



VOLUNTEER MARYLAND AMERICORPS★VISTA POSITIONS



In each VISTA position, the VISTA member will be required to set up sustainable systems of their work. This may include writing manuals or training staff or volunteers to continue the activities after the one-year VISTA term of service.

Resource Development: The AmeriCorps★VISTA member researches and coordinates fund raising efforts for a specific project or program. The VISTA member may write grant proposals, develop template letters for in-kind donations, create a database to track donors, and conduct outreach to build contact lists and recruit community resources.

Dayspring Inc, in Baltimore, aims to increase their capacity to serve community students through an after school program. They applied for a VISTA member to generate in-kind donations for the program; increase and track community partners to support the program financially; create a donor database; and research and write grant proposals to support the after school program operating costs. When the VISTA member's service is complete, Dayspring anticipates being able to serve 100 students – an increase of 80 students.

Marketing and Technology: The AmeriCorps★VISTA member improves the organization's technological infrastructure and leads innovative marketing strategies. Activities can include development or improvement of a web site, e-newsletter, social networking sites (facebook, myspace, linkedin), blogs, press kits, display boards, Power Point presentations, promotional videos, speaker's kit, and more.

At Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO), VISTA member Candice Carr led a redesign of GEDCO's interactive website, with functions to shop online, donate to GEDCO, sign up for volunteer opportunities and the e-newsletter, search the staff directory, and read current news stories. Candice also spearheaded the development of a blog and e-newsletter; created videos of clients to host on YouTube; created a wiki to increase collaboration between clients, community members, and staff; and trained staff on the use and maintenance of each new product and strategy.

Evaluation: The AmeriCorps★VISTA member develops an evaluation plan for a specific program or service of the Sponsor Agency and may begin to implement the evaluation. Activities can include clarifying program objectives and anticipated outcomes, developing evaluation questions, methods, and tools, setting a timeline for implementation and interviewing stakeholders.

At Moveable Feast, clients receive meals and health services through staff and volunteers, but there is no formal feedback mechanism to gauge client satisfaction and ensure efficient use of food and medical transportation. Moveable Feast applied for a VISTA member to create a system for client interviews and follow-up. The VISTA member will conduct client interviews and present a summary of his/her findings over the course of the year. At the same time, the VISTA member will develop procedures for the interviews, which will be carried on by volunteers after the VISTA term.