



## Issue #17- May/June 2009



**Mission:** The Volunteer Centers of Michigan strengthens, develops and connects volunteer centers throughout the state.

**Vision:** The Volunteer Centers of Michigan ensures all volunteer centers have the capacity to positively impact every Michigan community and their citizens through volunteerism.

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### AmeriCorps Week: May 9-16, 2009

The third annual [AmeriCorps Week](#), takes place May 9-16, 2009. AmeriCorps Week is a recruitment and recognition event designed to bring more Americans into service, salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their powerful impact, and thank the community partners who make AmeriCorps possible. AmeriCorps Week provides an opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by members in communities across the country -- and to motivate more people to join AmeriCorps or volunteer in their communities. Many events are being planned across the country. Individuals and organizations with a special interest in AmeriCorps-especially, members, programs, and alums-are encouraged to use their creativity to mark the week in any way they see fit. The choice is up to you! Check out the AmeriCorps Week website to learn how you can get involved and take advantage of great resources such as free presentation kit materials and project ideas.



Volunteer Centers of Michigan would like to take this time to thank the following VCM AmeriCorps\*VISTAs for their service to our Michigan communities:

*Mary Patterson*- VISTA serving at the Volunteer Resource Center in Port Huron

*Linda Gouda*- VISTA serving with Volunteer Muskegon/Oceana

*Laura Michaletz*- VISTA serving in Marquette with the U.P Volunteer Network

*Brad Hunter*- VISTA serving at the United Way Volunteer Center of the Eastern Upper Peninsula

*Cheryl Beauchamp*- VISTA serving at the Lenawee Community Foundation

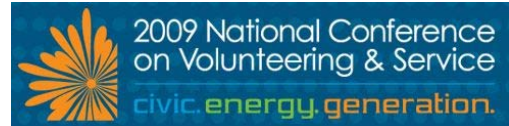
*Sue Toner*- VISTA serving at the Thumb Volunteer Alliance

Keep getting things done for Michigan!

In conjunction with the national push for AmeriCorps week, the state of Michigan is also gearing up for 2009 AmeriCorps Week. This year, the Michigan's AmeriCorps Russ Mawby Signature Service Project has been designated as the national AmeriCorps Week closing event. The Signature Service Project, taking place on May 15 and 16, will bring together more than 250 AmeriCorps members to assist with building and landscaping projects in Flint's Grand Traverse neighborhood. Members will also help construct a new play structure for area children in the city's Memorial Park. By the end of the two days, many projects will be completed, visibly demonstrating the impact of AmeriCorps members in action. This year's event is a partnership of Genesee County Habitat for Humanity, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan, and the Michigan Community Service Commission.

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## 2009 National Conference on Volunteering and Service



The [2009 National Conference on Volunteering and Service](#) is taking place June 22-24 at the Moscone Center - West in the heart of San Francisco, CA. This conference is the world's largest gathering of volunteer and service leaders from the nonprofit, government, and corporate sectors. Go to the San Francisco Bay Area to tap into the renewed enthusiasm for volunteering to meet critical community needs and participate in vital conversations about the future of service and volunteering in America. Come away inspired, refreshed and energized! This year's theme - "Civic. Energy. Generation." - reflects the tremendous excitement in our nation today as people of all ages and backgrounds unify in a powerful movement to bring about social change.

Co-convened by [Points of Light Institute](#) and the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#), this annual event provides attendees with an opportunity to learn, connect, and be inspired through a wide range of exciting and informative plenary sessions, workshops, special events, service projects, exhibits, specialized corporate tracks and more. The 2009 Conference Goals are to:

**Learn** best practices, trends, strategies and new ways of doing business from the nation's best thinkers and practitioners of service and volunteering through more than 175 workshops, forums and plenary sessions.

**Connect** with peers, funders, experts and leaders from the business, government and nonprofit sectors. Get plugged in before you come, through our [Facebook event](#), [Twitter feed](#) and [blog](#).

**Be Inspired** by dynamic speakers and stimulating forums, in a place known for exciting innovation. Recharge, engage and bring back new ideas and civic energy to strengthen the reach and impact of your organization.

Don't forget -early bird registration ends May 15.

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## Resources and Opportunities

### Grant Opportunities

The Department of Interior has released a list of grant opportunities around engaging youth in service. For a complete listing of opportunities and to download an application, [click here](#).

### AmeriCorps VISTA Openings

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) is seeking four AmeriCorps\*VISTA members to serve at the MCSC in Lansing. The *National Service Inclusion AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member* will enhance the ability of the MCSC to engage and support individuals with disabilities in national service. The *National Service Cross-stream AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member* will focus on improving the communication, collaboration, and sustainability of national service programs in Michigan through the creation of a regional and statewide network. The *Learn and Serve - Michigan AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member* will enhance the ability of Learn and Serve - Michigan to expand the reach of service-learning in areas across the state with high levels of poverty, particularly the Detroit metropolitan area. The application deadline for these positions is May 11, 2009 with service beginning July 2009. The *Mentor Michigan AmeriCorps\*VISTA Outreach Member* will focus on expanding the network of mentoring programs and promote the Quality Program Standards for Youth Mentoring. This application deadline is June 1, 2009 with service beginning August 18, 2009. Contact Kathie Vasilion Robinson at [vasilionk@michigan.gov](mailto:vasilionk@michigan.gov) or 517-373-4200 for more information on these positions. For more information on the Michigan Community Service Commission, visit [www.michigan.gov/mcsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mcsc). For more information on AmeriCorps\*VISTA, visit [www.americorps.gov/for\\_individuals/choose/vista.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/choose/vista.asp).

