with the students they served in the Wausau School District through several remote platforms. When teachers and schools in the district were making their preparations for the transition to remote learning, the AmeriCorps

members serving in Wausau schools were factored into the support that students would be able to receive when digitally completing their coursework. NCCAP AmeriCorps members assisted their students virtually in numerous ways, ranging from checking in on grades and homework through email, assisting students through shared online collaborative documents, and video chatting with students to go over complicated problems and assignments or for advisory circles.



“My partner and I set up multiple channels through which we would interact with our students and fellow staff members....As AmeriCorps members for Wausau East, we made sure that we let our students and staff know that we are still here for them. We set up a Google Hangout to chat with our students, sent copious amounts of emails to them, and set up Google Docs so they can ask questions from their homework...We spent the first week using these platforms to remind them of upcoming assignments and tests, and to reinforce the idea that we are still here for them even though we could be miles from where they are... the second full week of virtual learning, my fellow AmeriCorps tutor and I sent out emails to students who we have not heard from in quite some time. These emails contained words of encouragement and reassurance to reach out to us for help and a demand that they stay on top of their classes...We ended up being praised by our host site supervisor, teachers and AmeriCorps staff for taking initiative and not letting this closure of the school and our Academic Learning Center be some kind of break for us... .Right now, it is the best we can do without physically being with them individually at their houses. That is the main conclusion I am drawing from this experience. We are doing the best we can despite the circumstances, and I think that that is part of the patchwork of AmeriCorps when crisis comes up...” *Charles Bouza*

“.... we are all trying our best to come out of this situation unscathed and to continue a sense of normalcy during an abnormal time. But what does that mean for us AmeriCorps members? Well, in my case it is to implement social distancing while also using virtual learning to continue being involved in the assistance of my students. In fact, the day before local community areas closed, I met with my fellow AmeriCorps member, Charles, to discuss our plan of action moving forward. Since then, we have been active every day with communicating with our students. Whether it is been emailing them grade checks, video chatting to go over complicated problems/assignments, or just messaging them via Google Hangouts to let them know about daily assignments, we will continue to provide a positive presence in their lives.” *Ryan Aderholdt*

“As a new AmeriCorps member from the Greater Wausau Area, I began serving EEA Learning Academy just a week before the recent school closures. I was incredibly lucky to be placed on an amazing team who facilitated student learning through online courses. Yet, even with our technology centered curriculum, we could never have anticipated the transitions we would have to make when the orders of a statewide quarantine took place. As remote learning began, students didn't think much of the changes. It was still a new situation where the students enjoyed being away from school. It wasn't until after Spring Break had ended when we began to gather as an entire school for virtual advisory circles. It was during the first few meetings that the new perspectives brought about by our students started to appear. Students had not been with each other or our staff for nearly two weeks, and many of them spoke about how they wish they could be back in school again. Some students wanted the ability to be around friends again, some wanted the accountability provided by advisors, some needed the safe-haven and services provided by the school, while others spoke of a combination of these reasons.” *Quentin Rickert*

Easterseals Wisconsin AmeriCorps member organizes distribution of hygiene bags for those in need in River Falls

During her remote service in the summer of 2020, AmeriCorps Respite Apprentice Madelynne coordinated efforts to create hygiene bags to be distributed within her community for individuals in need. She reached out to the local community for donations and within hours received commitments to obtain all of the items needed for the project. By the end of the project, 48 hygiene bags were given to Our Neighbor's Place in River Falls to distribute to those in need, with the bags including a bar of soap, snack bars, wipes, a toothbrush, toothpaste, Band-Aids, hair binders, and other items.

Madelynne reflected on her service saying "serving with AmeriCorps in the midst of COVID has been very eye-opening and has allowed me to see the needs of my community and find creative and safe ways to reach out and make an impact and difference. Although this term with AmeriCorps has looked different than I thought it would, I am grateful for the ways it has helped shape me into a better leader and a more aware and involved member of my community."



Taking on additional service to assist the homeless during COVID-19

Reflection by Jelena Stankovic - MCHS AmeriCorps Volunteer Wisconsin member serving at Kids Matter Inc.

In these uncertain times, it's unclear whether my fellow AmeriCorps members and I will be able to complete our service year in the way that we'd planned. I certainly couldn't have imagined this back in September, and it's been difficult to know for sure what the "right" next step is.

The beauty of being an AmeriCorps member is that we are not traditional employees. We have the freedom to be flexible in difficult times and respond to what our communities need. While we might identify strongly with our host sites, we are AmeriCorps members first and foremost. Remembering this, I've decided to expand my scope of service and fill a need in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

I've recently begun splitting my time between working on tasks for my host site, Kids Matter Inc. in Milwaukee, and volunteering with the Hospitality Center in Racine. The Hospitality Center serves the homeless and near homeless of Racine by offering two meals a day, support groups, and a community closet among other services. Their need is even greater than usual at this time because many of their regular volunteers are elderly and choosing to social distance for the sake of their health and safety. The staff and other volunteers have been so welcoming, showing me kindness and patience in times of crisis. I can tell that this is difficult for the guests, who have clearly built strong personal relationships with the employees and volunteers. For many homeless individuals isolation is a way of life, and the pandemic can only further worsen this reality.

