All photos representing local AmeriCorps groups and projects throughout the state of Georgia were submitted and used by permission.

Photo on page 27 used by permission from Moultrie Technical College
The Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism is a part of the Department of Community Affairs. Our mission is to promote service and volunteerism in Georgia through AmeriCorps National Service grants, community volunteer recognition, and support of local volunteer organizations and efforts.
Dear Friends,

Since 1994 the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) has been instrumental in building a sense of community throughout the state of Georgia by promoting volunteerism and citizenship. The GCSV receives funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service located in Washington, DC. These funds are sub-granted to qualifying local organizations enabling the opportunity to implement AmeriCorps programs in their communities by recruiting AmeriCorps Members. AmeriCorps Members serve by providing direct services; addressing the most pressing local civic needs in their communities and neighborhoods in areas of Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures and Veterans and Military Families.

In 2013-2014, fifteen organizations provided services to Georgians in the aforementioned areas. The Commission oversees a diversified portfolio of programs and is proud to present this report to you, demonstrating their positive impact in our great state. As you review this report, you will note tremendous financial leverage and sustainability as a result of AmeriCorps in Georgia.

If you have questions or comments, please contact us at (404) 679-1584.

Sincerely,

Linda Thompson
Director, Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism

Deborah Silcox
Board Chair, Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism
About Our AmeriCorps Program Portfolio

In the next section, you will note the diversification of the 2013-2014 AmeriCorps portfolio of programs in focus areas that include educational, environmental stewardship, veterans and military families and healthy futures. In addition to the major focal points of interest, AmeriCorps Members participated in a number of service projects wherein they helped citizens recover from disasters, cleaned and beautified communities and neighborhoods, provided food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless as well as recruited hundreds of volunteers to sustain those efforts long after they are gone.

This photo was taken at the AmeriCorps' 20th Anniversary Celebration held at the Capitol. Featured at the bottom left is AmeriCorps Alum Joyce Yamato who served in the initial class of AmeriCorps Members in 1994-1995.
Clayton State University Tutoring Program

Focus Area: Education  
Areas Served: Clayton and Henry Counties

Clayton State University students serve as AmeriCorps Members who provide mentoring and tutoring to local K-12 students in Clayton County. The AmeriCorps Members also conduct service projects to support the surrounding community.

In 2013-2014, Clayton State served 428 K-12 students in Clayton County; enabling them to improve grades in core subjects.
Focus Area: Education
Areas Served: Fitzgerald/Ben Hill, Bleckley, Burke, Candler, Dodge, Fulton, Glascock and Stephens Counties

The CIS AmeriCorps reading tutorial program is designed to help students from kindergarten to 8th grade who are not reading at the appropriate grade level. Members serve metro Atlanta and surrounding rural counties, providing small group and individualized tutoring on a daily basis.

In 2013-2014, Communities In Schools of Georgia served 772 students, with 377 students improving their academic performance.
Covenant House Georgia AmeriCorps (CHGA)

Focus Area: Education
Areas Served: City of Atlanta and metro counties

AmeriCorps Members leverage volunteers to serve homeless youth in a mentoring capacity in Atlanta, Georgia at the Covenant House. AmeriCorps Members provide mentoring relationships for the youth to move them toward their educational, vocational or employment goals.

In 2013-2014, 539 youth were mentored by Covenant House Members.
Georgia State University and the Alonzo A. Crim Center utilize AmeriCorps Members to provide mentoring and tutoring in the areas of math and science to youth at-risk of academic failure. AmeriCorps Members are required to have a Bachelor's Degree or two years of college and mentoring/tutoring experience.

TEAM (Technology, Environment, and Mathematics) is an AmeriCorps program that places highly-trained AmeriCorps Members into urban classrooms in the metro-Atlanta area. The Members serve the needs of local schools in variety of ways. They design and implement afterschool programming, facilitate small group instruction, co-teach with classroom teachers, and provide push-in and pull-out classroom support. Regardless of the activity, TEAM Members serve to help K-12 students become competent in math and science.

In 2013-2014, TEAM AmeriCorps Members served 235 students.

