



T H E H E A R T L I N E

T A K I N G T H E P U L S E

COVERING VOLUNTEERISM AND SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH

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4th Quarter 2008 Edition

2008 KENTUCKY AMERICORPS LAUNCH

The AmeriCorps Launch seems to get better each year. The program year kickoff and training event for Kentucky AmeriCorps members was held on Oct. 2-3 in Frankfort. This year's event featured sessions on grant writing, stress management, volunteer recruitment and retention, disabilities inclusion, working with the media, financial planning, green living, volunteer management technology, public presentations and teamwork. One of the most memorable sessions was the closing plenary featuring Dale Smith Thomas, an internationally known motivational speaker. Members left the launch energized and ready to serve.



The induction ceremony was held on the evening of Oct. 2 on the steps of the Kentucky State Capitol. 270 first- and second-year AmeriCorps members took a pledge to get things done in Kentucky as they embark on a year of service to their fellow Kentuckians across the state.

The evening ceremony highlighted both the individual members and the collective group. Holding faintly

glowing light sticks, members marched up the steps single file and gathered at the landing. The lighted march was wonderfully symbolic. Collectively, Kentucky AmeriCorps shines a light on community needs across the state and the incredible difference the members make meeting those needs. Yet, individually, each Kentucky AmeriCorps member is a light unto himself and herself, serving at the grassroots level, casting a light of hope and help on others, up close and personal.

For more than a decade, Kentucky AmeriCorps members have been lighting the way for countless children, adults, seniors and families in need. Members are assigned to one of 12 AmeriCorps state programs, serving 107 counties, where they will help address unmet local human service needs. About 25 percent of the members in this year's class are second-



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2008 BIG BROTHER AND BIG SISTER OF THE YEAR

Austin Shaffner and Suzanne Neely-Lyall have been named the 2008 Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana.



Shaffner has been a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana community mentoring program for three years. He is a consistent and dependable Big Brother to Benjamin. The two meet regularly when Shaffner is not stationed elsewhere with the Kentucky Air National Guard.

According to Benjamin's mother, his grades and self esteem have improved since being matched with Shaffner. Benjamin is just as happy with his match as his mother. "You know, Austin has got to be the best Big Brother ever. He's just great!" Benjamin said.

Shaffner and Benjamin enjoy fishing, video games, riding go-karts and ATVs and just hanging out together. Shaffner regularly goes above and beyond for his Little Brother Benjamin and has become part of his family. He is a great volunteer for the agency and a positive influence in Benjamin's life.

Neely-Lyall has been a community mentoring program volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana and Big Sister to Crystal for five years. Neely-Lyall is a consistent influence and source of support for her Little Sister. Although Crystal has some challenges that pose occasional difficulties in their mentoring relationship, Neely-Lyall never lets those difficulties get in the way of the care and affection she has developed for her Little Sister. Crystal's father also appreciates what Neely-Lyall does for his family. Neely-Lyall also is involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters agency-sponsored events.



Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States. Last year, the

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Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE



Throughout the newsletter are small bits for your enjoyment. Keep an eye out for them.



The happy dancing man is always accompanied by a "funny." Lighten your mood a little with a short joke.



The thinking man is followed by wise witty words from many sources. Allow him to engage your mind.



This icon is accompanied by a brain teaser. Go ahead, see if you can catch the solution.



This icon indicates that interesting statistics follow. It also begs the question: are all things number? From the philosophy of Pythagoras who said, "all things are number."

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"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."

– Edward Everett Hale, American writer (1822-1909)

WHO WE ARE

KCCVS COMMISSIONERS

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Evelyn Craft Claffy	Betty J. Martin
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Tyler Fleck	Mary Rothenburger Steely
Janet Gates	Jana D. Sturm
Nellie Gooden	Steve L. Swim
Fred A. Goodwin	Betsy Wells, Ex-Officio

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Eileen Cackowski – Executive Director
 Melissa Newton – Training Officer
 Shannon Ramsey – Media & Publications Specialist
 Andrea Sieloff, RSM – Program Officer
 Lanny Taulbee – Disabilities Coordinator
 Marzelle Wurtsmith – Financial Officer
 TJ Farren – AmeriCorps*VISTA

KCCVS MISSION

To promote all Kentuckians working together to meet actual community needs in a way that fosters personal, family and community pride and an enduring ethic of volunteerism and service.

