

*'BUILDING BRIDGES'*  
AMERICORPS\*VISTA PROGRAM



Volume 1, Issue 2      November 2006

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## VISTA MEMBERS COLLABORATE FOR MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Throughout the year, VISTA members have the opportunity to participate in several direct service activities. The fourth Saturday of October marks Make a Difference Day and the first "Day of Service" for the VISTA members. This year *Building Bridges'* asked the VISTA members to complete a couple of volunteer hours doing a direct service activity of their choice.

Three of our VISTA members decided to collaborate and provide services to both of their agencies. Tawnya Durand of the Al-



Tawnya Durand, Cassee Hansen and Debbie Glazier hard at work painting the Songbird Community Room.

bany Partnership for Housing and Community Development (APHCD) partnered with Debbie Glazier and Cassee Hansen both with Albany Helping Hands to organize an event to paint the community room at Songbird Community Center. APHCD worked to get supplies donated to complete the painting and Debbie and Cassee arranged for volunteers through the guests at Albany Helping Hands.

The Songbird Community Center is used for activities that include: Financial Fitness, LBCC's Live and Learn Parenting, Hispanic Literacy, GED and ESL classes, Albany Parks and Recreation, OSU extension and Kids Cooking Camp.

Some of our other members volunteered serving meals to the homeless, reading books to children and helping environmental programs.

The next "Day of Service" is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 15. This year *Building Bridges'* has been asked to partner with Linn-Benton RSVP to collect and distribute food to senior and disabled persons in the area.

## GETTING THINGS DONE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES!

**Here is what the VISTA members have been doing in the community!**

*# of Volunteers Recruited: 31 community volunteers*

*# of Service Hours Performed by Volunteers Recruited: 268.75 hours*

*# of Community Partnerships Established: 10 formal partnerships*

*Total \$ Amount of Financial Resources Generated: \$17,380.96 in cash & non-cash resource*

Data from July 14, 2006 to September 30, 2006

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



*'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**

## TWO '*BUILDING BRIDGES*' MEMBERS SELECTED FOR NORTHWEST LEADER CORPS

Congratulations to Hannah Rosenau at Community Housing Services and Kathy Terrill at CSC Head Start for being selected to attend Northwest Leader Corps! Leader Corps is an advanced training opportunity held at Ft. Worden State Park in Washington. AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps\*VISTA members spend four days in both November and February focusing on interpersonal development as well as professional skill building. Hannah and Kathy will work with the '*Building Bridges*' Program Coordinator on ways to present the information to their other team members. Sixteen people from Oregon were selected to attend the training.



Kathy Terrill at CSC Head Start.



Hannah Rosenau at CHS.

## IN MY OWN WORDS...

### *Submitted by Tawnya Durand- AmeriCorps\*VISTA with Albany Partnership*

During college, I worked as a preschool teacher, care giver for the elderly and volunteered at the Children's Farm Home (a mental health provider for children and families). It was my hope that by having versatile work experience under my belt, I would be more prepared for the Peace Corps, which I fully intended on joining. However, my plans changed when I fell in love with Zachary Kreft and decided to put the traveling bug on the back-burner.

Zachary got a job in Salem. I too decided that Salem might hold job opportunities that Corvallis did not. Moving to Salem turned out to be more challenging than I expected. Although jobs were available, the majority of positions had trying hours, were minimum wage and left me feeling as though my degree and past work experience was underutilized. I went back to the drawing board. My dreams of helping others had not faded even if I did not travel thousands of miles. It was then that I took to looking for possible internships or volunteer positions at non-profits in Oregon. I wanted to get my foot in the door, although I was not quite sure how I would. I came across AmeriCorps and decided that this was a logical if not fan-

tastic alternative to the Peace Corps.

I'm excited and glad to be working at the Albany Partnership for Housing and Community Development. I have been learning much about affordable housing, leadership and the needs of those struggling economically. This job has offered useful training for professional and personal growth and has pushed to me to realize my full potential as someone that can make a difference. I'm pleased to be working as an AmeriCorps\*VISTA and know that this job will open doors for my future and the futures of those that I work for and with. Although right now is not the right timing for me to be traveling the world, I'm excited that when I do I will be able to travel with the insight that AmeriCorps has offered. Here's to a wonderful year of service as a VISTA.



Tawnya Durand at Albany Partnership in Albany, OR.

