

Massachusetts Service Alliance

Building Stronger Communities through Service and Volunteerism



Winter 2017

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2017 Massachusetts Conference on Service and Volunteering

"Energy to Impact"

June 12, 2017 / Sheraton Framingham Hotel

Present at the conference!

Presenters will play a key role in ensuring that the over 400 attendees leave the conference with new skills, insights into best practices, understanding trends, connections to potential partners, and increased enthusiasm for tackling the big issues that concern us in the Commonwealth through engaging volunteers and Corps members.



2017 Conference Workshop Themes:

The Conference Planning Committee will especially welcome proposals that address one or more of the following themes and/or topics:

- **Best Practices in Volunteer Management**
- **Utilizing Volunteers and Service to Impact Specific Issue Areas** - [Issue areas](#)

include (but are not limited to): Opioid Crisis, Workforce Development / Underemployment, Education (Access and Achievement Gap), Youth Development, Food Security, Veteran Support, Housing/Homelessness, Refugee Resettlement and Environmental Conservation

Proposal Submission & Deadline:

For more information on presenting a workshop, download the "**MA Conference on Volunteering and Service 2017 - Call for Presenters**," which includes the Workshop Guidelines and the link to the online Request for Proposals (RFP), [here](#).

To download the Word Doc version of the "**Workshop Request for Proposals (RFP)**," [click here](#).

To officially submit a proposal you will need to submit the online Workshop Request for Proposals (RFP) found in the "**Call for Presenters**" by **Friday, February 28, 2017**.

Nominate an Outstanding Service and Volunteerism Leader!

The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) is pleased to announce the **2017 Massachusetts Service and Volunteerism Awards**. This June, MSA will pay tribute to civic-minded leaders in Massachusetts who use service and volunteerism to address community needs in creative, innovative and collaborative ways. The awards will be presented during a special Awards Luncheon Ceremony at the **2017 Massachusetts Conference on Service and Volunteering**.



2017 Conference Awards Categories:

1. Getting Things Done Award:

This award recognizes the exemplary achievement of an individual in one of two subcategories:

- Category #1A: A current AmeriCorps*, Commonwealth Corps, or Senior Corps** member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and service over and above the requirements of their routine service assignments, or
- Category #1B: An AmeriCorps*, Commonwealth Corps or Senior Corps** alumnus/alumna who served in Massachusetts and whose commitment to embody service beyond their term of service continues to bring about positive community change.

*AmeriCorps includes: AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps State/National, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)

**Senior Corps includes: Foster Grandparent, RSVP, Senior Companion volunteers

2. Working Together Award: An Outstanding Collaboration in Service & Volunteerism:

This award recognizes an exceptional collaboration between two or more nonprofits (501c3), private or public entity, or education institution (K-12 or Higher Ed) in Massachusetts. Nominees must demonstrate why their collaboration was significant in addressing a specific need.

3. Making A Difference Award: An Outstanding Impact in Service & Volunteerism:

This award recognizes a demonstrated and significant impact within a pressing community need through the mobilization of Corps members or volunteers by a nonprofit (501c3), private or public entity, or education institution (K-12 or Higher Ed).

Nominations Submission and Deadline:

[Click here](#) to view the call for nominations and [here](#) to complete the nomination form.

Nominations must be submitted **by 5:00pm on Friday, March 3, 2017**.

Completed nomination form and attachments should be emailed to Colin McLaughlin at cmclaughlin@mass-service.org, or mailed to: Massachusetts Service Alliance, Attn: Awards,

Commonwealth Corps: Impact through Midyear & Applications Received for 2017-18



We are so proud of all that our Commonwealth Corps Members and Host Site Partners have accomplished in the first half of this service year. As of early February, Commonwealth Corps Members have served over **25,000** hours and impacted more than **5,000** beneficiaries across Massachusetts. In addition to members' own contributions, they have also engaged **1,441** community volunteers, who have provided an additional **18,600** hours of service, furthering power of their programs. Through MSA provided and host-site provided professional development opportunities, as well as members' on-the-ground experience and practice, they are enhancing their skills for the future, while leveraging their previous and newfound strengths for their communities and host organizations.

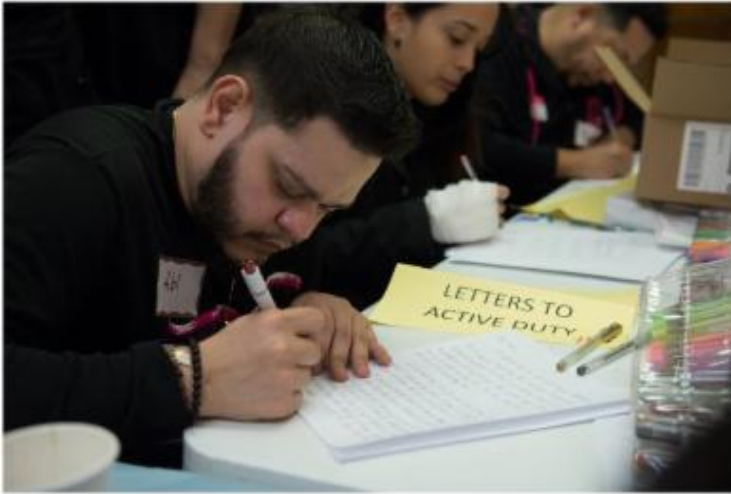
MSA was pleased to receive even more applications than last year to become a Host Site Partner for the 2017-2018 program year. Applications came in from new and existing partner sites, from across the Commonwealth, and from a range of focus areas. Thank you to all those who applied. After a thorough peer review this winter, we look forward to announcing our selected host site partners in early April and opening up applications for a new Corps of members to apply.