DID YOU KNOW?

Brought to you by www.hookedonfacts.com

- The most productive day of the workweek is Tuesday.
- More than 150,000,000,000 pieces of mail are delivered each year in the U.S!
- There was no punctuation until the 15th century.
- Over 10,000 birds a year die from smashing into windows.
- Avocados are poisonous to birds.
- Bluebirds cannot see the color blue.
- A completely blind chameleon will still take on the colors of its environment.
- All species of beetles are edible.
- Polar Bears can eat more than 50 lbs. of meat in one setting.
- The average American eats at McDonalds more than 1,800 times in their life.
- Over 90% of all fish caught are caught in the northern hemisphere.
- Astronauts cannot burp in space.

Editor: Shannon Ramsey

COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT



This edition of the commissioner spotlight features Betsy Wells, a special member of the commission. Wells has served as an ex-officio member on the commission since its inception in 1994.

Ex-officio means that the person serves as a member by virtue of some other status, which for Wells is as State Program Director for Kentucky with the Corporation for National and Community Service.

This non-voting position is required by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, the law that authorized the development and composition of state commissions.

Like all commissioners, she supports the mission, goals, and objectives of the commission, but she also represents the Corporation and its interests. Some of her key responsibilities as the Corporation's representative include keeping the commission staff informed about her office activities; keeping other Corporation staff informed about the commission's activities and her activities as a commissioner; and building a strong, cooperative and collaborative relationship between the commission and the state office.

Wells said, "Many commission accomplishments since its inception have been good for Kentucky, helping to build an ethic of national service and a strong foundation for citizen volunteers to become engaged in meaningful community service and volunteerism."

For almost 20 years, Wells has been the State Program Director for the Corporation for National and Community Service, (formerly called ACTION). She manages 20 National Senior Service Corps programs and 15 AmeriCorps*VISTA projects throughout Kentucky. Prior to coming to Kentucky, she worked as a State Program Specialist for ACTION in Orlando and Oklahoma City.

Wells was born in New Bedford, Mass., and raised in South Dartmouth. Wells has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Vermont in social welfare with a second concentration in political science.

Wells lives in Louisville with her only "children," two indoor cats – a tuxedo named Sylvester, and Gateway, who looks like the computer company's boxes. Some of her favorite pursuits include sitting on her sun porch reading, and watching birds deliriously flinging water out of the bird bath.

Wells flies up to Massachusetts every three months to check on her 89-year-old mother, who, with assistance, still lives in the house her father built in 1960. Wells has one brother, who lives in Durham, New Hampshire with his wife and 14-year-old son.

"My mother and father provided the greatest foundation

any child could ask for – values of honesty, integrity, environmental awareness, an appreciation for all life, hard work, a classical education and living below your means." Wells said.

Wells is an essential part of the commission, which has often benefited from her experience and support. We thank her for 14 faithful years to the commission and to national service in Kentucky.

2008 AmeriCorps Launch (continued from cover page)

year members. In addition to performing community service tasks, members also recruit local volunteers to help ensure programs and progress continue after members complete their terms of service.

Doug Adams, chair of the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service, administered the AmeriCorps pledge of service to members and program directors.

"AmeriCorps members make remarkable contributions to Kentucky, and I am proud of the enthusiasm of these members," Adams said. "The Kentucky AmeriCorps programs have grown each year, as more Kentuckians choose to serve the commonwealth and their country. In these difficult economic times, Kentucky AmeriCorps members are making a difference."

Eileen Cackowski, executive director of the KCCVS, said she was honored and proud to thank the members for the year of service they have dedicated to getting things done.

"The members are the latest in this legacy of service," Cackowski said. "On behalf of all Kentuckians, I thank them for shining a light of hope and help – one person, one family, one school, one neighborhood, one community at a time – all across the commonwealth."

The KCCVS would like to thank our training officer, Melissa Newton, for her hard work organizing a great event. We wonder how she will top herself next year!

Learn more about the 2008-09 Kentucky AmeriCorps programs on pages 6-7.



2008 Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year (continued from cover page)

Kentuckiana agency served more than 1,700 children, creating and nurturing friendships between adults and children.