If other members are struggling to find tasks to fill their hours or want to take action responding to the crisis, consider reaching out to the organizations serving the homeless in your community. Chances are that they've also lost key volunteers in this difficult time and could use someone like you. After all, AmeriCorps members tend to get things done.



Snapshots from the 2019-2020 AmeriCorps Program Year

Opening Ceremony and 25th Anniversary Celebration - October 11, 2019

AmeriCorps members from programs throughout the state gathered at the Milwaukee Zoo to celebrate the beginning of their service and the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps in Wisconsin.

The opening ceremony featured guest speakers, workshop sessions to help build up their skills, and concluded with the hundreds of members present taking the AmeriCorps Pledge, led by AmeriCorps VISTA alumna Congresswoman Gwen Moore.

The opening ceremony was also a time for AmeriCorps members from programs across the state to network and learn about each other's service.

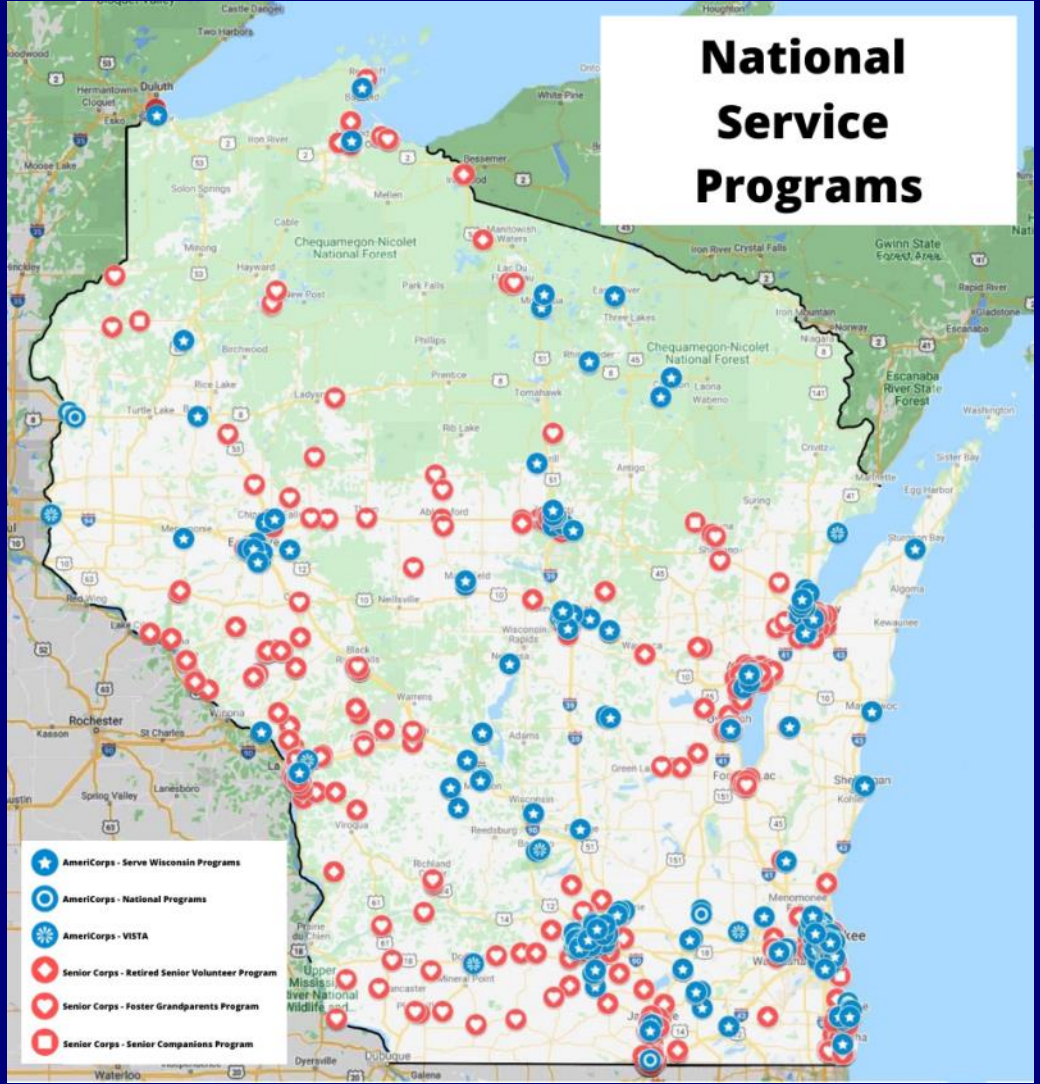




National Service Day at the State Capitol

AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and program staff from throughout the state participated in National Service Day at the Capitol on February 19, 2020. The day was a celebration of service in Wisconsin and included remarks from members of the legislature on the importance of national service programs. Legislative speakers during the event included Representatives David Bowen and Jonathan Brostoff, both of whom are Public Allies Milwaukee AmeriCorps alumni, and Senator Robert Wirch and Representative Tod Ohnstad, who both volunteer with their local Senior Corps program, RSVP of Kenosha County. Participants shared information at tables in the First Floor Rotunda and visited the offices of state legislators to provide information on the national service programs in their districts.





