

AmeriCorps 25th Anniversary Celebration

LBJ Auditorium & Plaza ★ Austin, TX

October 4, 2019



Welcome from OneStar Foundation

CHRIS BUGBEE / ACTING PRESIDENT & CEO

Opening Remarks: A Lasting Legacy

KEMI YEMI-ESE (2010-2013)

Perspective: Planting Seeds of Service

IVETTE RODRIGUEZ (2019)

Panel: 25 Years of AmeriCorps Alums

DAPHNE BROOKINS (1994)

SHEENA MOORE (2006-2009)

JORDAN GAMEZ (2016-2017)

MODERATED BY DANA HADDAD / SERVEAUSTIN

Corporation for National & Community Service

DESIREE TUCKER-SORINI / DIRECTOR, AMERICORPS VISTA

AmeriCorps Pledge

AUSTIN MAYOR STEVE ADLER

Announcements & Group Photo

AmeriCorps Festival

PLEASE JOIN US ON LBJ PLAZA FOR FOOD & ACTIVITIES!



We are honored to celebrate the AmeriCorps 25th Anniversary with leaders in the field of national and community service. Meet the distinguished speakers who will be sharing their insights on this exciting milestone at today's ceremony.

★ **Steve Adler**

≡ **MAYOR OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN**

Steve Adler was elected Austin's 52nd Mayor in December 2014. As the Mayor of this historic first new 10-1 Council, Mayor Adler plans to lead Austin's government to a new level of inclusive civic engagement between residents and their elected officials. Mayor Adler, along with his brother, were the first in their family to graduate from college. After completing his undergraduate studies at Princeton, Mayor Adler moved to Austin to work his way through law school at The University of Texas. Like many others, he fell in love with Austin and has made it his home for nearly four decades. Mayor Adler practiced civil rights law for many years, and later founded a successful eminent domain law practice representing landowners. Mayor Adler also served nearly ten years as Chief of Staff and General Counsel for Texas State Senator Eliot Shapleigh, working primarily on school finance, equity and access issues. Mayor Adler has been deeply involved with, and has chaired, many Austin civic and non-profit institutions over the past twenty years.

★ **Chris Bugbee**

≡ **ACTING PRESIDENT & CEO, ONESTAR FOUNDATION**

As Acting CEO/President for OneStar Foundation, Chris serves in an executive leadership role with oversight over OneStar's key programmatic initiatives, including AmeriCorps*Texas, AmeriCorps VISTA, Disaster Services, and the Rebuild Texas Fund, as well as oversight of financial, budget and human resource functions. He also oversees implementation of the Texas Faith-Based and Community Initiative, including statewide efforts to strengthen the nonprofit sector in Texas. Before joining OneStar in 2006, Chris was appointed to serve in Washington as Deputy Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He also served at the White House as Associate Director in the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and as a Senior Intergovernmental Officer for the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

★ **Desiree Tucker-Sorini**

≡ **DIRECTOR, AMERICORPS VISTA**

Desiree brings 30 years of high-level government, private, and nonprofit experience to the Corporation for National and Community Service. She has served in several executive positions such as CNCS's Chief of Staff, where she oversaw operations of over six departments and managed the day to day operations of CNCS for the CEO. She also was appointed by President George H.W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate as the Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs and Public Liaison at the Department of Treasury, in addition to a multitude of civic-centered positions that gave her a deep appreciation for the impact of civic engagement and public service. Desiree brings her wealth of knowledge in communications strategies, domestic and international press, budget and nonprofit management, and team development to aid the VISTA program in alleviating poverty across the nation.

★ MEET THE ALUMS

Today's event was made possible by extraordinary AmeriCorps alums, who shared their time and talents to host booths and activities, shoot photos and videos, contribute music and art, share their stories, coordinate logistics, and so much more!

★ Kathryn Abercrombie CITY YEAR DALLAS (2015-2016)

Kathryn is sharing social and professional development opportunities at the festival booth hosted by YNPN Austin, where she serves as Vice President of Programming. She served with City Year Dallas, where she mentored and tutored high school students to support academic achievement and social-emotional learning. Kathryn is currently pursuing her master's degree at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. She has previously worked as a donor relations specialist at Central Texas Food Bank and as a government consultant with Deloitte. She has been active in disaster recovery efforts and volunteered as a Team Leader with All Hands and Hearts Smart Response in Puerto Rico.



