



AMERICORPS ST. LOUIS YEAR IN REVIEW

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

SEPT 2017- SEPT 2018



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of AmeriCorps St. Louis,

As we wrapped up our 24th year of National Service, I wanted to take the time to say Thank You.

This year we were very fortunate for multiple reasons, mainly for the community we have at AmeriCorps St. Louis – the Members, staff, alumni, volunteers, supporters, and community, state, and national partners. Each of these groups has brought something special to our program and become a valued part of the AmeriCorps St. Louis family, allowing us to do impactful service in communities both near and far.

Every year offers new perspective as we embrace the identity of the corps Members and the varied experiences and opportunities that shape the year. As we continue our journey to create lasting impact, develop the next generation, and support our community partnerships, we appreciate each of you in the way you have contributed to this program. Our greatest resource has, and always will be, each other.

Whether you are near or far, we appreciate your support in every facet of our organization and hope you see the impact of your engagement in the strength of our community. We look forward to your continued support as we embark on our next year of National Service.



**In Service,
Bruce Bailey
Executive Director**





HISTORY OF AMERICORPS ST. LOUIS

AmeriCorps St. Louis began as a pilot program for the Corporation for National and Community Service in the summer of 1994. With its continued success, AmeriCorps St. Louis is one of only a handful of national service programs to be consistently federally funded since its inception in 1994.

At the conclusion of our 24th year of operation, we reflect on over 3 millions hours of National Service that AmeriCorps St. Louis has provided in the areas of early childhood education, neighborhood public safety, emergency response, and environmental conservation to the local, state, and national communities across the United States. AmeriCorps St. Louis is committed to making every community they serve better than they found it by focusing their efforts on those who are **least served, last served, or never served.**

OUR MISSION

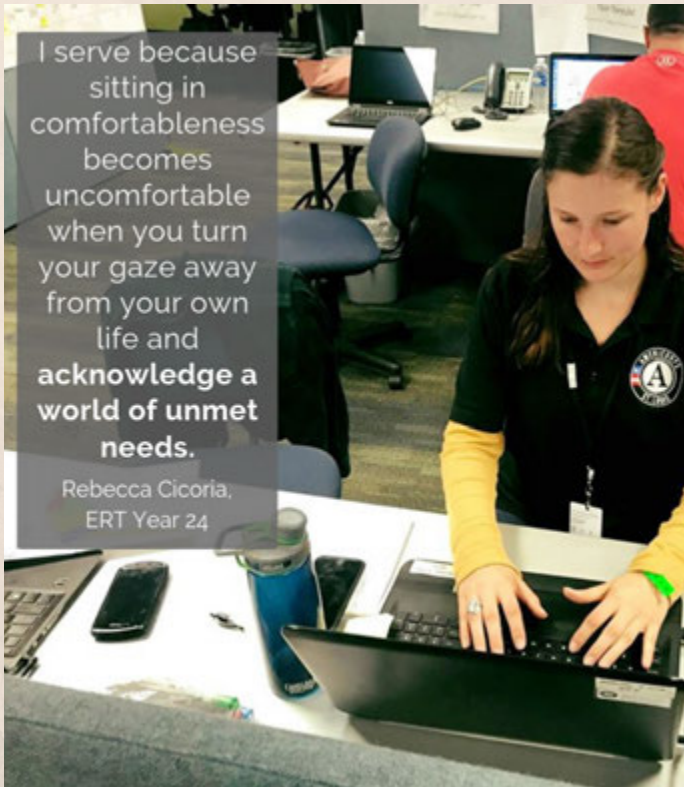
The mission of AmeriCorps St. Louis is to enhance the professional skills and life-long ethic of the young men and women who serve; to respond to critical unmet needs in the areas of emergency response and environmental conservation; to leverage service of volunteers; and to build the capacity of our partnering agencies and communities we serve.



"Through my AmeriCorps service experiences I've been fortunate to live and serve in 4 states, where I've met some of the most incredible people who have become as close as family."

