



AMERICORPS

FIRST-YEAR REVIEW

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FOREWORD



Two years ago, a bipartisan Congress gave us a job to do — harness the enthusiasm and energy of a generation of Americans in service to their country. We've answered that challenge loudly and clearly. One year ago, the first class of AmeriCorps — 20,000 Members strong — began serving in well over 1,000 communities across our country — making our streets safer, our environment cleaner, our children healthier, and our schools better.

Following in the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the GI Bill, and the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps works on the simple idea that those who take responsibility for their community ought to be rewarded with opportunity.

As this report shows, AmeriCorps is meeting and in many cases surpassing the goals set forth in our legislation — getting things done, strengthening communities, encouraging responsibility, and expanding opportunity. A model of government efficiency and accountability, AmeriCorps is a sound investment — a problem-solver that provides a terrific return for the taxpayers.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, this report is a testament to the lasting contributions of the first class of AmeriCorps Members. In telling their story, it demonstrates that national service works, that national service changes communities and those who serve, and that in a time when our differences often divide us, national service can provide a common ground.

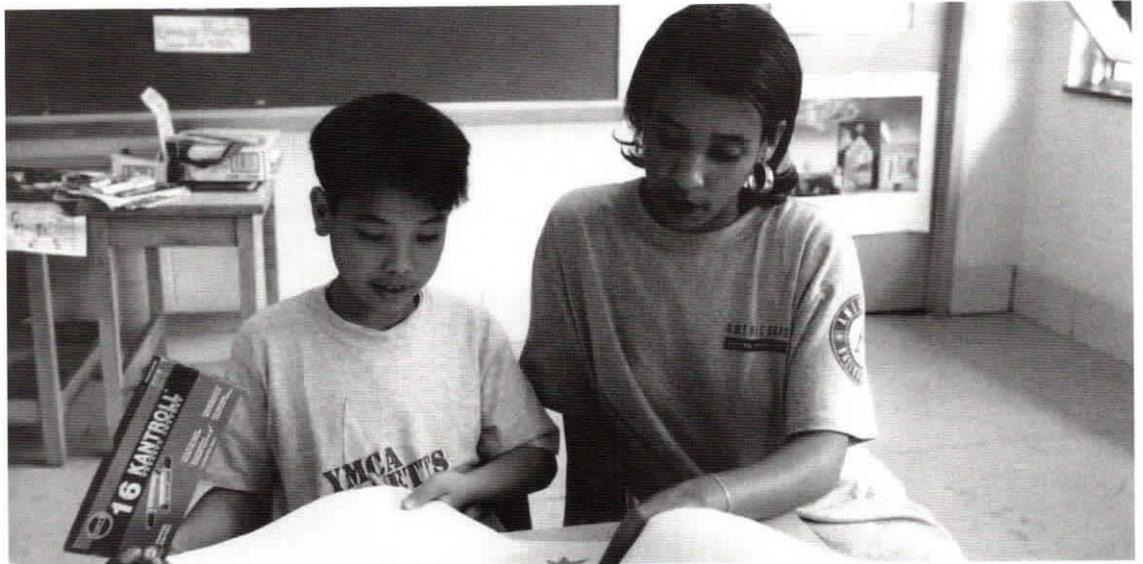
Eli J. Segal
Chief Executive Officer
Corporation for National Service
September 12, 1995



OVERVIEW

"Service is a spark to rekindle the spirit of democracy in an age of uncertainty.... When it is all said and done, it comes down to three simple questions: What is right? What is wrong? And what are we going to do about it? Today you are doing what is right — turning your words into deeds."

*— President Bill Clinton
to the first class of
AmeriCorps Members,
September 12, 1994*



AmeriCorps is the national service movement that, in its first year, engaged more than 20,000 Americans of all ages and backgrounds in domestic service to address the most pressing education, public safety, human, and environmental problems facing our nation's communities. In return for one year of service, AmeriCorps Members receive a small living allowance and an education award of \$4,725 to pay back student loans or to finance college, graduate school, or vocational training.

AmeriCorps is one of three main programs of the Corporation for National Service. Learn and Serve America involves students in service to their communities as part of their academic experience. In addition, older Americans are given opportunities to serve through the network of programs that make up the National Senior Service Corps — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

Collectively, AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps promote the ethic of service among Americans of all ages and backgrounds.