"I joined the City Year Dallas family right after college and I have carried it with me since. It was a year that continues to shape the perspective I have about social justice, politics, government, and public work. Though my work in education with Dallas high schoolers was limited to one year, they taught me about hard work, selflessness, grit, and service. My experience as a graduate student now at the LBJ School is deeply influenced by the interactions I had with students in Dallas. I am able to share first-hand accounts of being on the teaching side of the public education system in our country. I understand the nuance of personal stories because of the strength of the students I worked with."

★ Daphne Brookins I HAVE A DREAM FOUNDATION (1994)

Daphne is speaking on today's panel and was featured in the 25 Years of AmeriCorps Alums video series. She served in the inaugural cohort of AmeriCorps as an after-school tutor with I Have a Dream Foundation and later was hired as coordinator of the program. She currently works as a Youth Administrator for Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, where she oversees and creates job training opportunities for youth. Daphne is a former City Councilwoman and Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Forest Hill. She serves on multiple boards and was appointed by the Governor of Texas to the board of OneStar Foundation, the Texas state service commission, and as Commissioner of Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities.



"Serving as an AmeriCorps member totally changed the direction for my life. I was able to find my passion for working with youth and being the voice for the voiceless for those in underserved areas as well as people with disabilities and senior citizens."

★ Zachary Carter

TEACH FOR AMERICA (2011-2013)

Zach is a cinematographer/video editor who filmed and produced the *25 Years of AmeriCorps Alums* video series. He served with Teach For America in Oklahoma, where taught high school and middle school math in Tulsa public schools. After his service, Zach moved to Austin to work as a freelancer and eventually started his own production company, Zcartt Productions. He has been involved in creating award-winning video content for Austin City Limits.



"My AmeriCorps experience has shaped my decisions, friends, conversations, work, and almost all facets of my life today. I approach problems and situations with a lens of questioning, consideration for those who are not being considered, and compassion. I have a truer understanding of the complexity of our educational system, the achievement gap, poverty, systemic racism, and the role politics plays in all of this. I continue to seek out opportunities to live beyond myself and am happy with who I have become."

★ Corinne Dombrowski

LITERACY FIRST (2016)

Cori is a yoga instructor, writer, and artist who illustrated the AmeriCorps pug coloring sheets at the AmeriCorps Arts & Crafts festival booth. She served with Literacy First tutoring bilingual elementary school students in reading skills. Since her service, she has been certified as a 500-hour advanced yoga instructor and works as a freelance writer at Growth Institute. She enjoys international travel and has visited Singapore, Thailand, Bali, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico, and Australia.



"Serving with AmeriCorps helped me step off the beaten path of corporate America and gave me the chance to explore exciting interests like teaching, art, and writing. I felt more connected to my city and community than ever before. I gained confidence in myself and learned a ton about working with a team."

★ Natalie Elorza-Welling

≡ 4-H CAPITAL PROJECT (2012-2013)

Natalie created the AmeriCorps-themed illustrations on display at today's event. She served with 4-H CAPITAL, where she inspired youth with hands-on science lessons and activities. She used her AmeriCorps education award to obtain a degree in graphic design and began freelancing as a designer and artist with a focus on environmental and non-profit organizations. Natalie now works as a graphic designer and illustrator for the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department, which allows her to bridge her experience in environmental science and design.



"My experience with AmeriCorps was very personally rewarding, and the people I connected with all helped me to learn more about myself and my passions, to grow in confidence in my abilities, and to continue on the pursuit of my visions. Through my time serving, I was given opportunities to explore art and design, and it was through this that I learned of my passion of using art and design to help spread messages and raise awareness of issues that we should address to better our world. My time serving with 4-H CAPITAL connected me with a larger community of people and organizations with shared interests and passions, and I was able to use this network to start building the relationships I wanted professionally. I was grateful to connect with these organizations and people whom I felt were also dedicated to helping others and making positive impacts and changes for our community. I can confidently say that my AmeriCorps experiences served as a catalyst in my life for me to keep on believing that we all can make our impact in the world in the ways we find meaningful and rewarding."

★ Hannah Fassett

≡ NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS (2013)

Hannah is conducting library card registration and offering book recommendations at the AmeriCorps Reading Room. The festival booth is hosted by Austin Public Library, where Hannah works as a librarian and staffs the the Bookmobile. She served with the National Civilian Community Corps, where she helped communities recover from flooding, removed invasive species, and supported nonprofits across the northeast.