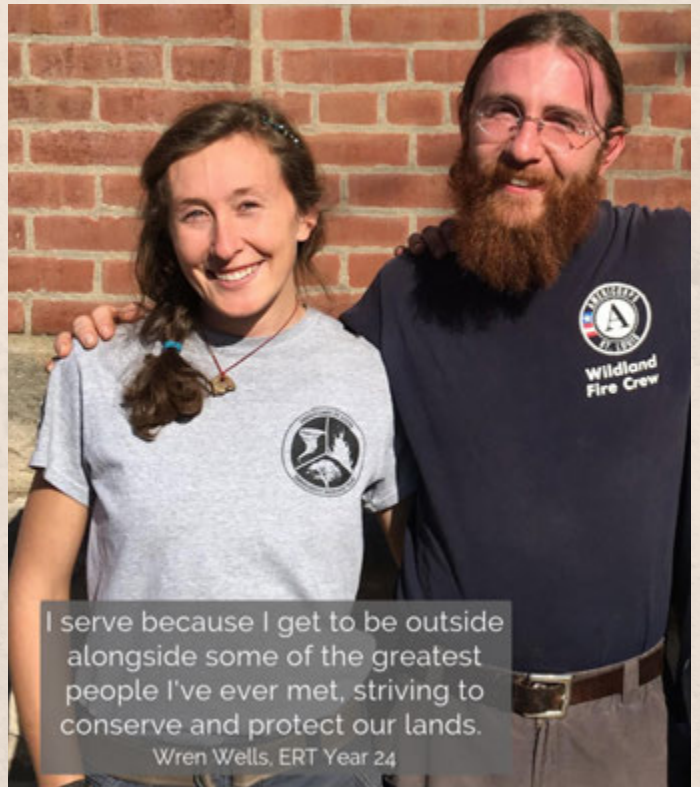
-Dave Cook, ERT Year 24, reflecting on his time spent serving with AmeriCorps

WHY I SERVE



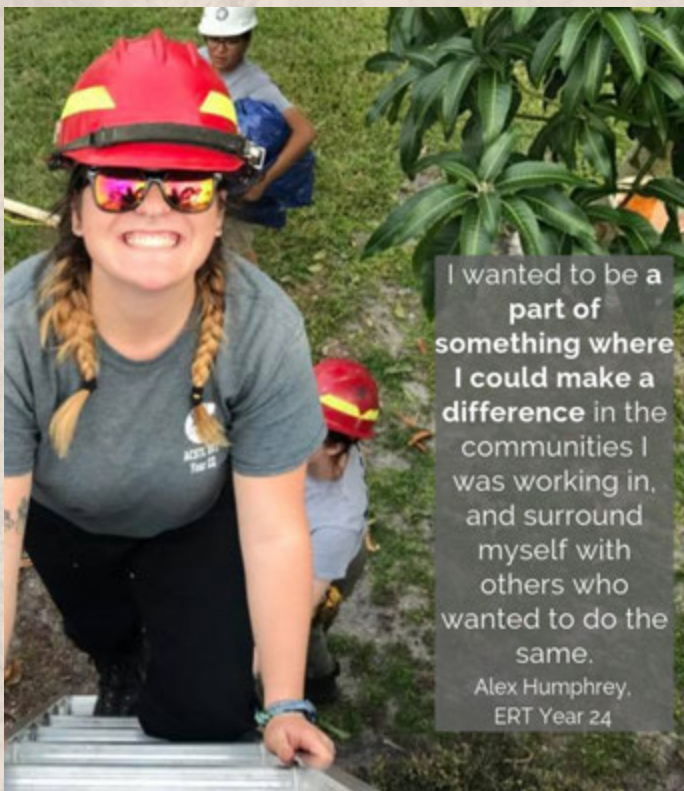
I serve because sitting in comfortableness becomes uncomfortable when you turn your gaze away from your own life and **acknowledge a world of unmet needs.**

Rebecca Cicoria,
ERT Year 24



I serve because I get to be outside alongside some of the greatest people I've ever met, striving to conserve and protect our lands.

