2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Granted over $6.6 million dollars to support AmeriCorps programs and volunteer programs.
- Awarded over $2 Million dollars in AmeriCorps Education Awards.
- Volunteer West Virginia’s programming reached 52 counties.
- In 2022, for every state dollar invested in Volunteer West Virginia, the state received an additional $36.29 from federal, local, and private sources.
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Welcome

Dear Friends and Partners,

It was an exciting year at Volunteer West Virginia. We returned to in-person events and trainings. It was wonderful to see you at the Governor’s Service Awards, grant review, the AmeriCorps Family Reunion Conference, Grant Writing Training, and site visits across the state. Our staff and Commissioners enjoyed a visit to Arthurdale Heritage where we learned so much about the history of West Virginia and how AmeriCorps members continue to preserve it.

It truly felt like we were planting seeds this year. Thank you for coming out and being a part of our events and welcoming us to your spaces. It meant so much to us to recognize outstanding volunteers from across the state at the Governor’s Service Awards and to see over 200 AmeriCorps members at the AmeriCorps conference networking and taking their service pledge together.

We know that people want to get back out in their communities and volunteer. We are excited to be supporting organizations and volunteers in creating connections for great volunteer service. In 2023 we will be promoting volunteering through our new website that makes it easy to post and find volunteer opportunities. We will be making grants to strengthen volunteer programs, and we will be providing training to sustain these efforts. We will also be supporting new AmeriCorps programs and finding partners to create programs in communities across West Virginia. We are looking forward to seeing the seeds we have planted grow in 2023!

Thank you for being a part of our work and our vision for the future.

Hawley Carlson, Executive Director
WHAT WE DO

- Make it easier for West Virginians to volunteer.
- Provide funding and support to AmeriCorps programs.
- Support and strengthen West Virginia’s nonprofits and volunteer programs.
- Promote emergency preparedness and disaster volunteerism.

Federal Grants to Communities: 43.7%
$7,037,530

Cash Match: 34%
$5,444,182

Education Awards: 14%
$2,244,076

Federal Support Funds: 6%
$921,253

State Lottery Funds: 2%
$374,980

Homeland Security Funds: .3%
$49,000

Total 2022 Funding
$16,121,021
A Message from the Board Chair

Dear Volunteer WV Family and Friends,

After pushing through the COVID pandemic, it is time to move forward with a renewed emphasis on supporting volunteers in our wonderful state. With the support of engaged Commissioners, Volunteer West Virginia staff has planted the seeds that will support the growth of volunteer efforts across the state.

This year we were able to launch the new volunteer opportunity website and a television and radio campaign to encourage people to get back out and volunteer in their communities. We returned to holding the Governor’s Service Awards. It was an honor to host this event. It allowed me the opportunity to meet many awesome volunteers from around the state. We held the AmeriCorps conference in person which was welcomed by the members. The Commission also held an in-person meeting at Arthurdale Heritage in Preston County, which provided historical information on its development and allowed Commissioners to interact with staff and volunteers. These were just a few of the highlights for the year which helped volunteerism grow.

The Volunteer West Virginia Commission would like to extend a “thank you” to the staff for their creativity, leadership, and support in developing volunteer opportunities and programs for the citizens and communities of West Virginia.

Sincerely,

Dwight Coburn, Commission Chair
After the world came to a standstill during COVID-19, the past year brought a wave of new growth at Volunteer West Virginia.

Projects Started In 2022

- Launched our new website, www.volunteer.wv.gov, which makes it quick and easy for West Virginians to find volunteer opportunities.
- Returned to in-person events and trainings after COVID-19.
- Started our Volunteer Management Training, a free training series to support West Virginia’s hardworking volunteer programs.
- The Governor’s Service Awards returned after COVID-19.
- Awarded Volunteer Generation Fund Grants across the state.
- Funded two new AmeriCorps Programs, Flipside AmeriCorps and WV READY.
- Brought our AmeriCorps members back together again for an AmeriCorps Family Reunion themed conference and swearing-in ceremony.
Volunteer Generation Fund Highlights

Board members, staff, and volunteers from the River House in Capon Bridge gather to envision a strong volunteer program. These photos capture the involvement, organization, and fun they had in the process.

Chrissy Hall proudly shows off Appalachian Forest Heritage Area’s newly developed Volunteer Management Handbook.