"AmeriCorps NCCC was an amazing experience. I learned so much about community building, management, and project implementation from the organizations we worked with. NCCC inspired me to work in libraries. Our team often didn't have internet access at the host sites where we stayed, so the local libraries in each community were vital resources for us."

★ Cristina Flores

≡ LITERACY FIRST (2011-2013)

Cristina is on the host committee for today's event. She served as a Literacy First bilingual tutor and delivered intensive tutoring to elementary school students. Cristina went on to join Literacy First staff as a recruitment coordinator, where she led an outreach committee that won Service Year's national competition for Best Practices in Applicant Resources. She currently works as a Program Officer for OneStar Foundation, the Texas state service commission. She is active in the arts and was lead actress in a short film that won Best Horror Film at Austin Under the Stars Film Festival.



"When I graduated from college, I left with a degree in opera and had virtually no clue what to do next. All I knew is that I wanted to find an opportunity to find meaningful work while I performed in Austin. As I look back now, I realize that I had no idea then that a career I love deeply would find me and that the students I served and the people I served with would ultimately change the trajectory of my life. I feel so fortunate to have found an AmeriCorps program that supported me, provided edifying opportunities for professional growth, and would provide me with a wealth of professional opportunities. My three terms of service at Literacy First helped me gain a strong set of skills in project management, organization, public speaking, leadership, communication, and community building - skills that I can apply to any career. Because of the mentorship I received from my supervisor and program staff, I felt empowered to take on leadership roles I felt unprepared for. They made me feel confident, were always available to answer any questions and provide support, and increased my professional network exponentially. I wouldn't be where I am without my terms of service in AmeriCorps."

★ Charlie Gagen

≡ BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS (2012-2013)

Charlie is promoting breast cancer awareness at the festival booth hosted by American Cancer Society, where he works as Texas Grassroots Director engaging volunteers in cancer advocacy. He served as an AmeriCorps member with Breakthrough Central Texas, where he advised and mentored high school students to strengthen their interpersonal skills and improve grades and test scores. Charlie later joined Breakthrough staff and worked as a Community Development Associate for two years.



"My service through AmeriCorps remains one of the most influential years of my life. I gained valuable communication and problem-solving skills and gained an insight into the impact community programs and nonprofits can have in under-served communities. I continue to use my organization, communication, and empathy skills in my current role: managing grassroots staff that directly engage all communities in the fight against cancer. AmeriCorps also opened the door to several jobs, with recruiters stating that my service in AmeriCorps showed 'a level of maturity, service, and hard work' that helped differentiate me from my fellow applicants."

★ Jordan Gamez



MONTANA STATE PARKS AMERICORPS (2016)

TEXAS CONSERVATION CORPS (2017)

Jordan is speaking on today's panel and was featured in the *25 Years of AmeriCorps Alums* video series. She served with Montana State Parks, to enhance park land, promote volunteerism and improve community outreach at Lake Elmo State Park. She subsequently joined the Texas Conservation Corps, where she led a team engaged in hands-on conservation projects and deployed to disasters to help communities across the state. Jordan currently works as a Volunteer Agency Liaison and Emergency Management Specialist with FEMA, where she strives to improve access to recovery resources and promotes capacity building, sustainability and resiliency.



"While serving my AmeriCorps term, I found a culture of diversity and inclusion from like-minded individuals inside safe and open-minded environments. I found solace in working outdoors and realized how much of an impact it had on my mental health. I also gained professional development through extensive Emergency Management and FEMA trainings, challenging career experiences while I served in response to the Canton tornado and Hurricane Harvey, and most importantly, the ability to foster a network of professionals and mentors. It was empowering to gain a high level of self-efficacy from overcoming challenges to address critical community and individual needs. I will never forget the faces and families that we were able to serve, and I believe those individuals will never forget how AmeriCorps helped them. Assisting survivors in rebuilding their lives produced some of the most meaningful experiences that helped further my passion for service and compulsion to transform lives. I wouldn't be able to continue to serve my home state of Texas had it not been for the mentors, opportunities and experiences on my AmeriCorps journey. I owe my career to AmeriCorps and God's guidance and grace."

★ Gabriela Garcia-De Avila



LITERACY FIRST (2005)

Gabriela is hosting the "Why You Serve" Poster booth at the festival. She served as a bilingual Literacy First tutor providing one-to-one tutoring to struggling readers, classroom support, and after-school support in Austin. She developed and wrote the Literacy First Alma Del Lector-bilingual curriculum and is on staff as AmeriCorps Operations Manager. Gabriela was selected as OneStar Foundation state representative for the American Express Leadership Academy with the Corporation for National and Community Service in 2013.