Wren Wells, ERT Year 24



I wanted to be a part of something where I could make a **difference** in the communities I was working in, and surround myself with others who wanted to do the same.

Alex Humphrey,
ERT Year 24



I serve to **get things done** for America.

Kim Shonborn, ERT Year 24

OUR SUPPORTERS

Board of Directors

Lindsay Armstrong | Retail Sales Manager of REI

Rebecca Estes | Senior Planner at Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services, and Secretary for Missouri Emergency Managers Association

Dante Gliniecki | Emergency Manager for the City of Independence, Missouri

Ryan Nicholls | Chief Emergency Planner of Washington University School of Medicine

Mike Pickerel | Senior Program Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 7

William Siedhoff | Former Director of Human Services for the City of St. Louis

Angela R. Williams | Institutional Relationship Manager, MOST, Missouri's 529 College Savings Plan

Major Donors

Bland Family Foundation, Dula-Kobusch Charitable Trust, Joyce Meyer Ministries, Pettus Foundation, Interco Charitable Trust, Nestle Purina PetCare, Pioneer Forest, LLC (L-A-D Foundation), Triangle Community Foundation

Partners

Nestle Purina Near Southside Coalition, St. Louis Winter Outreach, Missouri Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster, St. Louis Community Organizations Active in Disaster, Corporation for National and Community Service, Missouri Community Service Commission, FEMA, United Way of Greater St. Louis

FINANCIALS

Sept. 2017 - Sept. 2018

Revenue

- CNCS
- Mission Assignments Reimburs.
- Donations
- ERT Project Income
- Other Income

Total Revenue: \$1,567,386

Expenses

Staff

- Personnel
- Benefits
- Subtotal: \$237,528

AmeriCorps Members

- Living Allowance
- Benefits
- Subtotal: \$508,854

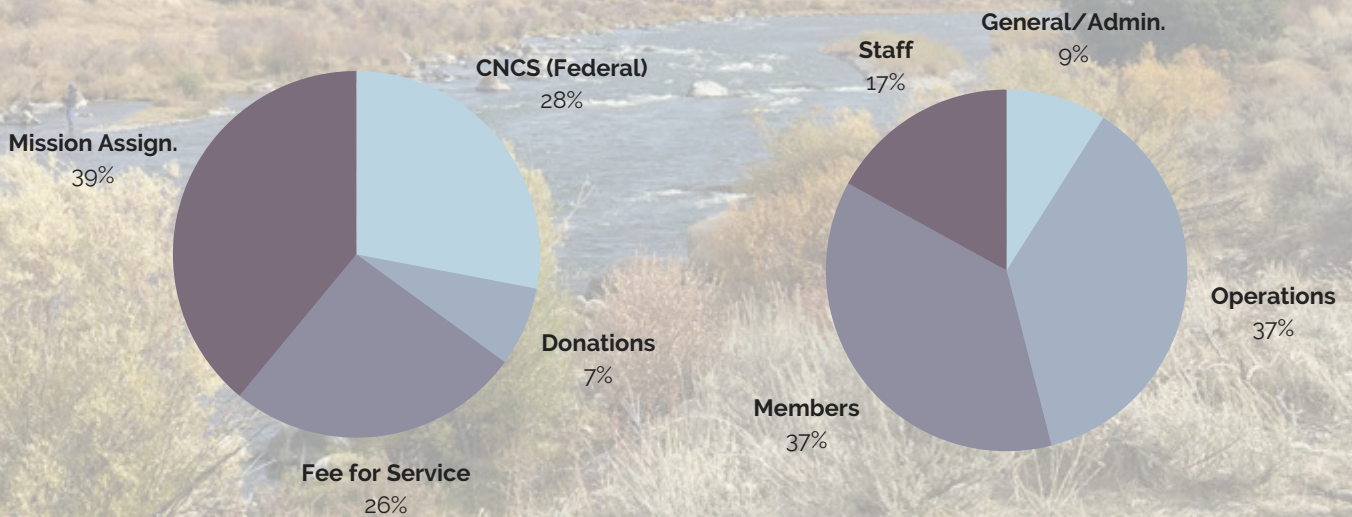
General and Administration

- Facility
- Fundraising & Development
- Audit
- Insurance
- LOC Interest
- Other Admin Expense
- Subtotal: \$99,508