Disaster Recovery Projects

Serve Wisconsin and Team Rubicon coordinated a disaster recovery project across multiple sites in Oconto and Langlade Counties from September 28, 2019 through October 6, 2019 in response to damage caused by storms that summer. Over 100 people participated in the project, with the 43 participants recruited by Serve Wisconsin from AmeriCorps programs or from community partners serving for 967 hours. As a result of local community input and participation with the project, a major focus of this effort was clearing snowmobile trails, which are vital to the tourism economy of the region during the upcoming winter season.

On October 1, Governor Tony Evers met with Serve Wisconsin and Team Rubicon at the project's command center at the Riverview Volunteer Fire Station in Mountain, WI to assess recovery progress over the past few months and to meet with volunteers. "I can remember flying over this with the National Guard after it happened," said Governor Evers. "And it's just amazing how much damage was done." After receiving the update on the work that had been completed, Governor Evers said "I can't thank you enough, all volunteers...For me, the cool part is these (groups) are now working together on a really important project...It just shows you how important volunteerism is to the state of Wisconsin"





Operation Knights Wood
Oconto & Langlade Counties, WI
Midwest Territory
27 September 2019 – 6 October 2019



National Days of Service

Throughout the year, each AmeriCorps program in Wisconsin participated in at least one national day of service outside of their regular service in their communities. These included Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, Veterans Day, Make a Difference Day, and others during the year.



Over 100 AmeriCorps members from College Possible - Milwaukee, Teach for America - Milwaukee, and City Year Milwaukee participated in a service project at Lancaster Public School in Milwaukee. They were joined by Governor Tony Evers, Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, Mayor Tom Barrett, three AmeriCorps alumni representing parts of Milwaukee in the Wisconsin General Assembly, State Representatives David Bowen, Jonathan Brostoff, and David Crowley, and several hundred people from the local community.



Throughout the day, more than 50 projects were completed around the school, including the painting of murals that would greet the students when they returned to class the next day.



The AmeriCorps members with Easterseals Wisconsin joined with 20 volunteers from the Wisconsin Dells High School Key Club for MLK Day of Service at Camp Wawbeek in the Wisconsin Dells. Throughout the day, they completed multiple projects, including making fleece scarves to be donated to the UW-Whitewater Veterans Lounge, painting the Respite Center, making fire starters for camps to utilize, and various additional projects around the camp.



AmeriCorps members with Partners for After School Success and Schools of Hope joined with Senator Tammy Baldwin and several other community volunteers at multiple events honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that were coordinated by the Urban League of Greater Madison, the United Way of Dane County, and the King Coalition.



The AmeriCorps members and staff at UWEC's ECLIPSE AmeriCorps program completed multiple projects and recruited several community volunteers, including the UWEC Women's Basketball team, for MLK Day of Service 2020. Their "day on" started by serving a meal at The Community Table in Eau Claire and then splitting their members and community volunteers into three service groups to complete projects with Girls on the Run, the Humane Society, and Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation & Forestry.



As part of the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, over 40 volunteers from the Governor's Office, Lieutenant Governor's Office, and several state agencies joined with PASS AmeriCorps to complete a service project planting trees and removing invasive plant species at William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park in Madison.

Trainings for AmeriCorps Programs and Organizations

Serve Wisconsin hosted several in-person and digital trainings for AmeriCorps program staff to help enhance their programs and for organizations exploring creating an AmeriCorps program in Wisconsin.



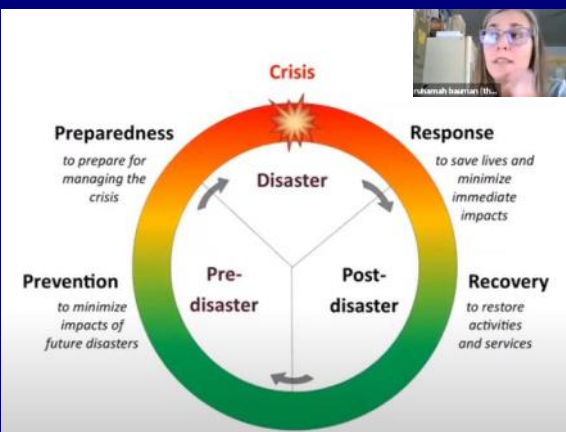
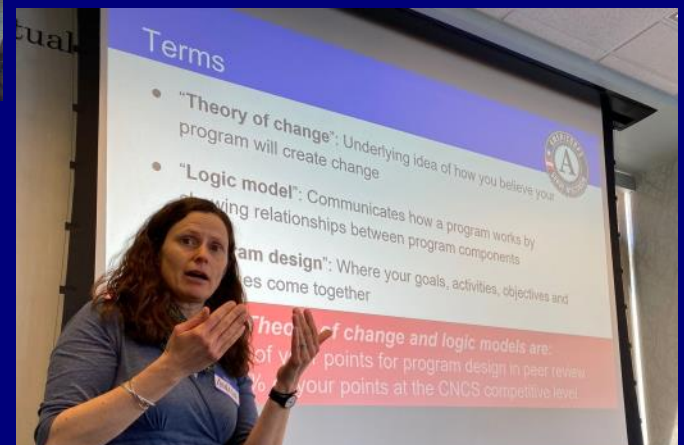
New Program and Staff Bootcamp

This annual training provided an overview of the larger landscape of AmeriCorps and national service, rules and regulations, program management, site management, compliance, and enhancing the experience for their AmeriCorps members.