In the top photo, TEAM AmeriCorps Members pose with high school students on Georgia State University's campus.
AmeriCorps Members serve in every aspect of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center’s mission. Members are dedicated to educating the center’s guests and school outreach program participants, participating in sea turtle rehabilitation and Diamondback Terrapin monitoring, conducting night time sea turtle saturation tagging and nest management, and coordinating volunteers. All Members are trained and available to the Glynn County Emergency Management Agency for community disaster response.

In 2013-2014, Georgia Sea Turtle AmeriCorps Members provided education opportunities to 7,500 students. 378 volunteers were recruited by AmeriCorps Members and served 5,620 hours.

In the photo below, a local photographer captured this image. The turtles are provided an opportunity to exercise as a part of physical therapy.

The photo above was taken during a summer night patrol. This female nested on the beach.

AmeriCorps Husbandry member and Georgia Sea Turtle Center Director and Veterinarian, Dr. Terry Norton, prepare to release a juvenile green sea turtle, named Waldo, during the 2014 Amelia Wild Festival on Amelia Island, Florida. Waldo came to the GSTC as a cold stun turtle after the water temperature rapidly dropped in the winter of 2013.
Focus Area:  Education  
Areas Served:  Metro-Atlanta

Georgia Tech CEISM (Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing) Mentoring AmeriCorps program provide mentoring and tutoring in areas of math and science to at-risk youth. Members serve the community by engaging volunteers and students in community service projects. In 2013-2014, 135 students improved mathematical skills with the aid of Georgia Tech AmeriCorps Members. 348 students participated in the program.

GA Tech CEISM AmeriCorps Members serving at Best Middle School in Atlanta are standing in front of mural painted in dedication to AmeriCorps’ commitment to their students.
Goodwill Industries of The Southern Rivers, Inc. AmeriCorps program provide individualized job, career and financial coaching in the Columbus/Southwest Georgia area to empower veterans, as well as active military men and women who are transitioning to civilian life, to achieve family-sustaining employment.

In 2013-2014, Goodwill assisted 1,321 participants in areas of job training and referrals.
Hands On Atlanta operates one of the largest AmeriCorps programs in Georgia with members who serve in metro area, Title I schools. AmeriCorps members are placed in partner elementary, middle and high schools, performing the following duties:

- Tutoring children in grades K-9 in reading and math
- Classroom support for teachers and students
- Providing college and career readiness coaching for 9th through 12th grade students

In addition to their tutoring or coaching duties, AmeriCorps members engage volunteers in the community in support of student academics through the Saturday Discovery program, a program designed to supplement and enrich the educational experience for children living in under resourced communities.

Overall, in 2013-2014 Hands On Atlanta’s education programs (all grades) yielded high results with:

- 65% of tutored students demonstrating growth in mathematics
- 77% of tutored students demonstrating growth in reading literacy
- 598 high school students pursuing college through the Project GRAD Scholarship Program, and
- 264 graduating seniors receiving the Brumley-GRAD Scholarship
- 95% of parents and teachers felt that Hands On Atlanta helped their children to be successful in school.
Jumpstart for Young Children

**Focus Area:** Education  
**Areas Served:** City of Atlanta

Jumpstart Georgia Corps Members deliver an innovative early education program by forming yearlong individualized relationships. Jumpstart Georgia’s AmeriCorps Members are paired with preschool children from low income backgrounds in the classroom setting and work together on language, literacy, social, and initiative skills. Through this relationship, Jumpstart inspires children to learn, adults to teach, families to get involved, and communities to progress together.

In 2013-2014, Members from Georgia State and the Atlanta University Center provided preschool literacy intervention experiences in small group settings to 360 children.
New American Pathways – (Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services)

Focus Area: Education
Area Served: DeKalb County

Project RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Self-sufficiency through Education) AmeriCorps Members serve the needs of refugee children and youth from Sudan, Burma, Iraq, Burundi, Liberia, Afghanistan, and Somalia through five schools in Clarkston, Georgia. AmeriCorps Members support war-affected children and families who have been relocated to Georgia to provide comprehensive afterschool, summer and recreation programs for refugee youth grades K-12 through the pre-identified partner schools. In 2013-2014, Project RISE served 430 students and helped 705 clients increase refugee self-sufficiency.

In the photo below, AmeriCorps Members participated in a community clean-up project on Dr. Martin Luther King Day in Clarkston. Refugee clients also volunteered on this day to take part in the clean-up project.