Operations

- Training
- Travel
- Supplies
- Project Food
- Equipment (including repair/maintenance)
- Equipment Lease
- Vehicle Operations/Maintenance
- Communications
- Mission Assignments
- Reimbursable Expense
- Special Project Expense
- Subtotal: \$492,368

Total Expenses: \$1,380,140



Revenue

Expenses

Bruce Bailey, Executive Director



With a degree in Public Administration from Webster University, Bruce has committed over 35 years of his life to working in government and social service, 15 of which were agencies serving youth. He began his career as a congressional aid, then as special assistant to Judge Noah Weinstein at the St. Louis County Juvenile Court. Following that, Bruce served as the Executive Director of two non-profit agencies developing Outdoor Education and Youth Corps programs. In 1994 Bruce directed a pilot program for the Corporation for National and Community Service, and would later serve as the founding Executive Director for AmeriCorps St. Louis. In 2002, Bruce received the Mel Carnahan Service Award for Exemplary Leadership to the Citizens of Missouri. Bruce has served as the Chairperson of Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), and is an advisor to the National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) with expertise in volunteer coordination and donations management.

Amanda Henderson, Director of Operations



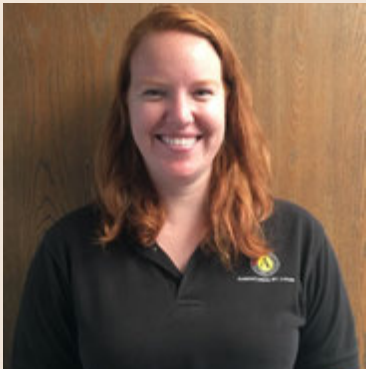
Amanda is a native of Northern Michigan. She has a degree in General Business Administration and Environmental Studies, with a concentration in Policy, from Central Michigan University, as well as the Chancellor's Certificate in Volunteer Management from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Amanda served on the AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team during Year 14, receiving the organization's Compass Award for her service. After her service, Amanda worked for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Gateway Area Chapter as their Volunteer Community Outreach Coordinator, and then as their Finance & Operations Coordinator. Amanda was excited to return to her place of service at AmeriCorps St. Louis in April 2016. While serving with AmeriCorps, Amanda met her now husband, Nick Henderson, who was also a member of the Emergency Response Team. They have one daughter together, Keely, and are expecting their second child, a little boy, in April 2019.

Kenan Ender, Program Director



Originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, Kenan has Bachelor's degrees in Global Studies and Geography from the University of North Carolina. Kenan received the Golden Pulaski Leadership Award for his service with ERT Year 21 and currently serves as the Secretary for the Missouri State VOAD. In his current role as Program Director of AmeriCorps St. Louis, Kenan oversees disaster response deployments and operations, special projects, and trainings.

Kelley Hower, Member Services Director



Kelley originally hails from northern Virginia and moved to St. Louis in 2014. She graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor's in English (Professional Writing) and a minor in Business. After college, she spent a little over a year working for the National Turkey Federation in Washington, D.C., on their marketing team. She then took a huge leap and quit her job to travel with a couple friends to Southeast Asia. She promptly caught the travel bug and spent the next year and a half in New Zealand and Europe. Upon returning to northern Virginia, she worked for Old Navy and 3A Sanitary Standards, Inc, before discovering AmeriCorps St. Louis and joining the Emergency Response Team for Year 21. The ERT go-to for all things Member-related, Kelley currently oversees recruitment as well as Member health and well-being.

