



SERVE ILLINOIS

Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

Fall 2014

Serve Illinois Celebrates 20th Anniversary of AmeriCorps in State's Capital

President Obama Gives Remarks from Washington, D.C.

The 2014 Illinois National Service Recognition Day was held in Springfield on September 12 with over 750 in attendance. The Illinois National Service Recognition Day is an official way to honor programs and energize members for the upcoming service year. This year's events marked the 20th anniversary of when the first AmeriCorps members were sworn into service. The event took place at the Prairie Capital Convention Center and the Old State Capitol in Springfield.

"The heart of Illinois is the heart of a volunteer," Governor Quinn said. "As AmeriCorps members get ready to begin their year of service throughout Illinois I would like to thank corps members and community organizations for their commitment to public service and all they do for the people of this state. New volunteers will become part of a strong tradition of public service, and join a long line of organizations that provide vital services for those most in-need."

The celebration began with service projects benefiting several Springfield organizations including Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Central Illinois Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois, Central Illinois Blood Center and Northside Children's Library. At 10 a.m. (CST), President Obama lead national service members in the oath of service on a live feed from Washington, D.C.



Abraham Lincoln (Fritz Klein) leads the parade from the Prairie Capital Convention Center to the Old State Capital.



AmeriCorps members from all over the state participated in the AmeriCorps pledge of service.

After lunch and a short program honoring all national service members in attendance and outstanding Illinois AmeriCorps alumni, members participated in a parade from the Prairie Capital Convention Center to the Old State Capitol Complex. Participants were in AmeriCorps and Senior Corps gear and the programs carried banners displaying their program name.

At the Old State Capitol, Past Executive Director of Serve Illinois Brandon Bodor and Fritz Klein, parade marshal and Abraham Lincoln impersonator, lead the members in the oath, proclaiming their commitment to a year of service to Illinois. The Serve Illinois Commission hopes members left the event with a renewed commitment and excitement for their upcoming year of service.

From the Executive Director



One of the things I am most thankful for is my parents. For as long as I can remember, they have instilled the value of service in all that I do. Whether it was leading and volunteering with my Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop, or just having my brothers and me helping our neighbors, my parents believed in giving back. They knew that a community's strength is its people and their willingness to help one another. They gave me the greatest gift: an ethic of service.

Now that I am a father, I realize that it's my duty to continue what my parents started. We all need to work to show our children that they can make a difference. All too often, our children are shown a world where bad things happen to good people. Their friends are lost on the streets or their neighbors don't have enough to eat. It would be easy for them to just give in, to say, "These problems are too big for me to handle." It's the older generation's job to prove them wrong. We must show them that even the youngest person can change someone else's life for the better. Take your family to a food pantry, read to your child's class, or help clean up your local park. Do whatever you can to show the next generation that there really is a silver bullet. Volunteerism is the answer.

My parents showed me that, and it led me to Serve Illinois. For the past eight years I have had the wonderful opportunity to serve you as a staff member, and I am truly honored to be able to continue my service to Illinois as Executive Director. In this capacity, I hope to work with you to strengthen our communities. Illinois volunteers give back \$6.8 billion each year, but only 27% of us volunteer. Imagine an Illinois where we all gave back - where we all change our world for the better.

As Dr. E. Urner Goodman said, "He who serves his fellows is of all his fellows greatest." Let's be great together!

Yours in service,

Scott McFarland
Executive Director, Serve Illinois Commission

From the Chair



Leadership Moment: I've always been a curious person. Always asking questions, "why this and why that?" Early in my career, I asked a successful manager why so much business was conducted on the golf course. His answer surprised me. He said that the key to business is relationship with your partners, your customers and your suppliers. He re-emphasized relationship, relationship, relationship! He indicated to me that legalism, rules and regulations are good and serve their purpose. However, relationship with people is the key to unlocking your business.

I discovered in my own research on this subject some tremendous wisdom by John Maxwell. John Maxwell says "Relationships can fall into one of four categories. Those that add to who we are, those that subtract those that multiply our strengths and those that divide us." In addition, I observe many leaders making the mistakes of asking for support from their followers without connecting with them. The Law of Connection says a leader touches a heart before they ask for a hand.

Good relationships start and end with communication. NFL coach Bill Walsh observed, "Nothing is more effective than sincere, accurate praise, and nothing is more lame than a cookie-cutter compliment." According to John Maxwell, as leaders we must:

1. Communicate with Openness and Sincerity
2. Know Your Audience
3. Live Your Message
4. Go to Where They Are
5. Focus on them, Not Yourself
6. Believe in Them

John concluded by saying "It's one thing to communicate to people because you believe you have something of value to say. It's another to communicate with people because you believe they have value."

