

The Heart Line: Taking the Pulse

Covering Volunteerism and Service Throughout the Commonwealth

July 2009 Edition

Welcome

Welcome to the July edition of the Heart Line newsletter, a publication by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS). So many exciting opportunities in volunteerism and national service are happening this summer, such as President Obama's United We Serve initiative and open AmeriCorps member positions in Kentucky!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any of our community service programs, such as AmeriCorps, the Governor's Volunteer Awards, the Volunteer Insurance Program, or the Volunteer Recognition Program.

The KCCVS has transitioned to an electronic newsletter. To have information delivered directly to your inbox, please sign up for our e-mail distribution list by sending your contact information to kccvs@ky.gov.

United We Serve Initiative



United We Serve
SERVE.GOV

United We Serve is a nationwide service initiative that will help meet growing social needs resulting from the economic downturn. President Obama is asking us to come together to help lay a new foundation for growth.

This initiative aims to both expand the impact of existing organizations by engaging new volunteers in their service and encourage volunteers to develop their own "do-it-yourself" projects with friends, family, and neighbors.

United We Serve is an initial 81 days of service from June 22 to Sept. 11 but will grow into a sustained, collaborative and focused effort to promote service as a way of life for all Americans.

Learn more at the United We Serve Web site at www.serve.gov.

Adapted from the United We Serve Web site.

Open Member Positions for 2009-10 Kentucky AmeriCorps Programs



Starting in **Sept. 2009**, 316 AmeriCorps members will serve in 13 programs across the commonwealth.

There are **open member positions** - contact the program director of the program(s) of your choice for more information.

Go to the KCCVS Web site at www.volunteerKY.ky.gov to learn more about the programs and find program directors' contact information.

2009-10 Kentucky AmeriCorps Programs

A-Team

**New program*

Members are committed to serving middle and high school students of Kentucky in partnership with supportive schools and involved communities to provide tutoring and mentoring assistance to aid in the prevention of student dropouts and support post-secondary education and workforce readiness.

Build Corps

***Formerly called the Getting Things Done for Kentucky's Homeless program*

Members help low-income families/individuals access permanent and/or transitional housing and serve as construction assistants with nonprofit agencies, rehabilitating and building housing in low-income communities.

Every 1 Reads AmeriCorps Program

Members help address the educational needs of at-risk students through literacy training by expanding the Every 1 Reads program, a community-wide partnership among business, local government and Jefferson County Public Schools. Members also recruit and train volunteer tutors.

FRYSC Corps

Members, serving under the supervision of Family Resource and Youth Services Center (FRYSC) coordinators, provide reading tutoring for academically at-risk students.

Homeland Security Corps

Members serve with rapid-response agencies to educate individuals about public safety, public health and disaster preparedness issues; train agency-affiliated volunteers; and assist in developing closer collaboration among local response agencies.

MSU Corps

Members use the Great Leaps reading curriculum to tutor academically at-risk students; recruit and train volunteer tutors; develop and demonstrate tutoring, civic engagement and volunteer recruitment skills.

Offender Reentry Corps

**New program*

Members will serve as advocates and case managers for paroled offenders as they transition back into their home communities.

Prevent. Prepare. Respond.

Members help build disaster response capacity through community disaster education, volunteer recruitment and training and emergency shelter partnerships.

Senior Connections

Members help 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, receive disaster response training and assist in local community projects.

SERV Corps

Members tutor and provide drug education for at-risk students and serve as drug education coordinators for their service site schools.

SUCCESS Corps

Members serve at-risk children statewide using a research-based home visitation model called Parents as Teachers. Members support families and encourage increased school readiness and greater parental involvement in education.

The Learning Corps

Through structured reading and math tutoring sessions, members and community volunteers raise reading comprehension and math levels of K-8 students. Members also help recruit and train volunteers to provide additional tutoring for the students.

UNITE Service Corps

Members tutor and provide drug education to at-risk students and serve as drug education coordinators for their service site schools.

Commissioner Spotlight: Jana Sturm

By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Media and Publications Specialist



Jana Sturm has served on the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service for 10 years. She has served on numerous committees and is a tireless advocate for national service and volunteerism.

"Being a commissioner has opened my eyes to the incredible service of my fellow Kentuckians," Sturm said. "It is such an honor and joy to get to know some of these people and the people they are helping. We are all in this together."

Sturm grew up in the very small Kentucky community of Buffalo. After graduating from LaRue County High School, she went to the University of Kentucky, where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance. Sturm is currently attending Asbury Theological Seminary.

She met her husband of 22 years, David, while she was at UK. After graduation, they moved to his hometown of Frankfort, where they still reside. She works with David at Sturm Insurance Agency as a part-time agent, customer service representative and financial manager.

Sturm and her husband have two children: Amy, a sophomore transferring to the University of Alabama from Eastern Kentucky University, and Ryan, a sophomore at Franklin County High School. She also has two nieces, five nephews, three great nieces and five great nephews.

Her strong faith is the motivator of her passions and actions. Her goal is to live a life devoted to the Lord. She is pursuing the degree in Christian Education at Asbury simply to be better equipped to serve the Lord, not seeking a paid position. Sturm's life philosophy, love your neighbor as yourself, comes directly from the book of Mark in the Bible. She serves as a contemporary worship coordinator and a Sunday School teacher at First United Methodist Church.

Her family, especially her mom, shaped who she is today. Her mom, Alviene Hines, taught her that God and family are first and foremost in our lives, and how to fight for causes you believe in. Sturm's stepfather, Pete Hines, taught her that it is always better to share what you have. She also credits team sports she participated in as a child for teaching her invaluable life lessons.

"Learning how to be graceful under pressure, winning as a team and losing with a smile on your face are just a few of the lessons that I still use now that I'm no longer a player," she explained.

Sturm loves county music, and her favorite movie of all time is "Heaven Can Wait." She loves to read, especially if she can do it lying on the beach. She "attempts" to play golf and tennis and is a huge UK fan. She is passionate about children and strives to give 110 percent. She calls herself a life-long PTA member and a soccer mom. Sturm has served on the Kentucky PTA Board, served as president and held countless other offices of two local PTAs.

The commission admires and appreciates Sturm's passion, enthusiasm and zest for life which is shown so clearly by both her personal and professional accomplishments. Her dedication to the commission and its goals is a blessing.

Kentucky State Service Plan and AmeriCorps Grant Forums

KCCVS is seeking statewide input this summer for the State Service Plan and for 2010-11 AmeriCorps grants.

Participation is needed from nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, local government entities and state agencies.

Public forums are scheduled throughout Kentucky at the following locations:

Lexington: Tuesday, Aug. 18
Somerset: Wednesday, Aug. 19
Louisville: Thursday, Aug. 20
Erlanger: Monday, Aug. 24
Ashland: Wednesday, Aug. 26
Murray: Tuesday, Sept. 1 (CDT)

Sessions are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. EDT unless otherwise noted.

Registration is required. For more information or to register, please contact Melissa Newton by phone at (800) 239-7404 or by e-mail at MelissaC.Newton@ky.gov.

For more information, visit the KCCVS Web site at www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.



"The more you lose yourself in something bigger than yourself, the more energy you will have."

- Norman Vincent Peale, American clergyman and writer (1989-1993)

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