Smart Structure

AmeriCorps embodies the principles of "reinventing government" — competitive selection, local decision-making, outcome objectives, performance accountability, and extensive partnerships among all levels of government, and the private and independent sectors. The Corporation for National Service focuses on providing resources, oversight, and evaluation — to make sure that all AmeriCorps programs meet their goals. State Commissions on National and Community Service or similar entities appointed by the governor of each state also have significant responsibility. This structure helps to ensure that the most important local priorities are being met and that service activities are coordinated throughout each state.

"The lives that I have encountered and touched have given me a sense of pride and community among my fellow Americans. Like my own life, the lives I help to shape through my service in AmeriCorps hopefully will one day give back the same service to another generation of Americans."

— My Huhn, AmeriCorps Member, AmeriCorps Building Up Los Angeles*

The Corporation operates under the control of a bipartisan board of directors and an entrepreneurial management team and workforce. Programs are selected through a highly competitive process and, once funded, are held to rigorous standards that measure actual impact. The Corporation's programs are public-private partnerships with governors, national and community-based organizations, corporations and foundations, colleges and universities, local school and police districts, and branches of local, state, and federal government.

In addition to the hundreds of programs designed and managed at the local level, AmeriCorps also includes two programs that are managed by the Corporation — AmeriCorps*VISTA and AmeriCorps*NCCC. AmeriCorps*VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, increases the capability of people to improve the conditions of their own lives and communities. AmeriCorps*NCCC, the National Civilian Community Corps, is a residential service and leadership program whose Members focus primarily on the nation's environmental needs — providing intensive disaster relief, fighting forest fires, and restoring homes after natural disasters.

AmeriCorps' focus on demanding results, coordinating efforts, and increasing local decision-making has been praised at the state and local levels. Bipartisan resolutions of support for national service were passed in 1995 by the National Governors' Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Counties.

An American Tradition

In May 1993, inspired by the principles of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the GI Bill, and the Peace Corps — encouraging Americans to serve and rewarding those who do — President Clinton introduced legislation to expand opportunities for Americans to serve our country, rebuild their communities, and help pay for their education in return. The 1993 Act builds on the National and Community Service Act of 1990, passed by bipartisan congressional support and signed into law by President Bush. After bipartisan passage, the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 was signed by President Clinton on September 21, 1993, creating AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service.

Over the course of the following year, the Corporation assisted governors in the formation of state commissions on service; established the rules and structures necessary to administer AmeriCorps; selected AmeriCorps programs through a highly competitive process; and, on September 12, 1994, swore in the first class of AmeriCorps Members.

In 1994-95, the first year of AmeriCorps, 20,000 citizens served throughout the country. They backed up law enforcement officers in big cities and rural areas; taught and tutored in many of the nation's most challenged schools; cleared trails and reclaimed streams in national parks; immunized children deprived of basic health care resources; and removed lead paint in city apartments. And as part of their service, they recruited or helped community volunteers. In hundreds of different ways, as diverse as the communities in which they worked, AmeriCorps Members made a significant difference by helping to meet the most pressing local needs.



"AmeriCorps captures the promise found in all citizens, young and old, who see problems in their communities and work together to solve them."

*— Governor John Engler,
Michigan*

Community, Responsibility, and Opportunity

While the service of Members of the Class of '95 varied widely, all AmeriCorps contributed to the program's four goals:

Getting Things Done. AmeriCorps helps communities meet their education, public safety, human, and environmental needs through service.

Strengthening Communities. AmeriCorps unites individuals from all different backgrounds — and organizations of all different kinds — in the common effort to improve our communities.

Encouraging Responsibility. AmeriCorps encourages Members to explore and exercise their responsibilities to their communities, their families, and themselves — during their service experience and throughout their lives.

Expanding Opportunity. AmeriCorps offers opportunity to citizens who take responsibility for their community. AmeriCorps Members earn awards to further their education or to pay back their student loans — and gain valuable experience, specialized training, and life skills.

Accountability and Results

Over the past year, AmeriCorps Members delivered direct and measurable results in the areas of education, public safety, human needs, and the environment. The Corporation's continuous monitoring and evaluation procedures and programs designed by community-based organizations helped ensure that AmeriCorps programs embodied hard-hitting, results-driven community service.

Every AmeriCorps program developed and implemented a plan for internal evaluation. These plans set high goals and a means to track progress and to improve program quality. Progress toward these goals was monitored continuously through a partnership between program officers at the Corporation and commission members and other representatives at the state and local level.



NATIONAL

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*"AmeriCorps is not government as usual, but rather an investment in local programs — building public-private partnerships and delivering measurable, tangible results."
—Governor Fife Symington, Arizona*



While the Corporation for National Service evaluates programs internally to ensure that they are achieving meaningful results, outside evaluators also have measured the success of AmeriCorps in its first year.