AmeriCorps Grant Writing Workshops

This training was held prior to the two grant application requests for proposals that are issued each year. The training helped current and potential programs become more familiar with the AmeriCorps program grant application process and requirements, including the application instructions, program narrative, budget, logic models, performance measures and data collection.



End of Term Evaluation

AmeriCorps Member development is an important goal for any program. Without feedback, members are unable to make improvements to enhance their performance and their experience. Performance evaluations are intended to be a mutual exchange of information, enabling members to progress toward their optimal performance potential.

Member: <<Name>>
 Member has completed <<#>> hours as of <<date>>
 Member has completed the required number of service hours: Yes No

Please rate the AmeriCorps Member in the areas below:	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Needs Attention
Member understands their responsibilities and follows instructions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member demonstrates a professional and supportive relationship with co-workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member actively participates in team meetings, trainings, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

AmeriCorps Program Director Workshop

This annual training brought together staff from all AmeriCorps programs in the state to provide training on new policies or procedures and relevant topics for the upcoming program year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held virtually across four days in July 2020.



Trainings for AmeriCorps Members

Serve Wisconsin hosted multiple trainings for AmeriCorps members throughout the state. One of the highlights from the 2019-2020 program year was the Transformational Leadership Series. This series consisted of six podcast episodes and three reflection workshop sessions that were hosted in different parts of the state, with opportunities for virtual participation for all AmeriCorps members statewide. Another was a virtual training on racial justice and equity that Serve Wisconsin hosted in June 2020 that had over 500 AmeriCorps participants nationwide.



AmeriCorps Week - March 8-14, 2020

AmeriCorps Week was a celebration of all things AmeriCorps – from the programs and organizations that make this national service initiative possible in communities across the country, to the members who have pledged to “Get Things Done” since the program’s inception in 1994.

In addition to celebration events with their fellow AmeriCorps members, many programs performed additional service projects to make an added difference in their local communities.



2019-2020 AmeriCorps Stories of Service and Member Reflections

Fighting for brighter futures with Wisconsin HealthCorps

By Luca Borah, Wisconsin HealthCorps AmeriCorps member

There's a familiar group this morning at the Bethel Lutheran church basement, folks coming and going making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, returning for another cup of coffee, playing cards at round tables and folding chairs. When I walk in, many clients I have worked with give a wave, we catch up too - "How's it going?" or "Were you able to make it to that dental appointment last week?" I no more set down my bags when a man comes up to me, reads my sign about BadgerCare+, and asks, "Are you able to help me get glasses?"

After we chat for a bit, I learn he doesn't know if he has health insurance, or maybe did at one point but it has lapsed. They send forms in the mail that you need to fill out to stay active, but without a reliable address it is hard to keep up with the barrage of mail from various state social service agencies. For others, I have learned in my work, even if the mail arrives, it is often hard to decipher.

Together, we call the Capital Consortium and work to re-enroll in BadgerCare+, the state's Medicaid program that provides coverage for an annual eye exam and one pair of glasses for members per year. It will take a few days for him to be able to use the coverage, due to the processing delay in the system, so we make a plan to meet next week when I am back at the church.

In the following weeks, we meet to enroll in a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), schedule a vision appointment, schedule MTM medical transport to send bus passes so he can reliably get to the appointment, and make sure he knows where to go and what information he'll need to bring with him.

We run into each other at the Public Library where I do outreach, and he shares with me that he made it to the appointment, and that his glasses will be sent to him within the next 6 weeks. He's ecstatic. I'm horrified by the wait.

When we see each other in late winter, he comes into the church basement, strides up to me, pointing at his bespectacled face. "Can you believe it?" he asks. And in many ways, I can't. There were so many steps to get to this point, many moments that felt like the barriers were too high to continue on - and for something as seemingly simple as a pair of glasses.

The next week, he shares with me his glasses were stolen. He slept in the shelter with them next to his bed and the next morning they were gone.

At first, it was tempting to feel defeated. There have been many moments in my year of service of watching clients take one step forward, two steps back: Someone shares after four months sober that she's started to drink. Another comes back to the jail a week following their release. A pair of glasses, so hard won, are stolen. But as I've come to know the clients I see in the Dane County Jail and in the community at homeless resource sites, I've come to know their resilience, that healing is rarely a linear path from problem to cure. It can take time. It can take starting all over again. My patience (or rather, impatience) for the often slow rate of progress, both on an individual and systemic level, motivates me to make things better. Witnessing the uphill battle against cycles of poverty, incarceration, and addiction has affirmed my commitment to persevere alongside the clients I serve."



