
Impact of AmeriCorps in Pittsburgh

A Report On The Collective Impact Of Eleven National
Service Programs In 2013



Introduction

This report reflects the collective impact of eleven AmeriCorps programs in Pittsburgh, PA in 2013, including:

- City of Pittsburgh's servePGH
- Pittsburgh Cares' HandsOn Tech
- Pittsburgh Health Corps
- Pennsylvania Campus Compact
- Compass AmeriCorps
- Change A Heart Franciscan Volunteer Program
- KEYS Service Corps
- PULSE (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience)
- Public Allies Pittsburgh
- Jumpstart Pittsburgh
- SCA Green Cities Sustainability Fellows

Together these programs engaged 361 AmeriCorps members in both direct and indirect service in 2013. Through these programs, AmeriCorps members have had a significant impact on Pittsburgh economically and socially.

Summary Statistics for 2013

361 AmeriCorps Members

\$2,161,017

AmeriCorps members' direct economic impact in Pittsburgh

18,885 Volunteers

Volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members

94,007 Hours

Hours of service by AmeriCorps members' recruited volunteers

10,776 Low-Income Residents

Low-income residents received assistance from AmeriCorps members

10,610 Youth

Youth tutored or mentored by AmeriCorps members or by recruited volunteers

172 Organizations

Local Organizations served by AmeriCorps members

Investing in Pittsburgh's Future

- In 2013, **\$85,881** was raised by AmeriCorps programs, including **\$75,610** of monetary donations and **\$3,092** of in-kind donations.
- Volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members devoted nearly **94,007** hours of service, valued at **\$2,081,315¹**, to underserved communities and understaffed nonprofits citywide.
- AmeriCorps members' direct economic impact on the City of Pittsburgh is **\$2,161,017²**.

Assisting Economically Disadvantaged Residents

- **10,776** low-income residents received assistance from AmeriCorps members including job training services, case management, and home repairs.
- Compass AmeriCorps assisted **1,446** refugees and immigrants in adjusting to a new life:
 - **131** were able to find jobs after working with a Compass member
 - **572** refugees and immigrants were assisted in starting English as a Second Language (ESL).

Greening and Cleaning our Neighborhoods

- Nearly **28,904** lbs. (**14.5** tons) of litter were collected by both AmeriCorps members and recruited volunteers, creating cleaner and safer spaces for residents and local businesses.
- Through the SCA Green Cities Sustainability Fellows there has been a reduction of **7,955,535** lbs. of CO₂, also:
 - **1,718,544** gallons of water have been conserved
 - Electricity has been reduced by **16,261,804** kWh
 - **3,743** residents informed on environmental sustainability through workshops or by SCA fellows

¹ Based on Independent's Sector's estimated value of volunteer time for 2012 of \$22.14
<http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time#sthash.tMmrOSjb.dpbs>

² Combined value of donations to AmeriCorps programs and value of volunteer hours

Improving Access to Healthcare

- Pittsburgh's Health Corps members delivered cost-effective medical services to **2,553** low-income residents
- Members engaged **2,066** school aged youth in health education classes
- Enabled **1,101** residents to receive life-saving screenings, tests, and immunizations in community settings
- Health Corps members informed **1,833** uninsured or economically disadvantaged clients on health insurance and over **85%** of clients enrolled in these programs

Educating Youth and Adult Learners

- **10,610** youth were tutored or mentored by AmeriCorps members or volunteers they recruited
- AmeriCorps KEYS reported that **86.8%** of their youth served showed personal improvement and **80.3%** showed an increase in academic performance

Supporting the Nonprofit Community

- **172** area organizations were served by members, including mentoring agencies, community groups, and start-ups
- HandsOn Tech helped over **40** organizations better serve their communities by providing technical assessments and training support, and hosting regularly-scheduled technology workshops that nonprofit staff attend:
 - **327** nonprofit staff members trained on the uses and benefits of sustainable technology
 - **224** nonprofits trained on the uses and benefits of sustainable technology