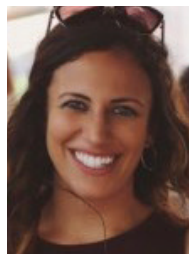


"AmeriCorps has changed the trajectory of my life. What initially started as a gap year to gain real-life experience has turned into a lifelong career in literacy and community impact. Every year that I have worked with Literacy First, I've not only developed professional skills and knowledge but meaningful relationships with people who are shaping our communities for the better. I have always believed in the power of service but it's nice to be part of a team that allows multiple generations to experience national service first hand."

★ Dana Haddad

≡ TEACH FOR AMERICA (2015-2017)

Dana is moderating today's *25 Years of AmeriCorps Alums* panel and is hosting the festival booth for ServeAustin, where she currently works as Recruitment Manager and Director of Partnerships. She served with Teach For America in New Mexico teaching elementary school students in the Navajo Nation. Dana went on to join Teach For America staff as part of the national recruitment team, then later moved to Austin as part of the founding team for Austin Achieve Public Schools, a tuition-free, open-enrollment public charter school preparing East Austin youth to attend and excel at top universities.



"My time in AmeriCorps shaped my vision of service as I began to see how my passion for educational equity intersected with all other sectors of society. The invaluable leadership experience I gained through Teach for America inspired me to join the national recruitment team with the goal of helping to shape the next generation of corps members fostering positive change across the country. Through the power of the TFA network, I was able to return to the classroom a year later as a founding teacher of Austin Achieve Elementary School, a public charter school whose mission aligns with my belief that a child's skin color or zip code should never play a factor in their right to an excellent education. Despite a love for the impact of direct service in the classroom, I recently took a leap of faith and pioneered into the newly-created role of recruitment manager for the ServeAustin Collaborative – a groundbreaking coalition with the collective aim of increasing local, diverse recruitment of corps members. As someone who had fallen in love with New Mexico and the community I'd grown to call a home that I ultimately left, I now recognize the value of long-term engagement in service within a single community. I have repurposed my position in the fight for equity to engage local opportunity youth and residents of color in national and community service."

★ Nicole Haynes

≡ LITERACY COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS (2015)

Nicole is sharing opportunities for continuing education at the festival booth hosted by Austin Community College, where she works as Career Pathways Coordinator. She served as a Texas Family Literacy AmeriCorps member teaching Adult English as a Second Language classes with Austin ISD's Department of School, Family, and Community Education.



"My service gave me a sense of purpose and connected me to a larger mission of ensuring educational equity for non-traditional students. Over four years later, I have a network of like-minded peers, a fuller sense of self, and a rewarding career where I help adults receive the education they never thought was possible."

★ Katie Kis-Norton



MERCY CORPS NORTHWEST (2013)

FRONT STEPS (2014)

Katie is hosting the AmeriCorps Arts & Crafts booth at the festival. As a VISTA with Mercy Corps, she helped launch a new program that provided accessible, affordable medical services to underserved elderly and disabled residents in rural Oregon. Katie then moved to Austin to serve with Keep Austin Housed, where she provided one-on-one support to survivors of sexual and domestic violence staying at a shelter. After her term of service, she was hired by Front Steps and currently works as Program Coordinator, a role in which she improves program operations and activities and empowers AmeriCorps members to best serve their community.



"My entire professional career has been defined by AmeriCorps. While in college, I started taking unpaid internships with nonprofits to gain experience for my resume and had the opportunity to work in fundraising, program management, public relations, and direct services departments. I realized the nonprofit field is my calling, and have yet to leave. Through AmeriCorps, I quickly became acclimated to the nuances, challenges, and accomplishments of nonprofit work. AmeriCorps helped me significantly in gaining hard and soft career skills, challenged me personally and professionally at many moments, and ultimately helped me realize my calling."

★ Jaclyn Kolar



LINKING LEARNING TO LIFE (2008-2009)

TEXAS DISASTER RECOVERY VISTA PROJECT (2009-2010)

Jaclyn is on the host committee for today's event and is the emcee for the ceremony. She has served two terms: first as a VISTA with Linking Learning to Life, where she connected high school students with volunteer opportunities and developed college and career readiness programming; and then as a Leader with Texas Disaster Recovery VISTA Project, where she supported a team of VISTAs placed throughout the state focused on disaster recovery and preparedness. Jaclyn worked on staff with 4-H CAPITAL as an AmeriCorps Project Coordinator before joining OneStar Foundation, where she currently manages the administration of all AmeriCorps Texas programs.



