



# SHORECORPS/PALS

## Partnership for Adolescents on the Lower Shore at Salisbury University

The AmeriCorps Mission ... to strengthen communities, encourage responsibility and expand opportunities. In the Lower Eastern Shore, AmeriCorps members serve in positions providing tutoring/mentoring services, conflict resolution training, parent and family support.

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### Project Management Team

**George Whitehead, Ph. D.**  
Project Director

**Linda Beall**  
Program Director

**Barry King**  
Management Team

**Jamie Cugler-Dwyer**  
Administrative Assistant

**Nancy Hatch**  
Program Coordinator

**Bernita Earp**  
Clerical Assistant

### Service Projects

**A Star! and PALS Exchange  
Conservation Resource  
Enhancement Program**  
July 23, 2002

**Annapolis Trip**  
August 8, 2002

**PALS Graduation**  
August 24, 2002

## Be The Change

by George Whitehead, Project Director

When I drive around Salisbury, I read sayings on church signs. I find them quite inspirational. Recently, I read the following saying: "Be the change you want to see in the world." That is a powerful message to reflect on as we begin PALS' eighth year. PALS members have the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth. Over the past eight years, PALS members have made a difference for the Eastern Shore of Maryland!

At graduation this year, Linda Beall, program director, shared data demonstrating this impact. For example, PALS members in 2001-2002 mentored 746 at-risk youth including pregnant and parenting teens. According to the site supervisors, 451 of these youth improved self-esteem and life skills. PALS members in 2001-2002 mentored and tutored over 1,837 students. Site supervisors report almost 849 students improved school attendance or academic performance by at least one letter grade by the end of the school year. These data clearly show the tremendous impact PALS members have made this past year.

Maryland Delegate Norman Conway recognized this impact when he spoke at this year's graduation. He also thanked members for helping build strong communities. In his speech, he emphasized that American citizens showed the greatness of our country

in their responses to September 11. I appreciate Del. Conway's comments and his support of PALS.

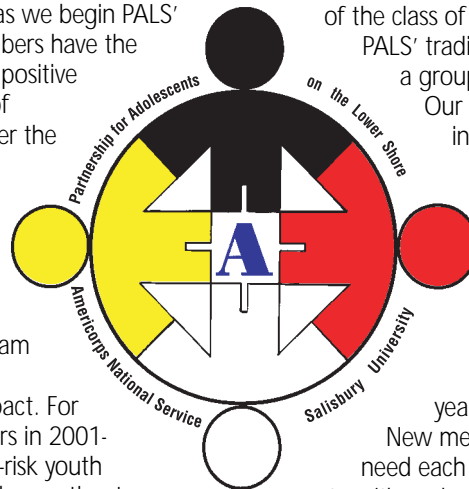
Looking at the coming year, I can tell from the kickoff event that the members of the class of 2002-2003 will carry on PALS' tradition of excellence. What a group of enthusiastic people.

Our typical kickoff event includes team-building activities in the morning. The Beyond the Limits Team of Bud, Harlan and Scott always do an excellent job with these activities. This year was no exception.

New members learned that we need each other and to communicate with each other to be successful.

Motivational speaker Tony Palm joined us this year for the afternoon session. He talked about "The Dream Diamond." He challenged the members with the idea of pursuing their dreams with confidence, determination, enthusiasm and goal setting to which they related.

I believe that PALS members in previous years have found that their year of service has changed their lives and has helped them toward their dreams. My hope for this year's PALS members is that as they serve and change the lives of others that their lives will change as well. I hope that these changes will also lead them closer to their dreams!



### Quote to Ponder

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

—Margaret Mead, anthropologist

# From the Desk

by **Linda Beall, Program Director**

On Saturday, August 24, 29 members graduated from ShoreCorps/PALS at Salisbury University. I was proud to be part of that graduation ceremony. It was great to see the graduates, families, site supervisors and other guests. Commencement speaker Delegate Norman Conway congratulated them and inspired each graduate to do more in their communities in the wake of September 11. He encouraged the members to be leaders for service to make our nation even greater. I delivered a short power-point presentation on what we accomplished this past year and I would like to share with the reading audience parts of it.