Fellows

Will Cretinon, Stewardship Coordinator



Endemic from the northeast, Will moved to St. Louis three years ago to join ERT for Year 22. Prior to ERT he worked as an Emergency Medical Technician in Massachusetts where he attended Clark University as a Geography major. As a Fellow this year, Will took on the role of Stewardship Coordinator. Will coordinates all of the conservation projects with our partners, ensures our power equipment is running smoothly, and continuously looks for ways to improve our conservation and firefighting efforts. In his spare time Will tries to spend time outdoors going climbing and hiking and exploring new places. He has a strong passion for firefighting and emergency response and aspires to pursue a career with America's public lands and an advocate for conservation work and outdoor recreation.

Brittany Merriman, Outreach Coordinator



Originally from Collinsville, Illinois, Brittany has dual associates degrees in Arts and Science from Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC). She spent a year volunteering with and then working for the Illinois Green Economy Network and the SWIC Sustainability Office, compiling the first ever Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the college in the college's history. Brittany began her service with ERT during Year 22 and didn't look back! As the Outreach Coordinator for Year 24, Brittany supervises community relationships, grant writing, social media, fundraising, and all things public information. She has also been vital in promoting and improving Member wellness. When not in service, Brittany enjoys hiking, mushroom hunting, and cooking.

**Emergency
Response Team
Year 24**



37 AMERICORPS
MEMBERS

20 DIFFERENT
STATES



"I serve because of the people and communities I am privileged to interact with, for they have shown me things about myself and the world that I could never have understood before."

Heather McSherry, Year 24

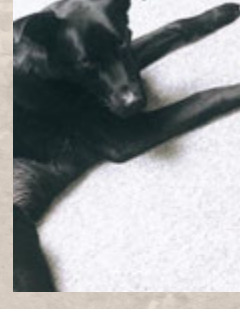
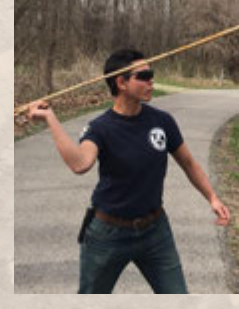
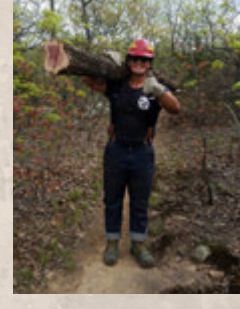
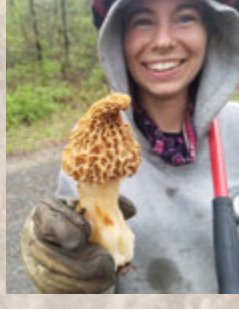
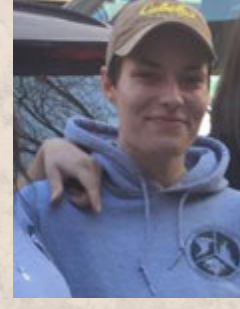
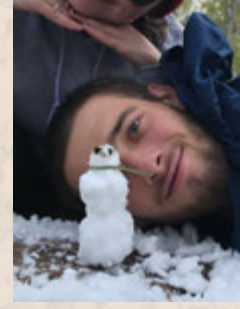
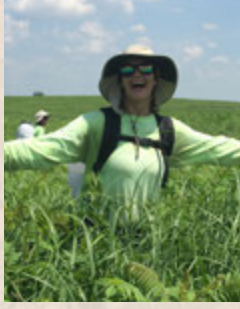
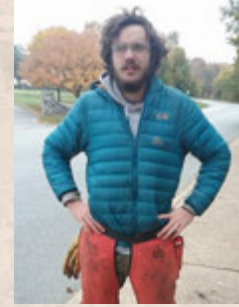
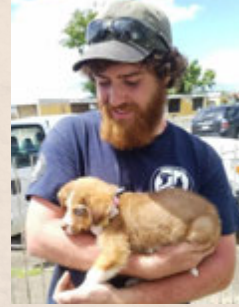
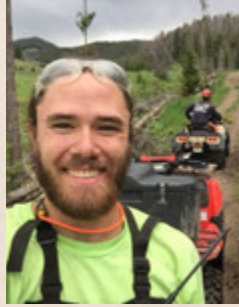
67,903 hours served in the areas of disaster response, environmental stewardship, and wildland firefighting



2nd Year Members



1st Year Members



YEAR 24 EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

DISASTER RESPONSE

Due to the catastrophic hurricane season last year, we were requested to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in Florida and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. We were deployed for extended periods of time, from November through July, including over the holidays.