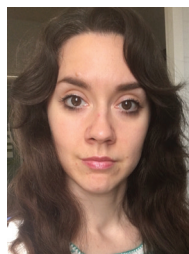
"My love for AmeriCorps and service is pretty clear: after completing two terms of service, I went to work for an AmeriCorps program, and from there to OneStar, the state service commission in Texas. During my time as an AmeriCorps member, I experienced how transformative service can be, and I witnessed the magic of bringing together a team of individuals to work towards a shared goal of improving ourselves and our communities. Ten years later, I'm still committed to the idea of service and the belief that serving as an AmeriCorps member is one of the best ways to gain practical job readiness skills and push yourself professionally and personally. While I can clearly credit my career to my experience as an AmeriCorps member, my service also gave me the opportunity to see the world from different perspectives and challenged me to think critically about how I want to contribute to society. My service made me more empathetic and more determined."

★ Rebecca Koval



LITERACY COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS (2015-2016)

Rebecca is performing music sets during today's morning networking. She served with Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, where she taught English as a second language to adults and assisted in coordinating other classes throughout the city. Rebecca currently works as Office Manager for NAMI Texas, an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of all individuals living with mental illness and their families. She is also a vocalist and guitarist specializing in classic country and bluegrass with some blues/rock inspired originals.



"Becoming an AmeriCorps member was a great way to become involved in the non-profit community in Austin. I was new to the city and serving with the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas opened up a lot of doors for me professionally."

★ Logan Marconette



LITERACY FIRST (2017-2019)

Logan is hosting the "Why You Serve" Poster booth at the festival. He served with Literacy First to provide one-to-one tutoring to struggling young leaders. He is now on staff with Literacy First as Recruitment and Outreach Coordinator for the AmeriCorps program.



"Serving with AmeriCorps changed my life. I had no idea what I wanted to do after I graduated from college; I knew I wanted to help people but didn't know how. After serving, I realized I wanted to continue supporting AmeriCorps but in a different way. I was brought on to help support recruitment and operations efforts for Literacy First, the AmeriCorps program that I had served with for two years. I love my new role, and I love that I get to share my AmeriCorps experience with potential Literacy First Tutors. I hope that I can use my current role to inspire the next generation of AmeriCorps members."

★ Amanda Miller

≡ 4-H CAPITAL PROJECT (2012-2013)

Amanda is offering career development resources at the festival booth hosted by Mission Capital, where she works as Data & Systems Manager. In her current role, Amanda supports a wide network of nonprofits in thinking critically and pragmatically about data collection, storage, analysis, and impact. Amanda has been involved with AmeriCorps for nearly seven years: first as a member at 4-H CAPITAL, where she planned and led science-based afterschool classes for elementary school students; and later on staff with Literacy First, where she supported national service participants through their own professional journeys. She also served on the leadership team of Austin AmeriCorps Alums for two years.



"I love what I do, and it all started because I chose to serve with AmeriCorps after completing my master's degree. Never would I have thought that starting down this path would lead me to where I am today, and I am so incredibly grateful for the life lessons learned and relationships forged because of my term of service. The people I've met through my experiences with AmeriCorps programs have gone on to make incredible differences in their chosen sectors and communities nationwide. It takes resilience, perseverance, self-efficacy, and grit to do the kind of work that we do in the nonprofit world; these are skills that you will learn through service, and will make you a better, more well-rounded person, regardless of your journey beyond your service year."

★ Sheena Moore

≡ ACE (2006-2007, 2009)

Sheena is speaking on today's panel and was featured in the 25 Years of AmeriCorps Alums video series. She served with ACE (now known as Literacy First) providing one-to-one tutoring to struggling young readers and was later brought on as a VISTA to develop civic reflection activities for AmeriCorps members. After her service terms, Sheena worked as an outreach coordinator promoting humanities education across the state. She also started her own pickle and jam business, which led to teaching community classes and conducting food demonstrations at the farmer's market. She completed her master's degree at McCombs School of Business and now works as a project coordinator for a major tech company in Austin.



"AmeriCorps has taught me about the importance of human connection and the significance of understanding that everyone is coming from different backgrounds and perspectives. Whether it's working in the non-profit sector or a large tech company, I believe we have a responsibility to bring a level of understanding and compassion to those around us. We never know the impact we have on peoples' lives. The ability to understand and be compassionate goes a long way. The kids I worked with in AmeriCorps were dealing with issues other than reading. Some of these students weren't living with their parents. Or the only meal that they had was the breakfast and lunch they received at school. I found that just showing up and being present and engaged made all the difference in the world. It's the same attitude that I have carried with me through my career."