Therefore the secret to successful organizations is that we must communicate with people in a way that emphasizes they have value. The stronger the relationship you form with followers, the greater the connection you forge-and the more likely those followers will want to help you and your organization.

Thank you for your service.

Frederick D. Nettles Jr.
Chair, Serve Illinois Commission

Serve Illinois Makes Move to Department of Public Health

Increases Mayoral Support of Volunteer Service through Cities of Service

On Tuesday, July 1, 2014, Governor Quinn signed into law Senate Bill 3443, effectively moving the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Serve Illinois) from the Department of Human Services (IDHS) to the Department of Public Health (IDPH). The agency move, approved unanimously by the General Assembly in the latest legislative season, will allow Serve Illinois to expand the growing corps of national service members serving in Illinois. Serve Illinois will bring more than \$8 million in AmeriCorps funding to IDPH, and will administer 26 AmeriCorps*State programs this year.

Brandon Bodor, Past Executive Director of Serve Illinois said, "AmeriCorps, and national service more broadly, is still in its youthful stages in America. States are the critical playing field that will determine if national service scales, or stumbles, as an integral part of American life. I believe Illinois has a responsibility to lead in this effort toward scaling, and this agency move gives us the ammunition to do just that."



Serve Illinois was welcomed into their new home of IDPH.

Serve Illinois plans to be a leader in the "Year of the Volunteer" (see page 6) by continuing to be a leader in the number of cities committing to service in the nation. Cities of Service aims to create a vibrant network of municipal governments effectively leveraging citizen service as a reliable, viable tool to achieve measurable impact on pressing local challenges. By accelerating the service movement at the most local level—connecting local needs to the supply of willing volunteers in innovative and impactful new ways—Cities of Service aspires to create a new chapter in America's longstanding history of service while making local government more effective.

Through outreach to mayors across the state, service and volunteerism has become a topic of interest for many municipalities. Because of this effort, Illinois now has 47 Cities of Service, making the top state in the nation. 4.2 million Illinoisans, or 33% of residents, live in a City of Service. For a full list of committed cities, please visit www.citiesofservice.org. The Commission hopes to improve upon these numbers while at IDPH and showcase the willingness to serve of many Illinoisans while maintaining the number one ranking for Cities of Service in America.



Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

Serve.Illinois.gov

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- Courtney Abbott, Graduate Public Service Intern
- Jacob Nudelman, Graduate Public Service Intern

9/11 Service Projects

Thursday, September 11, 2014, Illinois Campus Compact rallied 11 VISTAs from various campus sites across the city to participate in a combined Service Learning Project at the Volunteers of America, Hope Manor residence for homeless veterans. They were greeted and welcomed by Mr. Carlton Evans, Director of Outreach, Volunteers of America Illinois and Ms. Ellen Pugilisi, Housing Action of Illinois VISTAs, and given a tour of the building by one of the case managers, who also happened to be a veteran.

They also worked alongside another group of volunteers from Notre Dame Mission Corps. Our initial assignment was to work in the gardens on site; however, there was a big rain storm the night before, so that assignment was modified. However, ILCC did purchase gardening tools in anticipation of the assignment and as well as provided a donated breakfast and lunch for all the volunteers.



Illinois Campus Compact volunteers at Hope Manor I.

Once introductions were done, Campus Compact volunteers were given assignments which were led by a few veterans who resided in the building. We worked inside and outside, actually completing some clean up



Volunteers of Campus Compact participating in 9/11 Day of Service at Hope Manor I.

gardening work. The VISTA volunteers worked alongside the other volunteers and with the veterans. At the end of the day the reflection session was conducted by Ksenia Chernova of Notre Dame Mission Corps, an AmeriCorps

and several of our VISTAs reflected their enjoyment of the day and there was even an expression to get more involved in volunteering and helping out at Hope Manor in the future. The service projects and reflection lasted for approximately 5.0 hours and the work benefited 80 veterans.

Welcome Jacob Nudelman

Jacob Nudelman is a Graduate Public Service Intern at University of Illinois Springfield working on his Masters in Public Administration. Jacob did his undergraduate work in Political Science at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois and is originally from Highland Park, Illinois. Jacob's favorite part of working with the Commission is the relationships he is forming with people from all different walks of life. Jacob is an avid follower of politics and enjoys living in Springfield near all the action. In his future, Jacob hopes to work in the public services sector and help people attain the same opportunities he did.



New GPSI Intern Jacob Nudelman.

Free The Children Wants You!

