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Massachusetts Service Alliance

December 2011

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December 2011

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MSA Welcomes New Intern: Stephanie Miceli



Stephanie Miceli began interning with MSA this past September where she has been working on enhancing our social media presence and adding valuable content to all of our social networks.

Stephanie is currently a senior Marketing Communication student at Emerson College, and will be graduating in May 2012.

She is the president of Emerson's Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America, and also involved with Alternative Spring Break. After graduation, she plans to use her PR background to help nonprofits and other social ventures magnify their messages.

AmeriCorps in Action in Western MA!

While it has been unseasonably warm of late, a pre-cursor to winter arrived unexpectedly on October 29 with a freak snow storm that dumped over 2 feet of snow, snapped whole trees and limbs, and downed power lines all around the state. For the second time in five months, Western Mass had a natural disaster on their hands and for the second time in five months, MSA was able to help facilitate bringing a team of chainsaw certified AmeriCorps NCCC members to help with the clean-up.



AmeriCorps Cape Cod helps out in Springfield on 9/11

The most recent team arrived on November 19 and will stay a month serving with Springfield College and the City of Springfield helping with the storm recovery process. On September 11, MSA organized a massive clean-up of tornado impacted areas with 300 AmeriCorps members serving alongside community members for a day of service and remembrance.



MSA Hosts Massachusetts 2011 AmeriCorps Opening Day

On November 4th, over 1,200 AmeriCorps members and program staff gathered at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury, MA to kick-off their year long commitment to National Service in Massachusetts. This year alone, over 2,000 AmeriCorps members will dedicate over 2 million hours at more than 90 AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA sites to help address critical needs throughout the Commonwealth. Their efforts will include assistance to the elderly and high-risk youth, early literacy, poverty and homelessness, and environmental preservation.

Feel free to leave a post on our [facebook page](#) to welcome Stephanie to the service community. We are thrilled to have her on board at MSA!

AmeriCorps Service Photo Contest



Have any great pictures of your Corps members in action?

MSA is holding a photo contest for any AmeriCorps State, National, VISTA or NCCC members serving in Massachusetts. Please submit your favorite photos from 2011, or start the search for the perfect photo op in early 2012!

The winner will receive a surprise gift and be featured on the MSA website and our next newsletter!

Please submit your entries by February 10th to Shana Lothrop at slothrop@mass-service.org

MSA is gearing up for another exciting new year of celebrating service and volunteerism across the Commonwealth! Stay tuned for the launch of our statewide campaign in



Mass Promise Fellows

Members arriving in the early hours of the morning were greeted enthusiastically at the door by Tenacity Corps members, paving the way for a high-energy day filled with celebration, networking, and service.

Numerous special guests were in attendance to inspire and celebrate alongside AmeriCorps members including Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, State Director of Senator Kerry's Office Drew O'Brien, and keynote speaker Kevin Andrews, Headmaster of the Neighborhood House Charter School and AmeriCorps Alumnus. John Gomperts, National Director of AmeriCorps, made a special trip to Massachusetts to attend the event, and offered words of support and encouragement for the year ahead.



Boston Teacher Residency Celebrates at Opening Day

Addressing the spirited crowd, MSA CEO Emily Haber reiterated the sentiment of the day stating, "You are part of the solution. You will help us close achievement gaps. You will help advocate and provide support for our neediest children and families. You are needed here and we thank you for choosing to serve in Massachusetts."



MSA Staff with John Gomperts

Once the "Pledge of Service" was recited and morning festivities came to a close, members dispersed across the city of Boston for a busy afternoon of civic engagement activities. Corps members formed lasting bonds while sorting food at the Greater Boston

partnership with volunteer connectors from across the state to **GENERATE** solutions in our communities.

How will YOU volunteer this year? [Tell us on Facebook.](#)

Food Bank, preparing meals at Community Servings, and working side by side in the chilly fall weather removing invasive species from Franklin Park's grounds. Others had the opportunity to strengthen their civic knowledge while touring the Massachusetts State House, the Moakley Court House, and the Museum of African American History.

