

The Heart Line: Taking the Pulse

Covering Volunteerism and Service Throughout Kentucky

Shannon L. Ramsey, Editor

November 2012 Edition

Welcome

Welcome to the November 2012 edition of the Heart Line newsletter, a publication by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS).

Wow, the holiday season is upon us already! Time has passed quickly at the KCCVS office since we've been busy with exciting events such as a visit from Corporation for National and Community Service CEO Wendy Spencer, Make A Difference Day Food Drives and AmeriCorps Launch events. Learn more about these events and more in this exciting edition of the newsletter.

In This Edition

CNCS CEO Visits Kentucky

Murray State University's Youth and Nonprofit Leadership Program

2012 Make A Difference Day Food Drive Results

2012-13 Kentucky AmeriCorps Regional Launch Events

Covington Mayor Challenges Students to Service Learning Challenge

How to Become Certified in Volunteer Administration

Newsletter Information

We'd love to have an article about your program or organization. Please email [Shannon Ramsey](mailto:Shannon.Ramsey@kccvs.org) to learn more about submitting an article for the newsletter.

Download the print version of this newsletter and past editions on the [KCCVS Newsletter](#) page on our website.

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CNCS CEO Visits Kentucky

By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Executive Assistant



Wendy Spencer addresses the roundtable participants.

Kentucky is known for horses, bourbon, college basketball and coal – just to name a few. Here at the KCCVS, we strive to be recognized nationally as a state that is passionate about volunteerism and national service. We believe we made great strides toward that ambition following a tremendously positive visit from Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) CEO Wendy Spencer.

CNCS is the federal agency that engages Americans in service through programs such as AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. Spencer was unanimously confirmed as CEO by the U.S. Senate in April. Since then, she has been visiting as many states as possible, advocating national service to legislators and community leaders as well as visiting local service sites, members, commissions and events.

The KCCVS was honored to have Spencer spend two full days in Kentucky at the end of October. Her schedule was jam-packed with AmeriCorps, VISTA and Senior Corps site visits; roundtable discussions; and meetings with Governor Steve Beshear, Congressman Hal Rogers and Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary Audrey Tayse Haynes.

The KCCVS hosted a roundtable discussion for Spencer at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky with AmeriCorps program staff and members, commissioners and KCCVS staff. Each one of our 10 Kentucky AmeriCorps programs had the opportunity to tell her about their program and have a member talk personally about their experience.

Continued on page 2



Wendy Spencer with Kentucky AmeriCorps program staff, members and KCCVS staff at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky

compassionate individuals brought together for a common purpose can change the world,” Build Corps Program Director Kelly Dycus said. “I believe that we were able to express that to Ms. Spencer during her time here.”

The Kentucky AmeriCorps programs are highly competitive on the national funding level, even though we are a small state. Our programs are also 100 percent compliant with all federal regulations. The Build-A-Bed project was the national kickoff for AmeriCorps Week in 2010. Our annual Make A Difference Day Food Drive won one of 10 national awards in 2009. Our Governor’s Awards for Volunteerism

ATEAM Program Co-Director Donna Morgan said, “It was very rewarding to be part of a diverse group, and even though we represented different regions of the state and different service areas, we were all speaking with one voice.”

Also in attendance were more than half of the bipartisan, governor-appointed Commissioners who came to the roundtable on a cold, windy and rainy weekday night to show their support of national service in Kentucky.

“Our commissioners are involved, passionate and dedicated,” KCCVS Executive Director Eileen Cackowski said. “They accompany our program officer on site and compliance visits, advocate for programs during funding discussions and educate others about Kentucky AmeriCorps across the Commonwealth in their professional positions.”

During the 2011-12 Kentucky AmeriCorps program year, 411 AmeriCorps members provided 561,750 hours of service to the Commonwealth and its citizens. Those members recruited 14,537 community volunteers who provided 70,995 hours of service to their communities.

“Kentucky AmeriCorps makes real and lasting change in local communities and highlights the fact that a group of

and Service program materials were included in America’s Service Commissions’ best practices in 2009. While we are extremely proud of these and other such accomplishments, our latest triumph was certainly our successful visit with Spencer.

“Kentucky has a solid Commission that is doing exceptional work and making a difference on the ground every day,” Spencer said. “I left the Bluegrass state even more impressed than I had expected from afar.”



Shannon Ramsey with Wendy Spencer

Visit the [KCCVS Facebook page](#) to see photos from the Kentucky AmeriCorps and

Commission Roundtable. Visit the [KCCVS website](#) for more information about Kentucky AmeriCorps, including more [2011-12 Program Accomplishments](#).

Visit the [CNCS website](#) for more information on Wendy Spencer.