2017 MLK Day Highlights

On January 16, 2017, MSA partnered with 9 MLK Day grantees across the Commonwealth to engage volunteers in meaningful service to honor Dr. King. Serving at locations in Boston, Cambridge, Waltham, Haverhill, Lynn, Salem, North Adams, and South Yarmouth, nearly 5,000 volunteers supported MSA and our partners on MLK Day, and moved us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community. In addition, Mayor Walsh (at Boston Cares), Congresswoman Katherine Clark (at Many Helping Hands), and Congressman Seth Moulton (at Lynn Community Association) attended MLK Day projects.

Some of the volunteer projects that took place on MLK Day included: creating STEM education tools for schools, practicing English conversation with youth and adult learners, making scarves and blankets for homeless children and adults, packaging 14,000 nutrition-enriched meals for food banks, connecting parents with community resources, assembling care packages for veterans, planting seeds in mason jars for residents at a senior center, working on construction projects for community members in need, and distributing gift bags to local agencies serving the homeless.

Thank you to both the volunteers and our partner agencies for making MLK Day a day on, not a day off and strengthening communities throughout Massachusetts!



National Volunteer Week Grantee Announcement

National Volunteer Week (April 23-29, 2017) provides the perfect opportunity to reflect upon the power of service and volunteerism across the country. This year, MSA will celebrate National Volunteer Week by partnering with 15 nonprofits to provide opportunities for community members to volunteer side by side for the good of the Commonwealth. We are excited to announce our 15 grantees for National Volunteer Week:

- Boston Cares
- Charles River Watershed Association
- Community United Way of Pioneer Valley
- Growing Places
- Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.

- Mill City Grows
- New England Aquarium
- Office of Neighborhood Services - City Hall (Boston)
- Project Citizenship
- Rebuilding Together Worcester



- Springfield Partners for Community Actions



- Students Helping Children Across Borders, Inc.



- United Way of Central Massachusetts
- University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- Waltham Fields Community Farm

Check back in mid-March for more details!

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

- [Sharing the Harvest Field Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteer Coordinator Assistant](#)
- [Grant Research and Writing Assistant](#)
- [Food Pantry Liaison](#)
- [Volunteer Interpreters](#)
- [Volunteer with Boomerangs](#)



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

Upcoming MSA Workshops

Join the Massachusetts Service Alliance for a special certificate program:

Youth Mental Health First Aid

- Date: Friday, March 10th
- Time: 8:30am until 5:00pm
- Location: Northeastern Crossing, 1175 Tremont Street, Boston MA
- Details: Breakfast, Lunch, and Textbook provided
- Limited space available, register soon!



- Registration deadline: March 8th
- Cost: \$40.00

About the Workshop:

Youth Mental Health First Aid USA is an 8 hour public education program which introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care. For more information about this workshop, and to see the trainer bio, [click here](#).

[Register Now!](#)

Save the Date - Additional Workshop!

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in Service-Learning and other Project Based Learning

- May 2nd, Boston MA
- Presented by Tracy Harkins of Kids Consortium

Details and more Spring Training opportunities to follow!

Save the Date! Massachusetts Service & Volunteerism Day

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 / 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
State House, Grand Staircase

Did you know that over 1.3 million people of all ages and backgrounds across Massachusetts are answering the call to serve their community? For some it's one day, and for others it's a yearlong commitment.

Either way, they are providing vital support to our schools, food banks, homeless shelters, youth centers and other nonprofit organizations at a time of growing demand for services.

Join MSA at the State House on April 25th to hear from some of these remarkable community heroes as they share their story on how they are meeting local needs, inspiring others to serve, and making a difference in Massachusetts.

Stay tuned for more info and the RSVP link!

Opportunities to Get Involved with AmeriCorps Alums Boston

AmeriCorps Alums Greater Boston is a group of professionals with a shared passion for reconnecting to fellow alumni and a lifetime of service. Using their collective power and leadership they aim to make change through meaningful service, advocacy and social and professional development events.

Stay tuned for upcoming events, including a current AmeriCorps member networking night planned for 2/23 at Knight Moves Cafe (1159 Broadway Somerville, 02144) and a higher education round table event for current AmeriCorps members in April! More details will be announced on AmeriCorps Alums' [Facebook page](#).



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