Reflecting on the difference made at WisCorps through service

...Along with my fellow naturalists, we ran environmental education programs for school groups, developed and created new



lesson plans that we utilized throughout the year, created and ran week-long summer day camps, and held events open to the community....Throughout my time at WisCorps, I grew more confident in my leadership abilities and had the opportunity to further my education of the natural world while sharing my new knowledge with students and community members. Due to the pandemic, our service year was unique as we met the challenges head on and reached out to help our community through volunteering at the Salvation Army, working in the community garden, and completed yard work for those unable to so.... *Bella Thiesenhusen*

In the Fall of 2019, I served in my first AmeriCorps term with WisCorps on a crew focusing on environmental stewardship throughout the state. Physically, I endured the gamut of weather, from high humidity to multiple inches of snow while sleeping in a tent and living with people I had never met before. As far as having new experiences went, almost every day ticked this box. I gained new hard-skills such as using trail-building tools, power-tools, and learning about invasive species in Wisconsin. But even more, I learned what it was to create, and be a part of, a community living inside of a culture of care. Through this experience I gained some new interests, friends that I will have for the rest of my life, and greater confidence in myself. I sincerely loved my time with this crew--mosquito bites and frozen toes included.... *Ashley Nowak*

Building a Healthier Community & Environment

By Anna Ostermeier, MCHS AmeriCorps Volunteer Wisconsin member serving at Milwaukee Riverkeeper, Inc.

These are scary times, but I feel more motivated than ever to rally the many people hungry for a healthy community and environment. I've been inspired by how people are stepping up and taking action however they can, and the Plastic-Free MKE volunteers are certainly a passionate bunch. While there's no question whether the events of the past few weeks have uprooted many carefully laid plans, I've found myself incredibly grateful that AmeriCorps has given me an avenue to do this work. It's allowed me to help build a strong network of compassionate volunteers, and they continue to stay engaged despite these many new challenges.



While much of my life has changed drastically (along with the lives of many others), this service has served as a constant; an anchor. Through my role at Plastic-Free MKE I've been able to help promote struggling low-plastic businesses and community members, support businesses giving out meals to those in need, and help people feel socially connected despite physical distance. In fact, I've even made new connections with community members, who are eager to volunteer their time and skills when it feels like there's little else they can do. This pandemic is inspiring empathy, kindness, and altruism in people - all sorely needed to combat the many environmental and public health issues we're facing!

I've been working hard (remotely) alongside volunteer educators to create a Plastics Education Toolkit. This toolkit is a set of (free!) resources for educators including lesson plans, outdoor activities for kids, and actions they can take in their schools to reduce single-use plastic. Despite our inability to meet in physical space, collaboration remains strong as we build this set of tools to help the next generation forge a healthier, more sustainable world. As this pandemic reveals the fractures in an economic system that prioritizes profit over the health of people and our environment, AmeriCorps is helping me create the foundations of a revitalized world. Let's get this done!

Creating a healthier community; one lesson, one child, and one bite at a time

By Kelsey Newman, Farm to School AmeriCorps

I remember first finding out about the posting for a Farm to School Nutrition Educator in Portage County, and it instantly sparked my interest. I am just finishing up my degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education, and this seemed like a perfect fit. I went in for the interview and could see how passionate the people that had served before me were about this program, and I knew right then and there that my time serving with Farm to School would be much more than just a job, but it would be an experience that would change my life.



I listened to past members and their advice and I read as much as I could about AmeriCorps Farm to School, but it wasn't until I went to training that I really learned what Farm to School was (and the crazy ride I was in for). The training was overwhelming, but in the best way possible. My head was flooded with ideas on how to make Farm to School thrive in our community. Additionally, I was able to meet the wonderful people that would be serving alongside me all across Wisconsin this year. I knew that they would be there to lean on when I needed it, and we all became instant friends, sharing the same passion for educating our youth about local foods and nutrition.

It seemed that not shortly after training, I hit the ground running. We planned community events, prepped nutrition lessons, and were on our way to an awesome service year. There have been many parts of my service thus far that have made me smile and recognize that all the hard work I put in is absolutely worth it. When I see the students smiling and excited when I come in to teach them about nutrition, eager to learn and try new things, I get excited right along with them. I had one student tell me that as long as I kept coming to teach them, they would eat their fruits and vegetables every day. That was when I knew that what I was teaching was making an impact. I truly believe that children that are exposed to nutrition education and healthy foods at a young age will live a healthier lifestyle in the future. By the time I finish my lessons and bring in a nutritious snack, every child wants to try it, even if they never would have touched it before. It is amazing how powerful Farm to School service can be.

Looking back on these past few months, there were a lot of late nights planning lessons for the next day, time spent in the kitchen making healthy snacks, and hours planning community events, but I would not change a thing. Every single hour spent goes towards making our community healthier, stronger, and more sustainable, and I would spend a thousand hours over if it meant that I got to play a small piece in the process of creating that healthy community, one lesson, one child, and one bite at a time.