Check out our [facebook page](#) for more photos of Opening Day!

Volunteer Spotlight:

Patricia Rowell,
[Cape Cod Volunteers](#)



Before retiring with her husband to East Orleans in May 2010, Pat Rowell had a career at Mass General Hospital as Director of Volunteer and Medical Interpreter Services. She loved facilitating and supporting the interests of hundreds of folks who looked to the hospital to volunteer.

In the fall of 2010, Pat attended a Nauset Newcomers Club meeting for people new to the area, anxious to learn how she could use her passion for volunteerism in her new community, and she got connected to Cape Cod Volunteers (CCV) after hearing a presentation at that meeting about CCV's research and work.

Pat has found new fulfillment through her involvement with Cape Cod Volunteers, where she can lend her expertise and join hands with like-minded neighbors to make a difference in the community where she lives. As a Volunteer Consultant at CCV's Opportunity Center in Harwich, Pat draws on her lifetime's work with volunteers to help match people with meaningful volunteer opportunities in the community.

Fall Training Recap

This fall marked yet another eventful training season for the Massachusetts Service Alliance. Partnering with co-sponsoring organizations from across the state, MSA offered four workshops open to all non-profits throughout the Commonwealth. This year over 150 individuals took part in training sessions on the following topics: *Making MLK Day a Day ON for Your Community*, *Building Blocks of HR*, *Evaluation 101: A How to on Measuring Service and Volunteer Impact*, and *Managing Up: Gaining Executive Support for Your Volunteer Program*.

Karin Oliviera, who provided training for *Managing Up* in the midst of New England's first nor'easter of the season, says, "In such trying economic times it is critical to demonstrate that volunteer engagement is a resource that empowers the organization to extend all of its services. To that end, the training used interactive activities to explore concepts of effective volunteer engagement as a way to build the capacity of an organization to meet their mission."

Trainers Saleha Walsh and Bob Robitaille from Insource Services, Inc, commented that they were so pleased to have such an engaged audience, with meaningful participation and questions in *Building Blocks of Human Resources*. Insource offers some quick tips on HR compliance and efficiency:

- Start with the basics - do an audit of your practices
- Build systems as you need them
- Document policies and guidelines, don't reinvent the wheel
- Stay current on compliance requirements and the law
- Mitigate risk - know what you know, get help where you need it.

MSA will be releasing the Spring Training Calendar in mid-March 2012. Please check our [website](#) in the coming months for more details!

**COMMONWEALTH
CORPS
INSPIRE. UNITE. ACT.**

Pat is also a resource for us all with her vast volunteer management experience, and she is grateful that her work with CCV has given her the opportunity to make connections and contribute to her new community.

In August, Pat and fellow CCV volunteer Kathi Sommers piloted a new "Effective Volunteer Management" workshop series for a small group of nonprofit representatives, and the series was then again offered in November to a larger group. Cape Cod Volunteers will offer this two-part training periodically to assist local nonprofits in expanding their capacity by engaging volunteers in their work.

Notice of Funding Opportunities



The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) is pleased to release a Request for Proposals for **National Volunteer Week 2012** projects.

[Click here](#) to download the RFP

MSA seeks to award grants up to \$5,000 to support projects that engage volunteers to meet an identified community need during National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, 2012.

A Successful Pilot Initiative for Summer Commonwealth Corps

This past April, fifteen programs across the Commonwealth were granted funding through the Massachusetts Service Alliance to address the problems of summer learning loss for at-risk middle school students. Organizations partnered with institutes of higher education to support 93 full or part-time members who were able to extend services and foster positive relationships with over 1,745 students throughout the summer. The focus on middle school-aged youth stems from growing research highlighting the correlation of these crucial years to high school graduation and college access and success.

Members kicked off their summer of service at a June 14th Commonwealth Corps event at Fenway Park where they connected with other programs, participated in training and took time to reflect on the months ahead.



