

# The Heart Line: Taking the Pulse

Covering Volunteerism and Service Throughout Kentucky

Shannon L. Ramsey, Editor

July-August 2011 Edition

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## Article Submission

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.

## Newsletter Archives

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our website.



## Welcome

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

Wow, summer sure is flying by! I hope you have had time to relax and have fun. I also hope that you make time to read this month's edition full of Kentucky AmeriCorps information and a new Disabilities Corner article.

Also, 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.

## AmeriCorps Program Spotlight: YouthBuild of Northern Kentucky

By Paul Wilson, YBNKY Case Manager



Picture a house in need of repairs. It has been neglected, often forgotten by the people who were supposed to maintain it, sometimes burdened by a system that can make it difficult to complete the necessary work to bring it to its potential. Now

imagine young people dedicating their time to fix up the house, and by the time they finish the house has become a place where a family can live, a benefit to the community and ready to be part of that community for years to come. What if the house is a metaphor for the young people? During their service of repairing an actual house, they are repairing themselves. The hope is the young people, often neglected and burdened, will complete service ready to support a family and to benefit the community for years to come.

Since 2010, YouthBuild of Northern Kentucky (YBNKY), with the Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission (NKCAC), has been helping young people find the leader within. Using a multi-disciplined approach that integrates education and career skills with leadership development, character growth and community service, YBNKY has helped young

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people who did not graduate high school to obtain their G.E.D. and enroll in college, all while learning necessary career skills.

Nationally, YouthBuild has been in existence for more than 30 years. Currently, there are 273 YouthBuild sites in 45 states as well as the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Locally, YBNKY's participants have worked on seven major projects, including a start-to-finish rehab of a house in Covington in association with Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK), the conversion of the Pendleton County neighborhood center from an office space to housing for parent agency NKCAC and numerous days of service on a local Habitat For Humanity project with their partner The Gap Foundation. Currently, YBNKY is working on their second start-to-finish rehab in association with HONK in Ludlow. YBNKY has also completed weekly community service projects and have helped organizations such as Hamilton County Parks, Covington Code Enforcement, the Newport Independent School district, Covington City Parks and the Vision 2015 Licking River Trail Project.



Studies have shown that the number of stable, supportive, positive adults in a young person's life directly correlates to future economic stability and overall success. YBNKY members are dedicated to filling this role for students. The program also introduces and fosters a positive peer environment to help students thrive. By opening students up to new possibilities, as well as expanding their perspective with trips to museums and cultural events, the students are able to see beyond their neighborhood and into the larger world.

YBNKY members help young people overcome obstacles. They help young people connect to their communities. And members perform rehab work -- literally and metaphorically.

For more information, check out [YBNKY.org](http://YBNKY.org) or find them on [Facebook](#).

## AmeriCorps Program Director Spotlight: Kristine Frech

*By Shannon Ramsey, KCCVS Media and Publications Specialist*



Born and raised in Ohio, Kristine Frech has lived in Cincinnati for the past 10 years. She serves as the YouthBuild Program Manager. YouthBuild of Northern Kentucky (YBNKY) members serve eight counties of Northern Kentucky addressing the unmet educational and economic opportunities of at-risk youth. Members also address the need for affordable housing.

After graduating from Xavier University, Kristine served two years as a Teach For America Corps member, teaching special education in Charlotte, N.C. This experience with a national AmeriCorps program led her to YBNKY, a new AmeriCorps program in Kentucky for the 2010-11 program year.

"I believe the service AmeriCorps provides our country is priceless," Kristine said. "I wanted to be a small part of something big."

Kristine married John Streibich in October 2008, and the couple has two dogs. She is a huge Ohio State football and Xavier basketball fan. To stay active, she enjoys spinning and Zumba classes. Kristine also loves to read and write, and she would love to write a book about her experiences with Teach For America and YouthBuild.

She dreams of traveling the world, and especially Africa, volunteering. Her passion for volunteerism and service translates well in her position at YouthBuild. Kristine believes that being passionate about a program creates a positive, contagious attitude that others will follow.

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“Being an AmeriCorps program director takes a tremendous amount of heart,” Kristine said. “AmeriCorps service provides tools to change lives and communities.”

It fits that her life philosophy is to do what you love and love what you do. She believes she excels at her position because she loves the members, the community and the agency for which she works. She is thankful for the personal and professional growth that comes with the everyday challenges of motivating members to reach their true potential. Kristine credits past students and current members with helping to shape her beliefs and values.