The impacts of AmeriCorps service with DPI Farm to School

“My AmeriCorps year of service allowed me to figure out my path, pursuing a Master of Science in Environment and Sustainability with Emphasis in Environmental Justice and Sustainable Food Systems....But the most valuable thing for me was the friends I made. Although we were apart for most of the year....we'll stay in touch as each of us goes forth to improve our communities as best we can, and support each other in countless ways....I moved from Minneapolis to Madison specifically for this program. I had read so many articles about how difficult it is to make friends once you have graduated college and entered the workforce. Slap a global pandemic on top of that and it becomes almost impossible. Without the friendships I made at AmeriCorps I don't think I would feel as guided or supported as I find my voice in the environmental justice movement.” —Rachel Leibovich



“There are two things that stick out to me as highlights of my service year. The first is the experience that I had teaching students about nutrition, agriculture, and all things farm to school.... Seeing a child's face light up when they tried a new fruit or vegetable or had the opportunity to hold a real, live worm made the entire experience worthwhile!...The other highlight of my service year was the friendship that I made with the other AmeriCorps member at my host site. I often struggle to make friends and form close relationships with my coworkers, so I am so grateful that Rachel and I became close friends with a relationship that will outlast the one year of service we served together....” — Madison Soukup

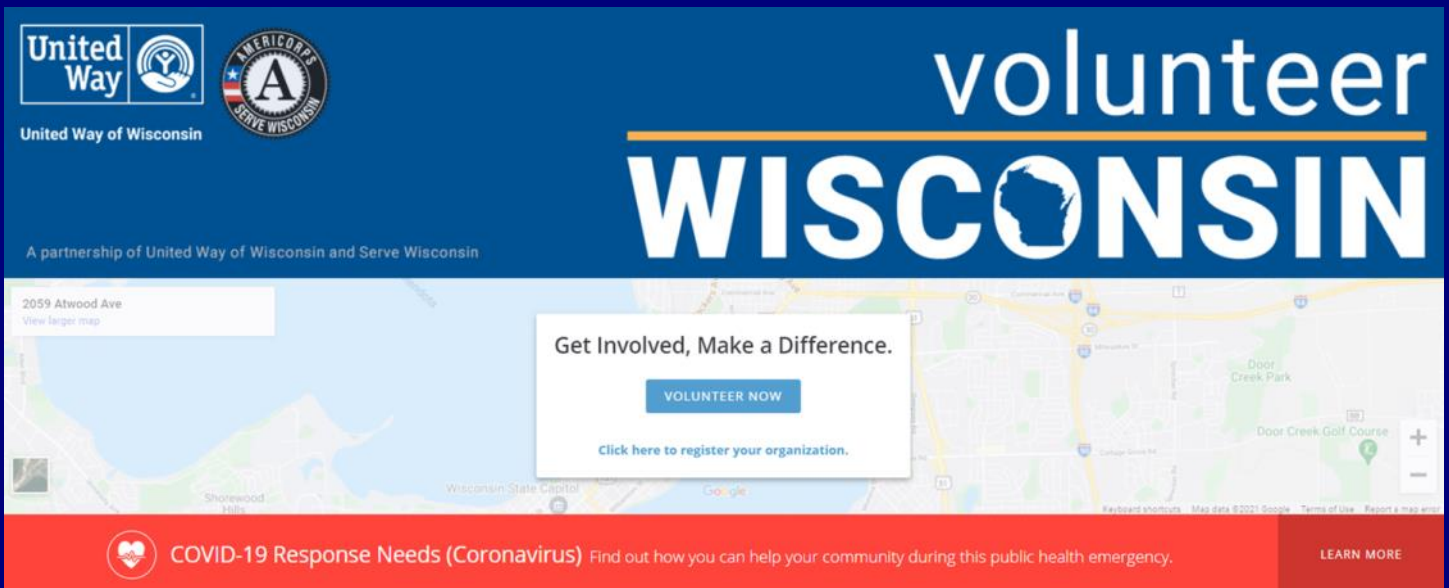
Making a Difference One Small Act at a time with ECLIPSE

I think that my "why" for ECLIPSE is to help make a difference and leave an impression. Even with making a few masks, that is a few more for people to have that didn't before. This reminds me of a story that my Ag teacher always told, and I think it holds true to this situation. It's the story of the hummingbird and a huge forest fire.

One day a terrible fire broke out in a forest — a huge woodlands was suddenly engulfed by a raging wildfire. Frightened, all the animals fled their homes and ran out of the forest. As they came to the edge of a stream, they stopped to watch the fire and they were feeling very discouraged and powerless. They were all bemoaning the destruction of their homes. Every one of them thought there was nothing they could do about the fire, except for one little hummingbird. This particular hummingbird decided it would do something. It swooped into the stream and picked up a few drops of water and went into the forest and put them on the fire. Then it went back to the stream and did it again, and it kept going back, again and again and again. All the other animals watched in disbelief; some tried to discourage the hummingbird with comments like, "Don't bother, it is too much, you are too little, your wings will burn, your beak is too tiny, it is only a drop, you can't put out this fire." And as the animals stood around disparaging the little bird's efforts, the bird noticed how hopeless and forlorn they looked. Then one of the animals shouted out and challenged the hummingbird in a mocking voice, "What do you think you are doing?" And the hummingbird, without wasting time or losing a beat, looked back and said, "I am doing what I can." If we are all like the hummingbird, and do what we can and work together, then we have a better chance of putting out the fire, or theoretical fire in our current situation.



Volunteering in Wisconsin



Volunteer Wisconsin Website — Connecting Citizens to Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Wisconsin was first funded in 2011 by the Volunteer Generation Fund Grant. Since then, Volunteer Wisconsin has been fulfilling its mission of connecting volunteers to nonprofits throughout the state, via its website, www.volunteerwisconsin.org.