Florida: November 5, 2017 – March 31, 2018

In Florida, we assisted the FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons in capturing the needs of critical populations and linking them with social services in the local community. We also provided the management team for field crews conducting tree removal, muck and gutting, and roof tarping.



First Year Members Eli Schmit and Frankie DiVito provide concrete roof repair on a home affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico: November 22, 2017 – July 25, 2018

In Puerto Rico, we were fundamental in initiating the VALOR (Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Recovery) program which supported voluntary agencies with federally funded supplies to expedite repairs for survivors to return home. **Throughout the history of the Corporation for National & Community Service, the Hurricane Maria Mission Assignment is the longest federally supported mission for AmeriCorps involvement, and is a tribute to the critical role AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams have played in the response and recovery of communities across the country.**

Malden, Missouri: February 27, 2018 – March 3, 2018

AmeriCorps St. Louis responded to a local tornado in Malden, MO. As the state agency lead for volunteer management, ACSTL developed the Volunteer Reception Center to match volunteers with community needs and supported the Multi-Agency Resource Center for survivor needs.

HONORARY DOCTORATE IN HUMANITIES



Heather McSherry, Jane Kersch, Brenna Thompson, Bruce Bailey, Andy Clubb, and Jason O'Malley, of ERT, receive an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities for their volunteer service and commitment to Puerto Rico's recovery after Hurricane Maria at the Universidad del Sagrado Corazon in Santurce, Puerto Rico.

"...what has amazed me most about this island is the people who call it home. They are some of the kindest people I have ever met. Their spirit is strong. They love their island, and they are all so grateful for the help we are providing."

-Nick Maya, ERT Year 24, in response to the resiliency of the Puerto Rico community after Hurricane Maria

A young woman with a red hard hat and neon green shirt is smiling and sitting in a wooded area. She is wearing a red and black safety harness. A chainsaw is visible in the background. The text '37 MEMBERS DEPLOYED TO 3 DISASTERS DURING YEAR 24' is overlaid on the image.

**37 MEMBERS
DEPLOYED TO
3 DISASTERS
DURING
YEAR 24**

Sarah Prill assists with debris removal at a home hit by Hurricane Irma in Florida.

CONSERVATION

The preservation of our country's natural resources and national parks is an important aspect of our program. We serve throughout Missouri, Illinois, and Montana, engaging in environmental stewardship and recreational projects. These projects include non-native invasive species removal, habitat restoration, wilderness area preservation, and recreational access improvement.

Year 24 Stewardship Partners:

Federal

Mark Twain National Forest
Shawnee National Forest
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

State

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri DNR, Department of Environmental Quality

Non Profit

Forest Park Forever
Great Rivers Greenway
Ozark Trail Association



Second Year Member Abby Hurd (left) and First Year Member Megan Paynton construct a puncheon in the Montana wilderness.

A Snapshot of Our Numbers

- **419** Acres of Invasives Removed/Treated
- **18,242** Acres of Rx Burn Units Burned
- **43** Acres of Timber Stand Improvement
- **529** Miles of Trail Maintained, Improved, or Created
- **6,705** Trees/Hazard Trees Felled



First Year Members Loni Jean Rodrigo and Eli Schmit use a cross-cut saw to clear a downed tree from a wilderness trail in Shawnee National Forest, Illinois.

A man wearing a red hard hat, glasses, a light blue t-shirt with a logo, and black gloves is using a double-bitted axe to clear a large log in a forest. The log is in the foreground, and the background shows a dense forest of trees with some autumn-colored leaves. The text "529 MILES OF TRAIL MAINTAINED, IMPROVED, OR CREATED" is overlaid on the image in white and yellow font.

529 MILES OF TRAIL
MAINTAINED,
IMPROVED, OR
CREATED

Matthew Norman clearing trail in
a wilderness area of Shawnee
National Forest, Il..