This fall, two new service-learning programs, We Act and We Day, will be coming to IL schools. Through We Act, teachers are supported with free resources to help students identify causes they are passionate about and take action on those causes through service. Through meaningful civic engagement, students will increase their college and workplace readiness, increase their academic engagement, and determine their own role as a lifelong global citizens.

Students who commit to at least one local and one global action can earn a ticket to We Day, an arena-sized event with 15,000 local youth, celebrities, thought-leaders and fellow students to celebrate their civic engagement and inspire them to make service a life-long habit. We Day is a celebration of service and educational event for students to learn about different causes and realize they are part of a broader movement of over 2 million young people who also want to change the world.

We need volunteers like YOU to make We Day Illinois a success on April 30, 2015! If you would like to get your local school involved, you can email Erica, our Educator Outreach Manager at erica@freethechildren.com for more information on this exciting opportunity

20 for the 20th

As part of the national celebration and recognition of the 20 years of AmeriCorps, individual states sought nominations to recognize former members who have distinguished themselves with their professional careers. This recognition program is called 20 for the 20th.

The Illinois version of the 20 for the 20th was organized, coordinated and selected by the Chicago Area AmeriCorps Alums. During the 2014 Opening day program, these 20 for the 20th award winners of Illinois AmeriCorps Alums who have gone on to make significant contributions to their communities since leaving as an AmeriCorps member were recognized in front of the 880 or so in attendance through a video of each narrated by Chicago Area Alum representative, Caitlin Closer.

These individuals were selected from over 50 some nominations because of their individual contributions to their communities and profession. The following individuals were recognized:

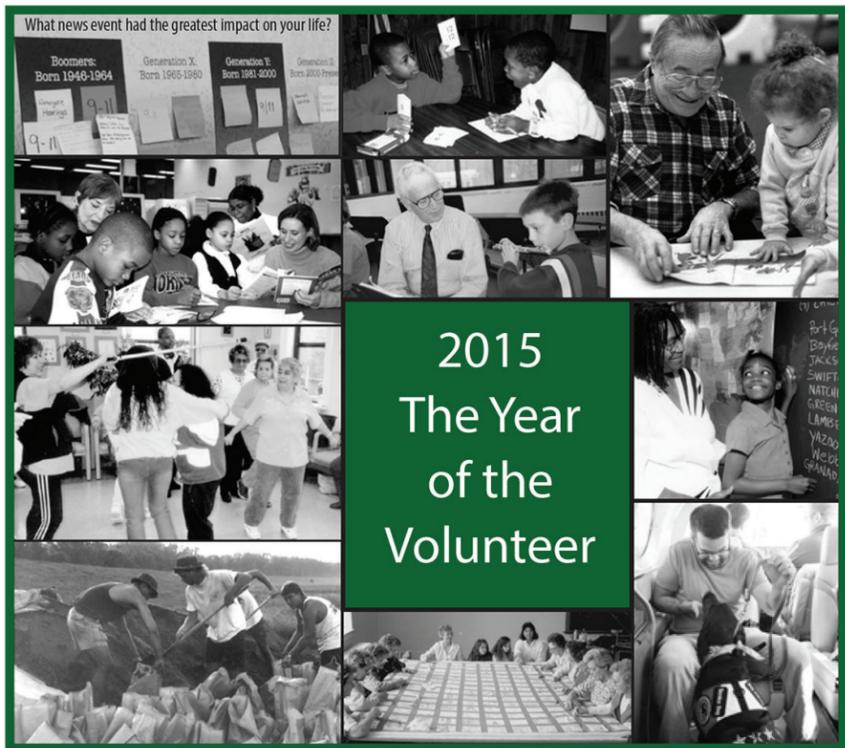
- Alex Niemczewski (Independent Researcher and Starter League Web Developer)
- Amanda Guinn (Serve Illinois Commissioner)
- Benjamin Marcus (Political Campaign Manager)
- Christina Rojas (University of Illinois School of Medicine Student)
- Graciela Guzman (Co-Manager of Outreach and Enrollment at PrimeCare Community Health)
- Jennifer Hopper (Program Director, Illinois Public Health Association)
- Kevin Zickterman (Pro-Bono Training & Engagement Coordinator, Attorney at Law)
- Kim Luz (Director of Community Outreach Services for St. John's Hospital, Springfield, IL)
- Leif Elsmo (Executive Director of Community and External Affairs for The University of Chicago Medicine)
- Lilliane Webb (2011-2012 JumpStart Alum)
- Lindy Smalt (AmeriCorps Recruitment Manager at Teach for America)
- Mark E. Payne (My Brother's Keeper, Open Society Foundation)
- Martin Makowski (Program Director for Safe Families AmeriCorps Program, Regional Support Manager of Individual and Community Preparedness)
- Micaela Moran (JumpStart Site Manager Northwestern University)
- Ona Wang (Study Abroad Program Coordinator, Turkey)
- Rebecca Page (ESL and Language Arts Teacher)
- Primo Lasana (Managing Program Coordinator, iMentor, New York City Public Schools)
- Patrick McLoughlin (BuildAbroad Co-founder)
- Tanya Noronha (Speech Pathologist, Chicago Public Schools)
- Tori Collins (Illinois Campus Compact VISTA Leader)