A team of noted economists studied three representative programs and found that the return on every federal dollar invested in AmeriCorps should result in \$1.60 to \$2.60 or more in direct, measurable benefits to the Members and the communities they serve. The study, *The Benefits and Costs of National Service*, was commissioned by three of AmeriCorps' private partners — the IBM Foundation, the Charles A. Dana Foundation, and the James Irvine Foundation.

"IBM expects a return on an investment," said IBM executive Stan Litow, "and bases its funding decisions on demonstrable results." IBM and the other organizations commissioned the study "to provide a conservative assessment of rock-hard, tangible benefits of the programs we invest in. The returns are in and the 'return' is considerable. This program works."

An independent study conducted by Aguirre International, headed by President Ford's former Commissioner on Education, has documented concrete benefits to communities as the result of AmeriCorps — including backing up members of the New York City Police Department, fighting forest fires in the West and helping flood-ravaged neighborhoods from Texas to California to Minnesota, teaching in some of the nation's toughest classrooms, and cleaning up polluted rivers and streams.

In addition, a 1995 report by the U.S. Government Accounting Office catalogues significant accomplishments of AmeriCorps Members.

1. GETTING THINGS DONE

"Sometimes you spend six years talking about it. AmeriCorps is getting it done."
— Sheriff Warren Allender,
Elkhart County, Indiana



AmeriCorps helps communities meet their education, public safety, human, and environmental needs through service.

"The measurable benefits (\$1.60 to \$2.60 for every federal dollar invested) underestimate the total benefits to individuals and society from the AmeriCorps program."

— *The Benefits and Costs of National Service*, 1995

"Our visits to programs also identified diverse achievements. We observed participants renovating inner-city housing, assisting teachers in elementary schools, maintaining and re-establishing native vegetation in a flood control area, analyzing neighborhood crime statistics to better target prevention measures, and developing a program in a community food bank for people with special dietary needs."

— General Accounting Office, 1995

AmeriCorps Members in the Class of '95 worked to meet community needs in the areas of education, public safety, human needs, and the environment.

Education. In **Simpson County, Kentucky**, 20 AmeriCorps Members raised the reading levels of nearly half the county's second-grade students by mid-year. Seventy percent of the tutored students improved at least two grade levels; 65 percent improved three or more grade levels. In addition, AmeriCorps Members recruited 224 uncompensated community volunteers who will continue the effort.

Public Safety. In **Kansas City, Missouri**, AmeriCorps Members worked with the Kansas City Police Department to help mobilize the community, identify and close drug houses, recruit neighborhood block captains, and work with new community policing officers. As a direct result of their work, 25 crack houses were closed, a city park was taken back from gangs, and 175 city blocks were kept free from drug dealers. Kansas City Police Chief Steve Bishop credits the AmeriCorps Members with contributing to a 15 percent decline in reported crime in the affected neighborhood.

Human Needs. Throughout the state of **Texas**, 89 AmeriCorps*VISTA Members helped immunize 104,000 infants, saving more than \$5.34 in future medical costs for every dollar spent. In **Miami**, 23 AmeriCorps Members with Habitat for Humanity worked with local residents recovering from Hurricane Andrew. By recruiting, training, and working alongside local volunteers — from 1,500 college students who came to Miami over Spring Break, to thousands of professionals helping on the weekends, to senior citizens pitching in on the afternoons — 31 working families have moved into new homes and 40 additional homes have been framed.



Environment. In **Portland, Oregon**, five AmeriCorps Members weatherized 72 homes, conducted 122 energy audits, and helped low-income families conserve energy. They tested 200 children for lead poisoning, and helped local schools and the YMCA build community gardens and safe places for children to play. In **Bozeman, Montana**, a team of 32 AmeriCorps*NCCC Members built and cleared 119 miles of natural trails, prevented the erosion of 2,700 feet of trout stream, and planted 3,000 trees. During the previous summer, AmeriCorps*NCCC Members, trained by the National Forest Service, helped fight fires in eastern Montana and Idaho, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

"We're able to give the kids the one-on-one attention that makes them feel like people actually care. I see attendance improving, skills improving, a new willingness to try, to fail, to learn. And I'm starting to see smiles that weren't there before."

*— Corey Gibson, AmeriCorps Member, AmeriCorps*Hands on Atlanta*

2. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

"AmeriCorps has helped turn around one of the most troubled parts of our city. The neighborhood has come together, crime is down, and families can use the parks in safety."