WILDLAND FIRE

From late February through April, Members must remain fire ready at all times for fire season.

ACSTL supported state partners with prescribed burning and wildland firefighting across state parks, conservation areas and national forests.

The Forest Service burned just over **30,000** acres across the Mark Twain National Forest this fire season, and ACSTL assisted on over **10,000** of those acres.



First Year Member Collin Wilson fights back flames to control a burn with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources



Fellow Will Cretinon and first year Member Matt Farrington assist on a burn with the Missouri DNR at Hawn State Park

A Snapshot of Our Numbers

- **18,242** Acres of Rx Burn Units Burned
- **3** Wildfires Totaling **1,035** Acres
- **623** Burn Piles Constructed, **211** Burn Piles Burned



18,242 ACRES OF **PRESCRIBED BURNING**

Erica Peterson assists on a prescribed burn with the Illinois DNR.

VISTA

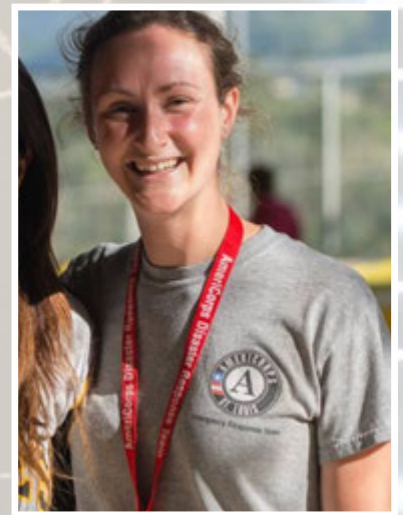
VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) was founded in 1965 as a National Service program to fight poverty in America. For Year 24, three Year 23 Members returned as VISTA Members!



Julian Schriedel
Outreach



Devon Dovgan
Development & Events



Brenna Thompson
Disaster Support

Over the course of their term, the VISTA Members planned another successful Share the Warmth fundraiser for the shelter, recruited 146 volunteers for the shelter, planned Member service days, created and launched a brand new ACSTL website, and attended several recruitment and community events. Overall, they were able to leverage \$5,341 in in-kind donations for the organization. They are vital to the success of AmeriCorps St. Louis!



Brenna spent a large portion of her year leading teams on our Hurricane Maria deployment in Puerto Rico. Here she is with first year Member Jimmy Tyler and Executive Director Bruce Bailey!



Julian (left) representing ACSTL with first year Member Colin Wilson, and second year Member Sam Owens at the St. Louis Earth Day Festival.

SERVICE DAYS

Between January and May of 2018, AmeriCorps St. Louis began an initiative to strengthen our local presence in the community by getting Emergency Response Team and VISTA Members involved in service opportunities with other St. Louis nonprofits.



First Year Member Sol Lew-Raskin with a horse and her foal at Long Meadow Rescue Ranch.

Members served **379** hours at **9** nonprofits throughout the St. Louis area.

Service Day Partners:

Epworth Children & Family Services

Greenwood Cemetery

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

KidSmart

Kingdom House

Long Meadow Rescue Ranch

Operation Food Search

Food Outreach

Ronald McDonald House



First Year Member Stephen Strack prepares meals at Operation Food Search.

By partnering with other nonprofits in the area, Members were able to spend time together serving in different ways from their traditional service, and AmeriCorps St. Louis built stronger partnerships with organizations also making a positive impact around the city.

MY MOTHER'S HOUSE

Our Emergency Winter Warming Shelter

"My Mother's House" Winter Warming Shelter is ingrained in the fabric of AmeriCorps St. Louis.

It was started in 2009 as an emergency mass care shelter operation at the request of the City Department of Human Services. The frigid winter temperatures and the threat of losing lives due to lack of warming areas available to vulnerable populations became a local disaster. Following our motto "see the need, meet the need," ACSTL opened its doors to those needing a warm place to stay and established "My Mother's House" Warming Shelter.

We named it "My Mother's House" so if folks were asked where they spent the night, they could honestly answer "at my mother's house" without feeling disenfranchised. We hoped the name would bring awareness to the staggering number of unhoused school children in the city.