## FROM THE FIELD: Stories from Our Communities

### Kick-Off event to begin development of Lincoln County's 10-Year Affordable Housing Plan

Submitted by : Hannah Rosenau, *'Building Bridges'* Member at *Community Housing Services*

What's one thing that a plan needs to thrive? Community support. And we felt exactly that at the Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Kick-Off. Around 100 community members came to hear Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. He spoke about the importance of building partnerships between the service sector and local businesses in order to see effective change thru the development of a 10-year plan. Several non-profits and housing providers, as well as local elected officials, were in the audience. Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Hall, the local leadership involved, made the case that it is both cheaper and more effective to provide permanent supportive housing for the homeless, and to stabilize those who might become homeless, than it is to arrest them, jail them, treat them in crises in emergency rooms, or to provide continuous interventions and services. Other speakers included Regional Homeless Coordinator Paul Carlson, Rick Crager from the Governor's Ending Homelessness Advisory Council, HUD Portland Office director Tom Cusack, David Green of West Coast Bank, and Housing Resource Co-

ordinator Gina Knabe-Umble.

The federal "10-Year Plan" model started in urban areas and is now being implemented in over 220 cities and counties across the U.S. In Lincoln County, stakeholders are choosing to address not only the housing needs of those experiencing chronic homelessness, but also the lack of low-income and work-force housing. The Kick-Off event worked to spur local interest and now community members, over the next 6 months, will work to develop action plans to address their housing needs.



Philip Mangano speaking at the event.

### Community Outreach, Inc. Hosts 2nd Annual Walk a Mile for a Child Event

Submitted by : Jeff Mascornick, *'Building Bridges'* Member at *Community Outreach, Inc.*

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, Community Outreach held the second annual Walk a Mile for a Child event along the riverfront in Corvallis to benefit the Therapeutic Childcare Center (Mari's Place). Approximately 50 people participated in the event and \$7,659 was raised to support the children and families who use Mari's Place.

Mari's Place offers therapeutic childcare to children of very low-income families in the Corvallis area and from families being assisted by Community Outreach. Community Outreach is a multifaceted social service agency with a dozen programs designed to help low-income and at-risk individuals and families help themselves lead healthy and productive lives. Most of the children who attend Mari's Place are from families with a background

of domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, chronic poverty or homelessness. The parents of the children are only able to afford less than one-third of the amount needed to run Mari's Place.

The Walk a Mile for a Child raised over 2 ½ times the amount raised last year from participants' pledges and individual donations. Additionally, 11 Corvallis businesses donated raffle items that were presented to participants who registered in the walk. The success of the Walk a Mile for a Child event is an example of the commitment that Corvallis residents have for promoting resiliency in children. Community Outreach is extremely grateful for the support that our clients receive and we are proud to be part of such a wonderful community.

## TRAINING NEWS

October and November have been busy months of training for both VISTA members and Supervisors.

**AmeriCorps Kick-off**— All VISTA members across the state were invited to attend the AmeriCorps Kick-off at Portland State University on October 17. We had 8 members from our program make the trip. In addition to networking with other AmeriCorps and VISTA members, our team attended a variety of workshops. Topics included public speaking, meeting facilitation and volunteer management.

**In Service Training (IST)**—Directly following the Kick-off, VISTA members attended In Service Training (IST) provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. This was a three day event located in Portland. IST offers VISTA members additional professional and personal development. Previously in the year, they were asked to submit training ideas for the future workshops. Our members attended sessions ranging from a poverty simulation to politics in the workplace.

**Volunteer Management Training, Part I**—Throughout the year *Building Bridges* hosts special trainings focused on topics requested by VISTA members and supervisors. On November 15, *Building Bridges* members, the VISTA member with Linn-Benton RSVP and CSC's Youthbuild AmeriCorps member received the first half of a two part

session on volunteer management from Glenis Chapin. Glenis comes with 20 years of experience in volunteer management and currently manages the volunteer program for Marion County. She also works closely with the Mid-Valley Volunteer Managers Association. The second half of the session is scheduled for December 12.



Glenis Chapin presenting information to VISTA members Ben Grimes (RSVP), Emily Steadman (Benton Furniture Share) and Celeste Scandiffio (CSC Planning All Student's Success).

**Statewide Supervisors Training**—On November 5, supervisors attended a training focused on improving communication with VISTA members. The training was located in Eugene. They had the opportunity to network with other supervisors and to meet individually as projects with their Program Coordinators.

## SERVICE CALENDAR

- **December 8**— November Monthly Report and Timesheet Due
- **December 12**—Volunteer Management Training, Part II
- **December 25**—Holiday-VISTA members off
- **January 1**—Holiday—VISTA members off
- **January 5**— December Monthly Report and Timesheet Due
- **January 12**—Quarterly Report for October to December Due (Supervisors Only)
- **January 15**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—VISTA member “Day of Service”

*“As long as a man stands in his own way, everything seems to be in his way.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson*