

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Annual Report of the
Maine Commission for
Community Service

2006 Citizen *Service*





Volunteers

The Fabric of Our Community

Citizens who actively engage in volunteer efforts make up the fabric of any great community. They keep our neighborhoods safe, mentor our children, muck out basements after floods, provide essential services to the needy, comfort the elderly and much more.

The Maine Commission for Community Service was established in 1994. Its mission is to foster community service and volunteerism to meet the human and environmental needs of the State of Maine. For more than a decade, this twenty-six member board has guided and protected the most valuable asset our state has to offer: *Community*.

In 2005, the Commission continued its work with the VolunteerMaine partnership, promoting volunteer opportunities at www.volunteermaine.org and supporting emergency preparedness/response by local volunteer programs. We wrapped up the 2003-2006 grants for six of Maine's AmeriCorps programs and completed funding for the next round of three year AmeriCorps grants. For the third year in a row, we coordinated Operation KeepMeWarm, connecting over 1,300 volunteers with over 1,500 low income senior citizens and families. As mandated by our legislative statute, we developed our three year strategic plan outlining the direction for future

work of the Commission to support the needs of Maine's volunteer sector.

We are pleased to serve as a leader, convenor and resource for volunteerism in the state. In this annual report, you will learn more about our work. We hope that it will inspire you to be more active in your own community.

Volunteerism changes the way we live, work, play, and learn, and we are proud to play a leading role in that capacity.

Regards,

Paula Gagnon
MCCS Board Chair and
Dean of Student Affairs, York County Community College

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word,
a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring,
all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Dr. Felice Leonardo Buscaglia

The Challenge of the Call

Who We Are

The Maine Commission for Community Service is a 26 member board established to foster community service and volunteerism to meet the human and environmental needs of the State of Maine. Created through an executive order in 1994 and established by state statute in 1995, the Commission strives to sustain vibrant, productive communities with involved, responsible citizens.

Our Statute

"There is established the Maine Commission for Community Service to foster the State's ethic of community service; encourage community service and volunteerism as a means of meeting critical human, environmental, educational and public safety needs throughout the State; serve as the State's liaison regarding national and community service and volunteer activities; foster collaboration among service agencies; receive gifts and grants; implement statewide service programs and make subgrants to state and local entities in accordance with the federal National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, Public Law 108-02."

-5 MRSA Chp. 373, section 7501

Our Board Members

Commission Board Members are appointed by the Governor for three year terms. They reflect a diverse, bipartisan group actively engaged in community service, representing every region of the state.

What We Do

The Commission develops the state vision for volunteer service; cultivates collaboration among public and private volunteer service programs; serves as a clearinghouse for people interested in service and agencies recruiting volunteers; sets Maine's priorities for funding National Service programs; prepares the state application for federal funds; administers subgrants; provides training and technical assistance for National Service programs in Maine; and carries out fundraising efforts to supplement federal funding for volunteer service.

Contact Us

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2005-2006 Commissioners

<i>Paula Gagnon, Chair</i> Kennebunk, YCCC	Carla Ganiel, Bernard Arden Training and Consulting
<i>CarolAnne Dube,</i> <i>Vice Chair</i> Fort Kent, Northern ME Medical Center	Larry Gilbert, Lewiston Maine Community Policing Institute
<i>Judi Stebbins, Secretary</i> Winthrop Griffiths Associates	Ron Holmes, New Sharon Wausau Paper
Susan Cheeseman Concord, NH, CNCS	Kenneth Morse, Norway Healthy Oxford Hills
Peter Crockett, Chelsea AFL-CIO	Brad Ostrow, Bangor High School Student
Caroline Budney, Augusta Maine Alliance for Arts Education	Fred Schlutt, Orono UMaine Cooperative Extension
Greg Dewitt, Litchfield Retired	Al Smith, Bath City of Bath Community Development
Gary Dorman, Bangor Penquis CAP Senior Corps	Sara Stevens, Bangor Congressional Staff Congressman Michaud
Patsy Dunton, Augusta ME Dept. Education Region I Specialist	Gil Ward, Leeds Rural Community Action

Retiring Commissioners

Quenten Clark, Art Cleaves, Gregory Dewitt,
Victoria Scott and Peter Taylor

Commission Staff

Maryalice Crofton, Executive Director
Anne Schink, Program Officer
Kim Goding, Public Relations Representative
Tony VanDenBossche, Grants Management
Donna Bradstreet, Administrative Secretary

In Loving Memory

Walter Rosen, Brunswick
Board Commissioner
2002-2006

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

Our Statutory Duties

According to its enabling statute, the Maine Commission for Community Service is assigned a series of statutory duties which provide guidance for the Commission to meet its goals.

Develop a Three Year Comprehensive National and Community Service Plan.

As required by the legislature, the Commission developed its 2006-2009 Strategic Plan with the objective to better serve Maine's communities while increasing the capacity of volunteerism in the state. Three main goals were identified:

- GOAL 1: Maine citizens will volunteer at rates sufficient to address local human and environmental needs.
- GOAL 2: Maine volunteer programs will achieve the maximum possible impact on community needs through high quality, sustainable service.
- GOAL 3: MCCS will identify resources that either increase capacity in community volunteer programs or engage volunteers in meeting priority community needs.

Serve as a Clearinghouse for People Interested in Service and Assistance with Volunteer Recruitment for Agencies.

MCCS, as part of the VolunteerMaine Partnership, spends a majority of its marketing resources to promote www.VolunteerMaine.org, Maine's statewide database of volunteer opportunities.

- In 2006, website traffic hits an all time high during the month of May with over 14,736 unique visitors to the site.
- On average, over 860 volunteer opportunities statewide are posted by 560 non-profits, civic groups, emergency management personnel and state and local government.

- Over 1,300 volunteers registered through the site for Operation KeepMewarm, a statewide service project aimed at winterizing the homes of low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

- PSA's on WCSH6/WLBZ2 and Clear Channel radio stations statewide promoted volunteerism through the use of www.VolunteerMaine.org

Cultivate Collaboration Amongst Public and Private Volunteer Service Programs.

- *VolunteerMaine Partnership*: The Commission continued to collaborate with the VolunteerMaine Partnership which includes the United Ways of Maine, Maine Emergency Management Agency, VOAD (Volunteers Organized Against Disaster), Maine 2-1-1, and the Institute for Civic Leadership with the Board Network. One of the major accomplishment for the group was an approved grant for an AmeriCorps*VISTA project that will have 10 members statewide working towards creating volunteer centers without walls, expanding the capacity of volunteerism throughout the state.

- *Governor's Office on Energy and Independence*: For the third year in the row, the Commission was the driving force in creating the networks and leadership teams that made Operation KeepMeWarm possible. This year, over 1,257 homes were winterized by more than 1,360 volunteers.

- *University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS)*: The Commission with the guidance of CCIDS, continues to work towards increasing the number of volunteer opportunities for persons with disabilities through education and referral.

Maine at a Glance

This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service released a very important study on the state of volunteerism throughout the nation.* Here are a few significant highlights for Maine:

- Maine ranks as the second highest New England state for volunteerism, just behind Vermont.
- The average volunteerism rate for 2003 to 2005 in Maine was 33.2% which was higher than the 3-year rate for the Northeast overall (26.4%) and the national average of 28.8%.
- Volunteers in Maine give an average of 37,409,680 hours of volunteer service each year. Using Independent Sector's estimate of \$18.04 an hour for the value of a volunteer's time, the annual value of volunteering by Maine residents is approximately \$674,870,622.
- Almost one out of three volunteers in Maine serve primarily through educational or youth service organizations (30.4%).

*From "Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings" by the Corporation for National and Community Service, 2005.



Provide Training and Technical Assistance to Maine's National Service Programs.

MCCS provides ongoing training and technical assistance such as conferences, workshops, support and mentoring to National Service staff as well as Maine's volunteer managers.

- 163 volunteer managers, National Service program directors and AmeriCorps members attended the Blaine House Conference on Volunteerism.
- Monthly staff council meetings were convened for AmeriCorps and VISTA Directors to meet for peer-to-peer training. Ten Program Directors prepared for the CVA volunteer management certification program.
- 50 National Service program staff attended Tri-State, a collaborative three day training between state service commissions in ME, NH and VT.
- Trainings on how to register and use the website www.VolunteerMaine.org was provided to several outlets including conferences, schools and seminars.
- Through the National Senior Service Council, the Commission provided information and staff support to SeniorCorps Program Directors.

Select Programs to be Funded Under AmeriCorps

MCCS and the Corporation for National and Community Service conducted a three year AmeriCorps grant cycle competition in 2006. Corporation funds were granted to the following Maine programs:

- *Community Resource Corps*: 43 CRC members will implement and improve volunteer management at non-profit agencies.
- *Maine Conservation Corps*: 30 Conservation Corps members will coordinate conservation and environmental service projects.
- *Emergency Response Corps*: 20 members will recruit EMT and firefighter volunteers, as well as inform the public about emergency response and disaster preparedness.
- *Downeast Community Health Corps*: 10 AmeriCorps members will link individuals in underserved communities with health centers through referral, education and follow-up programs.
- *Maine Rural Community Health Corps*: 10 Members will serve in rural community-based organizations to assist integrating health care in the areas of mental health, tobacco and substance abuse.



Governor Baldacci addresses attendees at the Hall of Flags ceremony.



Governor Baldacci is joined by Donna Gormley, Irv Marsters, CarolAnne Dube and the 2007 Governor's Service Awards honorees.

**"We're put on this earth not to see through each other
but to see each other through."**

Anonymous

2006

Governor's Service Awards

Every year the Governor of Maine honors citizens whose volunteer work is both significant and an example for others to emulate. Administered by the Maine Commission for Community Service, the awards are an important avenue to recognize Maine's most dedicated volunteers.

The ceremony held at the State House Hall of Flags was MC'd by Irv Marsters of the Maine Volunteer Connection and Donna Gormley, news anchor for WLBZ2. Honorees included:

■ **Volunteer of the Year: Edward Girvin of Islesboro** for volunteering with various local organizations including the Islesboro Affordable Property project, the Second Baptist Church, Habitat for Humanity and the Pine Tree Society where he builds adaptive furniture for children with disabilities in his spare time.

■ **Youth Volunteer of the Year: Peter Christensen of Bangor** for volunteering with the Glenburn Volunteer Fire Department and Dirigo Search and Rescue, and for constructing handicapped accessible picnic tables for an adult daycare service for persons with Alzheimers.

■ **National Service Volunteer: Alfred Brooks of Robbinston** for volunteering 8,300 hours of service over the past 10 years as a Senior Companion with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Albert helps other older adults live independently by doing their shopping, helping them pay bills, completing their paperwork for medical benefits, He also grows his own garden so he can provide his elderly clients with fresh produce.

■ **Outstanding Public Sector Volunteer: Thomas Elliot Jr. of West Bath**, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam war, for donating his time to assist and advocate for veterans and their families. He has volunteered for the past 16 years at the TOGUS veteran's hospital, providing rides to disabled veterans to and from their appointments.

■ **Small Business Volunteerism: Newland Nursery & Florist of Ellsworth** for encouraging their staff to volunteer in the community and provide fundraising assistance to local charities including the community theater and Faith in Action, an organization that offers free services to the elderly and disabled in Hancock County.

■ **Corporate Volunteerism: Hannaford of Gardiner** for their commitment to the Senior Spectrum's Meals on Wheels program where they deliver meals to the elderly twice a week, and for donating over 800 hours of employee time annually and over \$25,000 to local charities.

■ **Outstanding Non-Profit Volunteer Award: Youthlinks of Rockland** for empowering youth to perform meaningful volunteer work that has a positive impact on those they serve. In 2005, 500 Youthlink volunteers donated a total of 6,500 hours of volunteer work.

■ **Outstanding Non-Profit Volunteer Award: United Mid-Coast Charities of Camden** for providing nearly \$3 million dollars to non-profit social service groups in their community and operating solely on volunteer efforts, allowing them to give 100% of their proceeds to their community.

Volunteers who contribute 500 or more hours of documented service to their communities during the course of twelve months are named to the Roll of Honor. They were recognized at a private afternoon ceremony at the Blaine House with First Lady Karen Baldacci. Over 125 people were in attendance. Both events were sponsored by Sam's Club of Augusta and Bangor.

Maine's

National Service



The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) was formed to engage Americans in service to meet community needs. Each year, more than 1.5 million individuals of all ages and backgrounds help communities through a wide array of service opportunities. These include projects in education, environment, public safety, homeland security and other critical areas and are met through the Corporation's three major programs: AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve and Senior Corps.

National Service Overview

Every three years, CNCS holds an AmeriCorps grant competition whereby non-profit organizations that operate a national or regional level program are eligible to apply. In addition, MCCS is allotted federal dollars based on Maine's population to grant state formula fund AmeriCorps programs. CNCS also makes direct grants to agencies that sponsor AmeriCorps*VISTA, Senior Corps and Learn & Serve. Maine's school-based Learn and Serve funds are granted to the Maine Dept. of Education and Kids Consortium. Senior Corps and *VISTA grants are administered through the CNCS regional office in New Hampshire.

6 AmeriCorps Programs Received Grants from 2003-2006
209 AmeriCorps Members Served in Maine During that Time

- Community Resource Corps
- Emergency Response Corps
- Island Institute
- Maine Conservation Corps
- Maine Independence Corps
- Maine Rural Health Corps

The above programs were granted funds for the 2003-2006 grant cycle. An overview of their programs and a list of their accomplishments can be found on Pg. 9.



AmeriCorps often referred to as the "domestic Peace Corps" provides opportunities for Americans to make an ongoing, intensive commitment to service to meet critical community needs. AmeriCorps has three divisions: AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps*VISTA and AmeriCorps NCCC. (Pg. 9)

Senior Corps offers a network of programs that tap the rich experience, skills and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges. Senior Corps is comprised of three main programs: Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions and RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). (Pg. 12)

Learn and Serve provides grants to schools, higher education institutes and community-based organizations that engage students, their teachers and others in service to meet community needs. (Pg. 13)

175
AmeriCorps members
served in Maine during
2005-2006.

2,562
Senior volunteers
participated in
Senior Corps programs.

7,700
Maine students were
engaged by Learn and
Serve programs.

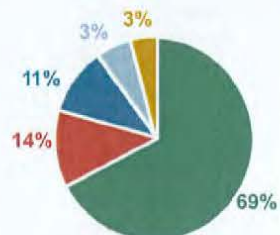
At A Glance

Funding

2003-2006

Federal Funds We Manage 2003-2006

AmeriCorps Grants	\$ 2,106,137
MCCS Administration	422,959
Training/Technical Assistance	323,000
Disability Funds	102,000
Citizen Corps	90,000
Total Budget Expenses	\$ 3,044,096

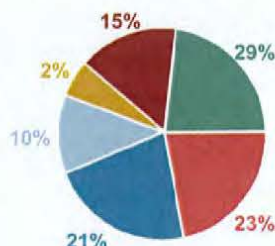


Providing Support to Maine's Volunteer Sector

In Maine, the Commission is responsible for ensuring the success of our state and national service programs. As the state liaison for the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Commission administers AmeriCorps state grants, provides training and technical assistance to national service program directors and volunteer managers, promotes and educates the public on using persons with disabilities as volunteers and continues to work towards creating emergency response volunteer networks (formerly known as Citizen Corps) throughout the state.

AmeriCorps Annual Grant Allocation

Maine Independence Corps	\$ 248,340
Community Resource Corps	200,000
Emergency Response Corps	175,600
Maine Rural Health Corps	128,000
Maine Conservation Corps	87,500
Island Institute (edu. award only)	12,000
Total Funds Granted Annually	\$ 851,440



Administering Grants to AmeriCorps Programs

Every three years the Commission holds an AmeriCorps grant competition whereby non-profit organizations and state and local government agencies are eligible to apply. State competitive funds are awarded to three types of applications: educational award only, planning grants and program operations. From 2003-2006, we funded six AmeriCorps programs (see chart on left). In addition to these six programs, Downeast Rural Health Corps of Lubec was funded directly from the Corporation as an AmeriCorps National Direct from 2003-2006.

Leveraging Higher Education

After completing a term of service, AmeriCorps members receive an education award that can be used to pay off student loans or be applied to future tuition costs. People who serve 1,700 hours in a service year qualify for an educational award of \$4,725 while those who serve part time or less qualify for a pro-rated award. From 2003-2006, Maine AmeriCorps members earned education awards in the amount of:

\$724,223



*Reduced Hal Time = 675 hrs.

\$1.13

Federal AmeriCorps funds require local match through cash or in-kind support from the community.

From 2003-2006, every federal dollar granted to Maine AmeriCorps programs generated \$1.13 in local match.



"We make a living by what we do, but
we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

A Look At Our *AmeriCorps* Programs

From 2003-2006, the Maine Commission for Community Service granted funds to six AmeriCorps programs. The following is a brief description of each program and a list of their accomplishments over the past three years. As you will see, members made a substantive impact on the communities they served while strengthening its volunteer capacity and sustainability.

Community Resource Corps

AmeriCorps members were placed at non-profit organizations, government agencies and schools to develop opportunities for youth to volunteer with community service projects to benefit their communities. The members focused on improving the youth volunteer management systems at their sites.



2003-2006 Accomplishments

- Members recruited 4,249 community volunteers who volunteered 59,196 hours totaling \$1,067,895* in services to Maine citizens.
- 166 youth service projects were coordinated by AmeriCorps members serving 2,058 students. Projects include working with students in community gardens, connecting students with their local historical societies, composting, environmental education and more.

Emergency Response Corps

AmeriCorps members recruited and trained EMT and firefighter volunteers, as well as informed the public about emergency response and disaster preparedness. They also provided direct emergency service to rural communities. Emergency Response Corps was in operation from 2004-2006.



2004-2006 Accomplishments

- Members recruited 173 community volunteers who volunteered 4,355 hours totaling \$78,564* in services to Maine citizens.
- 120 emergency response trainings were provided to 5,678 community members.
- Annually, members participated in Operation KeepMeWarm, recruiting volunteers to winterize the homes of the elderly.
- Members taught CPR and First Aid to childcare providers teachers and other members of the community.

Maine Conservation Corps

AmeriCorps members provided environmental education to communities, assisted with resource protection activities, community outreach and volunteer recruitment. Members focused on minimizing pollution and enhancing environmental protection.



2003-2006 Accomplishments

- Members recruited 7,390 community volunteers who volunteered 26,192 hours totaling \$472,504* in services to Maine citizens.
- 557 environmental awareness presentations were made to 15,822 students.
- 902 water quality activities were performed by members benefiting 2,906,567 people.
- 1,187 environmental training sessions were held benefiting 490,390 citizens.

*Monetary Value at the Independent Sector national rate of \$18.04 per hour.

"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and help them become what they are capable of being."

Goethe



Maine Independence Corps

AmeriCorps members helped senior citizens and persons with disabilities remove barriers that hinder their safety and independence in their homes. They completed home modifications, weatherizations and energy efficiency trainings. Members placed at housing authorities provided information and referral services.



Maine Rural Health Corps

AmeriCorps members served in community based organizations with the primary function of assisting those organizations with integrating primary care with other healthy community and preventative care collaborations. They addressed health care in the areas of mental health, tobacco and substance abuse.



Island Institute

AmeriCorps members were placed in fifteen year-round island communities off the Maine coast to work on local priorities ranging from natural resource mapping, website development, marine resource research, community comprehensive planning, arts and theater education and schools and library assistance.

2003-2006 Accomplishments

- Members recruited 922 community volunteers who volunteered 10,287 hours totaling \$185,577* in services to Maine citizens.
- 1,353 people benefited from home modifications completed by MIC AmeriCorps members.
- Members created 208 new community collaborations that had a direct impact on 10,203 people.
- Members provided energy efficiency information and provided energy efficient services to 7,405 citizens.
- Over 2,900 Maine citizens received information referral from members placed in housing authorities.

2003-2006 Accomplishments

- Members recruited 62 community volunteers who volunteered 1,184 hours totaling \$21,359* in services to Maine citizens.
- 9,543 people benefited from the community outreach services provided by members.
- Members established new community networks that benefited 3,782 people.