In 2022, Volunteer West Virginia awarded 8 Volunteer Generation Fund grants totaling $67,704 to support volunteer programs. Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grants are intended to help build or strengthen an organization’s capacity to administer a volunteer program. Grantees used their awards to work with consultants to develop new or strengthen existing volunteer programs, purchase volunteer management software, and produce volunteer manuals.
2022 Volunteer Generation Fund Grantees

Catholic Charities WV used VGF funds to develop a strategic plan for a new volunteer program and to purchase volunteer management software that county offices across the state could use.

Tamarack Foundation hired a consultant to help them develop a new volunteer management and tracking program. Using an asset mapping approach, the consultant documented what was working well in similar organizations and made recommendations.

WVU Extension 4-H Youth Development program used its award to increase the competence of 4-H Extension educators in volunteer management through a series of regional volunteer training events.

Pantry Plus More Inc. used VGF funding to develop formal volunteer policies and procedures. They also developed a volunteer training manual and job descriptions.

Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Panhandle was able to purchase volunteer management software and develop and produce volunteer training manuals.

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area purchased a volunteer management software program and developed a volunteer manual.

Stewards Individual Placements used its award to provide volunteer management and other vital training for its Volunteer Days coordinators.

The River House Arts and Music Community worked with a consultant to use Appreciative Inquiry to develop a strategic plan for using volunteers. Based on the results of this process, they were able to develop a volunteer manual.
AMERICORPS

Each year, more than 900 AmeriCorps State and National members serve throughout the state in programs funded by Volunteer West Virginia. Some of these members serve in their hometowns, while others come from across the country to make West Virginia their home for a year.

Likened to the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps members serve at nonprofits, schools, and public agencies. AmeriCorps members mentor youth, grow local food, restore historic properties, conserve natural habitats, and help make West Virginia wonderful.

Benefits

- Monthly Living Stipend
- Education Award for College or Student Loans
- Tuition Waiver for West Virginia Universities and Colleges
- Health Insurance
- Student Loan Forbearance
- Career Experience

2022 AmeriCorps Programs
2022 AMERICORPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 166,873 healthy meals provided.
- 50,453 children served.
- 9,753 volunteers recruited and managed.
- 2,091 individuals received drug intervention services.
- 961 Veterans and military family members served.
- 640 acres of public lands supported.
- 13 historic properties restored.

AMERICORPS FOCUS AREAS IN WEST VIRGINIA

- Education: 60%
- Community Development: 11%
- Conservation: 6%
- Heritage: 13%
- Health: 4%
- Basic Needs: 10%
This fall, over 200 AmeriCorps State and National members gathered in Charleston for an AmeriCorps Family Reunion themed conference. The two-day event, hosted by Volunteer West Virginia, featured training and family reunion activities. The event concluded with the annual AmeriCorps swearing-in ceremony, where members are sworn into a year of service through the AmeriCorps pledge.

LifeBridge AmeriCorps members and staff enjoying the conference.

Becky Mathis-Stump sharing an inspiring and memorable keynote on the meaning of family.

A Special Thank You
Volunteer West Virginia would like to thank all the presenters, partners, AmeriCorps Member Advisory Team members, and volunteers for helping to make this conference possible.
AmeriCorps members take the following pledge:

I will get things done for America - to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.

As we took our pledge as AmeriCorps service members, I looked around the room and saw so many people with good hearts, great intentions, and hope for a great year of service. My pledge for service included the circle of people at our table, the group of people inside the ballroom, the people outside in the streets of Charleston, the folks in WV needing so much from all of us...and the streams, and rivers, and trees, and animals, and air, and water... I dedicated my pledge to serve all beings here in our amazing state."

- Lisa Gum, High Rocks AmeriCorps Member
This year, the West Virginia Legislature enacted Senate Bill 228 to create the AmeriCorps West Virginia tuition waiver. AmeriCorps members that complete a year of service in West Virginia are now be eligible for up to 8 semesters of tuition waivers for undergraduate or graduate programs at public colleges and universities in the state. Volunteer West Virginia would like to recognize Sarah Riley and her team at High Rocks for working tirelessly over the past several years to make this tuition waiver a reality.

In 2022, Volunteer West Virginia kicked off a statewide campaign to encourage West Virginians to join AmeriCorps. The campaign featured career fair visits, postcards, billboards, and television commercials.
Grow Ohio Valley AmeriCorps members team up for a neighborhood cleanup in East Wheeling.

Ryan Ewing, a LifeBridge AmeriCorps member, serving Thanksgiving meals in Wheeling. Ryan shared, “I can’t think of a better way to spend today than with people I love and with my community.”

