

SERVERMONT VISTA REVIEW

SerVermont VISTA is a comprehensive umbrella project that welcomes host sites tackling a wide array of poverty-related issues in Vermont. We place members in non-profit 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:

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"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."

-2014-15 VISTA Member



In 2015-16 SerVermont VISTAs...

- ◆ Recruited **1,444** community volunteers who served **6,126** hours
- ◆ Raised **\$161,288** in cash resources and **\$93,803** in in-kind resources
- ◆ Provided **45** organizations with capacity building services
- ◆ Trained **301** staff members and community volunteers
- ◆ Developed **65** new systems and business processes
- ◆ Provided **807** disadvantaged youth with education services
- ◆ Provided **348** youth with healthy futures services
- ◆ Provided **7,160** individuals with emergency food



SerVermont VISTA members with a Vermont Youth Tomorrow VISTA member all serving in Bennington, VT



SerVermont VISTA representing his host site at the Burlington Art Hop!

Project Highlights

- ◆ At the **Farm at VYCC**, 2 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.
- ◆ Four VISTAs serving with the **Agency of Human Services** are each placed in a different quadrant of the state to collect data and form community partnerships to better assist the agency in meeting its goal to end family homelessness by 2020.



SerVermont VISTAs had a great time serving at the Vermont Foodbank on MLK Day. They packed 2,200 backpacks for the school backpack program that sends meals home with food-insecure students over the weekend.

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!

- ◆ Assistant Planner, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
- ◆ Chronic Disease Program Specialist, Vermont Department of Health
- ◆ Circulation Coordinator, Vermont Technical College
- ◆ Community Energy Action and Climate Action Coordinator, Vermont Natural Resources Council
- ◆ Community Engagement Manager, Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf
- ◆ Donor Database Manager, Committee on Temporary Shelter
- ◆ Development Coordinator, Community Health Centers of Burlington
- ◆ Digital Communications Coordinator, Vermont Works or Women
- ◆ Economic Development Director, Revitalizing Waterbury
- ◆ Education Coordinator, Northeast Organic Farming Association of VT
- ◆ Executive Assistant, Center for Whole Communities
- ◆ Executive Director, The Art House
- ◆ Farm Direct Coordinator, Green Mountain Farm to School
- ◆ Farm and Food Coordinator, VT Youth Conservation Corps
- ◆ Farm and Food Manager, VT Youth Conservation Corps
- ◆ Farm and Food Director, VT Youth Conservation Corps
- ◆ Hazard Mitigation Planner, State of Vermont Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
- ◆ High School Math and Science Teacher, Stratton Mountain School
- ◆ Housing Equity Advocate, Rutland County Women's Network & Shelter
- ◆ Marketing and Promotions Manager, Vermont Foodbank
- ◆ Oral Health Coalition and Kitchen Cupboard Coordinator, Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services
- ◆ Planner—Two Rivers—Ottaquechee Regional Commission
- ◆ Planning and Assessment AmeriCorps Member, Vermont Land Trust
- ◆ Project Coordinator, Bennington County Regional Commission
- ◆ Public Affairs Specialist, USDA Rural Development
- ◆ SBIRT Program Manager, Vermont Department of Health
- ◆ Sixth Grade Science Teacher, Springfield School District
- ◆ Volunteer Coordinator, Living Well
- ◆ Workforce Development Coordinator, ReSource



"I love what I do and I can honestly say that I would not be in this role if it weren't for my AmeriCorps Service. "

- Nicole Whalen, served 2012-14
Marketing and Promotions Manager at
Vermont Foodbank



"Without my VISTA year and the opportunities it presented during and after, I never would have had all the necessary transferrable skills and knowledge to qualify for a position with such an incredible strong and empowering community organization."

- Monika Ganguly-Kiefner, 2014-15
Housing Equity Advocate at Rutland
County Women's Network & Shelter

2016-2017 SerVermont VISTA Host Site Map