Murray State University’s Youth and Nonprofit Leadership Program

“What do you plan to do with your Segal AmeriCorps Education award?”

When considering the answer there is an option that may not be widely known. Murray State University (MSU) offers a Youth and Nonprofit Leadership (YNL) program which could double career opportunities at graduation. According to the school’s website, the YNL program prepares students for leadership roles in youth, human service and other nonprofit organizations.



Program organizers say students in the program develop competencies in areas that include leadership and supervision, program development, marketing, risk management and financial procedures. Individuals looking to further their education and who may be interested in this program can learn more on the [MSU website](#).

2012 Make A Difference Day Food Drive Results

By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Executive Assistant

The 2012 Make A Difference Day Food Drive Competition brought in 66.72 tons of food into Kentucky communities - enough to feed an 8-oz. serving to 266,880 people facing food insecurity.

According to the Kentucky Association of Food Banks last report, Hunger in Kentucky 2010, about 67,300 different people receive emergency food assistance in any given week. Annually, Kentucky food banks are serving an estimated 620,000 different people.

This is why in honor of the annual national day of service, the KCCVS sponsors two food drive competitions -- one involving our Kentucky AmeriCorps programs and another among Cabinet for Health and Family Services' community based service regions. Collected food is donated to food pantries and emergency feeding centers in the communities where the food was collected.

For the first time since the KCCVS initiated the Make A Difference Day Food Drive Competition between the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) regions in 2006, every single region participated, as well as the central office. DCBS employees collected 5.94 tons of food for individuals and families in need. That's enough to feed 23,764 people an 8-oz. serving.



Food collection at the Whitley County DCBS office

The 2012 regional competition winner is the Southern Bluegrass Service Region, who collected 156.28 ounces per employee. This is their first year to win, beating out the past winner for three consecutive years, The Lakes Service Region, who placed third this year. Eastern Mountain Service Region was in second place with 90.74 ounces per employee.



Krista Hatfield, Build Corps member, serving at Matthew 25 AIDS Services in Henderson

“We are very proud of the response from our staff,” said Linda Sanders, Acting Service Region Administrator for Southern Bluegrass. “Many of our offices had friendly competitions, with rewards like gift cards and pizza parties. However, we would not have exceeded the goal we set for ourselves had it not been for the hard work and enthusiasm of Diane Banks, our CQI specialist.”

Seven of the 10 Kentucky AmeriCorps programs participated in this year's competition, all together collecting 60.78 tons of food for their local communities. Their efforts will ensure an 8-oz. serving for 243,115 Kentuckians in need.

For the second year in a row, this year's AmeriCorps competition winner is MSUCorps, who collected 16,759 ounces per member. ATEAM and Build Corps rounded out the top three with equally impressive results: 11,046 and 9,150 ounces per member, respectively.



Toby Durham, ATEAM member, serving at Burnside Elementary in Pulaski County

“We have very energetic and involved members who are very passionate about their communities,” said Mary Claire Williams, MSU Corps program director. “Whatever food was collected went directly to their own community. When you do something local like that, people are going to help.”

The KCCVS thanks everyone who participated in this worthwhile service project. Winners of the competitions will be awarded the traveling Make A Difference Day award, which will be presented to as part of the 2012 Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service ceremony in early summer 2013. The trophy will stay with the winning region and program until the presentation of the following year's winner.

Learn more about Make A Difference Day and see the complete breakdowns by region or program on the [KCCVS website](#). Photos from the 2012 food drives are on the [KCCVS Facebook page](#). Learn more about food insecurity in the commonwealth on the [Kentucky Association of Food Banks' website](#).

2012-13 Kentucky AmeriCorps Regional Launch Events

By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Executive Assistant

Enthusiasm and a positive attitude are important for anyone, but especially for one who has just embarked on a journey of service. This is precisely why the KCCVS secured a speaker to motivate members at the AmeriCorps Launch events. The Kentucky AmeriCorps programs are so diverse in the services they provide, it is nearly impossible to organize a training event that is pertinent for all. Based on the feedback from the two regional events held in mid-October, this shift in focus was a success.

Jimmy Dyer, a science teacher at Caldwell County High School, spoke at both regional events on the power of one and making a difference. Personable, energetic and animated, Dyer captured his diverse audience almost instantly. Using facts, personal accounts, true stories and funny video clips, Dyer emphasized the impact an AmeriCorps member makes in the lives of others.

Rachel Holland, a second-year MSUCorps member, serves as a reading tutor at Cane Ridge Elementary in Paris. "This year's Launch was unique in many ways – from the change from a big city to a state park, to the topics covered," she said. "Mr. Dyer's education experience and passion for what he does really made an impression on me. It reminded me that we all need to be passionate about our service and the people we serve."



