



## **Volunteer Centers of Michigan AmeriCorps\*VISTA 2010-2011**

VOLUNTEER CENTERS OF  
**MICHIGAN** 

### **What is AmeriCorps\*VISTA?**

AmeriCorps\*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is a full-time national service program for men and women ages 18 and older interested in developing lasting solutions to the problems of poverty in American. AmeriCorps\*VISTA members address the problems of poverty in communities by organizing community resources and building capacity of the low-income communities.

### **Volunteer Centers of Michigan AmeriCorps\*VISTA Project:**

Volunteer Centers of Michigan AmeriCorps\*VISTA members will work with the Volunteer Center to enhance the quality and quantity of volunteering opportunities, build awareness and relationships between the volunteer center and its surrounding community and recruit and train community volunteers.

There are currently nine VCM\*VISTA members working to build the capacity of volunteer centers. The VISTA members are placed at:

**Char-Em United Way, Volunteer Connections  
Lenawee Community Foundation  
Thumb Volunteer Alliance  
United Way of Jackson County  
United Way of St. Clair County, Community Action Center  
United Way Volunteer Center of the Eastern Upper Peninsula  
UP Volunteer Network  
Volunteer Muskegon  
Volunteer Centers of Michigan**

### **Example Activities of VCM AmeriCorps\*VISTA Members:**

- Recruit, train and coordinate community volunteers
- Provide leadership development, training, and reflection activities to volunteers
- Assist with coordinating service learning opportunities for local K-12 schools and Higher Ed campuses
- Plan and implement community wide days of service projects
- Provide resources to community members about poverty-related issues
- Develop opportunities for skilled volunteerism
- Develop partnership with community agencies focusing on children and youth living in poverty

### **Program Duration:**

Individual VISTA members commit to stay at a placement for at least one year (365 days). Once the VISTA's terms of service has ended, the host center must assist Volunteer Centers of Michigan with recruiting another VISTA member. The Volunteer Center can have a VCM\*VISTA for up to three years.

### **VCM\*VISTA Member Benefits:**

- Part of a national movement toward civic engagement and volunteerism
- Receive an annual living allowance of \$10,296.00-\$11,235.00
- Receive an education award of \$5350.00 or end-of-service stipend of \$1400 upon completion of service.
- Student loan forbearance (federal loans)
- Health Benefits (individual)
- Childcare assistance subsidies (if applicant qualifies)
- Professional development including: grant writing, public speaking, volunteer management, leadership skills, event planning, nonprofit management, networking opportunities, attend Michigan Nonprofit Association's annual Super Conference

### **For More Information**

Visit our website: <http://www.mivolunteers.org>  
Contact Rachel Kelgon: [rklegon@mivolunteers.org](mailto:rklegon@mivolunteers.org) or (517) 492-2450