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The AmeriCorps Now!

“not later, for Adams 14.”



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MLK Day Marade A Success!

(Editor's Note: A Marade is more than a march, but not quite a parade.)

This year's MLK Jr. Marade in Downtown Denver was said to have drawn a much larger crowd than any past year with an estimated 100,000-plus people. It may have been the beautiful weather that drew people out, or perhaps it was the fact that it was the day before the Inauguration of Barack Obama signifying that people truly are desperate for change. Everything about the day was a great success for the city and surrounding areas.

This success, however, could not have happened

without the help of dozens of volunteers. Our AmeriCorps team used this day to get involved with our community and participate in what is known officially as “a day on, not a day off.” On Saturday, January 17, six of our members joined other groups and individuals for a training session to become Peace Mar-



Pictured above: Kaiman Triplett, Lisa Dalby, Vincent Lucero, Jake Hoffius, Elizabeth McDermott, Darren Latanick & Mary Kate Russell

shals for the Martin Luther King Jr. Marade. After training that morning, our team pulled on rubber gloves, tied



orange safety vests over our clothes, and hauled trash bags over our shoulders to improve the Marade route from the MLK Jr. statue in City Park down Colfax Avenue to the Civic Center. This dirty, yet critical job really helped prepare the city and ourselves for what is always remembered as an important celebration.

The day of the Marade, Monday, January 19, our team met in City Park and

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Events

District Vocal & Arts Festival	Feb. 12
Presidents' Day NO SCHOOL	Feb. 16
AmeriCorps Mid-Year Retreat	Feb. 26-27
Susan G. Komen Romp to Stomp out Breast Cancer	Mar. 7



Pictured above: Elizabeth McDermott & Kaiman Triplett sporting their MLK shirts.

Returning Members at a Glance

Lisa Dalby is one of the several members who returned to the CARENET AmeriCorps team this year. Originally hailing from Scotland, Lisa is currently completing her second year of service at Kemp Elementary where they affectionately call her “Ms. Lisa.” However, don't let the accent fool you; this lovable Scot is as American as they come. Lisa attended high school in the northern

Ohio town of Bryan and went on to major in Speech and Hearing Pathology at The Ohio State University before kissing Ohio goodbye and moving on to greener pastures and mountains in sunny Colorado.

I caught up with Lisa the other day and was able to wrestle a few questions out of her regarding her experiences, future plans, and a few other tasty tidbits....

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

www.AmeriCorps.org

1. What inspired you to come back to Adams 14 and return to the program?

Everything about last year was so great! I had fun with new people in a new state. I made great friends. I had the best hands on experience anyone could ask for. I worked with such a positive and supportive staff. I saw how fast children could change and learn. And I

Continued on page 2



“Getting Things Done”

www.CARENETAmeriCorps.weebly.com

What Does the Future of Public Service in America Look Like?

As a current member of the CARENET AmeriCorps team and someone who has chosen to devote the next few years of my life to public service, I am of course interested in the future of public service programs in the United States. Although the past eight years haven't looked so good for increasing the size and scope of the public service sector, we should all be excited for the progress we may see over the next four years.

As a man who started off his career by moving to the South Side of Chicago to organize and develop community projects, we know Barack Obama understands the importance of investing in public service to reinvigorate Americans—and during times like these, we all know that America could use some reinvigorating! To begin, Barack Obama promises to expand the Corporation for National and Community Service which will increase the size of AmeriCorps from 75,000 members to

over 250,000. The focus of this expansion will include the creation of a Classroom Corps, a Health Corps, a Clean Energy Corps, and a Homeland Security Corps to address the “great challenges facing [our] nation.” In addition, Obama hopes to engage retiring Americans, citing their “wide range of skills and knowledge” as reasons they should be involved in this great endeavor. Obama also plans to double the size of the Peace Corps to, as he states, “put forth the best face of America to the world,” to build relationships with other countries and work side by side with volunteers from across the globe.

Another facet to Obama's plan (and the one that I am most excited about) is the connection he wishes to make between service and learning. President Obama hopes to expand service-learning into our nation's schools by requiring all middle and high school students to complete 50 hours of com-

munity service before graduation. In addition, he wants to establish what he is calling a new “American Opportunity Tax Credit” worth \$4,000 a year in exchange for 100 hours of public service a year for college students.

While I am fully aware that these programs are most likely not the top priority for our President right now, given our difficult economic situation, I have high hopes for the future. The impetus for change has swept across the nation and rocketed us ahead into a new American consciousness, one in which we are looking inward at ourselves and wondering what we can do to make things different. And what better way to facilitate this change than to have a hand in changing someone else's life through service? We may not have the funds right now and we may not have a clear idea of what America will look like in a year or even six months, but we do know that we now have a President dedicated to engaging us and who believes in the power of the individual to engender great change.

Alexa Plotkin

Returning Members at a Glance Cont'd

learned so much about myself. Although I knew a second year would be different, I simply couldn't turn down a program that allows you the opportunity to make a difference, and offers so much for personal development in return.

2. What are your plans for after this year?

I am applying to graduate schools mostly in the Midwest for Speech Lan-



Pictured above: Lisa Dalby stringing lights for the Derby Winter Festival

Pathology, so fingers crossed for that! I understand how competitive the market for this is, so a backup plan would be a mission or trip/volunteering/teaching English abroad. This is something that I know will be in my future, so if it happens next year, then it will just be a little earlier than expected or planned!

3. If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring two items, what two items would you bring?

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.” Congratulations, CARENET, on a job well done!

Lisa Dalby

The first would be a journal. I have started writing frequently this year, and it is such a freeing activity. I never realized how much I enjoy it. I have a lot of really great stories from being with the kids at Kemp, so if anyone needs a pick me up, these will continually keep you laughing! The second would have to be a pen...because where is a journal without a writing tool?

4. What is your favorite part about being in AmeriCorps?

I would say it's the people, from CARENET members whom I now call friends, to teachers and all staff, as I can see and feel that they are not here solely for themselves, these people have character, and give more than they will ever allow themselves to receive. This characteristic is so attractive, and it is these people that will make a difference for any future! Thank you to those who show you care!

Darren Latanick

MLK Day Marade A Success! cont'd

then was tasked with serving as stage security at the Civic Center. There we waited patiently until the crowds appeared from the Marade route on Colfax and surrounded the stage. The speeches began, the crowd was moved, and our participation is something no other experience will replace.