

Host Site Partners

MASSACHUSETTS



SERVICE ALLIANCE

**COMMONWEALTH
CORPS**
INSPIRE. UNITE. ACT.

Program Year
2014-2015



Commonwealth Corps



The mission of the **Commonwealth Corps** is to engage Massachusetts residents of all ages and backgrounds in direct service to rebuild communities, address unmet community needs, and increase volunteerism. Commonwealth Corps members work to strengthen the bonds of common purpose and unite people in service for the common good. Corps members provide direct service, build capacity of local organizations, and recruit, organize and mobilize additional volunteers – building a grassroots movement of volunteers across the Commonwealth dedicated to service.

The Commonwealth Corps provides opportunities for skill building and leadership development and encourages and enhances a lifelong civic vocation for its members. Through the Commonwealth Corps, the Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) partners with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and public entities to reinvigorate civic involvement to help address the Commonwealth's most urgent needs and elevate the ethic of service and civic engagement throughout the Commonwealth. The program has a dual focus both on members' positive impact in their organizations and communities and on members' own growth and development.

The Commonwealth Corps, a state-funded program administered by MSA, was established in 2007 by Governor Deval Patrick and his partners in the state legislature. Since its inception, nearly 850 Commonwealth Corps members have served in the program, providing over 500,000 hours of service in areas such as community development, health services, benefits screenings, afterschool or summer programs, and volunteer recruitment and management, and directly benefiting approximately 500,000 individuals. No other state in the country has a service corps program focused solely on state residents.

Commonwealth Corps Contacts at MSA:

Susanna Flug

Commonwealth Corps Program Manager

P. 617-542-2544 Ext. 202

E. SFlug@Mass-service.org

Beth McGuinness

Director of Programs

P. 617-542-2544 Ext. 217

E. BMcguinness@Mass-service.org

Lindsay Rooney

Director of External Relations

P. 617-542-2544 Ext. 211

E. L Rooney@Mass-service.org

2014-2015 Host Site Partners

Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development Focus Area:

Ascentria Care Alliance

(West Springfield and Worcester; full-time)



Ascentria
CARE ALLIANCE

Ascentria Care Alliance (formerly Lutheran Social Services) is called to strengthen communities by empowering people to respond to life's challenges. They are hosting 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members in their Services for New Americans programming who will serve as Employment & Education Specialists to strengthen job training and employment services for refugees in Worcester and West Springfield. Through their service, members will assist 850 refugees to become employed and self-sufficient as well as improve quality of service delivery and improve outcomes for refugee clients in terms of employment and self-sufficiency. In addition, they will leverage 235 volunteers who will engage in tutoring and assist refugees in becoming employable.

More Than Words

(Boston and Waltham; full-time)



More Than Words (MTW) empowers youth who are in foster care, court-involved, homeless, or out of school, to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business. More Than Words is hosting 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Volunteer Coordinators; one primarily in Boston, and one primarily in Waltham. Through their service, members will help MTW build an engaged community of volunteers, supporting 250 youth to manage their online and retail bookselling business and achieve outcomes in education, employment and self-efficacy through conducting mock interviews and education coaching. In addition they will leverage 490 volunteers who will strengthen the business and increase overall support including in-kind, book, and financial donations as well as the development of long-term advocates for the organization.

New England Business Associates

(Springfield; half-time)



The mission of New England Business Associates (NEBA) is to enable people with barriers to employment to find meaningful, competitive employment. NEBA is hosting 4 half-time Commonwealth Corps members in DTA and MRC Career Ladders, who will serve as Career Ladders program assistants in Springfield, MA. Through their service, members will assist 68 job seekers to increase their skills, identify career options, and find employment. In addition, they will recruit at least 6 new volunteers who will volunteer a total of 300 hours and help sustain the service of providing in-depth community-based support to NEBA's job seekers.

