



Issue #5

September 2009

Virginia LISC E News

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LISC AmeriCorps Members Are Here

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A few issues ago we reported that *LISC AmeriCorps Members Are Coming* (July, 2009). The Virginia LISC AmeriCorps members have arrived and started their service on September 1 at Virginia Supportive Housing, Southside Community Development and Housing Corporation, ElderHomes and Pathways. The 12 Virginia LISC AmeriCorps member slots are a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (*see information below*).

On September 14 and 15, members had their local orientation and first training as Virginia LISC AmeriCorps members. The two days provided the members with information on AmeriCorps, LISC AmeriCorps, Virginia LISC, and the organizations they will be serving. Thanks go to Nikki Nicholau, Director of the Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Service and Stacy Rapp, LISC AmeriCorps coordinator, for providing valuable information to the new members. In October, the Virginia LISC AmeriCorps members will join other LISC AmeriCorps members from across the country in Minneapolis for the LISC AmeriCorps Orientation and Training.



AmeriCorps Pledge

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

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

Faced with apathy,



LISC began its sponsorship of an AmeriCorps program in 1994 as an additional strategy to help community development corporations build organizational capacity and address unmet local needs. The mission of the LISC AmeriCorps program is to transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy communities by placing AmeriCorps Members with Community Development Corporations (CDCs). LISC helps CDCs assist in the revitalization of underserved neighborhoods across America by providing financing and technical know-how to CDCs in order for the groups to develop affordable housing, spur commercial investments, create jobs and expand other services that improve the quality of life in the low-income communities where they live and work.

The 12 Virginia LISC AmeriCorps members will be serving as housing counselors providing information to low- and moderate-income residents in hopes of them becoming homeowners and to help those in foreclosure. They will also serve as counselors to assist low- and moderate-income individuals learn how to increase their economic opportunities. In addition, some members will serve as project managers on the rehabilitation of low- and moderate-income homes and as Volunteer Recruiters/Managers.

AmeriCorps Background

President Bill Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act in 1993 establishing the Corporation of National and Community Service and bringing forth a range of domestic service programs under the umbrella of one central organization. This legislation built on the 1990 National Service Act signed by President H.W. Bush. The National and Community Service Trust Act also formally launched AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps incorporated two existing national service programs; VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program, created in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson, and the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC). In September 1994, the first AmeriCorps members (20,000) began serving in more than 1,000 communities. President Clinton stated during the swearing in of the first class of AmeriCorps members "Service is a spark to rekindle the spirit of democracy in an age of uncertainty". In 2003, President George Bush signed the Strengthen AmeriCorps

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 will get things done.*

Virginia LISC AmeriCorps Members

Serving ElderHomes
Sho-Dan Epps
Roger Whitney

**Serving Virginia
Supportive Housing**
Rishonda Anthony

**Serving Southside
Community
Development and
Housing Corporation**
Miriam Regan
Jamaal Davis

Serving Pathways
Daniel Johnson
Melinda Petrimoulx
Jamillah Padgett
Clarence Harris
Danny Smith

LISC Virginia Contacts

Program Act and nearly doubled the number of AmeriCorps members.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama in February. The Recovery Act includes funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service to support an expansion of AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps VISTA programs.

Then in April, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act which puts AmeriCorps on a path to grow from 75,000 to 250,000 members per year by the year 2017, and directs AmeriCorps to work on critical national problems including education, health care, clean energy, veterans, and poverty. The Serve America Act goes into effect on October 1 and is also designed to strengthen the management, cost-effectiveness and accountability of national service programs by increasing flexibility, consolidating funding streams, and introducing more competition.

In coming months we will be introducing you to Virginia LISC AmeriCorps members and to the service they are providing to the community.



Included in the picture with Virginia LISC AmeriCorps members are Nikki Nicholau, Veronica Jemmott and Barbara DuVal.

ROPCDC Board Starts Training

Virginia LISC believes that building healthy communities begins with strengthening and supporting community-based partner organizations. It is because of this belief that Veronica Jemmott, the Petersburg Initiative Manager, wrote a grant on behalf of the Restoration of Petersburg Community Development Corporation (ROPCDC) to the Cameron Foundation. The grant requested funding for the salary of an executive director and training for ROPCDC's Board of Directors.

The Cameron Foundation, which was established to promote and provide support to programs and activities to benefit the residents of the City of Petersburg and surrounding area, has provided an \$82,000 grant to ROPCDC to accomplish the training for the board

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New LISC Publication

and to hire an executive director.

Tammy Jackson of Performance Advantage is now on contract to provide the training to the board on board governance, human resource management, and organizational development. Ms. Jackson has more than a decade of experience in human resources consulting, training and performance development.

ROPDC board members are: Regina Payne (Chair), Damaris Johnson (Secretary), Samuel Rhue (Treasurer), Wayne Crocker, Delores Smith, Reginald Branch, Darryl Griffin, Ann Morgan, Roberta Purcell, Chaundra Taswell, and James Todd.

ROPDC is currently in partnership with Better Housing Coalition to build the Claiborne Square senior housing development next to Tabernacle Baptist Church in the Halifax area of Petersburg.

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