From November to March, our emergency shelter provides a warm bed and two hot meals for about 60-70 individuals per night, and is one of the only shelters in the city that accepts men, women and children, and allows families to stay together.

Over time this service has grown to a network of churches and organizations that provide for and support this mission through food preparation, donations, and volunteers on the nights the shelter is open.

We are privileged to be able to provide this service and recognize the importance of this mission to the community of St. Louis citizens that otherwise would have very limited options in emergency weather conditions.

MY MOTHER'S HOUSE

Zipporah "Zippy" Lee, Shelter Coordinator



A native of rural Ohio, Zippy came to St. Louis to pursue their Master's degree at Eden Theological Seminary. They have been involved with St. Louis Winter Outreach since 2014 - first as a general volunteer, but soon after as an outreach facilitator and communications coordinator. While Zippy spends much of their time in church settings, their passion is to work directly with unhoused folks and create programming that answers the basic needs of unhoused folks in the city of St. Louis.

John Pawloski, Shelter Coordinator



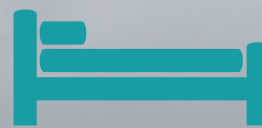
John is an attorney practicing law in Missouri and Illinois since 1991. He heads his own law firm with a downtown office since December 2003. John is a licensed pastor in the State of Illinois through the United Church of Christ and obtained his Masters of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary in May 2018. He has a son Jack who lives and works in St. Louis as well. John's interests are beekeeping and advocacy for the homeless.

Our 2017-2018 Shelter Season Impact:



13

nights open



861

beds provided



140

hours
volunteered



1992

meals
served

"In 2017 AmeriCorps St. Louis assisted Great Rivers Greenway with several ongoing restoration projects and operations activities. The crew was vital in helping us achieve our project goals. They provided timely and professional service and each crew had an eye for detail. Great Rivers Greenway works with many regional partners. Having an AmeriCorps St. Louis team available to assist some of our lower capacity partners with some of their project work helps elevate the region as a whole."

Tom Schweiss, Great Rivers Greenway (ERT Alum)



"What a wonderful and committed group of young adults. Their work ethic was truly amazing. They recognized that I was not at my best and told me to go sit down and to let them do their thing. The poor working conditions did not deter them one bit. I can only imagine what they could have accomplished had the weather been ideal. We love the energy and passion AmeriCorps always brings. Many thanks to everyone for really giving me a boost in our restoration efforts."

Raphael Morris, Greenwood Cemetery (Service Day partner)



THANK YOU, KATHLEEN!

After 25 years of dedicated service to AmeriCorps St. Louis, our wonderful Program Director M. Kathleen Becherer retired this year. Kathleen and Bruce founded AmeriCorps St. Louis in 1994.

Kathleen ran the AmeriCorps St. Louis Education Corps for 18 years, providing tutors and mentors to St. Louis schools to assist with early childhood education efforts for countless underprivileged youth. She also initiated 'My Mother's House' Winter Warming Shelter to provide a safe place to stay and warm meals for those who had no other options.

Over the years, Kathleen went the extra mile to find permanent housing solutions for many of those individuals experiencing homelessness. She is a caring and compassionate advocate for the voiceless, and her heart for serving others has ingrained her in the St. Louis community fabric. After spending all of her life in the St. Louis area, she has moved to Oregon to retire on a homestead tending to her animals. The formerly known Urban Adventure Center at 1309 Ann Ave will be renamed in her honor as **The MKB Center.**



Kathleen, we are forever grateful for your tireless years of services at AmeriCorps St. Louis and wish you all the best in your retirement. Thank You.



Thanks to the Corporation for National and Community Service under AmeriCorps Grants #16VSWMO002 and 15ESHMO0010001. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation or AmeriCorps Program.

Reasonable accommodations available EOA/ADA material available in alternate formats.

Special thanks to our Members who have taken such great photos of their service year!

This report was compiled and designed by Jane Kersch and Brenna Thompson.