Education Focus Area:

826 Boston

(Boston; full-time)



826 Boston is a nonprofit youth writing center located in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. 826 Boston is hosting 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps Members in its In-School Writing & Publishing Program. These service members will coordinate volunteer tutoring services for 826 Boston's in-school programs, one serving grades 1-8, the other serving grades 9-12. Members' service will help increase 826 Boston's programmatic reach in Boston Public School (BPS) partner schools, leverage a dedicated volunteer corps of ~250 active volunteers, and positively impact 3,000 students.

African Community Education Program, Inc.

(Worcester; full-time)

The mission of the African Community Education (ACE) program is to assist our students in realizing their educational, cultural and social goals while guiding them in becoming competent, responsible and productive citizens in Worcester and the broader society. ACE is hosting 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members to serve as the After School Program and Saturday Program Support Coordinators. These members will build organizational capacity and improve academic success among refugee and immigrant youth in Worcester, MA, through development of Individual Student Success Plans (ISSPs), partnership development, planning and implementation of parent engagement activities, volunteer recruitment and other programmatic support. Through their service, 100 youth will be directly impacted, 40 out of 45 students with ISSPs will demonstrate increased school engagement, and 40 parents/caregivers will demonstrate increased family engagement in their child's education. In addition, Members will leverage 100 volunteers that will be engaged in tutoring and assistant teaching.



Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell

(Lowell; full-time)



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF GREATER LOWELL

The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell is to “inspire and enable young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens through a dedicated staff and innovative programs, provided in a safe environment.” The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell is hosting 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members in Education who will serve as a Power Hour Coordinator, for homework help and educational enrichment, and a Project Learn Coordinator, to incorporate high-yield science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) activities into all Club program areas. Through their service, members will expand our academic support programs for low-income youth ages 7-18, especially in STEM; improve school engagement by youth; and increase parents/guardians/caregivers’ engagement in student learning. In addition, they will leverage at least 20 volunteers that will be engaged in providing literacy and mathematics tutoring assistance for younger youth and subject area tutoring for teens in higher mathematics and the sciences.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Middlesex County

(Everett, Medford; full-time)

The mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Middlesex County (BGC MC) is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as caring, productive and responsible citizens. In collaboration with For Kids Only Afterschool (FKO), a multi-city after school program serving children and youth 5 to 14 years of age, BGC MC is hosting 2 full-time Corps Members to create an out-of-school time (OST) programming pipeline in the city of Everett, directly impacting approximately 80 youth and 120 parents, and indirectly impacting future middle school OST programming throughout the city. Through their service, members will focus on education and capacity building through increasing engagement in afterschool programs from elementary through high school graduation, with a specific focus on creating infrastructure and support for middle school age youth participation, by leveraging an anticipated 40 volunteers that will help bring this project to fruition.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Buzzards Bay Coalition

(New Bedford/ Buzzards Bay Watershed Region; full-time)



The Buzzards Bay Coalition is dedicated to the restoration, protection, and sustainable use and enjoyment of Buzzards Bay and its watershed and is committed to providing high-quality, hands-on, inquiry-based field experiences for youth and families. The Coalition is hosting 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Environmental Educators, delivering programs that encourage exploration and stewardship while improving academic achievement through increased school engagement in the Buzzards Bay watershed, which includes 17 cities and towns in Southeastern Massachusetts. Through their service, members will engage 1,500 unique youth in 100 outdoor exploration programs and 50 families in 30 programs that develop connections to the local environment while supporting school engagement. The Coalition expects to see youth demonstrating excitement about outdoor and classroom learning and exploration, while teachers report students' increased desire to continue learning beyond the conclusion of the outdoor programs. In addition, the members will leverage 10 volunteers that will be engaged in interacting with and educating the public about the Coalition and engaging people of all ages in activities that deepen their sense of awareness of and connection to the Bay.

Cambridge Agenda For Children OST Initiative

(Cambridge; full-time)

The mission of the Cambridge Agenda for Children's Middle School Network is to support students' awareness about and connections to out-of-school time (OST) opportunities, which play an important role in fostering the present and future success of middle school youth. In their service as Middle School Network Liaisons, Commonwealth Corps members will help ensure that all Cambridge Public Schools Upper School students have equitable access to OST opportunities. The Agenda for Children is hosting 2 full-time members who will play a critical role in reaching out to youth, families, and educators about OST opportunities and benefits, impacting over 1,300 individuals. Through their service, outreach, partnerships, and development of OST awareness materials and programming, more middle school students will participate in OST opportunities, more families and educators will understand the value and accessibility of OST, and students and adults will experience increased connectedness between school and OST. In addition, Middle School Network Liaisons will leverage 32 Youth Leadership Team participants to advance awareness efforts within their own schools and across the city.