To learn more or volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana, go to www.bbbsky.org or call toll-free, (877) 588-2300.

Submitted by Brenda Bankston, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana

The Power of Words

Words have started wars, ended wars and made peace between nations. Words can give one the strength to overcome the most difficult obstacles or they can cause the loss of hope to achieve one's dreams and aspirations. They can add to or take away from one's self esteem, sense of purpose and even one's independence. Words can be positive or negative; either way, we cannot keep from being affected by them.

Words and phrases have also been used to separate groups of people. Many people without disabilities cannot imagine life with the loss of a single ability they currently possess. The fear of acquiring and dealing with a disability causes them to ignore the possibility. Some people without a disability may mask their fear by reducing the importance of those with visible disabilities in order to boost their own self-worth. They sometimes use such derogatory labels as victims, sufferers, or survivors of a disease or accident.

The historic use of a word can carry even more weight than the specific meaning. For example, the word "cripple" literally means to deprive of strength or efficiency, or to make useless or worthless. On the surface, this definition seems harmless enough. But when it is applied to a person with a disability, the historic connotation has a far greater impact than its mere definition. The word has often been used in a degrading manner towards people with disabilities. It implies that people with disabilities have no value and are a burden to others. The word "cripple" is no longer used as a description of a condition but as a means to cause harm to others. The negative emotions associated with its historical usage today makes people with disabilities cringe at the mere mention of the word.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." But they do hurt. They hurt adults as well as children. They hurt people with disabilities as well as people without disabilities. It doesn't matter if the literal definition of a word has a very different meaning, the implications can hurt just the same. Name calling and social labels can cause irreparable harm to the target of a verbal assault - just by using words.

Words can also encourage us to do our best, to strive to improve our condition or situation. People with disabilities by nature are often closely tied to the medical field and become labeled by what they cannot do. History has shown that with encouragement and positive reinforcement, the seemingly impossible is often accomplished and sometimes surpassed if given the opportunity. This is especially true for people with disabilities. Asking if one needs assistance rather than assuming help is required, showing a friendly smile instead of a hidden stare, and using person-first language are examples of ways we can contribute to the quality of life for everyone. Fears can be overcome and dreams can be realized simply by using the right words in a positive way.

Everyone should be more aware of the power of words and the effects they have on our abilities. A compliment may become the spark that changes an individual's life forever, whereas an insult could destroy one's confidence with long lasting consequences. The damage done to a smile by a harsh word can never be erased, and once a word has been spoken, it cannot be unsaid. Giving praises for an unexpected accomplishment can lead to a lifetime of achievements and using positive language can instill the confidence and desire in each of us to contribute to society.

Words define who we are, what we do, how we react, and they describe how we feel about one another. We can use them to hurt or heal, to build up or tear down one's abilities or disabilities. Kind and cruel words alike will continue to shape our world and we will all play a part in that process. The power is in our hands to choose our words wisely and use them in a positive manner. Disability inclusion is all about words and attitude, so keep them both positive!

Submitted by Lanny Taulbee, KCCVS Disabilities Corner

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

You may have wondered what happens to Kentucky's AmeriCorps members when they complete their terms of service. And we have, too.

To satisfy our curiosity, The Heart Line has a feature called "Where Are They Now?" which highlights former AmeriCorps members and what they're doing now. We hope you enjoy reading about them as much as we've enjoyed catching up with them.

In this edition, we are featuring four former members who served with the AmeriCorps programs out of Eastern Kentucky University. In 1994, ECU was awarded an AmeriCorps grant to establish the AmeriCorps program, Student Service Consortium Center, to engage Southeast and Central Kentucky students in service learning and literacy programs. In 2006, ECU was awarded an AmeriCorps grant to establish SERV Corps, an AmeriCorps program to engage students in Southeast and Central Kentucky in drug education and literacy programs. SERV Corps program objectives meet two of the greatest needs of the students of Southeast and Central Kentucky, an area with one of the lowest literacy rates and highest drug abuse rates in Kentucky and the nation.