**— Chief Steven C. Bishop,
Kansas City Police Department**



AmeriCorps unites individuals from all different backgrounds — and organizations of all different kinds — in the common effort to improve our communities.

"AmeriCorps Members improved neighborhoods, parks, and recreation facilities by converting vacant lots, renovating buildings, repairing public facilities, and conducting recycling and conservation programs, resulting in a heightened sense of community ownership."

— Aguirre International, 1995

"We observed several projects focused on rebuilding communities. For example, a multi-family house being renovated was formerly a congregating spot for drug dealers; program officials believe that after completion it will encourage other neighborhood improvements. One team built a community farm market and renovated a municipal stadium, both of which a town official stated will continue to provide economic and social benefits to the community."

— General Accounting Office, 1995

In and along the **Columbia River** in the Upper Northwest, 72 Members from the Nez Pierce, Yakima, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Shoshone-Bannock tribes began restoring the habitat in rivers, streams, and watersheds; fencing and replanting vegetation; and removing debris. This AmeriCorps program represented the first time youth from these five historically antagonistic tribes had worked together on a joint project.

In cities, as well, communities are learning to work together to solve common problems. For example, in **Brooklyn's** crime-infested Prospect Park, AmeriCorps Members improved communication between citizens and police officers by distributing more than 500 cellular phones to neighborhood park users. With the phones, reconditioned units donated by the manufacturer and the local phone company, citizens were able to report suspicious or criminal activity, extending the reach of law enforcement. Plans are now being made to expand the program to Manhattan's Central Park.

In an effort to move traditional college community service outside the barriers of the campus, 20 AmeriCorps Members serving with the Student Health Coalition at Vanderbilt University in **Nashville** conducted close to 30 health fairs across Tennessee over the course of the year. These fairs connected 1,145 senior citizens who were without regular medical care with local doctors and provided free health screening, physical examinations, and health education workshops.



In **Charlotte, North Carolina, and Atlanta, Georgia**, AmeriCorps Members and retired technology experts from IBM and other corporations improved the educational achievement of children who lacked academic and technological skills. Working with teachers, parents, and staff to meet the technology needs identified in each school plan, AmeriCorps Members provided school-based technology planning, helping schools better use technology they already have, harnessing staff development resources available from the corporate community, and fostering stronger links between schools and communities.

*"A community should first help its people, its foundation, before it can grow into something better. That's why I joined AmeriCorps*VISTA — I want to help people help themselves."*
— **Nalini Purvis,**
AmeriCorps Member,
AmeriCorps*VISTA

3. ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBILITY

“AmeriCorps programs...build citizenship by enacting an old truth that the men and women in the Armed Forces learn so well — to earn opportunity, you must take responsibility for yourself and others.”

— General David C. Jones, USAF (Ret.), Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



AmeriCorps encourages Members to explore and exercise their responsibilities to their communities, their families, and themselves — during their service experience and throughout their lives.

“AmeriCorps Members helped at-risk children succeed in school by assisting them and their families to develop their sense of civic and community responsibility and to become more stable, more self-sufficient, and more involved in the community.”

— Aguirre International, 1995

“We saw evidence of [encouraging responsibility] at programs such as one where half of each Friday was devoted to working on independent community service projects. Participants at another program, in which they organized meetings to establish relationships between at-risk youth and elderly people, commented that this work had taught them how to organize programs, knowledge they believed would be helpful as they took on roles in their communities.”

— General Accounting Office, 1995



In **Galveston, Texas**, 90 AmeriCorps Members took part in a maritime education and environmental service program for 17- to 20-year-old high school dropouts. AmeriCorps Members with the Seaborne Conservation Corps, developed by the Department of the Navy in partnership with Texas A&M University at Galveston, restored endangered species' habitats and refurbished historic ships, landmarks, and houses, while simultaneously redirecting their own lives. This nine-month, co-ed, residential education and training program offered AmeriCorps Members the chance to earn a high school diploma or GED and a basic Seaman's License, the first step to entry-level employment in the maritime industry.

In rural **Richlands, Virginia**, 40 AmeriCorps Members tutored elementary and middle school children in the region's resource-starved public schools. The AmeriCorps Members provided tutoring services and after-school and summer programs, and served as role models for children in the region. Many of the AmeriCorps Members grew up in the neighborhood; some are the first in their families to attend college.

