



Class of 2006-2007

2006-07 Agency Partners
and AmeriCorps Members

Talbot County

Department of Social Services.....Robert Tessier
Environmental ConcernBeth Clifton
Family Support Center.....Shamaine Sherwood

Wicomico County

Delmar Elementary.....Jeannette Kerns,
Leigh Usilton, Jamie Wenrich
Delmarva Education
FoundationTonya Lewis, Theresa Boilon
Health DepartmentTiffany McCre
Holly CommunityMaria Jensen
Library.....Trevor Dean, Avontré McMillan
Salisbury Urban MinistriesBronte Church
Salisbury ZooMegan McMenamin
Salisbury's PromiseSimone Jenkins
Salvation Army, EastsideJennifer Baah
Salvation Army, WestsideHarry Suber,
Paula Johnson
Ward MuseumRose Clay

Worcester County

Health Department.....Joann Bailey,
Randy Merritt, Chad Parker

Become an AmeriCorps Site or Member

If you are interested in partnering with us as a service site for ShoreCorps/PALS members, please call Nancy Hatch, program director, at 410-543-6137. Site match: \$4,700 for full-time (1,700 hr.) member and \$3,400 for part-time (900 hr.) member. To become a member please call 410-548-5119.

Thank You ShoreCorps/PALS Sponsors

We have made every effort to ensure that our list is accurate. If we inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed your name, please contact us. Thanks for your support!

Partners (\$1,000 and above)

Center 4 Clean Start
Delmar Elementary School
Delmarva Education Foundation
Environmental Concern
Holly Community
Salisbury Urban Ministries
Salisbury Zoo
Salisbury's Promise
Salvation Army
Somerset County LMB
Talbot County DSS
Talbot County Family
Support Center
Ward Museum
Wicomico County Alternative
Learning Center
Wicomico County Health
Department
Wicomico County Library
Worcester County Health
Department

Sponsors (\$500 - \$999)

Sea Gull Century

Supporters (\$25 - \$249)

Chic-Fil-A
Dollar Tree, Cambridge
La Tolteca
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Powerhouse Gym
Starbucks
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Gifts in Kind

Nina Lyon Bennett
Suzanne Carley
Chavonda Carr
Richard Culver
Diane Davis
Erin & Trevor Dean
Charlie Endicott
Ellie Ennis
William D. Fallon Jr.
& Nancy R. Hatch
Green Gate Farm, Inc.
Linda Hardman
Karen Hughes
Provost Thomas Jones
Dennis Leoutsakas
Karl Maier
Delegate James N. Mathias
Kathy Oddis
Henrietta Parker
Connie Richards
Salisbury University
Lee Ann Shull
Beebe Triplett
The President's Office
University of Maryland
Eastern Shore
George & Barbara Whitehead
Wicomico County Staff
Development Center
Chris J.D. Wilde

SHORECORPS/PALS

Salisbury University
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801-6860
410-548-5119 or 410-543-6137
Fax 410-548-4507
www.salisbury.edu/AmeriCorps

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

George Whitehead, Ph.D.
Project Director

Nancy R. Hatch
Program Director

Erin McKenzie Dean
Program Coordinator

Lynn T. Rising
Administrative Assistant

Lauren Hatfield
Work Study Student

UPCOMING EVENTS:

■ Saturday, September 15
Fun Day—Explore SU
SU Henson Lawn, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

■ Saturday, September 15,
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
11th Annual Maryland Coast Day
Volunteers needed Friday, Saturday
& Monday for 1-3 hours
Contact Dave Wilson: 410-213-2297 or
outreach@mdcoastalbays.org

■ Wednesday, September 19
Last Day of 2006-07 Grant Year

■ Thursday, September 27
Kick-Off Celebration

■ Thursday, October 18
Beyond the Limits

ONGOING VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Salvation Army.....410-749-7771 x113
410-546-7766

Ward Museum410-742-4988 x102

Salisbury Zoo410-546-3440 x5

Wicomico Library410-749-3612 x40

Urban Ministries410-749-1563

Talbot FSC410-820-6951

Wicomico Mentoring.....410-677-4586

Holly Community443-260-0822

Quote to Ponder

“Embrace ALL with joy.
Anything can be a gift of gold in disguise.”