Shannon Proffitt-Ball



Shannon Proffitt-Ball served in Corbin Independent Schools from 1996-98. Proffitt-Ball says that her two years as an AmeriCorps member generated some of the best experiences of her life. She served as an AmeriCorps member and an area supervisor, and both have helped her grow into the professional woman she is today. Proffitt-Ball served as the Service-Learning Coordinator for the Corbin Independent Schools and as a Regional Supervisor for about 10 school sites.

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Former EKU Members (continued from page 4)

"I owe much of who I am today to the EKU AmeriCorps program," Proffitt-Ball simply stated.

She also commented that AmeriCorps provided her with valuable experience that helped her enter the workforce. In her first professional interview after her AmeriCorps service, her interviewers even commented on her wide range of experience for someone so young, a fact she contributes to her experience as an AmeriCorps member and supervisor.

Proffitt-Ball is now a curriculum coach for the secondary schools in Laurel County, a job she says her AmeriCorps experience helped her secure.

Denva Smith



Denva Smith served in Clay County from 1996-97 at Clay County Middle School, Clay County High School, Burning Springs and Laurel Creek Elementary. The program's focus was service learning connecting community and classroom. Some of Smith's major projects included Foster Grandparents at local nursing home and recruiting community volunteers to read to various classrooms. In 1997-98, Smith became an area supervisor in the AmeriCorps office at EKU.

Smith now works as a district professional development coordinator and district reading coach for the Clay County Board of Education, working district-wide since 2004. Her post-graduate work includes supervision of Instruction and a Reading and Writing Endorsement. Smith was trained extensively as a Reading Recovery teacher to help struggling readers. Recently, through Kentucky Instructional Leadership Network, Smith completed a WIDE World – Teaching for Understanding course from Harvard University.

Barb Pelly

Barb Pelly served from 2004-06 in Casey County. Her service was at Liberty Elementary, but in her second year she also served Phelps Elementary. The program's main focus was tutoring at-risk readers in the primary grades and recruiting guest readers and volunteers for Make A Difference Day and Read Across America.



Pelly says that one of the highlights of her AmeriCorps service was involving her husband, who continued to be involved after her service assignment ended.

"His health battles made him an effective guest speaker talking to students about smoking and lifestyle choices." Pelly said.

Pelly claims that AmeriCorps opened many doors for her. She is currently the project assistant for the 21st Century Community Learning Center at Casey County Middle School. Their mission is to establish a safe learning environment during out-of-school time that involves school, community and families in promoting academic success.

"Through the 21st CCLC grant, we strive to achieve sustainability with partnerships and sponsorship through the Casey County school system, local businesses, public and private support." Pelly explained.

Traci Collins



Traci Collins served Mount Vernon Elementary in Rockcastle County from 2006-08 where she tutored 25 students four times a week in literacy. She also

taught "Too Good for Drugs" curriculum to 200 third- and fourth-grade students and participated in many community projects.

She and Cindy McCullough, the school counselor, established the school's first UNITE Club (Unlawful Narcotics Investigation, Treatment and Education) with 185 members! Collins and McCullough went on to lead the club in winning Regional UNITE Club of the Year and State UNITE Club of the Year Award for outstanding community service.

Collins is currently employed at the Rockcastle Academy for Academic Achievement as a para-professional. She is also currently enrolled in Somerset Community College where she is pursuing a career in elementary education.

Collins said, "I hope to one day return to Mount Vernon Elementary, but this time as a teacher."

Submitted by Nancy Thames, SERV Corps program director

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 2008



Make A Difference Day is one of the most widely observed national days of helping – a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors in which everyone can participate. Created by USA Weekend Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event observed on the fourth Saturday of October. This year, Make A Difference Day falls on Saturday, Oct. 25. The goal of Make A Difference Day is to inspire and encourage local residents to participate in community service projects.

The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service traditionally sponsors a campaign to collect as much

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Every 1 Reads AmeriCorps Program

Program Sponsor: Jefferson County Public Schools
 # of Members: 10 full-time
 Description: Members serve to expand Every 1 Reads (E1R), a community-wide partnership between business,

local government, and Jefferson County Public Schools to address the educational needs of at-risk students through literacy training. Members also recruit and train community volunteers to tutor the at-risk students.

Program Director: Carol Bartlett, Ph.D., (502) 485-3703
carol.bartlett@jefferson.kyschools.us

FRYSC Corps

Program Sponsor: Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services
 # of Members: 25 full-time
 Description: Members, serving under the supervision of Family Resource and Youth Service Center (FRYSC) coordinators, provide reading tutoring for academically at-risk students.