Project RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Self Sufficiency through Education) AmeriCorps members in Atlanta, GA meet during AmeriCorps Week for their monthly team meeting.
Teach For America – Metro Atlanta provides a critical source of well-trained teachers who are helping break the local cycle of education inequity. Leaders teach for two years, going above and beyond traditional expectations to help their students achieve at high levels. Armed with the experience, conviction, and insight that come from leading children to fulfill their potential, our alumni are working from all sectors to shape our schools, policies, and investments in low-income communities.

In 2013-2014, 271 AmeriCorps Members served 16,244 students.
Focus Area: Education (Professional Corps)
Areas Served: Burke, Dougherty, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Meriwether, Muscogee, Richmond, and Rockdale Counties

Georgia Teaching Fellows provide highly qualified Teacher Corps Members to serve at underserved schools across the state.

In 2013-2014, The New Teacher Project served 1,753 students identified as economically disadvantaged.
United Way of Metro Atlanta - Project Health Access

Focus Area: Healthy Futures
Areas Served: Cobb, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett Counties

Project Health Access AmeriCorps Members help build the capacity of community clinics to increase the health outcomes of the uninsured and underinsured in the metro area and in targeted communities. Also, the program attempts to ensure access to SSDI/Medicaid for disabled, homeless individuals.

In 2013-2014, AmeriCorps Members provided 1,621 clients through individual and group health education classes. 1,480 clients followed through with referral appointments to either maintain or improve their health status.

AmeriCorps Project Health Access Members participated in a gardening project to celebrate the city’s second annual Mayor’s Day of Recognition for National Service. Assemblywoman Natalyn Archibong attended the event and proclaimed April 1st as National Service Day on behalf of Mayor Kasim Reed. The East Atlanta Kids Club, United Way and Georgia Tech joined together to complete this project.
Youth Villages – Inner Harbour Campus

Focus Area: Education
Areas Served: Douglasville (Douglas County)

Youth Villages AmeriCorps is partnered with the Youth Villages-Inner Harbour Campus, a not-for-profit residential treatment center serving youth with emotional and behavioral challenges, children caught in the cycle of sexual, physical, substance or emotional abuse, and youth attending Inner Harbour as an alternative to Youth Detention Centers. The Corps members engage in literacy and life skills tutoring, service learning, GED coaching, experiential learning activities and assist with low and high ropes courses, West African drumming and animal-assisted therapy. Inner Harbour is located on 1,200 acres, 20 miles west of Atlanta.

In 2013-2014, Youth Villages AmeriCorps assisted 45 students in improving life skills and 189 students participated in Service Learning projects. In addition, 41 students improved academic scores.

In the photo below, Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps for the Corporation for National and Community Services, takes time out to pose with Youth Villages AmeriCorps Member, Jia Reed.
Focus Area: Education/Veterans and Military Families
Areas Served: Appling, Banks, Barrow, Coffee, Crisp, Haralson, Lanier, Laurens, Lincoln, Muscogee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Tift, Turner, Union and Washington

Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps State Program engages AmeriCorps Members in direct service and capacity-building to address critical community needs. Through sixteen counties across the state, AmeriCorps Members are working to further the 4-H mission and build capacity in their community by addressing critical issues like (1) childhood obesity, (2) military family support, (3) providing youth development through in-school 4-H club meetings, and (4) supporting youth in their endeavor to build confidence and develop their public speaking skills.

In 2013-2014, Members engaged over 8,900 students through club meetings.

Chantal Senra, AmeriCorps Member, serving with Paulding County 4-H/Cooperative Extension, delivered bouquets and thank you notes written by 4-H youth to emergency service providers. Chantal helped 4-H youth put together and deliver these appreciation packets for all 14 Police Stations and Fire Stations in their community. They were delivered on September 11th to honor our nation’s first responders.
The demand for AmeriCorps is ever increasing because people want to serve, people want to be a part of the solution and people know that AmeriCorps Works! In 2013, 4,764 individuals applied to become an AmeriCorps Member in the State of Georgia. Of the 4,764 applicants, only 705 full-time and part-time positions could be supported by the budget.