AmeriCorps Members working with the police department in **Montgomery County, Maryland**, mobilized a community policing effort, recruited and trained community residents to staff mobile police substations, taught residents how to report crimes, and coordinated neighborhood and business watch programs.

As part of their AmeriCorps training, all AmeriCorps Members are taught certain skills, including CPR and first aid training. AmeriCorps*VISTA Members working in **Oklahoma City** during the explosion at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building immediately went to the site and applied their skills to save lives. They helped set up medical stations, carried supplies for FEMA and the FBI, worked with other volunteers to reconnect lost families, and continued working with community members for many weeks.

"I have gained (like many Members) a stronger appreciation of my rights as an American citizen. I now realize that along with rights come enormous responsibilities. I am responsible for my community."
— **Sondra Hollinger**,
AmeriCorps Leader,
AmeriCorps' JustServe

4. EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY

"AmeriCorps [demands] sacrifice from its Members. And for those who answer the challenge, it provides not only the opportunity to help pay for college, but the higher reward of making a difference, and the lifelong satisfaction of building a community."

— The Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, President Emeritus, Notre Dame University



AmeriCorps offers opportunity to citizens who take responsibility for their community.

AmeriCorps Members earn awards to further their education or to pay back their student loans — and gain valuable experience, specialized training, and life skills.

"The benefits of further education are perhaps the most obvious, but there are other, less tangible, benefits such as turning a life around, or of developing leadership potential, that accrue also."

—The Benefits and Costs of National Service, 1995

"In practice, individuals who participate in national service have their educational opportunities expanded by the education award, which help them pursue higher education or job training....Programs also supported participants in obtaining high school degrees or the equivalent....In addition to formal education opportunities, some participants were attracted to AmeriCorps programs because the programs provide service in specific fields. For example, a community policing program attracted 15 participants who are pursuing law enforcement careers. Similarly, in a youth conservation corps program in which most participants have environmental science degrees, many participants sought practical experience to complement their formal education."

— General Accounting Office, 1995

Forty-five AmeriCorps Members with the National Civilian Community Corps in San Diego helped revise historians' vision of the earliest settlements in the United States during an eight-week, special service learning project that benefited both the natural environment and their own futures. Sponsored by the San Diego Historical Society, the AmeriCorps Members excavated four rooms, inventoried 3,000 artifacts, and gave educational presentations to more than 2,000 students. The AmeriCorps Members gained an understanding of archeology and cultural resource preservation and professional skills.

In the summer of 1994, 100 AmeriCorps Members worked with the **New York City** Police Department to patrol the public recreation areas and parks. Because of their involvement, it was the first summer in years without a sexual assault at the facilities. AmeriCorps Members will be able to use their training from sworn police officers, mentoring from John Jay College of Criminology professors, and educational stipends to become police officers.

Sixteen AmeriCorps Members working in a youth corps in **Madison, Wisconsin**, rehabilitated two previously uninhabitable houses into safe, sanitary, and energy-efficient multi-family duplexes that were sold to working families. All 16 AmeriCorps Members hail from poor neighborhoods of Madison and are learning valuable carpentry skills while they improve their education. Eight of the AmeriCorps Members did not have their high school diplomas and worked toward their GEDs, and all 16 Members attended career planning sessions at Madison Area Technical College, preparing them to become self-sufficient, contributing members of their community.



In 27 communities in **California, New Jersey, and Texas**, 33 AmeriCorps Members with AmeriCorps*Action for Children Today improved the quality and availability of child care for more than 8,200 families. Many of the AmeriCorps Members are utilizing this experience to further their careers in child care; others have chosen to go to college or graduate school to continue their studies in child care related fields.

"[In AmeriCorps], not only are you benefiting the community through the work that's done, but you're investing in people. Through the focus of bettering the community, we better ourselves."

*— Lisa Ericsson, AmeriCorps Member, AmeriCorps*NCCC*



DEMOGRAPHICS

"I was impressed with the other participants in my program. The youngest are 18 and the oldest are in their 50s, some are finishing their GED, some are finishing college, and some are retired. But they share one commonality: No matter what age or race, they're all here for the same reason — to serve."

*— Sara Wittenberg,
AmeriCorps Leader,
AmeriCorps*Northwest
Service Academy*



During its first year, AmeriCorps brought together Americans of all ages and backgrounds in the common ground of service. In tackling our nation's most critical needs, AmeriCorps Members learned to work with others, often those very different from themselves. They served in every type of community, in every state and territory in the nation. Their demographics reveal the strength and diversity they brought to America's neighborhoods.