Program Director: Heather Musinski, (502) 564-4986
heather.musinski@ky.gov

Getting Things Done for Kentucky's Homeless

Program Sponsor: Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky
 # of Members: 28 full-time
 Description: Members counsel low-income families/ individuals, assisting them in attaining permanent and/or transitional housing. Members also serve as construction assistants at non-profit agencies, rehabilitating and building housing in low-income communities.

Program Director: Josie Kirker, (502) 223-1834
jkirker@hhck.org

Homeland Security Corps

Program Sponsor: Green River Area Development District
 # of Members: 10 full-time
 Description: Members serve in rapid response agencies to educate individuals in public safety, public health and disaster preparedness issues; train agency-affiliated volunteers; and assist in developing closer collaboration among local response agencies.

Program Director: David Clark, (270) 926-4433
davidclark@gradd.com

Louisville Metro AmeriCorps Program

Program Sponsor: Louisville Metro Community Action Partnership
 # of Members: 12 full-time, 16 part-time
 Description: Members address the health and nutrition, education, and human service needs of families who live in low-income urban communities by building capacity and social capital. Members serve at various community organizations to recruit and support volunteers to expand

the agencies' capacities and enhance agency responses to community needs.

Program Director: Tracey Harper, (502) 574-5777
tracey.harper@louisvilleky.gov

MSU Corps

Program Sponsor: Morehead State University
 # of Members: 30 full-time
 Description: Members provide reading tutoring for the academically at-risk student utilizing the "Great Leaps" reading curriculum; recruit and train community volunteers to be reading tutors; develop and demonstrate skills in tutoring, civic engagement, and volunteer recruitment.

Program Director: Sherrie Bennett, (606) 783-2719
s.bennett@moreheadstate.edu

Senior Connections

Program Sponsor: Green River Area Development District
 # of Members: 20 full-time
 Description: Members seek to improve the quality of life for at-risk low-income elderly by providing in-home assistance with chores, home repairs, home management, caregiver relief, benefit counseling and home safety education.

Members initiate, implement, and participate in senior centered activities; are trained in disaster response and assist in local community projects.

Program Director: David Clark, (270) 926-4433
davidclark@gradd.com

SERV Corps (Service Educators Recruiting Volunteers)

Program Sponsor: Eastern Kentucky University
 # of Members: 30 full-time
 Description: Members provide reading tutoring and drug education for at-risk students. Members also serve as drug education coordinators within their service site schools.

Program Director: Nancy Thames, (859) 622-6556
nancy.thames@eku.edu

The Learning Corps

Program Sponsor: Barren County School District
 # of Members: 47 full-time, 2 part-time
 Description: Through structured reading and math tutoring sessions, members and community volunteers raise reading comprehension and math levels of K-8 students. Members also facilitate the recruitment and training of volunteers to provide additional tutoring for the students.

Program Director: Shannon Bailes, (270) 684-5300
thelearningcorps@bellsouth.net

Prevent. Prepare. Respond.

Program Sponsor: American Red Cross, Louisville Chapter
 # of Members: 9 full-time, 2 part-time
 Description: Members serve in support of the three key components of Disaster Capacity Building: community disaster education, volunteer recruitment and training, and emergency shelter partnership.

Program Director: Loren McCamey, (502) 561-3642
loren.mccamey@louisville-redcross.org

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SUCCESS Corps

Program Sponsor: Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services

of Members: 20 full-time

Description: Members serve the at-risk children of Eastern Kentucky in a proactive manner with the implementation of a research based home visitation model called "Parents as Teachers" and provide support to the family to ensure a higher level of parental involvement in education and a greater level of school readiness.

Program Director: Angela Baldrige, (502) 564-4986
angela.baldrige@ky.gov

UNITE Service Corps

New Program

Program Sponsor: Operation UNITE

of Members: 10 full-time

Description: Members provide math tutoring and drug education for at-risk students. Members also serve as drug education coordinators within their service site schools.

Program Director: Gary Perkins, (606) 330-1416
gperkins@centertech.com

For more information about AmeriCorps, visit our Web site, www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.