Members at the Commonwealth Corps Event in Fenway Park

Members ended the summer providing over 30,000 hours of service. Areas of program focus included mentoring, marine sciences, arts and culture, leadership activities, service learning and academic tutoring. Each of the fifteen programs incorporated the opportunity for the youth to explore and prepare for a future in higher education through field trips and specialized curricula. All of the Summer Corps Members shared responsibility for mentoring and cultivating a positive mindset for the students surrounding college awareness.

Summer Program Coordinator Susana Flug, from the City of Cambridge, observed a significant change in her members and students over the duration of the summer sharing that "through the efforts of our Corps members and our Middle School Network host sites-- middle schoolers had developed increased confidence in themselves, had started to think about college and careers in ways that they had not before."

By the end of the service term, her members were interested in staying involved with the initiative. "It's exciting to see that we have helped spark not only an interest in direct service and on the ground Out-of-School Time (OST) programming but also an interest in the bigger picture systematic thinking about our OST network and city-wide initiatives."

**Massachusetts AmeriCorps
Getting Things Done (In the News)!**

MSA has released a Request for Proposals for its **Volunteer Connector Expansion Initiative**. MSA values the role that Volunteer Connector (VC) organizations play in the development of the state's volunteer infrastructure through nonprofit capacity building and connecting citizens with meaningful, well-managed volunteer opportunities in their communities.

For a copy of the RFP, [click here](#).

Please contact Kristen Nelson at knelson@mass-service.org with questions regarding these two opportunities



The Massachusetts State Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service announces an opportunity, subject to availability of resources, to develop new AmeriCorps*VISTA projects in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This Request for Concept Papers is open to organizations that are NOT current VISTA sponsors.

[Click here](#) to view the full application and instructions

Please share this notice with your networks, and contact the CNCS Massachusetts State Office at MA@cns.gov with any questions.

CAPE COD TIMES Editorial In Service to America November 13, 2011

Meet Eric Boyer of North Wales, Penn., a 24-year-old graduate of Gordon College in Wenham. Boyer is one of about 25 members of AmeriCorps Cape Cod, a federally funded national service movement often referred to as the "Domestic Peace Corps."



AmeriCorps engages Americans of different ages and backgrounds in service to address the most critical needs in our nation's communities. For the past 12 years, AmeriCorps Cape Cod has hosted mostly young people from all across the country to clean out herring runs, remove invasive plants from conservation lands, blaze new trails or clear existing trails, remove debris dumped in conservation lands, and plant beach grasses to prevent erosion.

They work 1,700 hours over 11 months for a small stipend and a chance to live on Cape Cod - a county-owned house in Pocasset and a house owned by the Cape Cod National Seashore in Wellfleet ([click here to read more](#)).

WORCESTER TELEGRAM & GAZETTE AmeriCorps Helps in Conservation Tasks December 2, 2011

ATHOL - When the 20 AmeriCorps land trust volunteers fan out to provide their services to communities, most will find themselves working in forests and fields around the state, but some will find themselves in an inner city working on conservation programs focused on more populated areas.



The Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow AmeriCorps program, or MassLift, extended this year to include Groundwork Lawrence, a community organization focused on making environmental improvements and providing food and youth education programs in Lawrence.

The land initiative program is managed out of the Athol-based Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. It sends volunteers to work in its offices and for the Greater Worcester, Franklin, Kestrel, East Quabbin and North County Land Trusts, the Nashua River Watershed Association, Millers River Watershed Council, Sudbury Valley Trustees, Taunton River Watershed Campaign, Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshires, Greenagers and Wildlands Trust ([click here to read more](#)).

We Want to Hear From YOU!



We would love to feature an article about your program or organization in our next newsletter.

Please contact Lindsay Snyder at lsnyder@mass-service.org for more information.