The Volunteer Wisconsin website is currently managed by the United Way of Wisconsin in partnership with Serve Wisconsin. Service projects are posted on the Volunteer Wisconsin website by individual organizations and through local volunteer centers.

In response to the spread of COVID-19, Serve Wisconsin, the United Way of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Volunteer Coordinators Association launched the COVID-19 Response Initiative on the Volunteer Wisconsin website on March 19 to connect potential volunteers with organizations addressing needs within their local communities and virtual opportunities throughout the state.

Volunteer Wisconsin Statistics for 2020

- 632** — Organizations had projects posted
- 6,791** — Volunteer projects were recruiting volunteers
- 374,900** — Digital views of posted projects
- 680** — COVID-19 Response Initiative Projects



Volunteer Centers in Wisconsin

SOUTH EASTERN REGION / GREATER MILWAUKEE REGION:

Volunteer Center of Washington County
Washington County

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
Milwaukee, Waukesha, southern Ozaukee and Washington Counties

United Way of Northern Ozaukee County
Ozaukee County

Volunteer Connection
Walworth County

Volunteer Center of Racine County, Inc.
Racine County

SOUTHERN CENTRAL REGION / MADISON REGION:

United Way of Dane County Volunteer Center
Dane County

EASTERN REGION:

Volunteer Center of Door County
Door County

United Way of Fond du Lac County
Fond du Lac County

Volunteer Center of Brown County
Brown, Oconto, & Shawano Counties

Volunteer Fox Cities
Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet Counties

United Way Volunteer Center of Sheboygan County
Sheboygan County

Tri-City Area United Way's Volunteer Connection Center
Marinette and Oconto counties

CENTRAL REGION:

United Way of Marathon County
Marathon County

Marshfield Area United Way
Northern Wood County, parts of Clark & Marathon Counties

United Way Volunteer Center of Portage County
Portage County

United Way of South Wood and Adams Counties Volunteer Center
South Wood County and North Adams County

NORTHERN REGION:

Head of the Lakes United Way
Douglas County

WESTERN REGION:

Community Thread
Polk, Pierce, & St. Croix Counties

Great Rivers United Way
Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, & Vernon Counties

STATEWIDE:

United Way of Wisconsin



Counties in blue are served by a local volunteer center

Governor's Service Awards



Honoring the power of everyday contributions made by engaged citizens, Governor Tony Evers recognized ten individuals and three programs at the 2020 Governor's Service Awards ceremony for their significant service to Wisconsin citizens and communities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony was held virtually on October 15, 2020.

“Senior Corps and AmeriCorps members were some of the first folks to step up to the plate to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, rising to the challenges in front of us by connecting virtually with students and those at high risk for COVID-19 by providing critical assistance for students, helping those that are the most vulnerable or in need in our communities, and by distributing meals, supplies and PPE. This good work exemplifies our shared Wisconsin values, empathy, compassion, service, and taking care of our neighbors, because that's what Wisconsinites do. And it is needed now more than ever, as our communities and neighbors struggle with new challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has brought us. Our state is stronger because of folks like you. So I want to thank all the honorees today for the difference you have made for the people of Wisconsin. We appreciate your dedicated service and for the example that you have set for others.” - Governor Tony Evers



HONOREES



AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Amelia Ford - Racine Zoo AmeriCorps Project

Summer Schwartz - Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services

AmeriCorps Program of the Year

College Possible Milwaukee

AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year

Jennifer López - served with Teach For America Los Angeles, currently CEO of Carmen School Network in Milwaukee

DeShanda Williams - served with Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services, currently Director of the Runaway and Homeless Services at Pathfinders Milwaukee

AmeriCorps VISTA Program of the Year

Achieve Brown County

AmeriCorps VISTA Member of the Year

Monica Kramer - Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

Senior Corps Volunteer of the Year

Mabel Bass - Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program Foster Grandparents Program

William Roundwind - Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Foster Grandparents Program

Veteran Volunteer of the Year

Phillip Allen - Veterans of Foreign Wars

COVID-19 Response Service Award

Amy Bydynkowski - WisCorps

DuWayne Gust - Coulee Region RSVP

WisCorps - Wisconsin Conservation Corps

AmeriCorps Member of the Year
Amelia Ford



AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year
DeShanda Williams



Senior Corps Volunteer of the Year
William Roundwind



COVID-19 Response Service Award
DuWayne Gust



AmeriCorps Member of the Year
Summer Schwartz



AmeriCorps VISTA Program of the Year
Achieve Brown County



Veteran Volunteer of the Year
Phillip Allen



COVID-19 Response Service Award
WisCorps



AmeriCorps Program of the Year
College Possible Milwaukee



AmeriCorps VISTA Member of the Year
Monica Kramer



COVID-19 Response Service Award
Amber Bydynkowski



AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year
Jennifer López



Senior Corps Volunteer of the Year
Mabel Bass



Wisconsin National and Community Service Board

Serve Wisconsin, the Wisconsin National and Community Service Board, was established January 28, 1994, by Governor Tommy G. Thompson under Executive Order "to encourage service and volunteer participation as a means of community and state problem-solving; to promote and support voluntary citizen involvement in government and private programs throughout the state; to develop a long-term vision and plan of action for community service initiatives in Wisconsin; and to serve as the state's liaison to national and state organizations which support its mission."