Energy Express AmeriCorps members begin their summer of service. Each year, more than 240 college students serve as AmeriCorps members in this program reaching over 6,000 children throughout the state.
Preserve WV AmeriCorps members participate in a window restoration project at Pricketts Fort State Park in Fairmont. Participants received instruction on window anatomy, repair tools, techniques, and the care of historic wooden windows. The group then worked to assess the condition of the Job Prickett House windows and removed those selected for restoration work.

This year, Tygart Valley United Way worked hard to start the Flipside AmeriCorps program. The after-school program serves middle school students in Marion and Taylor County. Every day students receive a hot meal, homework help, opportunities for physical activity, and arts and science activities.

Launched in 2022 by Stewards Individual Placements, the West Virginia Rural Engagement Ambassadors for Development and Youth (WV READY), is a new AmeriCorps program that pairs AmeriCorps members with agencies to assess, develop, and grow West Virginia’s regional outdoor recreation.
West Virginia’s Promise Director Pamela Mellott and Outreach Director Morgan Weister visit AmeriCorps Summer Associate Siarah Armstrong at Mountaineer Food Bank. During their visit they discuss the impact of the Fresh Initiative Kids Market and Summer Feeding Programs across the state.

Congratulations Angela Collier and Mindy Robinson for becoming Program Directors at LifeBridge AmeriCorps. We love seeing how far our AmeriCorps alumni go! They both served four years in LifeBridge AmeriCorps. Angela is now the AmeriCorps Director and Mindy is the Associate Director.

“It is an amazing honor to be able to support and encourage others in a program that I know first-hand can do so much for communities throughout the state. Because of LifeBridge AmeriCorps my life is on a path I would have never crossed if it weren’t for serving.”

- Mindy Robinson

“When the opportunity came to become the Program Director of LifeBridge AmeriCorps, there was no question on moving in that direction. It’s been such an amazing opportunity and absolute blessing to be a part of where my passion for service began.”

- Angelia Collier
DISASTER SERVICES

How We Help

- Support Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).
- Promote disaster preparedness through Ready WV.
- Mobilize AmeriCorps members to help respond to disasters.
- Partner with response agencies to engage volunteers in disaster response and recovery.

Disaster Services Highlights

Volunteer West Virginia was a sponsor and guest speaker at the 2022 West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) conference.

Wetzel County Emergency Management utilizes ReadyWV materials for their public preparedness outreach events.

In honor of National Preparedness Month, Volunteer West Virginia hosted a Get ReadyWV Preparedness Webinar with guest speaker Tim Keaton, West Virginia Emergency Management Division Flood Specialist.
Community Emergency Response Teams

Community Emergency Response (CERT) volunteers support their community with basic disaster response skills such as first aid, search and rescue, and disaster preparedness.

West Virginia CERT Programs

Beckley CERT
Clay County CERT
Dunbar CERT
Hardy County CERT
Mason County CERT
Mercer County CERT
Mid-Ohio Valley Regional CERT (Wood Co.)
Monongalia County Health Department CERT
Pleasants County CERT
Tucker County CERT
Tyler County Search & Rescue
Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Dept. CERT (New)

In 2022 CERT Volunteers

- Invested over 2,000 hours in their communities participating in emergency preparedness trainings, events, outreach, drills, and disaster response.
- Reached 6,252 people, who received emergency preparedness training and educational materials.
- Partnered with the American Red Cross to hold local blood drives.
- Helped at local warming shelters.
- Provided personal hygiene kits to local fire departments for distribution to those impacted by disaster.
In 2022, the West Virginia Emergency Management Division recognized five CERT Programs for their volunteer support at COVID-19 testing locations, vaccination sites, and much more. The programs recognized were: Beckley CERT, Clay County CERT, Hardy County CERT, Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, and Monongalia County Health Department.
Beckley CERT volunteers assemble over 500 preparedness kits for their Spring Preparedness Fair.

Beckley CERT Program’s newest class of trained volunteers.
In 2022, there were 6 recipients of the Governor’s Service Awards the states most prestigious volunteer award. The award honors individuals and groups who make an impact through volunteerism in West Virginia.

This year’s recipients provided critical COVID-19 support by setting up vaccination clinics and blood drives. They helped to make their hometowns shine through community beautification projects, Christmas celebrations, and cared for our state’s beautiful parks and trails. They served as leaders during COVID-19, stepped up to organize service projects, and much more. Visit Volunteer West Virginia’s YouTube Channel to see the stories of this year’s recipients.