★ Kim Nguyen

☰ BOYS HOPE GIRLS HOPE (2016)

Kim is the program liaison on the host committee for today's event. She served in Colorado with Boys Hope Girls Hope, where she coordinated service and learning activities for students, managed the mentoring program, and connected with community members. She currently works as a recruiter with College Forward, which engages AmeriCorps members to promote college access and success.



"My year of service with AmeriCorps empowered me to take on new challenges and allowed for me to learn and grow both professionally and personally. It taught me the importance of connecting with others in the community and has motivated me to seek to work alongside others who share a passion for service and social justice."

★ Crystal Rodriguez

☰ BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS (2016-2017)

Crystal is the photographer for today's event. She served with Breakthrough Central Texas as a mentor and student advocate for middle school students. She currently works as a technical recruiter for a large technology company and is also a freelance photographer.



"As a first generation and non-traditional college graduate, I felt it was my duty to serve as an advocate for other students. The year that I spent as an AmeriCorps member was so influential to my personal growth and helped to shape a commitment to serving the local community. Upon completing my term, I transitioned into a career as college technical recruiter for one of the largest tech companies. My time as a public servant gave me a valuable but different perspective from my peers. I transitioned from advocating for students in the classroom to supporting the hiring of students from underrepresented backgrounds in the tech industry. I am happy that I have the opportunity to change the face of the tech industry on a daily basis and I owe much of my success and passion to my time as an AmeriCorps member."

★ Ivette Rodriguez

COLLEGE FORWARD (2019)

Ivette is sharing her story at today's ceremony. She currently serves with College Forward and supports students who are motivated to obtain a higher education by helping them navigate the college application process, conducting after-school programming, and providing guidance through their transition from high school to college.



"Serving with AmeriCorps through College Forward has given me the opportunity to pay it forward and make a difference in my community. I have found that I thoroughly enjoy using my past experiences as examples, motivators, and learning moments for current high school students to use. Through my service and interactions with students, I am able to see the motivation and drive undeserved students have to become involved and attend post secondary education. As a first generation college graduate, this deeply resonates with my past self and how anxious I felt when applying to college. Being the mentor figure to my students pushes me to be a better person and positively impacts the way I interact with others. This service has also shaped my view on our education system and the abundant hurdles many undeserved students face daily. AmeriCorps as an organization has taught me the importance of truly serving the communities we reside in and supporting those around us. I am confident that these experiences I have made and the ones that are to come in the future will be those that I am sure to take with me for a lifetime."

★ Joshua Winata

NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS (2009-2010)
TAPROOT FOUNDATION (2010-2011)

Joshua is on the host committee for today's event. He served two terms: as part of a wildland fuel reduction crew in California with the National Civilian Community Corps, and as VISTA at Taproot Foundation, where he implemented a new brand strategy and developed marketing materials to promote pro bono service. Joshua previously worked at New York Cares as a Corporate Relations Officer, and he currently continues to promote service as Communications Officer at OneStar Foundation, the Texas state service commission.



"I have always strove to make the world a better place through my career, and AmeriCorps has been a critical stepping stone in making that vision a reality. It allowed me to take on a lot of meaningful responsibilities early in my professional journey, which in turn opened doors to work with so many inspiring, mission-driven organizations and passionate, brilliant people. My experiences in national service have given me an intimate and realistic perspective of what it means to work in the nonprofit sector: it can feel challenging and frustrating at times, but there are also many moments of such joy and goodness and light that give me so much hope for the future of our communities."

★ Kemi Yemi-ese

≡ 4-H CAPITAL PROJECT (2010-2013)

Kemi provided opening remarks at today's ceremony. She served with 4-H CAPITAL creating engaging STEM learning activities for elementary students in an after-school setting. After she completed her service, she pursued a master's degree in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling at Texas Tech University and now works as a licensed professional counselor intern at Trotter House and Capital Area Counseling. She is also an artist and has exhibited her work at Austin City Hall and the George Washington Carver Museum.



"Serving as an AmeriCorps member with 4-H Capital gave me the opportunity to focus and apply my creativity towards making a difference in the Austin community. I worked alongside like-minded individuals who inspired me and supported me in my efforts. I carry with me in my professional careers as an artist and therapist ideals and strengths that I gained as an AmeriCorps member."