— Unknown —

To Whom It May Concern

By George Whitehead, Project Director

The speakers at this year's graduation applauded the Shore Corps/PALS graduates for their service to the community. They also mentioned their experience with service. Keynote speaker Delegate Jim Mathias spoke about his service at 9-11, the service of his family members and the importance of the PLAY IT SAFE Program at Worcester County Health Department, one of our partners, in Ocean City's successful application for All American Cities. Salisbury University's Vice President for Academic Affairs Tom Jones commented on the challenges of getting people to serve in our materialistic age. Interim Dean of Fulton School of Liberal Arts Connie Richards spoke about her school's efforts to include service-learning in their curriculum-reform efforts. Former AmeriCorps member and our program officer Teresa Garcia spoke for the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism and informed us about Governor O'Malley's comments about future preference of Maryland at MACO. Specifically the governor said: "I want to talk with you today about our shared future, our shared challenges and most importantly, I'd like to talk with you about the strongest and most civic and patriotic value we share as Marylanders, and that is future preference: that spiritual force that all of us inherited as Americans. That powerful yearning that we feel in our hearts to make this world a better place for our children."

PALS staff members Nancy Hatch and Erin Dean reported on the difference one year of service made on the community and on the members. To understand this impact, please read Nancy's column and check out Erin's slide show at www.salisbury.edu/ameriCorps. The link to the slide show is on the homepage under the large AmeriCorps logo.

As I reflect on the members' service and the comments our speakers made, I am compelled to write a generic letter of recommendation for our members. It goes like this.

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend this AmeriCorps member to you. Over the course of one year, this member has shown that he/she is dependable, reliable and can get things done.

The member has shown that he/she can organize events that make a difference in the life of the community. Among other skills, the member has demonstrated an ability to recruit, promote and recognize volunteers. The member has had an opportunity to reflect on whom he/she is and what he/she wants to do with their lives. The year of service has made a difference on his/her life. I am confident that the member will take this ethos of service beyond their AmeriCorps. They have and will continue to make this world a better place for children. If you need any additional information, please contact me.

Thanks to everyone who attended graduation. You made it a special event.



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



ShoreCorps/PALS Graduation (Members and Speakers)

The Heart of Service

By Nancy R. Hatch

Our program focuses on developing the citizenship and skills of its members during their year of service. Regardless of the specific parameters of the programs in which they serve, members are given the opportunity to become citizens, not spectators; contribute to the success of our youth; gain valuable experience working in schools and other community-based agencies; develop effective skills in leadership, teamwork and creative problem solving; clarify future goals; develop marketable job skills; participate more fully in their communities; and become part of a national network of people committed to service, community and country.

The value of the ShoreCorps/PALS program is not just what the members do during their year of service—it is who they become as a result of that service. Our Performance Measure for Member Development includes the following statement: “At least 75% of our members will report in exit surveys that they increased their life skills, gained valuable experience and clarified future goals as a result of their service.” I am DELIGHTED to report that we met this Performance Measure this year:

- 90.4% (19/21) of our members reported that serving with AmeriCorps helped them clarify their future goals.
- 95.2% (20/21) of our members reported that they gained valuable experience from serving with ShoreCorps/PALS.
- 90.4% (19/21) of our members reported that they gained confidence and inner strength from serving this year.
- 90.4% (19/21) of our members reported that they are better prepared to reach their career and personal goals.
- 95.2% (20/21) of our members reported that serving with AmeriCorps helped them to develop valuable life skills.

These statistics put a HUGE smile on my face! In addition to service at their respective sites, all members are encouraged to participate in

AmeriCorps events and national service days (e.g., AmeriCorps Launch, Make A Difference Day, Martin Luther King Day, Youth Service Day and Life After AmeriCorps) and assist with local service projects, such as Salvation Army Toy Drive, Special Olympics, Wicomico Mentoring Picnic, Earth Day Events, Coastal Clean-Ups, Halloween Trails, Night of the Living Zoo and food drives. In addition, for the past two years, each member has been required to “plan, organize and oversee one service project utilizing community volunteers.” The requirement that members regularly participate in service projects is intended to promote and support a lifelong ethic of service and civic responsibility—another member development goal that we met this year:

- 100% of our members (21/21) enjoyed participating in service projects throughout the year.
- 94.4% of the members who responded to this question (17/18) found planning their own service project to be particularly rewarding.
- 95.2% of our members (20/21) reported that serving with AmeriCorps increased their commitment to help others.
- 100% (21/21) of our members plan to continue to volunteer in their communities in the future.

Picture another HUGE grin on my face! Finally, we want each member to leave the program feeling that it was a year well spent. Drum roll please. Survey says: 90.4% (19/21) of our members agreed, or strongly agreed, with the statement: “The rewards I received from my service outweighed the effort”; and 85.7% (18/21) of our members agreed, or strongly agreed, with the statement: “This has been one of the most rewarding years of my life.” Now, those are statistics I can live with! Congratulations ShoreCorps/PALS graduates—we wish you well!