ShoreCorps/PALS has been successful this year because our members made it successful. ShoreCorps/PALS commitment to children and youth was successful because our members honored their commitment to serve. ShoreCorps/PALS members consist of individuals of all ages, cultures, backgrounds and abilities. We are a KIDS program. Our members served in schools, libraries, social service agencies, YMCA, the Salvation Army, health departments, local management boards, the Boy Scouts, family support centers, the Salisbury Zoo and the Ward Museum. Our AmeriCorps members mentored and tutored youth and gave the kids the extra attention they needed to succeed.

Our AmeriCorps members accomplished much this year and successfully met all of our objectives. Our accomplishments for 2001-2002 include:

- PALS members have mentored 746 at-risk youth including pregnant and parenting teens. Site supervisors reported 451 of those youth improved their self-esteem and life skills. This was accomplished at social service agencies, health departments, family support centers, schools and the Boy Scouts.

- PALS mentors have mentored and tutored 1,837 students. Site supervisors reported 849 students improved school attendance or academic performance by at least one letter grade at the end of the school year. This was accomplished at schools and in after-school programs.

- PALS members taught conflict resolution skills to 1,043 at-risk youth. PALS members taught in schools, after-schools programs, health department, family support centers and social service agencies with 158 of those youth showing improvement in their behavioral responses to conflict.

- PALS members educated 407 at-risk youth about the hazards of drugs, alcohol and smoking. This was accomplished through local health departments, the Boy Scouts and after-school programs. At the present time, 164 youth have shown increased knowledge through pre- and post-tests.

- Our PALS members have recruited 508 volunteers who have contributed 17,175 hours of service.

- Anita Miller won the Education and Literacy Award of the annual Governor's Volunteer Awards. Miller is a second year AmeriCorps member at the Somerset County Department of Social Services. ShoreCorps/PALS is very proud of her achievement as we are proud of all our members.

In addition to the members, the PALS office would like to recognize Salisbury University and the support they have given us over the years. We would like to thank Dr. George Whitehead, project director for our program. With his vision, support and solid belief in the program, ShoreCorps/PALS will be starting year eight. We would also like to thank Barry King, who is part of our management team. Barry has been here since the beginning and whenever we needed to talk to him about an issue, he has always been here for us. In addition, we would like to thank Jackie Eberts and Donna Carey from the Financial Services Office; Dr. Betsey Corby and Beth Walsh from Grants and Sponsored Research Office; Gains Hawkins, Melanie Stefursky and Kathy Pusey from Public Relations Office. We would also like to thank the offices of Publications, Dining Services, Conference Planning, Motor Pool, Payroll, Housekeeping, Maintenance, the Copy Center, and last but not least President Janet, Dr. Ellen Zinner, Dr. Dave Buchanan and Dr. Tim O'Rourke. I also want to give a special thanks to our PALS staff: Jamie, Nancy and Bernita.

Besides the AmeriCorps members, Salisbury University and the PALS staff, there are two other groups of individuals we need to mention. They are the agency site supervisors and Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism staff (GOSV). Without the site supervisors, there would be no ShoreCorps/PALS program. With their guidance, support and supervision, ShoreCorps/PALS becomes a win-win situation for everyone involved. We thank you for your time and good example for our members. As far as GOSV is concerned, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your support. By all of us working together, we have made a positive impact on children and youth. Together, we have made a difference.

**Build Book (a temporary one)  
Scan photos and build collage in  
this area**

ShoreCorps/PALS accomplished much this program year and there are many individuals for which to thank. Members may graduate from the program, but their service is just beginning. Thank you members for a service well done. In closing, I would like to share the Maryland AmeriCorps Alumni Pledge.