★ AMERICORPS FESTIVAL

Join us on the LBJ Plaza to learn more about AmeriCorps and other professional development opportunities in Austin. Enjoy breakfast tacos, yard games, a photo booth, and interactive activities hosted by AmeriCorps alums from local programs and partner organizations!

★ Join the Networks!

≡ AMERICORPS ALUMS / SERVEAUSTIN

Learn about the valuable local networks of national service members and alumni. Sign up on social media to win a special prize!

★ AmeriCorps Arts & Crafts

≡ FRONT STEPS

Design and decorate your own tote bag with markers and AmeriCorps stickers. Fill in coloring sheets featuring the AmeriCorps pug illustration, designed by AmeriCorps alum Corinne Dombrowski.

★ Breast Cancer Awareness Month

≡ AUSTIN CANCER SOCIETY

Gain awareness of the latest research and resources for breast cancer prevention and awareness. Win awesome prizes by answering questions from our trivia wheel.

★ Career Pathways & Continuing Education

≡ AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Learn about professional development, classes, and certifications that may be covered by the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, as well as career readiness resources and educational opportunities for low-income individuals you serve. Pick up free swag from the ACC Grab Bag!

★ AmeriCorps Photo Booth

≡ BOOTHS N THINGS

Take your photo with national service friends old and new at our photo booth! Share the images on social media with the hashtag **#AmeriCorps25**.

★ AmeriCorps Reading Room

≡ AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sign up for a library card and check out a curated selection of books related to civic engagement and service. Add your own suggested titles on our book recommendation board.

★ Art Exhibit

≡ IMAGINE ART

View original artwork in an exhibit produced by AmeriCorps members and clients of Imagine Art, which launched its inaugural AmeriCorps Texas program this year to provide career training and opportunities to artists with disabilities.

★ Job Board & Resume Review

≡ MISSION CAPITAL

Pull up your resume for a speed critique and receive practical career tips and advice. Browse job, internship, and board service opportunities on the online Mission Capital Job Board. Enter a drawing to win a seat at the Emerging Leaders Academy for social sector leaders.

★ Get Things Done! Illustrations

≡ NATALIE LUZ DESIGNS

Admire the original national service-themed artwork created by AmeriCorps alum designer Natalie Elorza-Welling. Collect beautiful commemorative postcards featuring the illustrations, while supplies last.

★ Seed Balls

≡ TEXAS CONSERVATION CORPS

Get your hands dirty creating seed balls of local Central Texas native flowers and grasses that you can plant in your garden or local park. Learn about the service of AmeriCorps members at the Texas Conservation Corps and get information about Texas State Parks.

★ Why You Serve Poster

≡ LITERACY FIRST

Add your story of what motivated you to join AmeriCorps to our "Why You Serve" poster and check out the inspirational journeys of your national service colleagues and peers. Learn more about the service of AmeriCorps members at Literacy First.

★ Professional Networking Opportunities

≡ YNPN AUSTIN

Learn about the benefits of joining the local Austin chapter of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network and take advantage of discounted AmeriCorps membership fees. Preview upcoming networking and professional development events and sign up for board leadership and committee positions.

