

# SERVERMONT VISTA REVIEW

The **SerVermont VISTA Project** is a comprehensive umbrella project that welcomes host sites tackling a wide array of poverty-related issues in Vermont. We place members in organizations and state agencies to fight poverty across the state by increasing education and job-training opportunities, creating more food-secure communities, increasing safe and affordable housing, and serving veterans and military families.

## VISTA Project Supervisor:

Robyn Baylor  
 109 State Street 5th Floor  
 Montpelier, VT 05609-4801  
 (802) 760—8208  
 robyn.baylor@vermont.gov



*"I am happy and proud of what I accomplished this year. I am honored to have led the effort, and I have high hopes for what this can become in the future. On a personal and professional level, VISTA has exceeded what I could ever have expected from this year. I'll be forever grateful for this opportunity."*

*- 2014-2015 SerVermont VISTA Member*



2015-2016 SerVermont VISTAs at Orientation at the Common Ground Center

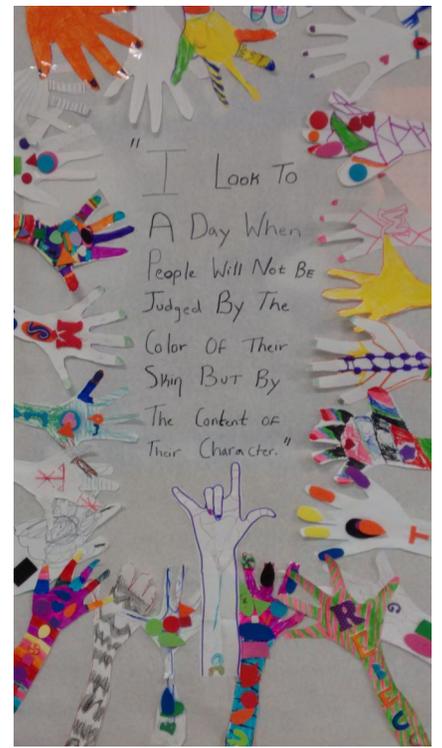
## A Look at the Numbers

In 2014-15 SerVermont VISTAs...

- ◆ Recruited **1,476** community volunteers who served **5,916** hours
- ◆ Raised **\$613,062** in cash resources and **\$64,179** in in-kind resources
- ◆ Provided **121** organizations with capacity building services
- ◆ Developed **41** new systems and business processes or enhancements



SerVermont VISTAs modeling their winter gear at a Career Planning training with Markey Read in January



An art project created by local youth at an MLK Day project at All4One in Springfield.

## Project Highlights

- ◆ At the **Farm at VYCC**, 3 VISTAs are serving to build capacity for the Health Care Share program. This program engages over 100 disadvantaged youth in educational and employment opportunities on the farm. They learn about sustainable agriculture as they produce fresh vegetables and poultry that is provided free of cost to over 400 low-income families across four counties. VYCC partners with area healthcare providers to identify food insecure participants that would benefit from the inclusion of more healthy foods in their diet.
- ◆ The VISTA at the **Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission** has been working to create a video that combats stereotypes on affordable housing and will be used to help educate the public about new building projects that will provide affordable housing to many low-income Vermonters in the area.
- ◆ In Springfield, a VISTA member is serving with **Vermont State Parks** to develop outdoor education and STEM learning opportunities at a brand new state park. The land was recently donated to the state by Edgar May, the first deputy director of VISTA, with the requirement that it be used to provide local residents, especially low-income youth, with an opportunity to engage with their outdoor environment. The VISTA has been creating partnerships and curriculum to run a pilot summer camp for area youth and is also working to ensure that the site can be designated as a Summer Food Service Program location.
- ◆ The VISTA at **Rutland Area Farm and Food Link** has been building capacity for their Glean Team program. This program engages local volunteers in gleans where they harvest surplus produce from regional farms and donate it to local food shelves and partners serving the low-income community. They have also recently partnered with the Vermont Foodbank which has opened up a new location in Rutland.
- ◆ At the **John Graham Shelter** in Vergennes, a VISTA member planned a Sleep-Out Vigil to end homelessness to raise awareness about homelessness in the region. The event resulted in over \$35,000 in donations!



SerVermont VISTA and SerVermont Commissioner serving at the Vermont Foodbank on MLK Day where we sorted over 4,000 lbs of frozen food to be sent to food shelves

## Recent Alumni Job Placements in Vermont

We are very proud to have so many alumni who choose to stay in Vermont and work in the public sector. Below is a list of current positions held by SerVermont VISTA Alums!

- ◆ Circulation Coordinator, Vermont Technical College
- ◆ Community Outreach and Volunteer Specialist, Committee on Temporary Shelter
- ◆ Database Manager, Committee on Temporary Shelter
- ◆ Development Coordinator, Community Health Centers of Burlington
- ◆ Digital Communications Coordinator, Vermont Works for Women
- ◆ Economic Development Director, Revitalizing Waterbury
- ◆ Education Coordinator, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont
- ◆ Executive Assistant, Center for Whole Communities
- ◆ Executive Director, The Art House
- ◆ Farm Direct Coordinator, Green Mountain Farm to School
- ◆ Farm Program Coordinator, VT Youth Conservation Corps
- ◆ Farm and Food Director, VT Youth Conservation Corps
- ◆ Farm to Plate Network Assistant, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
- ◆ Marketing and Promotions Coordinator, Vermont Foodbank
- ◆ Project Coordinator, Bennington County Regional Commission
- ◆ Public Affairs Specialist, USDA Rural Development
- ◆ SBIRT Program Manager, VT Department of Health
- ◆ Volunteer Coordinator, Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf
- ◆ Workforce Development Coordinator, ReSource



SerVermont VISTAs participate in a training on cultural competency with CQ Strategies in November

## Guest Speaker

### Health Tip Message Service



**Healthy Together**

A health tip message service brought to you by Southwestern Vermont Health Care

- Messages originally created for individuals living with diabetes
- Easy way to reach people anytime, anywhere
  - Chronic conditions like diabetes affect people 24/7, not just when they are at the doctor



Rory Price

Southwestern Vermont Health Care VISTA

SerVermont VISTA Rory Price was invited to discuss her project on a recent VISTA Campus Webinar focusing on Behavioral Economics and Decision-Making.