2003-2006 Accomplishments

- Members recruited 605 community volunteers who volunteered 8,528 hours totaling \$152,041* in services to Maine citizens.
- 419 new collaborations benefiting the island communities were created by members.
- Members participated in Operation KeepMeWarm, winterizing homes of low-income island residents.
- One member assisted in raising \$2.5 million for a capital campaign to build a community center on Fisher's Island.

*Monetary Value at the Independent Sector national rate of \$18.04 per hour.

"It is a rare and high privilege to be in a position to help people understand the differences that they can make not only in their own lives but in the lives of others by simply giving of themselves."

Helen Boosalis

Discover

AmeriCorps *VISTA

AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) provides full-time members to nonprofit, faith-based and other community organizations, and public agencies to create and expand programs that ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. When VISTA members complete their service, they leave behind lasting solutions to some of our state's toughest problems.

Communities for Children and Youth (C4CY)

A statewide initiative of the Maine Children's Cabinet, C4CY was designed to create a partnership between state government and local communities as they work to promote positive child and youth development. Members worked towards: 1) measurably improving the well-being of children in every Maine community, and 2) increasing educational attainment and achievement levels of all Maine children.

Senior Sense

The UMaine Center on Aging Senior Sense VISTA project focused on developing innovative resources and services for Maine's Seniors. Some of the issues VISTA members worked on include: health access for the uninsured; employment training and placement for older adults, minor home repair and support for independent living; personal financial management and fraud prevention education; and legal support for the elderly.

Maine Campus Compact

Maine Campus Compact is a coalition of 19 college and university presidents committed to the civic purposes of higher education. To support this civic mission, Campus

Compact promotes community service that develops students' citizenship skills and values, encourages partnerships between campuses and communities and assists faculty who seek to integrate community engagement into their classroom.

Maine Time Banks

Maine Time Banks is a statewide branch of the national Time Dollars movement. This revolutionary, grassroots movement connects neighbors and helps bridge the growing disparities in education, economic opportunity and quality of life. Members created and managed Time Dollar exchange networks which allow citizens to earn credits at Time Dollar stores for every hour of service offered.

Independent Transportation Network

The Independent Transportation Network (ITN) is a membership driven, consumer-oriented, non-profit organization that provides seniors and the visually impaired with dignified transportation to destinations of their choice. Their mission is to make life easier and safer by offering door-to-door transportation. VISTA members assisted with the expansion of the "Road to Scholarship" Program.



AmeriCorps Legacy Survey

Since 2003, 246 AmeriCorps members have served the communities of Maine. Upon leaving their year of service, members are asked to complete an AmeriCorps Legacy Survey. This survey gives an overview of the type of people attracted to Maine's AmeriCorps programs.

- Gender: 53% male, 47% female.
- 64% of members are aged 23-30, 14% aged 18-22 and 6% aged 51-60. The median member age is 25 yrs. old.
- 40% of members are college graduates; 34% have some college education.
- 44% of AmeriCorps members who were not originally from Maine planned on staying after their term of service.
- 47% of members used their AmeriCorps education award to further their education while 38% paid off student loans.

Top 5 Reasons Members Serve

1. To help other people/perform a community service (51.2%)
2. To get an education award (35.8%)
3. To explore future job interests (33.7%)
4. To get involved in issues related to health, education, environment, etc. (33.3%)
5. To get a job/earn money (20.7%)

Seniors are one of America's most vital resources. They offer a wealth of experience and energy. Through Senior Corps, nearly 500,000 Americans age 55 and older work to meet a wide range of community challenges through three main programs: Foster Grandparents, Senior Companion Program and RSVP.

Last year 2,562 Maine Senior Corps members completed 636,492 hours of service. The monetary value of that service equates to \$11,482,315.*



Senior Corps

The Experienced Volunteer

Foster Grandparents

Foster Grandparents recruits low-income people age 60 and older to serve children with special needs and their families in schools, daycares, hospitals and homes.

- 259 Senior Corps members provided 195,024 volunteer hours to Maine's 16 counties.
- In 2006, almost 2,500 children and youth with special needs received one-on-one attention and support through Maine's two Foster Grandparents programs.