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MSA Welcomes New Board Members

James Rollins' most recent work has been serving as Director of Management and Fiscal Affairs of the Harvard Medical School Department of Continuing Education, leading financial and administrative support for over 700 continuing education courses each year. Prior to Harvard Medical School, he served as an Assistant Dean and Director of Finance and Administration for the Stanford University School of Medicine, managing the financial and administrative functions for the school's education programs and the office of student affairs. He also served as an officer in the United States Air Force and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2005. Mr. Rollins has served as a board member and hands-on volunteer for several community service organizations in California and Massachusetts. While serving in the military, he founded a volunteer tutoring program that received a Daily Point of Light Award and was subsequently honored in a 1993 White House ceremony with President and Mrs. Bush. He was a Massachusetts Service Alliance board member from 1997 to 1999 and left the board when the Air Force assigned him to the Pentagon.



David Roach has been involved in education for forty years. He has been an English teacher, a counselor in a treatment center for behaviorally disordered adolescents, an assistant principal, principal, and, for seventeen years, a Superintendent of Schools in Massachusetts. Both districts he led were recognized by the Corporation of National and Community Service as Service Learning Leader Districts. Most recently, he served as the Principal of the Nativity School of Worcester. He currently teaches an education policy seminar at the College of the Holy Cross and supervises graduate students in school leadership at Worcester State University. In addition he served as co-chair of the Commonwealth Corps Commission. Since its inception in 2007, the Commonwealth Corps in partnership with local non-profits and the Massachusetts Service Alliance has sponsored over 500 Massachusetts residents in a year of service to their communities. In November 2011, David was appointed by Governor Patrick to the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.



AmeriCorps State Begins a New Year

MSA is excited for the activities and accomplishments that the portfolio of AmeriCorps programs will achieve in the 2011-12 service year. Some of the highlights of this year's

Brendan Coughlin
Fidelity Investments

Sally Fuller
Irene E. & George A. Davis
Foundation

Jill Lacey Griffin
The Boston Foundation

Emily Haber
CEO

Alice Jelin Isenberg

Kimberly Jones
Athena Legal Strategies
Group

Carol Kinsley

Nancy Korman

Kristen McKinnon
MA Department of
Elementary and Secondary
Education

Sherry McClintock
Corporation for National and
Community Service

Anne Messier
Sturdy Memorial Hospital

Curran Raclin
Boston Red Sox

David Roach

James Rollins
Harvard Medical School

Katie Theriault
Student at Northeastern
University

Karen Watkins-Watts
Brockton Public Schools

portfolio include:

- 25 programs operating across Massachusetts
- 2 new programs through the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants and Wheelock College
- Over 1,300 AmeriCorps members engaged in a variety of activities including tutoring, mentoring, youth development, housing rehabilitation, legal services, job skills training, environmental stewardship, disaster preparedness training, health education, physical and mental health care, capacity building, and many more

The entire MSA team is grateful for the hard work and dedication of the staff of these great programs. We look forward to working with all of you to get things done for Massachusetts!

Events

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

MSA is pleased to announce its 2012 MLK Day of Service grant awards. Thirteen organizations were selected representing a wide range of communities from the Berkshires to the Cape. Volunteer with one of our outstanding organizations to "Make it a day ON, not a day off." [Click here](#) to see the great projects taking place across the Commonwealth.

Are you organizing an MLK Day of Service? Promote your project and agency through MSA's FREE volunteer web portal, Connect & Serve. Registration takes just a few minutes and your information will be shared with over 3,000 potential volunteers from across the Commonwealth. [Click here to get started.](#)



Get Connected with the Boston Alums!



Are you a proud AmeriCorps Alumnus? Get connected with the AmeriCorps Alums Boston Chapter in 2012! The Alums provide opportunities for continued service, professional development, and most of all, fun networking events with those with a like-minded love of service.

How to connect:

- Check out the blog to see what Boston Alums have been up to at:



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www.mass-service.org

acalumboston.wordpress.com

- Sign up for the mailing list at <http://bit.ly/u8X93b>
- Get up-to-date info on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

E-mail americorpsalumboston@gmail.com for more information on ways to stay involved in the community and "continue this commitment, this year and beyond!"

[Forward email](#)



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