The KCCVS is so grateful for the passion and dedication of AmeriCorps program directors like Kristine.

## 2011-12 Kentucky AmeriCorps Programs

During the 2011-12 program year, which begins in September, Kentucky will benefit from the service of AmeriCorps members serving in one of 11 programs listed below.

- ATEAM
- Build Corps
- Economic Empowerment Corps
- EKV Corps
- FRYSC Corps
- Kentucky Service Corps
- MSUCorps
- REACH Corps
- Senior Connections
- SUCCESS Corps
- UNITE Service Corps



For more information about the 2011-12 Kentucky AmeriCorps programs, please visit the [KCCVS website](#).

## Disabilities Corner: Challenge Award

*By Lanny Taulbee, KCCVS Disabilities Coordinator*

Recently, the KCCVS honored the recipients of the 2010 Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service at a ceremony in Frankfort. The awards program pays tribute to the thousands of hours of volunteer and national service that your neighbors give to improve local communities.

One of the award categories is the Challenge Award. This award “recognizes an individual who has overcome significant personal obstacles in order to engage in volunteer service. These obstacles may include anything from physical and/or mental challenges to significant time constraints.”

Historically, the majority of the nominees for this award have a significant physical and/or mental challenge that qualifies them for consideration. Sometimes, however, nominations are made for individuals with other life challenges who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to volunteering and community service despite obstacles that would have prevented most of us from taking care of our own needs, much less volunteering to help others with theirs.



Such was the case with the 2008 Challenge Award recipient. Mark Neblett of Mount Washington in Bullitt County is passionate about suicide prevention and keeping kids safe on the Internet. Neblett lobbied legislators to pass a law that protects children from cyberbullies and cyberpredators. The final passage of HB 91, the *Bully Bill*, was, in part, due to the public awareness he brought to the issue after the suicide deaths of his 17-year-old daughter, Rachael, and her friend, Kristin.

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In 2009, the winning nominee for the Challenge Award was honored for volunteering an incredible amount of time to his community, even though he has a significant hearing impairment. Jimmy Tincher from Carlisle in Nicholas County volunteered more than 35 hours per week for various programs at Nicholas County High School, his church and the courthouse, along with working 10 hours a week at the local newspaper, The Carlisle Mercury. Tincher has volunteered in his community for more than 25 years – all without transportation, walking to all his volunteer locations without complaint.



There was a tie for the 2010 Challenge Award. Both recipients overcame significant physical limitations to volunteer in their respective communities. Jana Buxton serves her community at a local women’s shelter despite having to deal with issues related to multiple sclerosis. Tom Stokes, who uses a wheelchair due to a spinal cord injury, serves his community by volunteering as head chef for a biannual camp for children with special needs and by reaching out to others with physical disabilities. Both individuals are living proof that despite physical challenges, one can still lead a full and productive life. To learn more about any of the award recipients or about the awards program itself, visit the [KCCVS website](http://www.kccvs.org).

These are only a few examples of the amazing people who have overcome significant personal obstacles and still find ways to engage in volunteer service. If you know of someone who contributes to your community, has overcome a significant personal obstacle -- anything from physical and/or mental challenges to significant time constraints--in order to engage in volunteer service, consider nominating them for the 2011 Governor’s Awards for Volunteerism and Service. The call for nominations will be announced at the end of January 2012. Remember, no matter how extraordinary a person or group’s accomplishments are, someone must complete a nomination form for them to be considered.



So, during the next few months, look around in your community and identify someone you might nominate for an award. It’s a great way to say “thank you” for all they do despite significant personal obstacles. Who knows, someone might even be watching you as you go about volunteering in your community.

## Community Organization Spotlight: Central Kentucky Radio Eye

By James K. Brown, CKRE Studio Manager



Central Kentucky Radio Eye (CKRE) is a nonprofit Radio Reading Service. The service provides the readings of health care news, newspapers, magazines, books and other necessary literature for people who are blind, visually impaired or physically disabled. The service is provided free of charge, and the closed-circuit radio broadcast can be heard 24 hours a day. Listeners tune in on a Sub Carrier Authorization radio, which is loaned to eligible individuals free of charge. The broadcast is also available to local hospitals. The service is set up on the hospital channel or radios are loaned to the hospitals for patients to use. The service is available to people living within a 60-mile radius of Lexington and a 50-mile radius of Louisville. Listen to the broadcast live at [www.radioeye.org](http://www.radioeye.org). If you’re interested in learning more, call CKRE at (859) 422-6390.

*“The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own.”*

~ Benjamin Disraeli



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