# 2015-2016 SerVermont VISTA Host Site Map

**Winooski:**  
Vermont Works for Women

**Burlington:**  
\* Committee on Temporary Shelter  
\* Community Sailing Center STEM Initiative

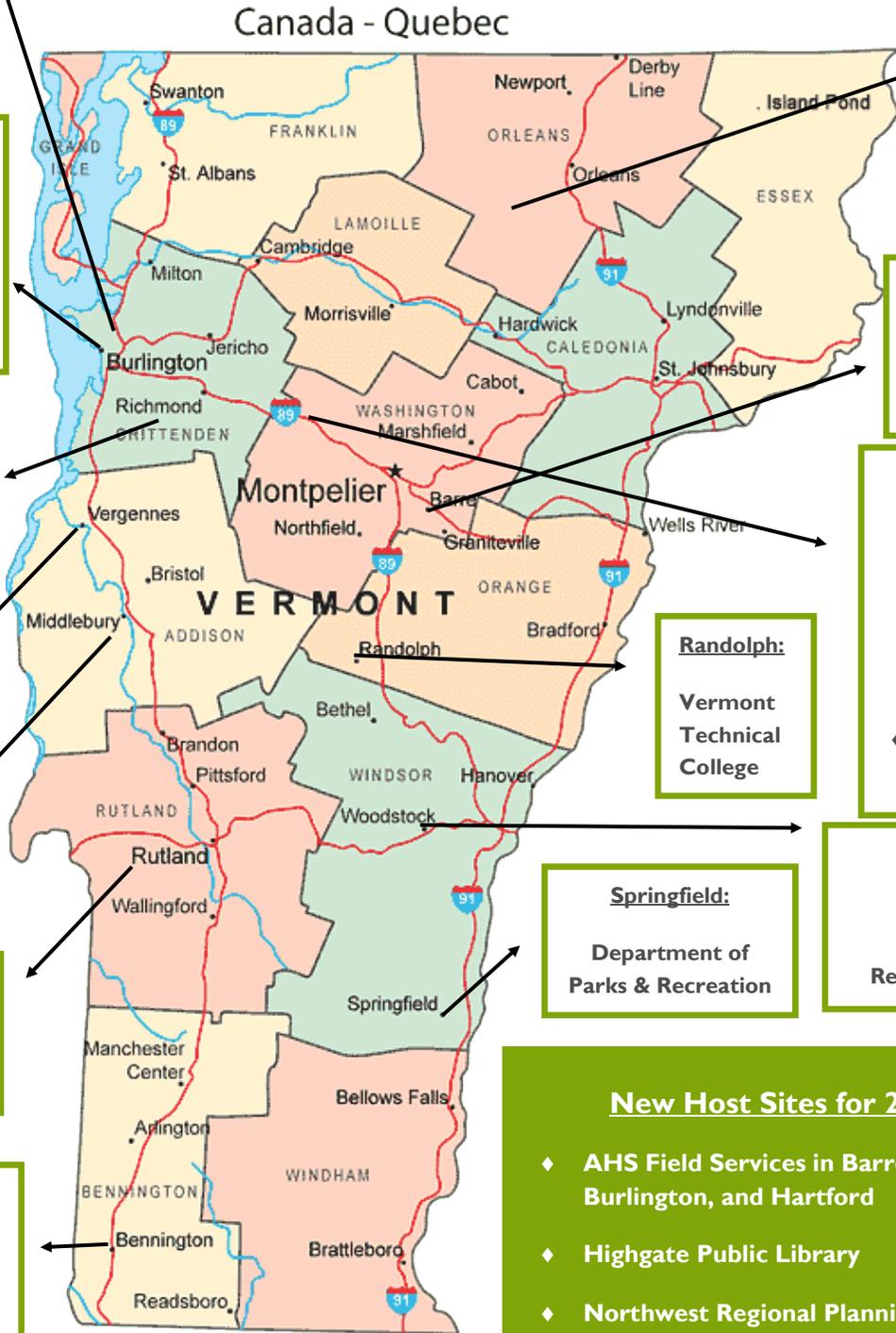
**Richmond:**  
Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

**Vergennes:**  
John Graham Shelter

**Middlebury:**  
Middlebury College

**Rutland:**  
Rutland Area Farm & Food Link

**Bennington:**  
\* Bennington County Regional Commission  
\* Southwestern Vermont Health Care  
\* Alliance for Community Transformation



**Craftsbury:**  
The Art House Mentoring

**Barre:**  
Community Capital of Vermont

**Montpelier:**  
\* SerVermont  
♦ Central VT Planning Commission  
♦ Department of Mental Health

**Randolph:**  
Vermont Technical College

**Woodstock:**  
Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission

**Springfield:**  
Department of Parks & Recreation

**New Host Sites for 2016-2017**

- ♦ AHS Field Services in Barre, Bennington, Burlington, and Hartford
- ♦ Highgate Public Library
- ♦ Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- ♦ Pathways Vermont
- ♦ Senior Solutions
- ♦ Vermont Legal Aid