Make A Difference Day 2008 (continued from page 5)

canned beef stew, canned goods and other non-perishable food as possible as part of its Make A Difference Day observance. Collected food is donated to food pantries and emergency feeding centers in the communities where the food is collected.

KCCVS is hosting one beef stew/food drive involving our Kentucky AmeriCorps programs and another among CHFS Department for Community Based Services regional offices.

Not only will the winning program and region earn bragging rights for a year, but they will receive the special Make A Difference Day Traveling Award, which remains with the winner for one year and travels to reside with each consecutive winner. If a program or region wins the award three consecutive years, it is theirs to keep. The award will be presented in the spring of 2009 at the annual Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

Last year, for the second consecutive year, The Learning Corps won the challenge among the Kentucky AmeriCorps programs – collecting almost 300,000 ounces! That is more than half of the total collected by all 11 programs and translates into more than 9 tons of food. Also for the second consecutive year, the Two Rivers Service Region collected the most stew, reporting almost 22,000 ounces.

Statewide, Kentuckians collected 508,760 ounces - enough to feed more than 63,500 Kentuckians, beating 2006's total by more than 20,000 servings.

We understand that competition this year should be fierce and are looking forward to seeing how many Kentuckians will be fed. The difficult economic times are really hitting food banks hard and the participation in the food drive will really make a difference.

Results of the food drive competitions will be posted on our Web site, www.volunteerKY.ky.gov, by Nov. 14 and will be reported in our next newsletter.

LEXINGTON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND LAFAYETTE DAY CARE PARTNERSHIP

In July, five students from Lexington Theological Seminary formed a partnership with Lafayette Day Care, a non-profit community childcare program. Three of the facility's rooms were badly in need of new paint, but the day care lacked funds for supplies and labor. A student who was aware of the situation brought it to the attention of Student Connections, a newly formed social justice volunteer organization at the seminary. The group, led by Chaplain TJ Farren, an AmeriCorps*VISTA member serving with KCCVS, and Tracy Siegman, a community ministry intern at Crestwood Christian Church, stepped up to tackle the task. The team included seminary alumni and four students who had remained at the seminary for the summer.

Rev. Brooke Schneitman said, "It is part of the call to serve others, volunteering is the way I make a difference."



So, while more than 35 5- and 6-year-old children were on their one-week summer break, the day care provided the supplies and volunteers provided the labor. It took the team more than 40 hours to paint the rooms, caulk bathroom, clean away clutter and hang curtains and artwork. As an added bonus, the team painted two walls in the common area children can draw on with chalk. Now, when it rains, the children have an extra indoor activity area.

One volunteer, ministry student Bonnie Simerly, said, "This is the type of project that makes a difference, so we had to do it, and then some, to make it extra special."

When the project was completed, Student Connections coordinator Jody Heil said, "The place just looked so sad before we started, but now the kids are excited, because they know someone cared about them." The student group will take on more volunteer projects in the Lexington area throughout the school year.



Kathryn Wilson, a baby-boomer and ministry student, said, "It just makes you feel right inside to give back to the community."

Submitted by TJ Farren, KCCVS AmeriCorps*VISTA

WHAT'S ON OUR CALENDAR?

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY

2008-2009

- Nov. 1** – International Volunteer Managers Day
- Nov. 2** – Daylight Saving Time ends
- Nov. 4** – Presidential Election Day
- Nov. 11** – Veterans Day
- Nov. 22** – National Family Volunteer Day
- Nov. 27** – Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 21** – Winter solstice
- Dec. 22-29** – Hanukkah
- Dec. 25** – Christmas Day
- Dec. 26-Jan. 1** – Kwanzaa
- Dec. 31** – New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1** – New Year's Day
- Jan. 19** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Sign up for our e-mail distribution list today!

Just send an e-mail to kccvs@ky.gov and provide your name, organization (if applicable) and an e-mail address.

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NEXT EDITION:

- Commissioner Spotlight: Bob Jackson
- Program Spotlight: Prevent. Prepare. Respond.
- Make A Difference Day 2008 Results



Kentucky is a place where spirits are free to soar and big dreams can be fulfilled. We relish competition and cherish our champions for their willingness to push beyond conventional boundaries to reach new heights of success.



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