Serve Wisconsin is governed by a 21-member citizen body appointed by the Governor to support community service and volunteerism. Federal AmeriCorps resources from the Corporation for National and Community Service are awarded to organizations seeking to deliver services through an evidence-based approach to creating community solutions.

Christine Beatty
Board Chair
Older Adult Volunteerism
Representative

Angela Ahlgrim
Board Vice Chair
Business Representative

Secretary Joel Brennan
Designee: Jana Steinmetz
Dept. of Administration

Theresa Clark
Volunteer Sector
Representative

Anthony Hallman
Youth Development
Representative

Paula Horning
Community-Based Agency
Representative

Kate Jaeger
National Service Program
Representative

Ibrahim Jalloh
Public Representative

Leah Lechleiter-Luke
Local Labor Organization
Representative

Benjamin Lehner
Local Government
Representative

Jane Moore
Youth Development
Representative

Adam Riley
National Service Participant
Age 16-25 Representative

Susan Schwartz
Community-Based Agency
Representative

Yolanda Shelton-Morris
Volunteer Sector
Representative

**State Superintendent
Carolyn Stanford Taylor**
Designee: Latoya Holiday
Dept. of Public Instruction

Patricia Takamine
Community-Based Agency
Representative

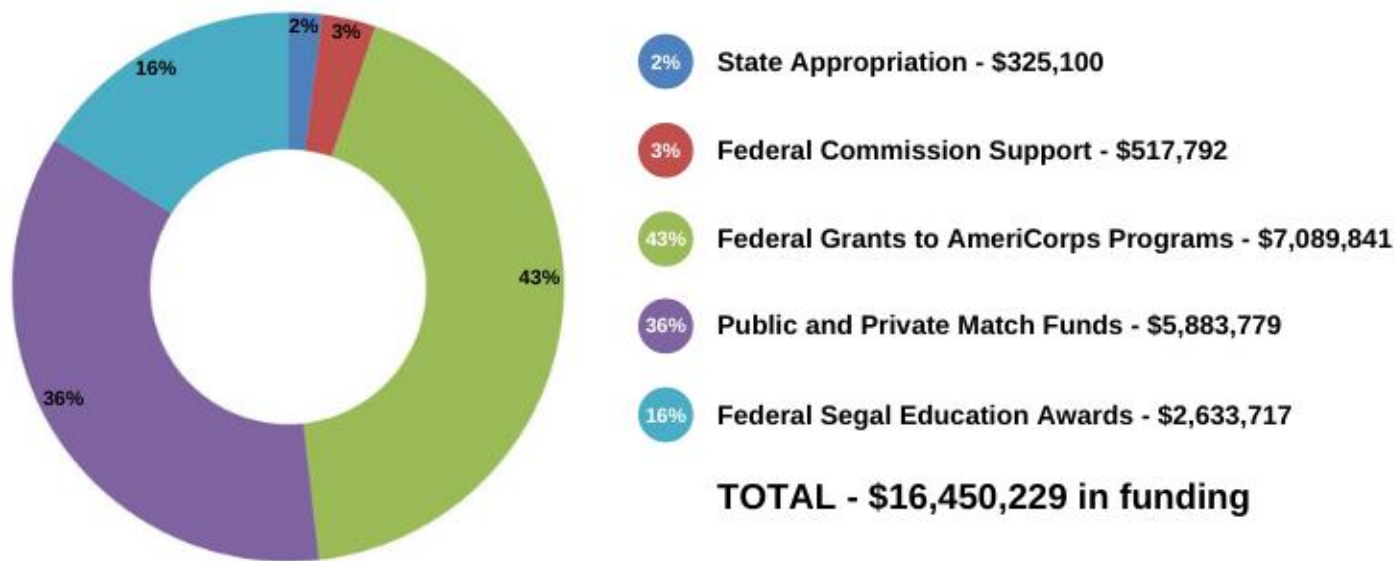
Katia Tovmenko
AmeriCorps Regional Office
EX-OFFICIO

**Adjutant General Paul E.
Knapp**
Designee: Leah Moore
Dept. of Military Affairs
EX-OFFICIO

Secretary Caleb Frostman
Designee: Laura Doolin
Dept. of Workforce
Development
EX-OFFICIO

Secretary Mary M. Kolar
Designee: Donald Placidi
Dept. of Veterans Affairs
EX-OFFICIO

Secretary Andrea Palm
Designee: Amy McDowell
Dept. of Health Services
EX-OFFICIO



During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, Serve Wisconsin operated with a state appropriation of **\$325,100**, which was then leveraged into **\$517,792** in federal grants to directly support Serve Wisconsin, **\$7.09 million** in federal AmeriCorps program funding, and **\$5.88 million** in private and public match funds. In addition to these program funds, Wisconsin AmeriCorps members additionally earned **\$2.63 million** in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards from the federal government.

For every dollar appropriated by the state, this funding **yielded over \$41** in federal commission support, federal program dollars, and private and public match funds .

Serve Wisconsin Staff

Jeanne Duffy
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Program Officer

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