Organizations and businesses are thinking smarter by forming partnerships and working together to maximize the impact of AmeriCorps. Because businesses and organizations understand that “AmeriCorps Works” better when they work together, collaboration and sustainability are on the increase! They are making it possible for non-profit organization as well as faith-based and community-based organizations to bring on more AmeriCorps Members by significantly matching the federal portion of AmeriCorps funds. AmeriCorps funding is made possible by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) located in Washington, DC. CNCS brings vital leadership, resources, and coordination to some of the most pressing challenges facing America: educating students for jobs of the 21st century; assisting individuals, families, and neighborhoods on the road to economic recovery; addressing the needs of military families and a new generation of veterans; helping communities rebuild after natural disasters; increasing energy efficiency and improving at-risk ecosystems; and providing information to improve the health and welfare of individuals in disadvantaged communities.

AmeriCorps, “the domestic Peace Corps,” is a National Service program that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in team-based, results-driven service. Since 1994, more than 900,000 individuals have served in AmeriCorps, providing needed assistance to millions of Americans through projects ranging from tutoring, youth mentoring, public safety, housing rehabilitation, health care, environmental issues, and disaster relief.
Impact of AmeriCorps in the State of Georgia

In 2013-2014, 705 part-time and full-time AmeriCorps Members recruited 18,683 volunteers

Volunteering and Civic Engagement in Georgia Trends and Highlights Overview

Overall, in Georgia in 2013: 24.8% of residents volunteer, ranking them 37th among the 50 states and Washington, DC.

- 1.79 million volunteers
- 180.0 million hours of service
- $4.1 billion of service contributed 30.3 volunteer hours per capita
- 58.7% of residents engage in “informal volunteering” (for example, doing favors for neighbors)
18,683 volunteers, recruited by AmeriCorps Members, served a total of 54,921 hours in areas of education, community cleanup, environmental, veterans and military families, refugee services, nutrition and healthy futures and in a variety of other ways.

Based on the “Value of Volunteer Time” by the “Independent Sector” (http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time), the value of volunteer hours in the State of Georgia in 2013 was $22.25 per hour. In 2013-2014, AmeriCorps Members recruited 18,683 volunteers who volunteered a total of 54,921 hours. This equates to $1,221,992.25!
In 2013-2014, the Corporation for National and Community Service invested $3,972,323 in the State of Georgia. These dollars were sub-granted to qualifying agencies by the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism, located within the Department of Community Affairs. As a result of this federal investment, those organizations leveraged an additional $3,619,310.39!
Clayton State University and Youth Villages AmeriCorps Members answered the GCSV/GEMA call and served on Saturday, February 22 in the Augusta area to assist with the ice and snow storms debris cleanup. AmeriCorps Members were tasked with hauling away downed trees, tree limbs, and other debris from community members’ yards. The Clayton State University AmeriCorps Members were able to completely clean and clear debris for five homes located in Augusta, GA and North Augusta, SC.

National service members from Youth Villages met the response team from Rebuilding Hope in Keysville, GA, a small town southwest of Augusta, especially hard hit and in need of assistance.

Forty-two AmeriCorps Members responded to six disasters and served a total of 278 individuals affected by disasters.

In addition to disaster response, AmeriCorps Members served 478 veterans, 2,470 family members of veterans and 6,116 military family members.

AmeriCorps Works in Georgia!
Other GCSV Initiatives – Georgia Student Service Award

In an effort to engage high school youth in service and high-quality service-learning, the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) instituted the Georgia Student Service Award during the 2011-2012 school year as a pilot project to recognize teenagers who make significant contributions to their communities through volunteer service. The GCSV continues to promote this program to recognize students engaged in volunteerism.

The Georgia Commission awards certificates and service honor cords at graduation ceremonies to Georgia students who meet a predetermined threshold of service hours in their communities. To qualify for the Georgia Student Service Award, an average of 75 service hours per year or 300 hours by graduation is required. Graduating seniors who reach the milestone will receive a certificate and a red, white and blue service cord to be worn at graduation ceremonies.

A member of the school staff must act as sponsor/administrator and register their school by going to https://www.dca.ga.gov/ServiceAwards/About.aspx. The sponsor/administrator must certify and submit student information and service hours. This record of service may only include direct contact hours (hours on task).

