



'BUILDING BRIDGES' AMERICORPS*VISTA PROGRAM

Volume 1, Issue 1 September 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Members Attend Grant Writing Training</i>	2
<i>In My Own Words...</i>	2

Upcoming Service Dates

- **October 17-** AmeriCorps Kick Off
- **October 18-20-** In-Service Training
- **October 28-** Make a Difference Day
- **November 15-** Volunteer Management Training, Part I
- **December 12-** Volunteer Management Training, Part II

'Building Bridges' Staff:

Tifani Erpelding
 Program Coordinator
 (541) 758-2641
 terpelding@csc.gen.or.us

Tom Cope
 Program Supervisor
 (541) 758-2646
 tcope@csc.gen.or.us

Community Services Consortium
 545 SW 2nd Street, Suite A
 Corvallis, OR 97333



CSC WELCOMES 11 AMERICORPS*VISTA MEMBERS

Community Services Consortium 'Building Bridges' AmeriCorps*VISTA Program welcomed eleven VISTA members for the 2006-2007 Program Year. Our Host Sites were chosen through an application process in late March by the 'Building Bridges' Advisory Council. Membership of the Advisory Council consists of low-income community members, business people and CSC staff.

The VISTA members are placed in non-profit agencies, faith based organizations and school districts through out Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties. They serve full time for one year and receive a small living allowance during their service.

'Building Bridges' VISTA members provide "indirect service" and are not allowed to participate in direct service activities such as tutoring, mentoring, or case management. They instead focus on capacity



AmeriCorps*VISTA members with members of the 'Building Bridges' Advisory Council at Orientation in July 2006.

building efforts such as volunteer coordination, grant writing, new program development and public relations. They are considered "people power" to help an agency turn dreams into reality.

For a list of the 'Building Bridges' VISTA members and the Host Sites please see the sidebar on page two.

IMPORTANT VISTA IMPACT FACTS

Since 1965, more than 140,000 Americans have worked with over 13,000 local organizations to strengthen poor communities and help people to escape poverty.

In one year, VISTAs

- helped raise \$85 million in funds and in-kind contributions.
- helped recruit 283,000 community volunteers who donated 6.6 million hours to antipoverty programs.
- placed more than 6,500 individuals in jobs and enabled 260 commercial establishments to open in low-income neighborhoods.

'Building Bridges'
AmeriCorps*VISTA
Members 2006-2007

Linn County

Cassee Hansen

Albany Helping Hands

Celeste Scandiffio

CSC-Planning All Student's Success

Debbie Glazier

Albany Helping Hands

Tawnya Durand

Albany Partnership for Housing and Community Development

Benton County

Alena Woicicki

Home Life, Inc.

Emily Steadman

Benton Furniture Share

Hannah Rosenau

Community Housing Services

Jeff Mascornick

Community Outreach, Inc.

Lincoln County

Brandi Earnest

North Lincoln Hospital Foundation

Kathy Terrill

CSC Head Start

Rob Gaffney

Lincoln County School District

**Advisory Council Members
2006-2007**

Chuck Crowe

Dan Sundseth

Darrell Hutsell

Dean-Stephen Kauffman

Joe Valencia

Mike Gibson

Non-Voting:

Tifani Erpelding

Tom Cope

MEMBERS ATTEND GRANT WRITING TRAINING

One goal of the *'Building Bridges'* Program is to provide training opportunities for the VISTA members and Community Partners. On September 12, *'Building Bridges'* hosted its first training session on grant writing. The group consisted of the



VISTA members and Site Supervisors attend Grant Writing Training facilitated by CSC staff, Tom Cope.

'Building Bridges' VISTA members, site supervisors who wanted to attend and an additional VISTA member from RSVP. The training was facilitated by Community Services Consortium staff member, Tom Cope.

Tom provided the VISTA members and supervisors with an overview about the importance of community involvement in the proposal writing process. He also provided the group with a basic outline for writing a grant proposal.

Many of the VISTA members commented that it was a great learning opportunity since they had never been exposed to grant writing. The next training is scheduled for November and December. The topic is Volunteer Management

IN MY OWN WORDS...

*Submitted by Emily Steadman - AmeriCorps*VISTA with Benton Furniture Share*

For months I felt lost, thinking, "What am I going to do with my future?" One spring morning I happened to be skimming the internet looking for some sort of direction, and happened upon a link to the AmeriCorps website, which read, "Non Profit opportunities in Oregon".

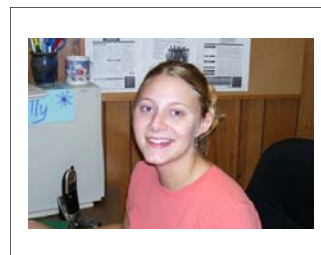
I found many opportunities that catered to my interests. One in particular, Benton Furniture Share, grabbed my attention. Two months later, I found myself sitting in a small office behind the desk of an official low-budget Benton Furniture Share computer.

BFS is a very small organization here in Corvallis, and I have pledged to improve capacity for the agency. Being involved with important tasks such as setting up a standardized and ongoing volunteer program, increasing incoming funds so that

our annual budget will serve more clients, developing self-sustaining programs like sales and newsletters, and helping to double the furniture moving in and out of BFS has done wonders for my self esteem.

I am so grateful to be with BFS, and hope that I can do everything possible to help out. I sense that the non profit world is

where I ought to be, which makes me happy with my choice, and know that I am doing something important for my community and the environment.



Emily Steadman at work for Benton Furniture Share in Corvallis.