

Massachusetts Service Alliance

Building Stronger Communities through Service and Volunteerism



Fall 2016

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AmeriCorps Opening Day Recap

On Friday, November 4, 1,000+ Massachusetts AmeriCorps members convened at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston for AmeriCorps Opening Day. The program included a special welcome from **Lauren Baker**, First Lady of Massachusetts, special remarks from **Congressman Seth Moulton** (D-MA 6th), a state of service address from **Emily Haber**, CEO of the Massachusetts Service Alliance, remarks and a performance by **Andres "Dramatik" Gonzalez**, an AmeriCorps Alum (1993-1995), special remarks from **Juana Matias**, a justice AmeriCorps Alum, and the AmeriCorps Pledge and special remarks from **Chief Judge Patti Saris**. In addition, AmeriCorps members gave speeches to introduce their programs and to highlight the impact their programs are having on communities across Massachusetts. In the afternoon, AmeriCorps members participated in 18 different service activities and tours throughout Greater Boston.

We want to thank Opening Day speakers and exhibitors for making this year's Opening Day a success! We also want to thank AmeriCorps members for getting things done in Massachusetts!



On the left, AmeriCorps members waiting to introduce their programs. On the right, Congressman Seth Moulton with staff and members from UTEC's AmeriCorps program. More

Notice of Funding Opportunity - National Volunteer Week

MSA will release the National Volunteer Week RFP the last week of November or the first week of December.

National Volunteer Week, which will be April 23 - 29, 2017, is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out ways to engage in their communities. It's about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals. National

Volunteer Week embodies the energy and power volunteers evoke on a daily basis as they lead by example-not only encouraging the people they help, but motivating others to serve as well.



Keep an eye out for the RFP email!

Commonwealth Corps 2016-2017

MSA is thrilled to be partnering with 17 agencies across Massachusetts to host over 40 Commonwealth Corps Members for the 2016-2017 program year. Since their start in mid-August through mid-November, our members have contributed over 15,000 hours of direct service and capacity building, while also growing and receiving professional development opportunities.

True to the mission of the program "to engage Massachusetts residents of all ages and backgrounds in service," this year's members range in age from 19-75 and bring a wide range of prior experiences. Some members are serving during college, graduate school or pursuit of their GED, other members are serving right out of school to gain experience, while others decided to serve as a mid-career change or a way to come back to the professional world from parenting, and others are serving while retired. Our members are balancing their service on top of family, school, and work commitments, and they do it amazingly well. They are all serving because they have a desire to give back to their communities and make a difference, while also gaining skills and experience. Together with our host site partners, it is an honor to support them. They inspire us every day, and we are thankful for their service.



Commonwealth Corps 2017-2018: RFP Released in Early/Mid December

Agencies are invited to apply to become Commonwealth Corps host site partners for the 2017-2018 program year.

MSA will be releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) in early/mid December, with the application due in mid/late January. Technical Assistance webinars will be held mid-December and available online afterwards, with more details TBA via MSA's website and listserv. Currently, interested agencies can review last year's RFP [here](#) and are welcome to contact CC Program Manager Susie Flug Silva (sflugsilva@mass-service.org) with



2016 Training and TA Highlights -

This includes work that is supported by the Volunteer Generation Fund Grant (VGF) and the Commission Investment Fund grant (CIF)



- Provided the Service Enterprise Training curriculum to 16 different organizations in three different cohorts located in Boston, New Bedford and Cape Cod.
- Certified 10 organizations from the prior year of training and 1 organization from the current year.
- Moderated a Service Enterprise Panel at the National Points of Light Conference in Detroit, MI.
- Hosted the three day long **2016 Atlantic National Service Training Conference** in Springfield, MA for almost 500 participants.
- Supported three regional half day trainings in the following topics: *Volunteer Management 101*, *Making Program Evaluation Meaningful*, and *How to Weave Volunteers into Youth Programming for Maximum Impact*.
- Offered individualized technical assistance from a consultant to a subset of funded AmeriCorps programs in the areas of evaluation and data collection.

2017 Training and TA Opportunities -

This also includes work that is supported by the Volunteer Generation Fund Grant (VGF) and the Commission Investment Fund grant (CIF)

- Hosting our day long bi-annual **Statewide Conference on Service and Volunteerism** in Framingham, MA on June 12, 2017. This will include a "Life After AmeriCorps" track for national service participants.
- Providing the Service Enterprise to at least an additional 15 new organizations in three different cohorts located in Boston, New Bedford and Cape Cod.
- Supporting at least three additional regional half day trainings around the state for providers in the field to build their capacity and knowledge.
- Continue to offer individualized technical assistance from a consultant to a new subset of funded AmeriCorps programs in the areas of evaluation and data collection.
- Offering five regional trainings specifically for AmeriCorps members to support their professional development.
- Enhancing our website to include training videos, presentations and resources for all of our stakeholders.

Youth Development Grantee Announcement

The Massachusetts Service Alliance is pleased to announce our 2016-2017 Youth Development Volunteer Initiative Grantees. This initiative aims to enhance the number of volunteers serving at each of these agencies so they will be better positioned to expand current youth programming. Our grantees will be making impacts across the Commonwealth, spanning from Western Massachusetts, to the SouthCoast and empowering youth and volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Please visit their websites by clicking the links below if you are interested in getting involved in any of these partner sites or programs.

[African Community Education Program](#)

[Girls Inc. of Holyoke](#)

[Mount Wachusett Community College \(United Way Youth Venture Program\)](#)

[Emmaus Inc.](#)

[Silver Lining Mentoring](#)

[Sharing the Harvest Community Farm, YMCA Southcoast](#)



MLK Day Grantee Announcement

Congratulations to our 2017 MLK Day grantees! These 12 organizations will be hard at work over the next three months planning volunteer service projects during the week of January 15-21, 2017 to honor Dr. King and his notion of a beloved community. Please check the MSA website in early January to see how you can get involved with one or more of our projects!

Fitchburg State University Foundation, Inc

Cambridge Community Foundation

Emmaus, Inc.

Boston Cares

Lynn Community Association, Inc.

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition

Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries

Boys and Girls Club of Boston: Charlestown Coalition's Turn it Around Coalition

North Shore Community Development Coalition

Hilltown Families

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Inc.



Two MSA Grantees Recognized for Commitment to Civic Engagement

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships. **Springfield College** received the 2015 Presidential Award through the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The Honor Roll's Presidential Award is the highest federal recognition an institution can receive for its commitment to community, service-learning, and civic engagement. MSA supports two AmeriCorps programs at Springfield College: the Springfield College AmeriCorps Program and the Springfield College School Turnaround Initiative.



University of Massachusetts Dartmouth was an Honor Roll Finalist in the Economic Opportunity category. MSA has supported MLK Day of Service and National Volunteer Week volunteer projects organized by University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and SouthCoast Serves. Read more about the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll [here](#).



Congratulations, Springfield College and University of Massachusetts Dartmouth!

Looking for volunteer opportunities? Check out some of the latest volunteer postings on Connect and Serve!

[Graphic Design Volunteer](#)

[Volunteer Art Instructor](#)

[Volunteer Tutor](#)

[Seeking volunteers to help the elderly!](#)

[Stone Zoo Ambassador](#)

[Franklin Park Zoo Ambassador](#)

[After School Sports Instructor for Girls](#)

[After School Program Tutor](#)

[The 7th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Interfaith Service](#)

See more on MSA's Connect and Serve volunteer portal [here!](#)



CONNECT & SERVE

Save the Date!

Massachusetts Conference on Service & Volunteerism

Monday, June 12, 2017

Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center

More details to come!



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