Service can be performed through school sponsored activities and/or through outside organizations such as churches and other clubs. Both public and private schools are eligible to participate in the Georgia Student Service Award program. Home schooled students may also participate if hours can be certified by an adult.

GCSV is located within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) whose mission is the promotion and support of service and volunteerism by Georgians in communities across the state.
Dr. King believed that people have the power and responsibility to change their community for the better. “Everybody can be great because everybody can serve,” Dr. King once wrote. The truth in these words has never faded. The legacy of his life and teachings live on not only through physical memorials and the echoes of his words, but also through the acts of dedicated men and women across the world.

On May 9th, 2011, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal signed the bill to create the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council, which consists of nine Georgians serving four-year terms.

“It will be the duty of this council to promote the principles of nonviolence, peace, social justice and the awareness and appreciation of the civil rights movement and the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” Governor Deal said during the signing of the bill.

Supported by the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council will promote and plan statewide activities advocating Dr. King’s principles and teachings, on MLK Day and beyond.
Other Initiatives –
Mayors Day of Service and Recognition

The nation's mayors and county executives are increasingly turning to National Service as a cost-effective strategy to address local challenges. By unleashing the power of citizens, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs have a positive and lasting impact – making our cities and counties better places to live.

The Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service is a nationwide bipartisan effort to recognize the positive impact of national service in cities, to thank those who serve, and to encourage citizens to give back to their communities. The Day is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the National League of Cities, and Cities of Service.

Over 50 Georgia cities and counties signed on to participate in the 2014 Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service.

Mayors Day of Recognition Service project at the East Atlanta Kids Club
Governor Nathan Deal and the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, led Georgia’s celebration of the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps at the Capitol. More than 300 current AmeriCorps members, alumni and guests gathered in the North Wing as states across the nation all celebrated the anniversary. Governor Nathan Deal signed a proclamation praising Georgia’s AmeriCorps members for their service and dedication to their communities.

“AmeriCorps fits with our long tradition in this country of helping others - and Georgia has led the way in helping since our beginning. As far back as Georgia’s colonial days, our first motto was “not for self, but for others” and service was a key part of James Oglethorpe’s vision,” stated Commissioner Corbin.

The Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism presented the AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary National Leadership Award to Joyce Yamaato, Vice President of Wells Fargo’s Strategic Philanthropy and Partnerships group in Atlanta. Ms. Yamaato, a member of AmeriCorps in 1995, is one of only 20 people nationwide to receive this honor.

“The impact that AmeriCorps made on my life when I was 23 years old, teaching English as a Second Language to adult immigrants and refugees from all over the world in New Orleans, has stayed with me throughout my career, and I’m honored to be standing with those today who are impacting the lives of others,” said Ms. Yamaato.

The GCSV board recognized two other distinguished Georgia AmeriCorps members – Philip Wu, a member of the inaugural 1994 AmeriCorps class, who served with the Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, and Joseph Colbert, a two-term service member who holds the distinct honor of being Georgia’s first and only Tillman Scholar. Mr. Colbert, a former Marine, served at the AmeriCorps Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island, and is now pursuing his master’s degree in biology at the University of Georgia. Tillman Military Scholarships are awarded annually to veterans and spouses by the Pat Tillman Foundation. The Tillman scholarship is highly competitive—only 60 recipients are selected each year out of thousands of applicants.

**National AmeriCorps Fast Facts**

- 900,000: Number of individuals who have served as AmeriCorps Members since 1994.
- 1.2 Billion: Total number of hours served by AmeriCorps Members.
- $2.8 Billion: Total amount of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards earned by AmeriCorps Members.
- 4 Million: Number of community volunteers managed or mobilized by AmeriCorps Members in 2014.
- $625 million: Amount of resources from private, philanthropic, and other sources leveraged by AmeriCorps programs each year.
The September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance is the culmination of efforts originally launched in 2002 by the 9/11 nonprofit My Good Deed with wide support by the 911 community and leading national service organizations. This effort first established the inspiring tradition of engaging in charitable service on 9/11 as an annual and forward-looking tribute to the 9/11 victims, survivors, and those who rose up in service in response to the attacks.¹

¹ http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/days-service/september-11th-national-day-service-and-remembrance
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