Maryland AmeriCorps Alumni Pledge  
I am an AmeriCorps member  
And I am making a difference in my community.

I believe that AmeriCorps is one year in a lifetime of service,  
And I pledge to continue to serve in all aspects of my life.

I will lead by example to engage other people as we make our world a better place.

I will continue to volunteer, take action, seek common ground and hold fast to my AmeriCorps experience and the person it has made me.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and service shapes my vision;

I am an AmeriCorps member, and my mind knows the means;

I am an AmeriCorps member, and my heart carries the conviction;

I am an AmeriCorps member, and my efforts yield the change.

I join the Maryland AmeriCorps Alumni before me as we

Harness our energies to inspire those yet to come.

And together, we will continue to get things done.

# Member Plans for the Coming Year

by *Nancy R. Hatch*

The current grant year is winding down, but the transition will be easier because we are fortunate to have at least five members staying with us for a second year: Pat Boykin (Salvation Army), Mary Cain (Glen Avenue Elementary), Betsy Riggan (Salisbury Middle), Katie Wagurak (Fruitland Intermediate) and Clinton Young (YMCA). Dave Reid may also be with us for a second year, but his plans are still up in the air.

Arlene MacLennan and Phyllis Smith will both be employed with the Wicomico County Board of Education as teacher's assistants at Bennett Middle and Delmar Elementary, schools respectively. Don Rutledge plans to join the Coast Guard. Vernon Spriggs has several options that he is considering, including the possibility of overseeing the InterCorps Council (ICC) for the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism. Young Cho will be continuing her service for a second year with National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC). Brian Rutkowski has relocated to New England where he is hoping to obtain a teaching position. Ben Polson is staying in the area, working two jobs while he decides how to

use his Education Award. Anita Miller has located a position with a local pediatrician's office, so she will still be serving the area youth! Joan Hersey and Amy Martin are still considering the possibilities: "When nothing is certain, all things are possible."

Several of our members will be attending graduate school or continuing their undergraduate schooling: Kristin Fisher (master's/Pennsylvania State University), Carly Banks (Bible School), Tracy Graham (master's/UMCP), Tianna Hay (master's/UMES), Cindy Green (undergraduate/Chesapeake College), Dawn Larmore (undergraduate/University of Delaware), Amy Pfeffer (master's/Minnesota State University), Jill Potter (master's/Vermont State University), Shiela Patrick (master's/SU), Ellen Skunda (master's/UMCP), Candice Pettus (undergraduate/UMES), Jenn Yelton (master's/SU), Dave Reid (undergraduate/SU) and Clinton Young (undergraduate/SU).

Our members have done a tremendous service during the past year—making a difference in the lives of at-risk youth and getting things done! We wish them all the best as they continue on their journeys!

## A\*STAR Exchange and Summer Events

by *Nancy R. Hatch*

We have had a great summer filled with service projects and trips with our members. In June, we headed to Frostburg to team up with A\*STAR (the AmeriCorps program at Frostburg State University) for a joint service project. Twenty of our members went on the trip with us and everyone had a great time! We served in a park, clearing out brush and rocks from around the newly installed fitness equipment. Then, we cooled off in the city pool, after having lunch with about 30 A\*STAR members.

In July, A\*STAR members traveled to the Eastern Shore and joined us in Assateague for a service project placing tree guards around hundreds and hundreds of saplings at a farm enrolled in a conservation program. Although the weather was unbearably hot, our members stuck to the task at hand, proving that "where there's a will, there's a way."

In August, I traveled with five of our members to Annapolis to tour the Maryland State House. Seandra Sims, a public information officer with the Governor's Office on Volunteerism, met us in Annapolis and gave us a brief tour of Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend's office. Our members really enjoyed learning about the history of Maryland's State House (which served briefly as the capital of the United States) and seeing the sights and sounds on the waterfront.