2022 RECIPIENTS

Dr. Jerry Carr Jr. and Nicole Wilson-Carr
Morgantown, Adult Category

Barbara “Bobbi” Trimboli
Elkins, Senior Category

Kenneth Adams
Cairo, Senior Category

Kiki Angelos
Parkersburg, Lifetime Achievement

Rotary Club of Beckley
Group Category

Parkersburg Area Community Foundation Facilities Committee
COVID-19 Category
SPECIAL MENTIONS

Staff

Hawley Carlson, Executive Director
Krista Bradshaw, Finance and Operations Director
Dana Bryant, Outreach Officer
Christina Cochran, AmeriCorps Training Officer
Moya Doneghy, Special Projects Lead
Sheila McEntee, Compliance Officer
Pam Mellott, Statewide Director of West Virginia’s Promise
Gina Namay, Disaster Services & Planning Lead
Chloe Sockman, West Virginia Governor’s Intern
Hannah Stone, AmeriCorps Program Director
Chass Low-Wolfe, Administrative Coordinator
Morgan Weister, Outreach Director for West Virginia’s Promise

Commissioners

Dwight Coburn, Chair, Huntington
Susan Aloi, Buckhannon
April Elkins-Badtke, Surveyor
Leslie Baker, Beckley
Angela Beblo, Charleston
Quinten Burton, Charleston
Mercedes Jones Castle, Scott Depot
Monica DellaMea, Charleston
Kim Good, Charleston
Lora Grady, Philadelphia
Michael Hooper, Wheeling
Blake Humphrey, Morgantown
Julia Keehner, Buckhannon
Philip Keith, Buckhannon
Erica Mani, Charleston
Susie Nelson, Wheeling
Margaret Ann O’Neal, Charleston
Gregg Puckett, Princeton
Paul Smith, Wheeling
Jane Tabb, Kearneysville
Brett White, Fairmont
AmeriCorps Advisory Team Members

Kylee Bethel, Education Alliance
Jessica Black, AFNHA
Kendyl Bostic, AFNHA
Joseph Brooks, High Rocks
Dale Bowyer, Education Alliance VISTA
Stephen De Vita, AFNHA
Kirsten Jaquish, West Virginia’s Promise VISTA
Tammy McClanahan, LifeBridge
Emily McCormick, West Virginia’s Promise VISTA
Mindy Robinson, LifeBridge
Kristin Schofield, Education Alliance
Olivia Sokos, Education Alliance VISTA
Molly Sutter, High Rocks
Marisa Terwilliger, PAWV

Volunteers

Dr. Lindsay Acree
Mara Boggs
Sam Calvert
Jeremy Carter
Deborah Butler-Case
Jenna Green
Patricia Greenley
Courtney Hill
JJ Johnson
Janet Jones
John Kee
Joyce Martin
Carl McLaughlin
Dr. Michael Pennington
Jordan Pruett
Tammie Rizzio
Callie Sams
Lida Shepherd
Jeannie Smith
Janet Somerville
Aiden Taylor
Ann Worley
GRANTS

AmeriCorps State and National

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area
$863,600, Statewide

Stewards Individual Placements – WV READY
$221,403, Statewide

United Way of Tygart Valley - Flipside AmeriCorps
$206,714, Statewide

Grow Ohio Valley
$307,674, Wheeling

High Rocks Educational Corporation
$1,084,320, Statewide

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia
$309,580, Statewide

The Education Alliance
$766,434, Statewide

United Way of Central West Virginia - LifeBridge
$1,030,118, Statewide

West Virginia University Research Corporation - Energy Express
$1,710,465, Statewide

Williamson Housing Authority
$49,795, Planning Grant

AMERICORPS VISTA

West Virginia’s Promise
$30,000, Statewide
VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND GRANTS

West Virginia University Research Corp
$10,000, Statewide

Tamarack Foundation
$10,000, Statewide

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area
$10,000, Elkins

The River House Inc
$10,000, Capon Bridge

Conservation Legacy
$1,520, Beckley

Pantry Plus More Inc
$9,984, Morgantown

Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Panhandle
$9,500, Martinsburg

Catholic Charities
$7,000, Statewide
GET INVOLVED

Plant new seeds and grow your roots in West Virginia.

- If you have a minute: Spread a small act of kindness: Give a stranger a compliment, pay for someone’s coffee, leave a kind note for someone to find.

- If you have an hour: Visit www.volunteer.wv.gov to find a volunteer opportunity near you.

- If you have a year: Pay-it-forward as an AmeriCorps member in West Virginia. Positions are available throughout West Virginia, use the QR code below.
Mission Statement:
Volunteer West Virginia, the State’s Commission for National and Community Service, challenges West Virginians to strengthen their communities through volunteerism and service. We identify and mobilize resources, promote an ethic of service, and empower communities to solve problems and improve the quality of life for individuals and families.