My Perspective On an Amazing Year of Service

By Erin McKenzie Dean

As the 2006-2007 service year draws to a close, I thank all of our graduating members for the wonderful opportunity to get to know them over the past several months!

When the service year began I was serving as the administrative assistant. In this role I facilitated the completion of member paperwork and organized each member file. This experience allowed me to get to know members as they were on paper—where they had lived, gone to school, worked and volunteered, etc. I think I had quite an advantage over the other staff by seeing all of the paperwork because I was able to learn so much about each member before even talking to them! I learned that Rose lived and went to college in Arizona, Bob worked for the Federal Aviation Administration before retiring to beautiful St. Michaels and Leigh lived in so many places during college that she truly could not remember them all.

Since December I have been program coordinator and have had the pleasure of visiting each member at their service sites, interacting with them in class and serving alongside them at service projects. These more personal interactions have led to a great number of interesting conversations, learning and growing opportunities, and even some lasting friendships. I enjoyed assisting Theresa, Randy, Simone, Joann and Megan with rudimentary advertising techniques at “Gimme Five” Youth Day, seeing the frozen chicken debacle at the Salisbury Urban Ministries holiday party, participating in debates regarding numerous social issues in class and balancing precariously from trees at the high ropes course.

This past year has been a great one for ShoreCorps/PALS and I look forward to having a few of our wonderful members back for a second year. I will miss our graduating members so much: Theresa, Bronté, Rose, Tiffany, Randy, Chad, Trevor, Joann, Avontré, Beth, Megan, Tonya, Jeannette, Jennifer, Harry, Paula, Jaime, Maria, Simone, Shamaine, Bob and Leigh.

Thanks to you all for making this past service year such an enriching one for me! Please check out my slideshow tribute to the 2006-2007 graduating members at www.salisbury.edu/amicorps.

Operation Helping Hands

By Maria Jensen

A few weeks ago, after the AmeriCorps annual picnic, I realized how much I was going to miss seeing the other members on a regular basis. I started pondering how to get members together, while giving back to the community. Since I love to travel, I began to explore the idea of going to New Orleans to help with the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. My initial research led me to Operation Helping Hands, an organization created after Hurricane Katrina and run by Catholic Charities in order to take in volunteers and help those in need. Before approaching other members with the idea, I checked with the ShoreCorps/PALS staff to make sure that such a trip would be feasible. Not only did the staff think that it would be an excellent service project to pursue, but I also learned that we could earn hours toward our service commitment while assisting with relief efforts!

The trip came together smoothly. Catholic Charities agreed to provide free housing and food, and Salisbury University allowed us to use a 12-passenger van, without charge, for the mission! We also received donations of toiletries for use on the trip from The Dollar Store in Cambridge, and the Sea Gull Century Fund gave us some work shirts to use. Without this support, the trip might never have materialized.

On July 21, 2007, we loaded the van and headed to New Orleans for a week of service. The participants included eight members (Joann Bailey, Jeannette Kerns, Avontré McMillan, Trevor Dean, Rose Clay, Tonya Lewis, Bronte Church and me), plus a friend and SU alumni (Dychon Whitacker).

During our week in Nola, we worked with Christopher Homes, a partner program of

Catholic Charities, which deals with the elderly population and their residential facilities. We accomplished many tasks in the short amount of time we were there: moving furniture, painting, cleaning mold-infested buildings and clearing spaces for renovations. The most physically and emotionally taxing aspect of the trip was going into apartments of residents who, even after two years, had not been located, to throw away all of their belongings.

The devastation of New Orleans as a result of

Katrina’s fury is still evident throughout the city. Although two years have passed since Katrina made landfall, causing the biggest natural disaster in United States history, the catastrophic impact of her wind and the flood waters is seen wherever you look. The work we accomplished barely skimmed the surface of all that remains to be done, making it hard to leave. I am thankful that we were given the opportunity to help, for a short time, with the rebuilding of this city. This trip was unforgettable from beginning to end.



CANstruction



Earth Day at the Zoo



Potluck on Deal Island

Community Sponsors

We are currently looking for Community Sponsors to make this year a success!

LOCAL BUSINESSES:

Please partner with us by donating gift cards to your establishment in any denomination for use as incentives and door prizes at our upcoming special events. We will recognize your gift in a future newsletter!

JOIN THE PRESIDENT’S CLUB:

For a \$1,000 contribution to ShoreCorps/PALS, you can support our community efforts and join the SU President’s Club!

For details on President’s Club benefits call Amy Waters at 410-677-5416.

To make a contribution to PALS in any amount, contact PALS at 410-548-5119.