



Volunteer Maryland!

building stronger, healthier communities

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Volunteer Maryland builds stronger, healthier communities by developing programs that meet critical needs in the areas of poverty, education, human needs, public safety, homeland security, and the environment.

Through our AmeriCorps

February 2009

Dear Patrice,

What's new? A question often asked when meeting colleagues, friends, and family. But have you considered what is new for you and your organization? Here at Volunteer Maryland we continue to explore new ways to communicate with our partners and AmeriCorps members, and are excited to pass along what we have learned.

In this issue we will look at Facebook, Twitter, and this new world of social networking. Also see how two Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps members are using technology in their work. Really interesting stuff! Check out news from Volunteer Maryland like the recent AmeriCorps VISTA Conference, and partnership opportunities. This edition really offers resources and information with every click!

Are You Lost In Cyberspace?

Can't make heads or tails of Facebook? Afraid of wasting time on LinkedIn? Wondering what the heck is Twitter?

Everywhere you turn these days, there's another person urging you to dive into the social networking world. "You can raise more money," they say, "you can find more volunteers and attract more media attention." But what exactly is all the fuss about?

Below you will find out about the work of two AmeriCorps members, VISTA member Candice Carr and Volunteer Maryland Coordinator Michael Nealis, and learn how technology is playing a central role in their national and community service. Find out how Michael uses Twitter in his volunteer program and how Candice is pushing a long-established nonprofit into the digital age.

Click [here](#) for more on VM's social networking exploration.

programs, Volunteer Maryland provides resources in volunteer program management and organizational capacity building.

Volunteer Maryland Coordinator Spotlight:

Michael Nealis

The Volunteer Enforcement Corps

Through a partnership with Volunteer Maryland, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is creating a "Volunteer Enforcement Corps," to meet a critical community need for watershed monitoring and environmental protection. Responsible for developing the program from the ground up, when Volunteer Maryland Coordinator Michael Nealis came to MDE in October, he began by evaluating how to make the job at hand as quick and efficient as possible. "We can use technology to take something that is unwieldy and difficult to understand and condense it into something that is very easy to use and to get what you need from it," says Michael.



Find out [how...](#)

VISTA Spotlight: Candice Carr

Applied Technologist

Candice Carr, a VISTA member with Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO) has a very ambitious goal for her service year: to position GEDCO in the technological forefront of the nonprofit sector. Candice began looking into VISTA opportunities after graduating from Goucher College and found a posting for GEDCO's "Applied Technologist" VISTA opportunity. Now six months into her term of service, Candice says that she has grown in her understanding of both organizational technology and personal finance. Living on a limited income, states Candice, "not only builds compassion for the plight of others, it deepens your desire to relieve poverty, and makes you confront your own attachments to money. I'm grateful to be learning these lessons sooner than later in life!"



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Volunteer Maryland's AmeriCorps Conference



Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps*VISTA Members

On February 12, 50 guests, program staff, AmeriCorps, and VISTA members from across Maryland came together for Volunteer Maryland's AmeriCorps Conference in Timonium. The conference was sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service and was the first event of its kind in Maryland. To provide networking and professional development opportunities for all VISTA members in the state, VM created a program that included workshops on the AmeriCorps education award, resume development, in-kind donations, and volunteer recruitment.

The most poignant moment of the day occurred after lunch during the keynote presentation by the Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau. The Speakers Bureau is a program of the National Coalition for the Homeless and is made up of powerful and inspiring advocates, each of whom currently is or has been homeless. The Bureau challenges stereotypes and prejudice against people who are homeless and works to educate the public about homelessness. In 2008 the Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau spoke to over 17,000 people in 40 states. As expected (and hoped), listening to the Speakers Bureau was a moving experience for many at the conference. One member said the presentation was "a great reality check, which makes you feel good about your humble contribution...while making you aware that there's still a lot to be done!"

Thanks to great trainers, speakers, and participants, this event provided an opportunity for AmeriCorps and VISTA members to renew connections, reignite a passion for service, and take away valuable lessons for this year of service and beyond. Thank you to the Corporation for National and Community Service State Office for their support and trainers Miriam Isserow, Women Empowered Against Violence; Jessica Lowe, Rebuilding Together; and Cynthia Tyler, Corporation for National and Community Service.

See More Results!

Partner With Volunteer Maryland!

Now more than ever nonprofits are looking for the biggest possible return on the investment of valuable time and precious funds. The need within communities continues to grow and Volunteer Maryland is ready to work with your organization to meet those needs today by expanding resources, developing programs, or recruiting volunteers that will continue to meet the needs of tomorrow. How does this work? Through Volunteer Maryland's two AmeriCorps resources, VISTA and the Volunteer Maryland Coordinator Program, organizations get help through fully supported programs, and get a partner in creating structures that can lead to more tangible results. The VISTA program focuses on program development and fundraising for programs or organizations moving people out of poverty. The Volunteer Maryland Coordinator Program works with organizations to develop sustainable volunteer programs.

Volunteer Maryland is currently accepting applications for both AmeriCorps programs. To be eligible, organizations must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization or government agency, be in existence for at least one year, and be able to provide an adequate office space for the AmeriCorps member. Organizations are invited to apply to one of the programs, but due to limited resources we will not be able to accept applications for both the VISTA and Volunteer Maryland Coordinator programs from one organization.

For details concerning the VISTA program, contact Maureen Eccleston at meccleston@volunteermaryland.org, or 410-767-6219. For information concerning the Volunteer Maryland Coordinator Program, contact Patrice Beverly at pbeverly@volunteermaryland.org, or 410-767-6231.

Volunteer Maryland is an AmeriCorps program of the Governor's Office.

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