Senior Connection members Britton Riley and Derrick Arthur reciting the AmeriCorps pledge

The Western Launch was held at Rough River Dam State Resort Park on Oct. 16, and the Eastern Launch was held at the Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park on Oct. 19. Besides the two sessions with Dyer, members and program staff were led in a reaffirmation of the AmeriCorps pledge of service by KCCVS Commissioners.

"The optimism was contagious," said KCCVS Commission Chairwoman DeAnna Brangers, who addressed participants at the Eastern Launch.

MSUCorps Program Director Mary Claire Williams, agreed, saying "Dyer was a dynamic speaker that energized the staff and members by reminding us that every small act really does make a difference."

During the 2012-13 AmeriCorps program year, which began in September, almost 500 members will serve in one of 10 programs across the commonwealth. Services provided by the current Kentucky programs include combatting homelessness, tutoring at-risk students, assisting elderly, providing drug abuse resistance education, building capacity in nonprofits, empowering survivors of domestic violence, encouraging post-secondary education, teaching civic engagement and recruiting community volunteers.

Not only did the members and staff get inspired from the day's activities, but Dyer himself was also moved. "There was excitement in the air," he said. "These good folks understand the importance of service and are proud that their AmeriCorps commitment allows them to make a difference in the lives of others."

Visit the [KCCVS Facebook page](#) to see photos from the Kentucky AmeriCorps Regional Launch events. Visit the [KCCVS website](#) for more information about Kentucky AmeriCorps.



Evelyn McCarty and Edward Huff, Senior Connections members

*"Helping, fixing and serving represent three different ways of seeing life.
When you help, you see life as weak.
When you fix, you see life as broken.
When you serve, you see life as whole.
Fixing and helping may be the work of the ego,
and service the work of the soul."*

Rachel Naomi Remen

Covington Mayor Challenges Students to Service Learning Challenge

By Tess Hammons, Children Inc.



Mayor Chuck Scheper

Mayor Chuck Scheper has issued a challenge to the students of Covington. He has set a bold goal of 80 percent of the 4,200 Covington students, public and parochial, ages 5 to 18, will complete a service learning project during the 2012-2013 school year. Scheper is the first mayor in the Greater Cincinnati region to issue such a challenge to the students of his city. Beginning in November and each month thereafter through May, the mayor and the Covington city commissioners will honor those students whose service learning projects were chosen by an independent group of Covington citizens for their creativity and impact on the local, regional and international community.

Scheper is issuing this challenge because:

- He wishes to honor the many thoughtful students in Covington who make a difference in their community and their world;
- He wants the many good things done by these students to be more widely known; and
- He believes that sharing the students' stories will encourage other students to share their talents.

Scheper knows that a large number of energized and committed citizens is the key to a vital city. Engaging students energizes a city now -- and later.

Covington Independent Public Schools and the Diocese of Covington are excited to participate in this challenge. They know that students who complete service learning projects are practicing 21st-century skills like analyzing a situation or problem, creating a plan, working with others to successfully execute the plan and reflecting on what they learned during the process. Educators know that service learning is a proven teaching methodology because students retain what they are learning longer if they use it to help someone else. Both the Covington Independent Public Schools and the Diocese of Covington are committed to helping students become adults who will make a difference.

Children, Inc., The Center for Great Neighborhoods and Red Cross will work with the schools of Covington to help the teachers and students develop impactful Service Learning projects. They will provide both an orientation to service learning as well as advanced trainings for teachers and after school staff. They will provide one-on-one support to all teachers that would like help in developing a service learning project. They will provide start-up funding. They will recruit businesses and neighborhood residents to support the students' projects. They will share the exemplary projects with the community through various media outlets. They believe that every school can be great because every school can help every child serve.

Learn more about the challenge on the [Children, Inc. website](#).

How to Become Certified in Volunteer Administration

By Katherine Campbell, Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration

Registration Open for 2013 Professional Credentialing

Individuals seeking to earn the CVA (Certified in Volunteer Administration) credential in 2013 may now register. This unique, international, competency-based program recognizes practitioners with at least three years of experience in the field of volunteer resources management. Originally developed decades ago by the Association for Volunteer Administration, the CVA program is now sponsored by the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration.

Registration for the next cycle will remain open until March 1, 2013. (Register by Dec. 31 and save money with the



special Early Bird discount!) Candidates registering for this cycle will be expected to take the online exam at local sites in May 2013, and will have until December 2013 to complete the written portfolio component. This is a self-study process, requiring no travel or special classes.

To get started, visit the [CCVA website](#) to read testimonials from recent CVAs and print a copy of the 2013 Candidate Handbook and registration form. Specific questions can be directed to CCVA at (804) 794-8689 or via [email](#).