Housing Families, Inc.

(Malden; half-time)



The mission of Housing Families is to end family homelessness. They provide safe, temporary shelter and quality affordable housing, and they offer individualized supportive services to enrich children's lives, nurture the potential of each family member, and help families maintain permanent housing. Housing Families is hosting 3 half-time Commonwealth Corps Members in its Growth Resilience Empowerment Acceptance and Trust (GREAT) Youth and Families Program. They will serve as Academic Enrichment Assistants and a Volunteer Coordinator, improving the personalization and efficiency of academic and tutoring services for our Malden-based program that serves children from Everett, Malden, Medford, and Revere. Through their service, Members will improve personalized tutoring and enrichment assignments for each of 145 children, improve volunteer engagement and training, increase contact with each child's teacher and school, and improve the system to organize the program's academic enrichment component. In addition, they will leverage more than 50 volunteers that will be engaged in academic tutoring and enrichment activities.

Northfield Mount Hermon School Upward Bound

(Greenfield, Holyoke, Springfield, Turners Falls; full-time)

Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound Program (NMH UB) is hosting 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members to address severe educational needs of low-income high school students, including low college-going rates, low grade point averages, poor standardized test scores, and lack of information and role models for college readiness. Members will serve in 4 of the poorest Western Mass communities: Greenfield, Turners Falls, Holyoke and Springfield. Members will provide tutoring, test preparation, college awareness activities, community service, and college and cultural trips and events. 82 current UB students will receive intensified services, 38 new students will receive Upward Bound services, and 60 students and their families will receive college awareness and preparation services. Students will demonstrate improved academic outcomes and increased knowledge of the college preparation process. The capacity of the program will also be increased through various Member projects, such as volunteer database development, expansion of a book donation project and related volunteers, social media and web outreach, and development of a new curriculum for enrichment classes for use this year and in the future. Members will leverage 50 volunteers that will be engaged in tutoring, enrichment activities, and providing free workshops and presentations for UB students.



UPWARD BOUND

Northfield Mount Hermon School

Raising A Reader MA

(Brockton, Greater Boston, Lawrence, and Springfield; full-time)

The mission of Raising A Reader MA (RAR MA) is to improve school readiness for young children living in vulnerable communities. Raising A Reader MA is hosting 4 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Outreach Coordinators in Brockton, Springfield, Greater Boston, or Merrimack Valley and will perform outreach in four areas: volunteers, community, partners, and parents. Through their service, members will help engage RAR MA's partners and the broader community as advocates for early literacy as well as recruit parents to attend educational workshops. In addition, they will leverage at least 30 volunteers that will be engaged in parent outreach and education.



School on Wheels of Massachusetts

(Brockton and Stoughton; half-time)

The mission of School on Wheels of Massachusetts (SOWMA) is to educate children impacted by homelessness by providing academic support and one-on-one mentoring so children can reach their full potential. SOWMA is hosting 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Academic Coaches by assessing and customizing activities for students in Brockton, Stoughton, Norwell, and New Bedford. Through their service, members will develop, implement, evaluate, and document a new student assessment system for SOWMA's tutoring program, positively impacting over 175 students impacted by homelessness. In addition, they will partner directly with the schools within the serviced communities to gather curricula and text books and improve the organization's communications with the academic teams of their students. As part of program, the Commonwealth Corps members will leverage over 200 volunteers that will be engaged in tutoring SOWMA's students.