Promoting Volunteerism

- **18,885** volunteers were recruited by AmeriCorps members

Featured AmeriCorps Programs

servePGH



ServePGH seeks to engage citizens in impacting our City's greatest challenges through eight high-impact service initiatives. ServePGH focuses on securing a brighter future for youths by encouraging mentoring opportunities, and revitalizing Pittsburgh's neighborhoods through community beautification projects. These initiatives have been supported by 4 full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members who have organized volunteers to beautify over 850 City blocks, remove over 64,500 pounds of litter from streets and weatherize and restore 109 homes of veterans, seniors, and disabled residents. It was created in partnership with Cities of Service, a bipartisan coalition of mayors committed to developing a coordinated strategy to utilize impact volunteerism as a significant municipal strategy for addressing local challenges.

KEYS



KEYS (Knowledge to Empower Youths to Success) Service Corps serves at-risk youth by providing safe places with structured activities, assisting with schoolwork, implementing community service projects, and involving volunteers. The organization's mission is to improve youth academic success, lead youth in making lasting community change, and enhance AmeriCorps members' careers.

KEYS AmeriCorps member on the impact AmeriCorps has had on their life:

"Life is not centered just around a paycheck, or the title you have with a degree. It's about what you can do with what you have and how you can inspire others to achieve their full potential. I only have AmeriCorps to thank for this."

HandsOn Tech

The HandsOn Tech program was created in 2011 as a partnership between AmeriCorps VISTA, the Points of Light Foundation and Google. Housed in 9 cities across the country, the goal of the program is to provide nonprofits, especially those focused on alleviating poverty and assisting low-income communities, with pro bono technological assessments, identifying cost-effective and sustainable solutions. To assist in implementing these solutions, local branches recruit skill-based volunteers knowledgeable in technical fields, from marketing to information sciences, to lend their expertise. With their help, HandsOn Tech is creating a sustainable environment of professional volunteerism for years to come.

In addition to individualized tech assistance, HandsOn Tech affiliates hold regular training on the effective uses of various technologies, from website design to documentation suites and everything in between. Since 2011, HandsOn Tech has trained over 7,700 nonprofits on the benefits and applications of sustainable technology from coast to coast.

Will True, HandsOn Tech Pittsburgh AmeriCorps VISTA, on his experience at HandsOn Tech:

"Going out into the community to small nonprofits and showing them the wealth of free technology at their disposal is a rewarding and important experience for both myself and the nonprofit, and gives me hope that in the future, even the smallest organization can make a big and lasting impact."

PULSE



PULSE (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience) cultivates a community of young servant leaders to transform Pittsburgh. PULSE invites talented, university graduates to partner with Pittsburgh nonprofits for a year of service and leadership. Members are trained and equipped through regular personal and professional development opportunities to become the next generation of civic and community leaders in Pittsburgh.

PULSE has developed young adults into local leaders since 1994, promoting continued service and investment in Pittsburgh long after a participant's year of service ends. 90% of the program's participants come from out-of-town, but at the end of the transformative year, 70% stay in Pittsburgh, continuing to invest in and serve the City.

The late Mister Fred Rogers, a former site supervisor, explained,

"It's wonderful that PULSE is giving...college graduates an exposure to a wide range of urban occupations and the opportunity to grow in their ability to work with many different people."



Pittsburgh Health Corps

The Pittsburgh Health Corps increases healthy behavior and access to health services by enhancing the capacity of community and faith-based organizations in Allegheny County. In collaboration with local organizations, members provide a cost-effective means of delivering services to populations struggling with a myriad of poor health, social, mental, and environmental issues.



Public Allies Pittsburgh

At Public Allies Pittsburgh, we believe changing times call for a new kind of leadership. Since 2006, we've worked with hundreds of emerging leaders to impact the Pittsburgh region. Allies are diverse and passionate social changemakers who've worked to build the capacity of hundreds of local nonprofit organizations, demonstrating our conviction that everyone can lead, and that lasting social change results when citizens of all backgrounds step up, take responsibility, and work together.

