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The AmeriCorps Now! "not later, for Adams 14."



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Upcoming Events

Winter Break

Dec. 22 - Jan. 2

Check out our new website!

The CARENET AmeriCorps team recently created a website to document our organization's goals, profile our members—old and new—and highlight our service in an around Commerce City. Please feel free to check it out and get to know us a little bit better! The web address is as follows:

www.carenetamericorps.weebly.com

If you are a CARENET AmeriCorps alum and would like to add your profile, please email brookeherrmann@yahoo.com.

A Corps is a Corpse is a...AmeriCorps?

To begin this month's CARENET AmeriCorps newsletter, I wish to take a slight detour from the normal content you may have come to expect in this publication to discuss another issue entirely—an issue of utmost importance that demands all of our attention in conjunction with our respect. This issue is, of course, (drum roll please), the spelling and pronunciation of the word "AmeriCorps!" If that was in fact a bit of a let down or in anyway misleading to you, I apologize. However, I do maintain the position that this issue, although irrelevant to some, is highly relevant and important to us, your CARENET AmeriCorps team!

Now let's get down to business. The word "corps" comes from both the French word "cors" (circa 1275) and the Latin "corpus," both of which roughly translate to mean "body." Since that time, however, the word has evolved in the English language from meaning "dead body" (13th century) to "live

body" (14th c.) to "body of citizens" (15th c.) to "band of knights" (1464) and so on.

The word "corps," at its inception, did translate to a word relating to the body, often a dead one. However, in its modern day usage, the word "corps" defines a group of people associating or acting together. The most common example of this usage would probably be the Marine Corps.

Notice, however, that the word "marine" is separate from the word "corps," and both are capitalized when referring to the Marine Corps organization.

With the spelling of AmeriCorps, the word "corps" is combined with and attached to the word "American" to make a new word—AmeriCorps, wherein both the "a" and "c" are written as capital letters and the word is pronounced as though the word is spelled like this: AmeriCore, not AmeriCorpse.



So, in conclusion, I make one humble request of you: If and when you are confronted with a situation that requires you to use the name of our organization, please stop, think, and remember that we are neither dead nor are we dying. In fact, we are quite the opposite—a band of knights charging forth with excited vigilance, saving one child at a time.

Alexa Plotkin

If you have any questions about AmeriCorps or would like to know more, check out their website:

www.americorps.org

Returning Members at a Glance

Out of our team of twelve, five are returning members, and thus labeled as "old." You may have already read up on a few of our old members, but one not yet discussed is *Kaiman Elyse Triplett*. She was born in Salem, Virginia, but comes hailing more recently from Flor-

ida, where her parents currently reside. She has had a passion for riding horses her whole life and spent many a spare hour at the stable.

Over time, a love for kids developed and materialized into her current dreams/plans to continually work with kids. She hopes to return to her

education soon, potentially after her AmeriCorps service is complete.

Just before starting at Central Elementary School in September 2007, Kaiman was teaching about endangered birds and sea turtles in

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“Getting Things Done”

www.americorps.org

Tree by Tree

On October 25, 2008, seven of our own were not afraid to get dirt under their fingernails. Annie, Alexa, Brooke, Matt, Kathryn, Brien and Mary Kate joined volunteers from all over the Denver area to take part in Tree by Tree-The Mile High Million. Tree by Tree is a program of Greenprint Denver to plant one million trees over the next 20 years.

The morning started off quite chilly, but quickly warmed up after



Pictured clockwise above: Brooke Herrmann, Alexa Plotkin, Anne Doty, Mary Kate Russell

marching down the streets of Park Hill carrying burlap tarps, shovels, and a pick axe. With these tools we were ready to start our beautification project. Our tree planting adventure was lead by a real-life woodsman from the United States Forest Service, Dan

Steely. He showed us how much dirt to dig up, how to separate the turf from the dirt, how to take a young six-foot tree out of its planter, and cover the newly planted tree with mulch.

After planting the first two trees, our team worked like clockwork. Brien and Matt used the

pick axe and break up the ground so that the rest of us could dig up the soil.

Once the tree was in the ground we would get on our knees and "tickle" the tree. In doing this our goal was not to make the tree laugh, but to relax the tightly wound roots that had been encased in the tree's planters for up to 3 or 4 years. We would take our gloves off and maneuver our fingers between the roots and dirt until they were free. Once the trees were set in our freshly dug holes, we would replace the dirt and spread mulch all over the top.

After a successful morning of planting everyone was very happy with the results. The Park Hill neighborhood is twelve trees richer now, thanks to CARENET. If you would like to take part in Tree by Tree you can visit: <http://www.greenprintdenver.org/trees> or call (720) 913-1311.

Mary Kate Russell

Derby Winter Festival

Last Friday, December 12, the CARENET AmeriCorps team participated in the annual Derby Winter Festival in Commerce City. Beginning at 9:00 a.m., the team helped unload, set up, and decorate approximately fifty Christmas trees that later would be donated to families in Commerce City that aren't able to acquire one on their own.

Although the task at hand seemed daunting at first with trees standing

crookedly in their stands and tangled Christmas lights, the day quickly turned around.

As more and more volunteers arrived, the trees began to take shape with lights, ornaments, and various other decorations. It was at that point we knew we would be able to get it done in time for the evening portion of the festival when Santa would arrive and the trees would be given to their new owners!

Alexa Plotkin

The CARENET AmeriCorps team wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!



Returning Members at a Glance Cont'd

Florida, mostly to school-aged children. This may have been her sparking moment for the want to work with children.

At Central, you will find her helping children from the special education department, tutoring in a classroom, or spending time in the after school program. Her work is never done. You could say it is only just



Pictured Above: Kaiman Elyse having some fun at the recent Holly Park Playground build

beginning!

Kaiman has not been known for all work and no play. A very fitting description of her is "social butterfly." She mingles well and more than enjoys meeting

new people. A returning adventure for her this year is sewing classes, where she has already created a nifty bag.

Lastly, Kaiman enjoys all things that make her and others laugh. Seldom will you find her without a smile on her face! If you see her around Adams 14, do meet this valuable member of our AmeriCorps team!

Lisa Dalby