The program culminated with the announcement and recognition of Illinois' version of the 20 for the 20th. Organized and presented by the Chicago Area AmeriCorps Alums, the 20 for the 20th presented the award winners of Illinois AmeriCorps Alums who have gone on to make significant contributions to their communities since leaving as an AmeriCorps member. Selected from over 50 some nominations their individual contributions were described in a video that also included individual messages from the award winners. Those winners in attendance were later asked to come on stage to accept their award. They were also joined by two national 20 for the 20th award winners who were in attendance. In addition to their recognition on Opening day, the winners were sent a framed certificate from the Serve Illinois Commission to commemorate their achievement. The Serve Illinois Commission salutes all the award winners and the nominees and thanks them for their continued service to others.

Generations Serving Generations
ILLINOIS NGA POLICY ACADEMY ON THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OF OLDER ADULTS

Heads Up! Coming in 2015: The Year of the Volunteer

Let's celebrate and learn more about the accomplishments of volunteers in Illinois!



Senate Resolution Sets Year of the Volunteer for 2015

SR 1002 sets in motion a celebration of the accomplishments of volunteers and the many ways volunteers address the needs of communities, schools, and the workforce. A Senate Forum held in June launched the effort, which was sponsored by sixteen senators. In December, Generations Serving Generations and others who are interested will brainstorm about the ways that volunteerism, service, and civic engagement can make Illinois stronger.

Sponsored by Generations Serving Generations and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation in cooperation with the Illinois Department on Aging, the Serve Illinois Commission, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Senate and over 100 organizations and businesses committed to volunteering, service and civic engagement.

List your organization as a sponsor: Send to GenServeGen@gmail.com

On Dec. 10: Join in the Next Planning Meeting for Year of the Volunteer
Chicago Marriott, 540 N. Michigan Ave. Great America Room, 6th Fl.
10:30- 11:00 Networking 11:00 to 1:00 Group Discussions

Find or Post
a Volunteer
Opportunity
Today!
Visit Serve.Illinois.gov



In addition to the searchable portal of more than 140,000 volunteer opportunities statewide, Serve.Illinois.gov hosts a wide variety of volunteer resources:

- Ability to Post Volunteer Opportunities
- Statewide Volunteer Management Network Conference & Meeting Information
- National Service Program Information (AmeriCorps, Senior Corps & Learn and Serve America)
- Volunteerism Research & Volunteerism Web Links
- Featured Volunteer Stories
- Serve Illinois Calendar of Events

• Training and Professional Development
• **Save the Date**
• **2015 Volunteerism Conferences**

 **Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference:**
June 2015 - Springfield, IL
www.civconference.org

Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration:
August 2015 - Chicago, IL
www.icova.info



 **Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference:**
September 2015 - Belleville, IL
www.sivc.net

Northwest Illinois / MVDOVIA Volunteerism Conference: October 2015 - Moline, IL
www.nwivc.net



Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars for the Martin Luther King Jr. day of Service January 19th, 2015. We at Serve Illinois would like you to send in your ideas for volunteer projects on this day of service. For more information or if you have ideas you would like to share please contact DPH. ServeIllinois@illinois.gov. Remember MLKJR is not a day off from work but a day on for service!



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“Building Stronger Communities Through Service”

UPCOMING DAYS OF SERVICE

January 19, 2015	Martin Luther King Jr. Day http://mlkday.gov	April 17 - 19, 2015	Global Youth Service Day www.ysa.org/global_youth_service_day
TBD 2015	AmeriCorps Week www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/ameri-corps-week	September 11, 2015	National Day of Service www.911day.org
March 31, 2015	Cesar Chavez Day of Service & Learning www.chavezfoundation.org	October 24, 2015	Make a Difference Day http://makeadifferenceday.com
April 12 - 18, 2015	National Volunteer Week www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week		



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Illinois AmeriCorps Disability Outreach Project: Meeting the needs for AmeriCorps Members of all backgrounds and abilities.

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