

News Release

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**The Face of AmeriCorps in Oregon: Member service benefits communities**  
National AmeriCorps Week is May 14-21, 2011

Portland, Ore.—



*"I chose to serve in AmeriCorps because I wanted to give something back to my country. I recognize inequity on many levels in this country and wanted to create the most organic change toward social justice."* – Jory Card, AmeriCorps member, Playworks in Portland



*"Being the only member serving in my community, I wasn't aware of how large the program was. When I was in Talladega, sitting in a room with 500 other youth who would be spending the whole year serving just like me, it hit me that this was so big. I realized then that there would be such an impact from our work and things would be different in the end due to our service. It was really exciting, motivating and humbling."* – Liz Henderson, AmeriCorps National

Direct member, Habitat for Humanity in Junction City, Harrisburg and Monroe

These words are from AmeriCorps members serving in Oregon communities. From Umatilla to Coos, Multnomah to Deschutes, Oregon communities are benefiting from the measurable impact of AmeriCorps members serving in 30 counties statewide.

**AmeriCorps Week is May 14-21, 2011**, and serves as an opportunity to highlight AmeriCorps' impact in communities across the nation to motivate more Americans to get engaged in their communities through AmeriCorps or other service opportunities. AmeriCorps is a national service program of the Corporation for National and Community Service engaging more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet community needs in education, environment, health, disaster response, and other areas. In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans.

**About AmeriCorps State & National and VISTA**

AmeriCorps, including VISTA and State and National, engages more than 1,300 Oregon citizens in intensive, results-driven service to meet education, environmental, health, economic and other pressing community needs. In 2010 in Oregon they:

- tutored or mentored more than 6,490 disadvantaged children and youth
- provided more than 1.1 million hours of service valued at more than \$24.8 million
- recruited more than 15,510 volunteers

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- raised more than \$992,000 in cash or in-kind resources for their organizations
- strengthened the reach and impact of Oregon affiliates of Habitat for Humanity, Jesuit Volunteer Corps NW, American Red Cross, Points of Light Foundation, and other national nonprofits and as well as many state and local organizations including, Forest Grove School District, Impact NW, Oregon Microenterprise Network, and the Oregon Department of Human Services.
- since 1994, more than 13,000 Oregon residents have served more than 15 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$35,400,000.

### **About AmeriCorps NCCC**

Oregon is also supported by the AmeriCorps NCCC Pacific Region campus, located in Sacramento, Calif., which houses approximately 300 members and team leaders each year and serves Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and the Pacific U.S. territories. AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women ages 18-24. NCCC members, assigned to one of five regional campuses, are organized into teams of approximately ten members and serve in local communities in every state responding to needs that are identified by community-based organizations. Approximately 1200 members serve in NCCC each year. Since 2000, AmeriCorps NCCC has:

- provided more than 240,450 service hours on more than 90 projects
- provided service valued at more than \$4.8 million
- restored or protected more than 1,045 acres of wildlife habitats
- assisted more than 325 at risk youth
- supported more than 1,240 students supported in extra curricular programming.

For more information on AmeriCorps in Oregon, benefits of serving or to explore opportunities to serve, please visit [oregonvolunteers.org](http://oregonvolunteers.org) and click on "AmeriCorps".

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***Oregon Volunteers*** is the State Commission for Voluntary Action and Service promoting and supporting AmeriCorps, volunteerism and civic engagement to strengthen Oregon communities. For more information about Oregon Volunteers, please visit [oregonvolunteers.org](http://oregonvolunteers.org)

***The Corporation for National and Community Service*** is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. The Corporation annually engages more than five million Americans in service to meet local needs and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. To learn more visit [NationalService.gov](http://NationalService.gov) or [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov) or call 202-606-5000 or TTY 202-565-2799.