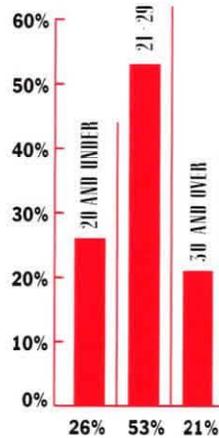
The first class of AmeriCorps Members came predominantly from hard-working, middle-class families. Because more than half came from families with annual household incomes between \$15,000 and \$50,000, AmeriCorps' post-service education benefit was a significant help in meeting the high costs of college tuitions or student loans.

The majority of AmeriCorps Members in the Class of '95 were in their 20s, the traditional "college age." Roughly a quarter were more recently out of high school, and about a fifth were part of the rapidly growing "non-traditional college student" age category, over 30 years old. With this diversity in age and experience, AmeriCorps Members brought a wide variety of skills and expertise to their tasks.

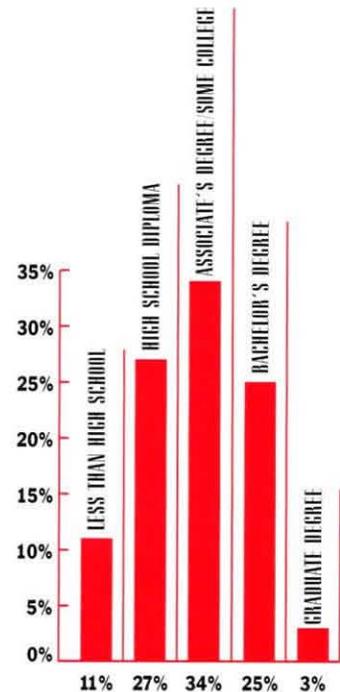
"I grew up in a very small, sheltered neighborhood. I wanted to meet new people and learn about new cultures and different ideas. I saw national service as a coalition of people who were coming together from all kinds of backgrounds to work together in this really positive movement."

— Kelly Menzie,
AmeriCorps*NCCC Team
Leader

AmeriCorps brings a wide variety of skills and expertise to meeting the most pressing needs of America's communities.



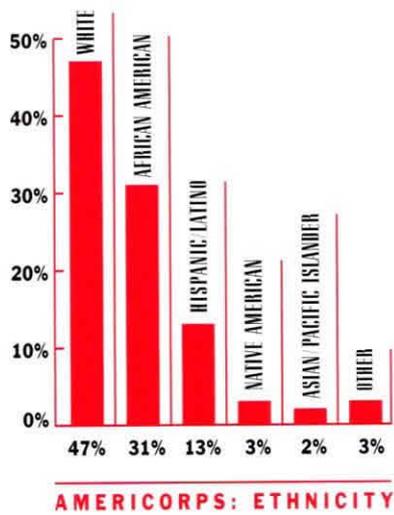
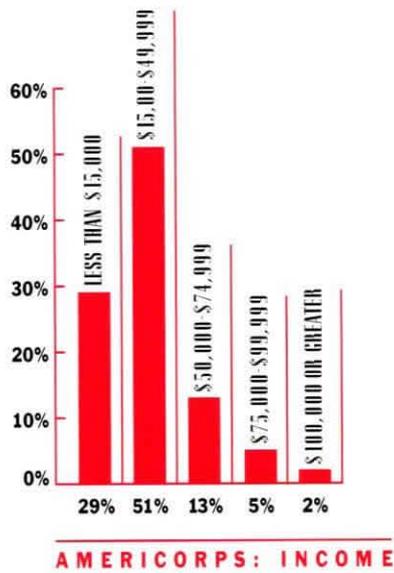
AMERICORPS: AGE

