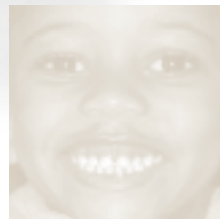
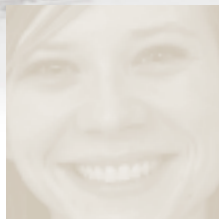
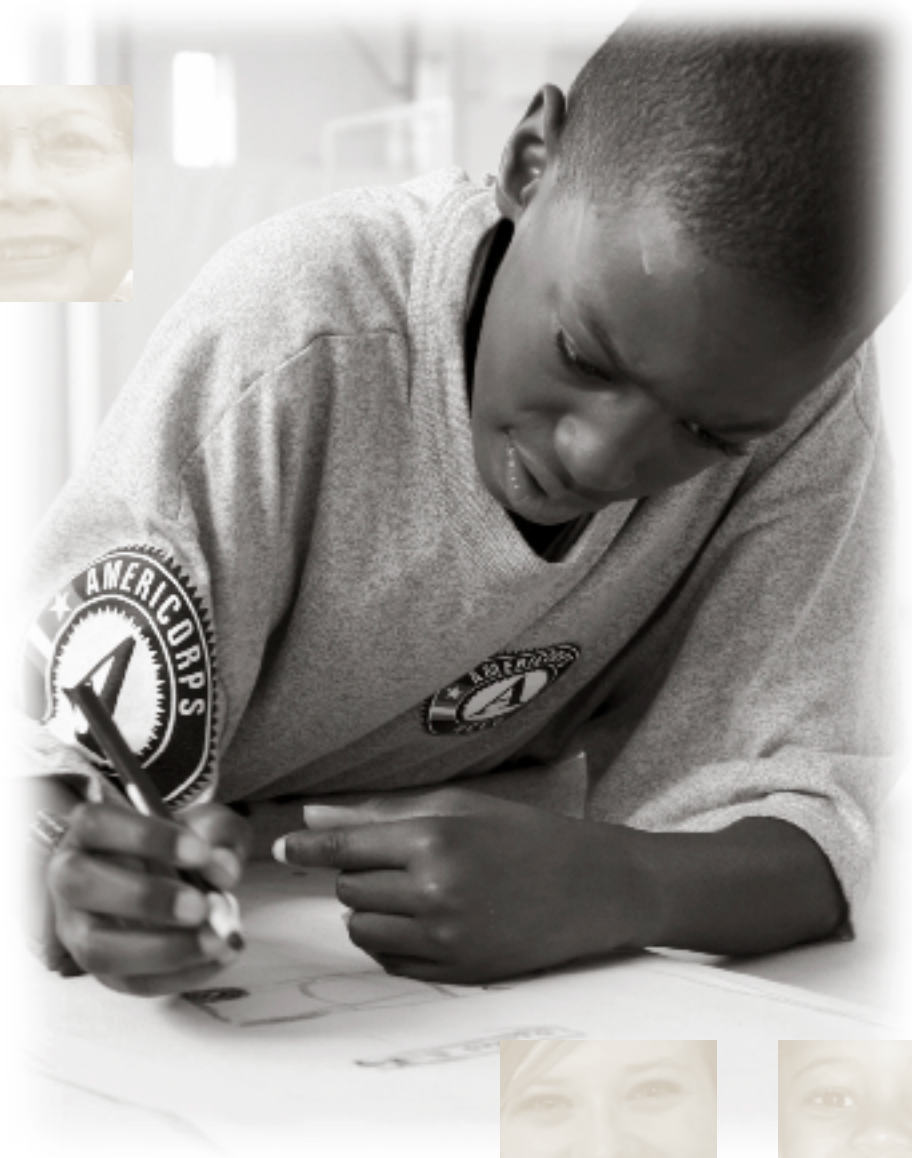


SERVE MINNESOTA | 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



*Positive Action.*

*Positive Change.*



## Board of Directors

Arendt, William  
Burnett, Bescye  
Coleman, Duane  
Dixon, Keith  
Downham, Joshua  
Durenberger, David  
Esmay, Jay  
Harris, Laura  
Harris, Pamela  
Heegaard, Susan  
Hoffman, Terry  
Horner, Thomas  
Melander, Harry  
Nasby, David  
Norsby, G.H. "Jerry"  
Rumpza, Robert,

### *Board Chair*

Russell, Judith  
Seagren, Alice  
Sinykin, Jackie  
Taylor, Susan  
Wolter, Daniel

## Ex-Officio Members

Garofalo, Rep. Pat (R)  
Sieben, Rep. Katie (D)  
Kelley, Senator Steve (D)  
Jackson, Robert

## ServeMinnesota Mission

ServeMinnesota builds a stronger Minnesota through AmeriCorps and other volunteer-based programs. We help improve the quality of life in Minnesota communities by matching citizens committed to service and financial resources with critical local needs.

## ServeMinnesota Vision

All Minnesotans will engage in a call to service that strengthens the well-being of both self and community. This can be accomplished by embracing four values:

- Service is a public responsibility,
- Service builds community,
- Service creates positive social change,
- Service helps meet critical human needs.

## 2005-2006 Contributors

The generous support of the following businesses, corporations, foundations, and government agencies during the 2005-2006 program year has made it possible for ServeMinnesota to carry out our mission. Thank you.

