

**Volunteer Centers of Michigan AmeriCorps*VISTA
Impact Report December 2008-March 2009**

Total VISTAs serving: 6

VISTA Host Site locations by county:

Oceana, Luce, Lenawee, Marquette, St. Clair, Tuscola

Financial Impact this quarter:

Monetary value of volunteer hours leveraged by the VISTA: **\$14,215.50**

(As a result of VCM AmeriCorps*VISTA efforts 702 hours of volunteering was served in the VISTAs host site communities. The hourly rate developed by Independent Sector for 2008 for volunteer hours is \$20.25)

Goal I: VCM AmeriCorps*VISTAs will create and sustain effective partnerships between Volunteer Centers and community organizations that address the needs of those in poverty in Michigan communities, with special emphasis on those impacting children and youth who are disadvantaged.

As a result of VCM AmeriCorps*VISTA efforts this quarter:

45 new community partnerships were established from December-March

One example of the progress made this quarter:

Brad Hunter, the VCM AmeriCorps *VISTA member serving at the United Way Volunteer Center of the Eastern Upper Peninsula established **12** new community partnerships. Brad was able to outreach to the majority of these community partners through the St. Ignace Youth Volunteer Corps program that is being run by the Volunteer Center. Brad has first made connections within the local schools and has begun slowly expanding into the community proper. Partnerships will accommodate youth service activities as well as build awareness of VC presence in community.

Goal II: VCM AmeriCorps*VISTAs will provide leadership for and coordinate community service initiatives to connect community members with community partner organizations that address the needs of those in poverty in Michigan communities.

As a result of VCM AmeriCorps*VISTA efforts this quarter:

727 community members were recruited to volunteer

One example of the progress made this quarter:

Cheryl Beauchamp, the VCM AmeriCorps*VISTA member serving at Volunteer Lenawee! has been working with the Lenawee Youth Council on volunteer projects and volunteer recruitment. Cheryl has presented on Service Learning to Social Work Students at Adrian College. She has also been connecting with different media outlets including by writing press releases and organizing radio interviews and Public Service Announcements as well as attending local professional workshops and events to promote the Volunteer Center. Cheryl

has also increased the number of volunteer opportunities listed on 1-800-volunteer and has been meeting with local organizations to teach them how to update their own information and become familiar with the process of using 1-800-volunteer.

VCM AmeriCorps*VISTA members did **14** orientations or trainings for volunteers from December-March

One example of the progress made this quarter:

Linda Gouda, the VCM AmeriCorps*VISTA member serving at Volunteer Muskegon/Oceana has conducted **4** trainings to community volunteers. Linda has provided one-on-one trainings about the Taxwise software and Link and Learn to prepare volunteers for IRS Tax Certification tests. Linda has also done an orientation on EITC Tax Preparation for Volunteers, which included orienting the volunteers on what they will be expected to do, what they can expect to gain from the experience and information about how to track their hours of service.

*Total amounts returned to Oceana County residents through this VITA site as of March 30, 2009, is **\$46,000.00***

Goal III: VCM AmeriCorps*VISTAs will promote and document effective partnerships between Volunteer Centers and community organizations in order to build public awareness of the needs of those in poverty in Michigan communities and the responsibility of all to address these needs and encourage increased involvement in the civic life of the community.

As a result of VCM AmeriCorps*VISTA efforts this quarter:

18 presentations were made to community groups, regarding the needs of those in poverty and potential strategies to meet such needs

One example of the progress made this quarter:

Sue Toner, the VCM AmeriCorps*VISTA member serving at the Thumb Volunteer Alliance met with a group called Transition Network, which is made up of school administrators and teachers of students with special needs. Sue was able to facilitate a group discussion on the personal needs of each of their students as well as how volunteering could potentially alleviate poverty issues. Sue also answered many questions about what the AmeriCorps*VISTA program is and how to become a member.

As a result of the VCM AmeriCorps*VISTA efforts this quarter:

Progress has been made to sustain the programs and structures currently supported by the VISTA.

One example of the progress made this quarter:

Laura, Michaletz, the VCM AmeriCorps*VISTA member serving at the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development played a key role in the launch of the inaugural U.P. Service Awards including creating the design and content for all printable and online nomination forms. Laura researched training topics such as volunteer management, recruitment and recognition techniques to use in the U.P. Volunteer Network training workshops and to include in newsletters that will be sent to partner organizations and volunteers.