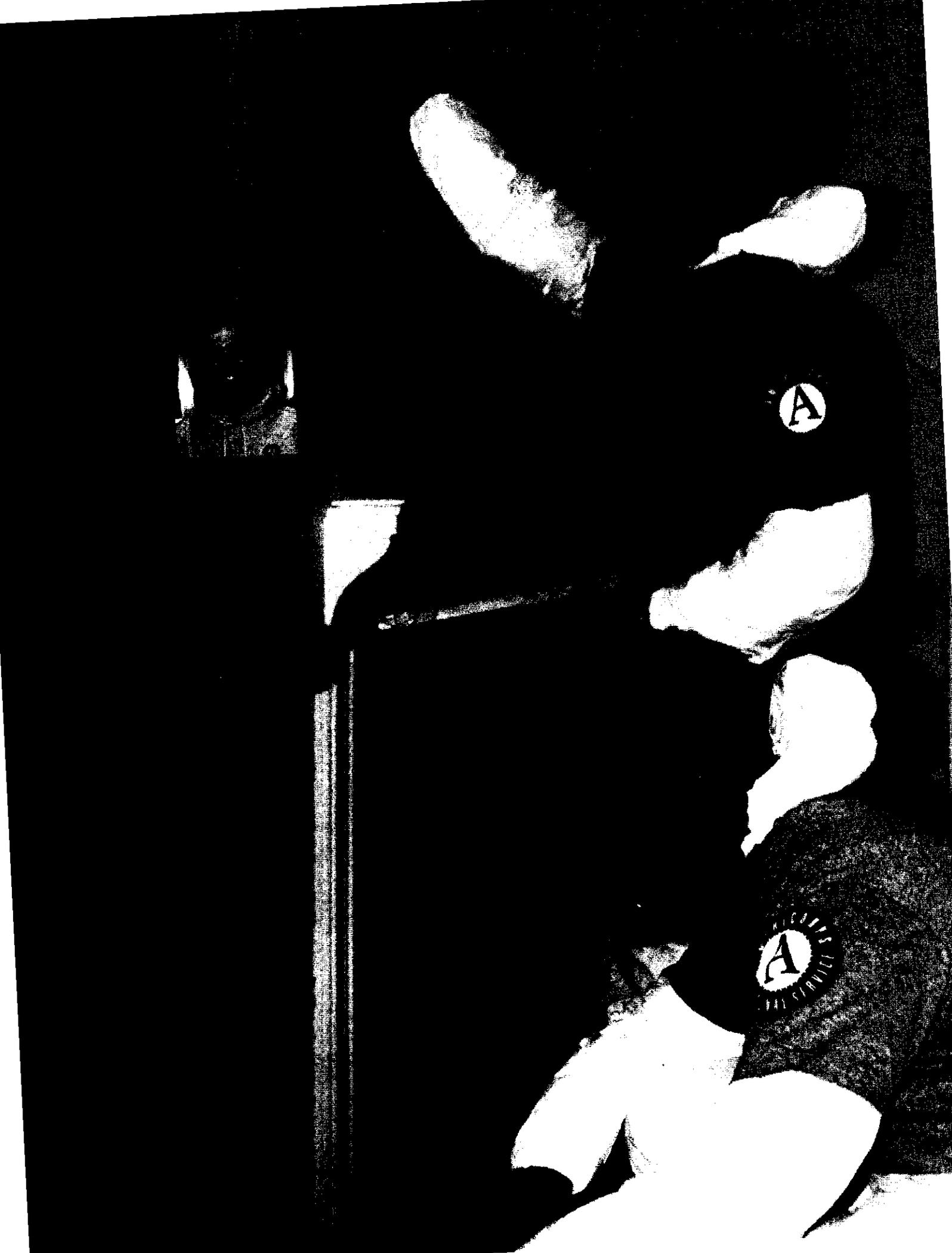


AMERICORPS: EDUCATION

AmeriCorps' post-service education award is a significant help for working families struggling to afford college.

AmeriCorps looks like America.





PARTNERSHIPS

*"The private sector invests in AmeriCorps because government, through the Corporation for National Service, serves as venture capitalist, equity partner, and quality control officer."
— James Joseph, Chair, Board of Directors, Corporation for National Service, and President, Council on Foundations, Testimony to Congress, May 18, 1995*



Working in close partnership with businesses and foundations, AmeriCorps combines private, public, and independent sector resources with human capital — people — in order to achieve goals set by local communities. Small community foundations and local businesses, as well as large national corporations and foundations, have collaborated with AmeriCorps programs in a highly effective and efficient manner. Strategic investments of employee, product, and financial resources have leveraged federal support and deepened the long-term impact of AmeriCorps.

In 1994-95, more than 600 businesses and foundations contributed over \$20 million in financial support directly to local AmeriCorps programs. In addition, millions of dollars of in-kind contributions — in the form of loaned executives, training facilities, computer networks, uniforms, and supplies for carrying out vital community projects — have integrated private sector partners into the daily activities of AmeriCorps programs. Some of these partnerships are highlighted on the following pages.

