



March/April 2009

Volume 1, Issue 6

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



Kathryn Gray
 Program Coordinator
 CARENET AmeriCorps
 5291 E. 60th Ave.
 Commerce City, CO 80022
 (720) 322-8113
www.adams14.org

75,000 Strong and Counting... to 250,000

Over the past several months you may have noticed that we, CARENET AmeriCorps, have been making an effort to increase our visible presence throughout the Adams 14 community. If you have noticed it in no other regard, you're reading this newsletter, aren't you?

What you may not know is that CARENET is not the only AmeriCorps presence among you. No joke- other AmeriCorps programs serve Commerce City, as well, simply in different capacities! All of the regional Salud clinics receive the services of a health-based AmeriCorps program. A Youth Corps team has invested numerous hours eradicating invasive species out at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. If you expand your search to the Denver metro area, you will find 14 different AmeriCorps programs with another 2 dozen spread

throughout the state! These programs engage several hundred AmeriCorps members in dozens of different civically responsible and necessary roles.

To paint an even broader picture, an open search of ALL AmeriCorps postings yields 5,490 results. Most of those postings likely are recruiting for anywhere from 1-20 members or more! The positions are located throughout all 50 states, Washington D.C., American Samoa, Guam, Saipan, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. (Service in St. Croix, anyone?)

All told, approximately 75,000 U.S. citizens already are actively serving their country through AmeriCorps. You might like to know that it has been President Obama's intent since early in his campaign to expand the program to 250,000 members by 2017. As a first step in that direction, the American Recovery and Re-



investment Act of 2009 includes \$201 million for the Corporation for National and Community Service, the parent organization for AmeriCorps. This marks the first federal legislative update and expansion AmeriCorps has experienced in its 15-year life.

An additional aspiration of the new administration is the development of a National Reserve Service Corps, which will recruit and train AmeriCorps alumni to deploy and serve in the event

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

www.AmeriCorps.org

would be doing America a greater service than clearing trails in Montana or something." For the record, Darren has never been to Montana. I asked him if he'd ever considered doing service work abroad, and he said he has considered it, but has not looked into it. He is trying to make arrangements to live in Ecuador for a couple months later this year, and he may

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Upcoming Events National AmeriCorps Week

Scholastic Book Warehouse Sale	May 9
AmeriCorps at the Rockies	May 10
LAFTA Conference	May 13
CARENET All-Stars Softball Game	May 13
Adams 14 Film Fest	May 14
CO Service Awards	May 15
14er Fest	May 15

New Members at a Glance

I was privileged enough to land an interview with AmeriCorps' Darren Latanick over the weekend. When I came to his door Darren was already standing there waiting for his interview, with an electric guitar strapped around his shoulders and he was eating a bowl of cereal. Getting right to the point I asked him why he chose to join CARENET, rather than any of the many other AmeriCorps pro-

grams. He answered, "When I was researching AmeriCorps programs the CARENET program really stuck out because it seemed like a program where I could really make a difference in a community. The prospect of working with children and education has always been something I've been interested in, I felt that I could put my Spanish major to good use, and to be honest teaching seemed to me like it



Congratulations, Lisa!



“Getting Things Done”

www.CARENETAmeriCorps.weebly.com

The Recovery Act for National and Community Service

On February 17th, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the much needed and highly anticipated American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). Never, in the annals of American history has there been a bolder or more unprecedented legislative measure enacted than this one. Not since the actions of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, with the creation of the New Deal during the Great Depression, has it been necessary for the government to step in on such enormous levels. While many people feel that this piece of legislation is an overstepping of our government, we are definitely caught in a tight spot right now and I for one feel comforted by the fact that millions of dollars have

been allotted for specific actions that will jump-start the economy, create and save many jobs shore side, move us towards energy independence and improve affordable healthcare—and that is just to name a few.

I also feel comforted by the fact that within this act, \$201 million in funding has been set aside for the Corporation for National and Community Service to support an expansion of AmeriCorps State and National, and AmeriCorps VISTA programs. This can only be a step in the right direction for where community service is headed as well as the future of our country.

AmeriCorps has many sectors that address multiple issues in our commu-

nities, such as health and medical support, educational advancement, environmental upkeep, and disaster relief. The Recovery Act shows that there is expanding support from our government to continually sustain these important matters. Expanding service can only build a stronger, healthier, better educated America, as well as creating opportunity for people to get more acquainted and involved in their own communities. We need to open our eyes, and help each other grow, in order for our nation to grow. As far as service goes, this act can bring great change!

To find out more about the recovery act in regards to AmeriCorps, The Corporation for National and Community Service or if you are simply curious as to where your precious tax dollars are being placed, please visit: www.recovery.gov.

Lisa Dalby

New Members at a Glance Cont'd

find himself doing some volunteer work over there. His future plans after AmeriCorps? This 23 year old gentleman is unsure: “My plans after AmeriCorps are a little murky right now. I am currently studying and looking to apply to graduate programs and am considering returning to do AmeriCorps next year.”

Darren wants to get into law school within the next year or so and try out his professional skills in that arena. At DePaul University, Darren studied Spanish and History, and particularly enjoys learning about the American and Latin American Colonial Period.

Then I took the interview to the next level and asked him what, if any celeb gossip has been on his mind as of late. I

could tell that Mickey Rourke had been bothering him, but didn't want to ask straight out. I wasn't surprised when he said, “I saw Mickey Rourke on *The View* a couple weeks ago when I was sick and had to stay home and it was really bizarre. The idea of his “comeback” is weird because he is clearly still totally insane.”

Darren's favorite dance move is “the one where you jump over your leg like the kid in House Party.” He enjoys Mexican Cuisine over most others. Another interesting note about Darren is concerning his travels, Darren has been to Argentina, Chile, Peru, England, Ecuador, Ireland, Canada, and a great portion of the U.S.A. Next time I see Darren I will be sure to bring ice



Pictured Above: Darren Latanick takes a bow at the Sand Creek Greenway Cleanup last September

cream, because he is addicted to it. Goodnight America.

Elizabeth McDermott

75,000 Strong and Counting... to 250,000 Cont'd

of a natural or otherwise national disaster.

In Colorado alone, over 60,000 residents already engage in some sort of National Service program or project annually. An additional 1.1 million participate in some other form of service, likely through local faith-based and other community organizations.

So, how can you identify which of our nation's 300 million residents are

among the 75,000 actively serving AmeriCorps members? Well, unless they have the infamous AmeriCorps logo emblazoned on themselves somewhere, you typically will not find a visible indicator. Traditionally, AmeriCorps members look a lot like, well... you. And me. And your next door neighbor. And, come to think of it, your neighbor's 18-year-old kid and your own in-laws look a lot like AmeriCorps members, too.

Considering the scope of our service areas and no upper age limit, just about anyone you see could be an AmeriCorps member! Given the goal of increasing AmeriCorps service positions by more than 300%, chances are increasingly likely that your neighbor really is, or will become, an AmeriCorps member. Perhaps even the person staring back at you in the mirror, someday, will be emblazoned with our logo. Did I mention that there are AmeriCorps opportunities in Hawaii?

Kathryn Gray