Senior Companions

Senior Companions relies on volunteers aged 60 and older living on fixed incomes to serve frail older adults to help them remain independent in their homes.

- 129 Senior Corps members provided 96,416 volunteer hours to 15 Maine counties.
- Statewide, 590 older and disabled people received companionship and support for independent living.
- PROP's Senior Companion Program, received its first federal funding (\$113,850) to expand to 25 volunteers.

RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)

RSVP allows more flexibility for seniors to serve. Accepting any Senior over the age of 55 and of any income level. RSVP places these volunteers in traditional work settings where they can donate their services and expertise.

- 2,174 Senior Corps members provided 345,052 volunteer hours to 13 Maine counties.
- RSVP Born to Read volunteers brought the joy of books to 761 pre-school children and facilitated activities to stimulate the development of their literary skills.
- 192,879 nutritious meals were delivered to older people throughout Maine by RSVP volunteers.
- Eleven inmates in Somerset County were tutored by RSVP volunteers through the *Thresholds Program* a five-step decision making model for inmates.
- Aroostook RSVP volunteers refurbished 65 donated computers and placed them with seniors trained on their use.

*Monetary Value based on the Independent Sector National Rate of \$18.04 per hour.

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember.
Involve me and I will learn."

Benjamin Franklin

Benefits of *Learn & Serve*

Last summer, the Corporation for National and Community Service awarded a Learn and Serve America grant to the Maine Department of Education which provides funding to nine schools that are new to Service Learning as well as to three school districts that began Service Learning within the last three years.

Service Learning in Maine follows the award-winning KIDS Consortium model of including academic integrity, student ownership, and apprentice citizenship in all projects. Over the next three years, at least 25,000 students will implement Service Learning projects in their schools, and there will be over 3,600 community partnerships formed.

Research done here in New England*, including in Maine schools, shows the impact that Service Learning has on students:

- 80% of students reported that they were more sure they wanted to graduate high school and complete a college degree.
- 68% reported that they try harder at school.
- 79% believe they can make a difference in their community.
- 80% reported that they are more likely to vote in national elections when they are adults.
- 71% said they learned that it is important for everyone to be concerned about state and local issues.
- 73% reported that they learned to accept responsibility for their actions.
- 84% reported that they are more likely to take action on causes they believe in.

The principles of Service Learning perfectly match Maine's Guiding Principles that each Maine student must leave school as a clear and effective communicator, a self-directed and life-long learner, a creative and practical problem solver, a responsible and involved citizen, a collaborative and quality worker, and an integrative and informed thinker.

*Center for Youth and Communities, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Assessing the Impact of the KIDS Consortium, KIDS Living Democracy, and First Year KIDSCAN Programs: First Year Findings, (Waltham, MA: Brandeis University, December 2005.)

Campus Compact Service in Maine's Colleges

Maine Campus Compact (MCC) is an organization of college and university presidents who explore the relationship between community service and academia. The organization fosters institutional change for civic engagement and supports and promotes faculty and student civic engagement.

In 05-06 thirteen grants were distributed to member campuses to support the development and institutionalization of service learning and campus/community partnerships. Over 2,500 students, 240 faculty, and 480 community partners were involved.

Eight MCC campuses sponsored AmeriCorps*VISTAs to support anti-poverty, service and college access initiatives. These VISTAs mobilized over 1,300 students to provide over 16,000 hours of service to local communities. They also generated over \$37,000 in grants and donations for campus/community partnerships. Fifty Maine college students enrolled in the part-time AmeriCorps program, providing close to 17,000 hours of service to Maine communities and mobilizing over 400 other students to do community service.

The Legislature's Citizenship Education Task Force continued its work this year with Liz McCabe Park of Campus Compact chairing the Subcommittee on Higher Education. The Subcommittee solicited exemplars of good practice from all Maine campuses.

KIDS Consortium

KIDS (Kids Involved Doing Service) Consortium works with teachers, administrators, and community partners to involve K-12 students in addressing community needs.

Since 1992, KIDS has supported over 200,000 K-12 students in service-learning projects, involving thousands of teachers and community partner volunteers.



AMERICORPS*STATE

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AMERICORPS*NATIONAL

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