Veritas Preparatory Charter School

(Springfield; full-time)

The mission of Veritas Preparatory Charter School (Veritas Prep) is to prepare students in grades 5-8 to compete, achieve, and succeed in high school, college, and beyond. Veritas Prep is hosting 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members to help support and develop their Family Outreach program for students in the Springfield, MA, charter public school that serves over 240 students. Through their service, members will engage Veritas Prep families in their child's learning and character education, and will build capacity in families to support their scholars on their path to and through college. In addition, they will leverage parents, guardians, and family members as volunteers to create educational opportunities for all Veritas Prep parents to learn more about high schools, resources and supports available through high school, and college document preparation and financial assistance.



Youth Development/Violence Prevention Focus Area:

Family Services of the Merrimack Valley

(Lawrence; full-time)

The mission of Family Services of the Merrimack Valley (FSMV) is to empower, nurture and support children and families through life's challenges to help them reach their full potential. FSMV is hosting 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps Members in the Stand & Deliver and Achieving in Mentoring (AIM) programs who will serve as Youth Development Program Support Coordinators in Lawrence. Through their service, Members will increase capacity to recruit volunteers, retain mentees-mentors in long term relationships, enhance and expand community linkages, and support sustainability through a documentation project, impacting a minimum of 135 youth in their youth development programs. In addition, they will leverage 135 volunteers who provide one-to-one youth mentoring.



Last Updated November 5, 2014

Main Commonwealth Corps Contacts by Site

Organization	Address	Phone	Staff Contact	Email
Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development Focus Area				
Ascentria Care Alliance	593 Main Street W. Springfield, MA 01809	508-754-1121	Olta Kodra	okodra@ascentria.org
More Than Words	376 Moody Street Waltham, MA 02453	781-314-9399	Betsy Sylvia	bsylvia@mtwyouth.org
New England Business Associates	1985 Main Street, S. 303 Springfield, MA 01103	413-821-9200	Erica Walch	erica.walch@nebaworks.com
Education Focus Area				
826 Boston	3035 Washington St., Roxbury, MA 02119	617-442-5400	Jessica Drench	jessica@826boston.org
African Community Education Program	24 Chatham St Worcester, MA 01609	508-799-3653	Kim Edwards	kedwards@acechildren.org
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell	657 Middlesex St. Lowell, MA 01851	978-458-4526	JuanCarlos Rivera	jcrivera@lbgc.org
Boys & Girls Clubs of Middlesex County	66-70 Union Square #205 Somerville, MA 02143	617-764-5958	Jessica Jacob	jjacob@kidsclubs.org
Buzzards Bay Coalition	114 Front St. New Bedford, MA 02740	508-999-6363	Robert Hancock	hancock@savebuzzardsbay.org
Cambridge Agenda For Children	51 Inman Street Cambridge MA 02139	617-349-4099	Daniel Michaud Weinstock	dweinstock@cpsd.org
Housing Families	354 Cross Street Malden, MA 02148	781-322-9119	Siobhan Malady	smalady@housingfamilies.org
Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound	1 Lamplighter Way, Mount Hermon, MA 01354	413-498-3233	Gisele Litalien	glitalien@mass.edu
Raising a Reader-MA	9B Hamilton Place Boston, MA 02114	617-292-2665	Sara Pollock DeMedeiros	sara@raisingareaderma.org
School on Wheels of Massachusetts	790 West Chestnut St. Brockton, MA 02301	508-587-9091	Jennifer Gold	jennifer@sowma.org
Veritas Preparatory Charter School	370 Pine Street Springfield MA 01105	413-285-4135	Matthew Kuzmeskas	mkuzmeskas@vpcs.org
Youth Development & Violence Prevention Focus Area				
Family Services of the Merrimack Valley	430 North Canal Street Lawrence, MA 01840	978-327-6637	Aida Castro	acastro@fsmv.org



100 North Washington St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02114
P. 617-542-2544
F. 617-542-0240
www.mass-service.org

The **Massachusetts Service Alliance** (MSA), established in 1991, is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on service and volunteerism. MSA invests in community-based organizations and institutions that rely upon volunteers and people engaged in service to meet their community's needs. Through investing, convening, advocating, and building capacity, MSA develops and supports initiatives that incorporate service and volunteerism as effective strategies to address the pressing needs in the Commonwealth.