Last weekend, the 2001-2002 grant year culminated in the graduation of 29 members from ShoreCorps/PALS: 16 full-time members, who served 1,700 hours each over the course of the year, and 13 part-time members, who served 900 hours each. Congratulations to each of you on fulfilling your service commitment and good Luck with all your future plans!

### Send Your Story Ideas

This newsletter is intended to let members tell their stories about their projects, their lives, their communities and their aspirations. Each and every one of the members has a story to tell, and it would be a shame if the public did not get to read them. Therefore, I would like members to submit essays of no more than 300 words. We hope to publish the newsletter each quarter so keep those journal entries, re-read them, add to them and submit the finished product to me.

-Linda Beall

## Agency Partners and AmeriCorps Members 2001-02

Agency	Name
<b>Dorchester County</b>	
Health Department .....	Vernon Spriggs
<b>Somerset County</b>	
Department of Social Services .....	Anita Miller
Local Management Board .....	Pat Boykin Joan Hersey
<b>Wicomico County</b>	
Bennett Middle School .....	Amy Pfeffer
Boy Scouts .....	Don Rutledge
Center for Conflict Resolution .....	Jill Potter
Delmar Elementary .....	Phyllis Smith Young Cho Kristin Fisher
Wicomico Middle School .....	Arlene MacLennan
Tianna Hay .....	Katie Wagurak
Fruitland Intermediate .....	Mary Cain
Glen Avenue Elementary .....	Shiela Patrick Brian Rutkowski Candice Pettus LaFonda Collier
Salvation Army .....	Amy Martin Clinton Young
Wicomico County Library .....	Christy Sellards
Health Department .....	Dawn Larmore
Mid-Delmarva YMCA .....	Betsy Riggan
Salisbury Middle School .....	Ben Polson
Ward Museum .....	
<b>Worcester County</b>	
Department of Social Services .....	Ellen Skunda
Worcester County GOLD .....	Dave Reid
Health Department .....	Tracy Graham Jen Yelton
Pocomoke High School .....	Carly Banks

### Become an AmeriCorps Site

If you are interested in becoming an AmeriCorps site and can use the services of ShoreCorps/PALS members, please call Linda Beall, program director, at 410-543-6137.



*AmeriCorps Members 2001-2002*

## Shorecorps/Pals Needs You!

AmeriCorps is a national service movement that engages tens of thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds in domestic Peace Corps-getting things done across America by meeting our education, public safety, environmental and human needs.

The mission of AmeriCorps is to strengthen communities, encourage responsibility and expand opportunities. On the Eastern Shore of Maryland AmeriCorps members serve in positions providing tutoring/mentoring services, conflict resolution training, parent and family support services, health education programs, counseling services for pregnant adolescents, establishing peer support groups, conducting community outreach activities and recruiting volunteers to support project activities.

ShoreCorps/PALS members embark upon a challenging experience that will have a lasting effect on their lives and the lives of people in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties. Salisbury University is currently recruiting 42 members to serve on the Eastern Shore. We seek competent and energetic citizens 19-20 years of age for one year of service with PALS. Commitment to children and a commitment to a year of service is key to placement. PALS is seeking individuals for full-time (1,700 hours) positions. We provide a living allowance (\$9,600), post education award (\$4,725) to help pay school loans or future educational expenses and six credit hours of University course work. There are also part-time (900 hours) positions available. These positions offer (\$4,800) living allowance, post education award (\$2,363) to pay school loans or future expenses and six credit hours of University course work.

ShoreCorps/PALS is accepting applications for the 2002-2003 program year. The new AmeriCorps positions start in September. If you are interested, call Jamie Cugler-Dwyer, recruitment specialist, at 410-548-5119. Salisbury University has a strong institutional commitment to diversity and is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, providing equal employment and educational opportunities to all those qualified, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability or sexual orientation.