- Amarillo Independent School District**
 Serving Amarillo
Addressing needs in education
- Texas Conservation Corps**
 Serving statewide, based in Austin
Addressing needs in disaster response and recovery & environmental stewardship
- Breakthrough Central Texas**
 Serving Austin, Del Valle & Manor
Addressing needs in education
- ChildFund International USA**
 Serving McAllen & Mission
Addressing needs in education
- City Year**
 Serving Dallas and San Antonio
Addressing needs in education
- CitySquare**
 Serving Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Mesquite, Paris & Rockport
Addressing needs in health, economic opportunity, disaster response and recovery & education
- College Forward**
 Serving Austin, Buda, Channelview, Del Valle, Elgin, Kyle, Manor, Pflugerville & Round Rock
Addressing needs in education
- Communities In Schools of Central Texas**
 Serving Austin, Kyle, Uhlard, Buda, Niederwald, Lockhart, Manor & Dale
Addressing needs in education
- Communities In Schools of North Texas**
 Serving Bridgeport, Corinth, Denton, Justin, Lake Dallas, Rhome, Lewisville, Little Elm & Newark
Addressing needs in education
- Communities in Schools of San Antonio**
 Serving San Antonio
Addressing needs in education
- Equal Heart Relief and Opportunity Corps**
 Serving Dallas
Addressing needs in health, economic opportunity & education
- Keep Austin Housed**
 Serving Austin
Addressing needs in economic opportunity
- Girl Scouts of North East Texas**
 Serving Allen, Dallas, Denison, Denton, Highland Village, Palestine, Sumner & Tyler
Addressing needs in education
- Imagine Art**
 Serving Austin
Addressing needs in economic opportunity
- Legacy Healthcare Corps**
 Serving Houston
Addressing needs in health
- Literacy Coalition of Central Texas**
 Serving Austin & Houston
Addressing needs in economic opportunity & education
- National College Advising Corps**
 Serving Austin, Brenham, Brownsville, Bryan, Cypress, Dallas, DeSot, Duncanville, El Paso, Grand Prairie, Harlingen, Hidalgo, Houston, Hutto, Katy, La Joya, Lancaster, Los Fresnos, Mesquite, Mission, Navasota, Pasadena, Pharr, Richardson, Rosenberg, San Antonio, Somerset
Addressing needs in education
- Project Transformation**
 Serving Dallas, Denison & Farmers Branch
Addressing needs in education
- Reading Partners**
 Serving Dallas & Fort Worth
Addressing needs in education
- Relay Texas Teaching Residency**
 Serving Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, League City, McAllen, Pasadena & San Antonio
Addressing needs in education
- Teach for America**
 Serving Bellaire, Cedar Hill, Dallas, Edcouch, Fort Worth, Harlingen, Houston, La Joya, McAllen, Mercedes, Pharr, Roma, San Antonio, San Benito, Sugar Land & Weslaco
Addressing needs in education
- Travis County 4-H CAPITAL**
 Serving Austin, Creedmoor & Del Valle
Addressing needs in education
- Literacy First**
 Serving Austin
Addressing needs in education
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**
 Serving Brownsville, Edinburg, McAllen & San Benito
Addressing needs in education
- United Way of El Paso County Parents as Teachers**
 Serving El Paso
Addressing needs in education
- University of Houston Cougar Literacy Corps**
 Serving Houston
Addressing needs in education
- Texas HIPPyCorps Initiative**
 Serving Amarillo, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Houston, Irving, Longview, McAllen, Odessa, Richardson, San Antonio & Wichita Falls
Addressing needs in education



AmeriCorps Texas 2019-2020

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

In the coming year, more than 3,200 AmeriCorps Texas members across 28 programs will contribute their time and skills to make local communities safer, smarter, and healthier. Here are a few ways these members will be making an impact in Texas!

DISASTER RESPONSE & RECOVERY



21

MEMBERS
ready to deploy in
event of disaster



20

MEMBERS
focused on
disaster recovery

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



200

ACRES
of parks or public
lands treated



10

MILES
of trails or
rivers treated

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



3,688

INDIVIDUALS
with increased
economic opportunities

2,139

INDIVIDUALS
with improved
job readiness



210

INDIVIDUALS
transitioned into
safe, healthy,
affordable housing

EDUCATION

100,162

STUDENTS
receiving education
support services



37,667

STUDENTS
with improved
academic
performance

17,020

STUDENTS
enrolling in
post-secondary
education/training



4,005

STUDENTS
with improved
academic engagement
or socio-emotional skills

1,588

CHILDREN
demonstrating
gains in school
readiness



HEALTHY FUTURES

2.6 MILLION

POUNDS
of food provided



13,900

INDIVIDUALS
with improved
health-related outcomes

3,150

INDIVIDUALS
with improved access
to medical care



Impact Highlights are estimated based on Performance Measure targets reported by 2019-2020 AmeriCorps Texas programs.

On September 12, 1994, the first class of AmeriCorps members took the pledge to “get things done” for America on the White House steps and in simultaneous locations across the country.

Since then, more than **1.1 million members** have served in AmeriCorps nationwide. Approximately 75,000 members now serve in AmeriCorps programs each year at approximately 21,000 locations across the country.

In the last 25 years, more than **58,000 Texas residents** have served approximately 79 million hours through AmeriCorps. In the coming year, 3,200 members will serve in AmeriCorps Texas programs at more than 500 locations around the state.

Today we commemorate 25 years of AmeriCorps making a difference in communities across our country and the great state of Texas.



Use these hashtags to share your experiences at the AmeriCorps 25th Anniversary Celebration!

#AmeriCorps25
#AmeriCorpsTX
#ServeTX

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