SELECTED CORPORATE MODELS

"The Home Depot is a proud partner with AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps brings together the public, private, and independent sectors to tackle issues that face our youth, our communities, and our cities. We invest in AmeriCorps Members because they are having a demonstrable impact."
— Bernard Marcus, Chairman of the Board, The Home Depot

IBM invested over \$200,000 in cash and products to engage 44 AmeriCorps Members in improving the educational and technological skills of public school students in New York, Atlanta, and Charlotte, North Carolina. AmeriCorps*Project FIRST Members refurbished used equipment and taught computer instruction to school teachers, with the guidance of IBM retirees. These school children now have access to new resources in their classrooms and computers have been integrated into their curriculum.

NIKE is linking its P.L.A.Y. (Participating in the Lives of Active Youth) initiative with AmeriCorps programs in Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Memphis, and Portland, Oregon. Through six \$25,000 grants, Nike funds the implementation of innovative AmeriCorps service projects to provide sports and fitness opportunities for young people such as the renovation of urban play spaces and the formation of sports leagues in community-based safe havens. Nike was also a sponsor of the National Day of Service in its home city of Portland.

General Electric provided financial matching funds totaling \$250,000 to support a diverse range of direct service activities performed by AmeriCorps Members in 11 cities. AmeriCorps Members provided health care and meals for homeless families; renovated housing for low-income residents; taught conflict resolution and substance abuse classes to at-risk students; and built new bridges between the community and law enforcement officials.

Timberland is committed to replicating and expanding the successful AmeriCorps*City Year program in communities across the nation. Last fall,

Timberland made a five-year, \$5 million commitment that includes sponsorship of AmeriCorps*City Year teams, a national marketing campaign with proceeds benefiting the program, uniforms for AmeriCorps Members, employee volunteer activities, and employment opportunities for graduates.

The **Sony Corporation of America** contributed \$100,000 to support local AmeriCorps programs. With Sony's assistance, AmeriCorps Members in San Diego, Los Angeles, and New York City integrated conflict resolution classes into school curriculums and created safe havens for city children. In addition, as a sponsor of the AmeriCorps*Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build, Sony helped AmeriCorps Members successfully construct 10 houses for working families during a one-week period.

SELECTED FOUNDATION MODELS

“AmeriCorps helps us improve the quality of life through the nonprofit sector by doubling what we are able to do. We can provide agencies with dollars and volunteers to accomplish their work, and change the lives of the volunteers in the process. AmeriCorps gives us multiple impacts with every dollar we invest.”

*— Eloise Meadows Rouse,
Vice President, Meadows
Foundation*

The **Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation**, the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation**, and **J.P. Morgan & Company, Inc.** provided over \$2.5 million to AmeriCorps Leaders, a program that enlists the community service skills and expertise of 85 former VISTA, Peace Corps, and AmeriCorps Members. The AmeriCorps Leaders have enhanced the capacity of local programs to implement effective and efficient programs, helped train and supervise AmeriCorps Members, and built strong regional and national networks among AmeriCorps programs.

The **Charles A. Dana Foundation** is contributing \$1.2 million to implement AmeriCorps Math and Literacy, a program in which 40 college students are serving as part-time AmeriCorps Members in Austin, through the Dana Center for Mathematics Education at the University of Texas, and in Columbus, through Ohio State University. The program is expected to develop the reading, writing, and mathematics skills of over 10,000 inner-city and rural elementary school children in additional sites over the course of three years.

Northern California Grantmakers pooled their resources to create the Northern California National Service Collaborative Fund, a partnership of 18 regional grantmakers committed to helping local AmeriCorps programs meet their financial match requirements. Members of this collaboration include the James Irvine Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Levi Strauss Foundation, and the Gap Foundation. In 1994-95, the Fund raised \$467,500 and dispersed grants to 14 AmeriCorps programs in the Bay Area.

The **Ford Foundation** awarded AmeriCorps a \$3 million grant, the single largest financial contribution to AmeriCorps. This grant supports two overarching goals for AmeriCorps — to leverage nongovernmental funds for programs and to strengthen the participation of minority-led and grassroots organizations serving disadvantaged youth. The Foundation is helping programs leverage nongovernmental funds by establishing a national pool of dollars available on a matching basis to community foundations. Their grant also bolsters the quality and sustainability of AmeriCorps programs.

*I will get things done for America
to make our people safer, smarter,
and healthier.*

*I will bring America together
to strengthen our communities.*

*Faced with apathy, I will take
action.*

*Faced with conflict, I will seek
common ground.*

*Faced with adversity, I will
persevere.*

*I will carry this commitment with
me this year and beyond.*

*I am an AmeriCorps Member,
and I am going to get things
done.*

— The AmeriCorps Member Pledge