### Census Confirms Rise in Youth Voter Turnout Rate

Nearly two million more young Americans under the age of 30 voted in the 2008 presidential elections as compared to the 2004 elections, according to new Census data analyzed by CIRCLE. The increase is a continuation of the trend observed in the 2004 and 2006 elections. Youth turnout was 11 percentage points higher than in 1996, which was the low point after decades of decline. While young people increased their turnout significantly in 2008, older adults voted at lower rates than in 2004 and only slightly above their 2000 level. Although overall youth turnout was high in the 2008 presidential election, there were important

differences in turnout rates. Young African Americans posted the highest turnout rate ever observed for any racial or ethnic group of young Americans since 1972. The gap in turnout by educational attainment remained large; voter turnout of young people without college experience was 36%, compared to a 62% rate among young people with college experience. (About half of the young adult population has some college experience.) There was also a significant gender gap in turnout: young women voted at a rate eight points above young men. For more information, please visit <http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=339>.

### **Downward Trend in High School Volunteering**

Fewer high school age (16-18) Americans stepped up to volunteer their time over the past two years, a new CIRCLE Fact Sheet reveals. Traditionally, teenagers have volunteered at slightly higher rates than other age groups, but in 2007 people 25 or older were more likely to volunteer than were those 16 to 18. Overall trends showed a six percentage point decline in volunteering among 16-to-18 year-olds since the rate peaked in 2005 at 33 percent. Meanwhile, volunteer rates for the population aged 19-to-25 (18 percent) and 25 years and older (28 percent) both changed very little (2 percentage points or less) since 2002. Volunteer rates were found to vary tremendously across states and age groups, and to change from year to year. To download the fact sheet, click here <http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=338>

### **Policy Update: Megan Meier Cyber Bullying Prevention Act**



On March 18, 2009, Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) introduced the "Bullying and Gang Reduction for Improved Education Act" to allow schools to use existing federal funding specifically for bullying and gang prevention programs. In an interview with NPR Weekend Edition, Rep. Sanchez discussed that the bill was named after 13-year-old Megan Meier, who hanged herself in 2006 after being a target of cyber bullying. Read the [Press Release](#) or the [Bill H.R. 1966](#) and hear the [April 5th NPR interview with Rep. Sanchez](#).

### **United Way Day of Action**

On June 21 - the longest day of the year - United Ways across the country are participating in a nationwide Day of Action. With more daylight hours than any other, June 21 is the perfect day to let your actions speak louder than words. It's the perfect way to show, by example, what it means to LIVE UNITED. What will you do on the longest day of the year? [Click here to find ideas](#) and [tell us](#) how you plan to LIVE UNITED on June 21.

### **Energize May Hot Topic: The Role of Volunteer Resources Managers in the Serve America Act: Stay Up-to-Date and Lead**

The lengthy and complex Serve America Act has been signed into law. As a profession, we have a unique and strategic chance to influence effective implementation of the Act, draw attention to the skills of volunteer resources management, and assure that the volunteer community is truly strengthened by the new initiatives. Learn how you can get involved with tips from Energize Guest Writer Paula Beugen (and some editorializing from Susan). [Read this Month's Hot Topic](#) or you can subscribe to the Hot Topic as a [podcast](#) or [RSS text feed](#) -- or listen to the audio online.

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## **Technology Resources**

### **HandsOn Tech and 1-800-Volunteer.org Simplify Impact Reporting**

In order to provide more robust reporting functionality on HandsOn Network national campaigns and signature events, HandsOn Tech and 1-800-Volunteer.org now simplify the process of impact reporting by integrating this data as part of every Project, Referral or Opportunity. For more information on HandsOn Tech, [click here](#). For more information on 1-800-Volunteer.org, [click here](#). Please share this information with your staff and with your agency partners who post their own referrals and opportunities.

### **America's Promise Alliance New Website**

America's Promise Alliance is pleased to introduce their new and enhanced website, [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org), that features outstanding resources, news and information about and for those focused on supporting children and youth so they live healthy and successful lives.

### **TeleGreen Your Work**



Follow TechSoup's [TeleGreen Your Work Campaign](#). Check out [ten tips for telegreening your nonprofit](#) and join them over the next month and learn how to use technology to save money, reduce travel, and maximize your nonprofit's impact.

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## Calendar

<b>May</b>	
9-16	<a href="#">AmeriCorps Week</a>
<b>June</b>	
3	VCM VISTA Conference Call 10:00- 11:00 am
21	United Way Day of Action
22- 24	<a href="#">National Conference on Volunteering and Service,</a> San Francisco, CA
30	VCM Network Conference Call 10:00-11:30 am

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