Our Allies change their lives and our community through a rigorous program that combines full-time apprenticeships in nonprofit organizations with intensive skills training, active community-building projects, personalized coaching, and critical reflection. We provide all of this through a nationally-recognized approach that's rooted in a practice of values.

From a 2014 Ally's Monthly "Snapshot of Success" Reflection:

"[This Fall], we were out with students from Pittsburgh Faison exploring the meadow. The children each get a small paper cup to collect samples. Once they've collected their samples, they bring them back to our "laboratory" and look at them under a microscope to analyze what they see. [During the analysis] one student said to me, "We are like scientists!" to that I responded, "LIKE scientists? - You ARE scientists!". He looked so proud."

PA Campus Compact (PACC)

PA Campus Compact (PACC) is non-profit organization that supports institutions of higher education in civic and community engagement initiatives. In the 2012-2013 program year, PACC's AmeriCorps VISTA program allowed 16 AmeriCorps VISTAs to support anti-poverty, community-based projects across the state.

Jumpstart Pittsburgh



Jumpstart Pittsburgh is the local chapter of a national early education organization working toward the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. Jumpstart delivers a research-based and cost-effective program by training college students and community volunteers to serve preschool-age children in low-income neighborhoods.

Parent praising the Jumpstart program for impact on son's education:

"I must tell you though, as a parent, I can see the impact that your program has made on my son and am confident that each other child you work with has similar experiences.[...] I am confident that Jumpstart is positively contributing to his growth and development into an intelligent boy."

Compass AmeriCorps



Compass AmeriCorps is a program managed by Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council and funded through a grant from PennSERVE, the Governor's Office of Citizen Service, which encourages and supports civic engagement in the Commonwealth.

Compass AmeriCorps places full-time AmeriCorps members in organizations where they have the opportunity to provide wrap-around social services support to refugees and immigrants in the Pittsburgh region. Members serve full-time for 11 months. The mission of Compass AmeriCorps is to help connect immigrants and refugees to available social services, to work with immigrants and refugees to help reduce barriers to service acquisition, and to serve as a connecting force for agencies that provide these services.

Compass AmeriCorps Member discussing their impact in the life of a Haitian immigrant:

"After months of weekly tutoring sessions, this student, a non-native English speaker from Haiti, passed the GED test in April. Having worked in a hospital as a janitor for several years since arriving in the United States, he is now registered at CCAC to begin taking classes in the Pre-Health Professions Program, pursuing his dream of becoming a doctor."

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is the only national organization that develops tomorrow's conservation leaders by providing high school and college students with conservation service opportunities in all 50 states, from urban communities to national parks and forests. Since 1957, SCA's hands-on practice of conservation service has helped to develop new generations of conservation leaders, inspire lifelong stewardship, and save the planet. SCA is a non-profit headquartered in Charlestown, NH and maintains regional offices in Boise, ID, Oakland, CA, Pittsburgh, PA, Seattle, WA, and Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.thesca.org

SCA's Green Cities Sustainability Fellowship places young professionals with hands-on projects that forward environmental health, human health, and economic health in the Pittsburgh region. Our Fellows serve with local governments, businesses, non-profits, and educational institutions; 2014 marks the seventh year of our team's service in Pittsburgh.



Change A Heart Franciscan Volunteer Program

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis
of the Neumann Communities

Change A Heart is the only Catholic 12-month service program in Pittsburgh where young adults live simply with one another and reflect regularly while serving a vulnerable population in the areas of health, education and other human services. We do this by providing tools, resources and support to empower members as they further grow in their faith and skills so as to be faithful leaders in all relationships – at home, in the church, workplace and the world.

Justine Duquette, 2012-13 member and 2014 staff member:

"Change A Heart helped me be a better communicator, both in my personal and professional life. I am more willing to put forth ideas even if they aren't received well; and if they are, having the opportunity to follow through to see the impact, especially if just one person was helped as a result."