## Business/Corporations

Diamond Consulting  
All Computer Connex

## Foundations

The McKnight Foundation  
The Carolyn Foundation  
The Cargill Foundation  
The Deluxe Foundation  
Otto Bremer Foundation  
The Sheltering Arms Foundation  
Eugene L. and Mary F. Frey  
Family Fund of The St. Paul Foundation  
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation  
H.B. Fuller Company Foundation  
RBC Dain Rauscher  
The St. Paul Foundation  
General Mills Foundation



# Message to the Community

Dear Friends:

AmeriCorps in Minnesota in the past year touched many individuals and communities, as it has every year since its launch in 1994. As the face of AmeriCorps in our state, ServeMinnesota is proud to report our progress to the community. You will learn more about the people who serve our state on these pages. AmeriCorps members and programs work, usually with little fanfare, to make our communities stronger.

Our largest program, the Minnesota Reading Corps, illustrates what is possible when the “people power” of AmeriCorps is married with the science of effective literacy interventions. Inside this report, you’ll see that Minnesota Reading Corps results in the last three years have been remarkable. These results fuel our desire to reach all Minnesota children who need the support of the Minnesota Reading Corps.

The educational journey is an important investment in Minnesota at a time when too many five year olds have not been prepared for kindergarten and when one in four third- graders test below grade level in reading. Reducing the disparities in achievement is important work socially and economically. As you read this report you will see how AmeriCorps is an effective and efficient tool for reducing disparities and making a real difference in the number of children and adults who can succeed. Additionally, nearly 600 individuals joined in service to Minnesota communities to lend a hand in:

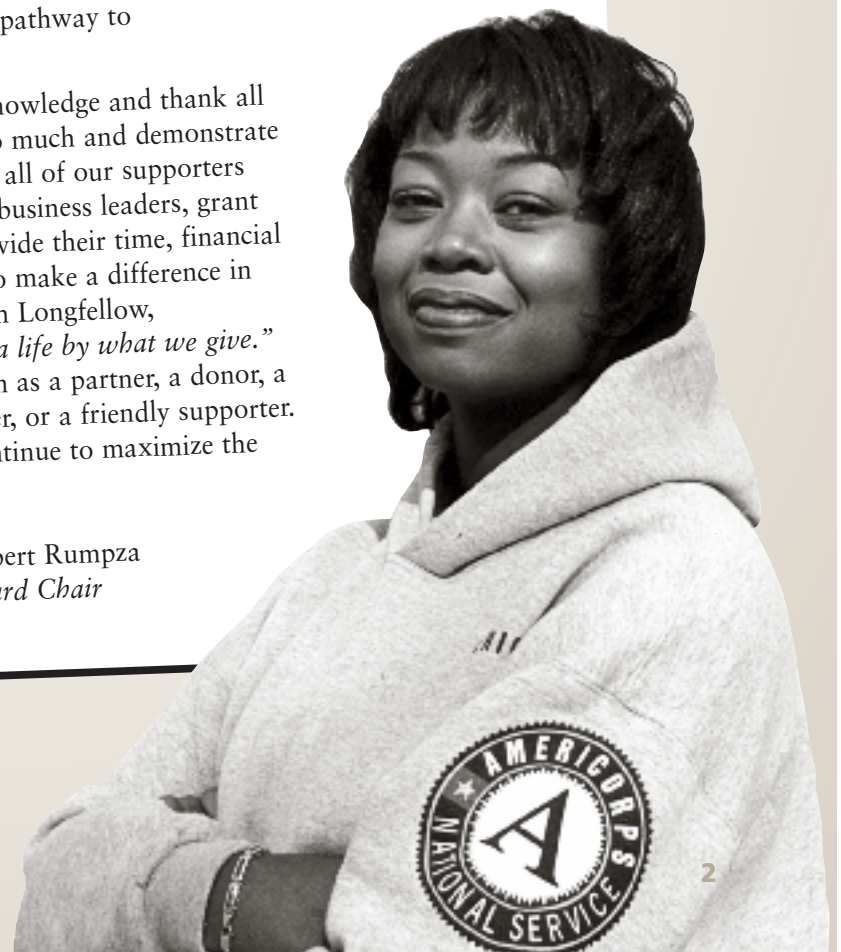
- Building affordable housing;
- Improving access to resources for new Minnesotans;
- Increasing employment for underemployed individuals; and
- Assisting our children along the educational pathway to reduce achievement gaps.

In this issue of our annual report, we acknowledge and thank all of our many community partners, who give so much and demonstrate that we all have something to offer. We thank all of our supporters from our programs, schools, literacy experts, business leaders, grant makers, teachers and public officials who provide their time, financial contributions and share talents and services to make a difference in Minnesota. In the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “*we make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.*”

We invite you to become part of our team as a partner, a donor, a community volunteer, an AmeriCorps member, or a friendly supporter. We look forward to working with you to continue to maximize the impact of AmeriCorps in Minnesota!

Audrey Suker  
*Executive Director*

Robert Rumpza  
*Board Chair*







## Minnesota Reading Corps – Reducing the Literacy Achievement Gap

### Minnesota Reading Corps Business Advisory Committee

These individuals provided leadership to build the bridge between the Minnesota Reading Corps and business support in Minnesota communities.

Kate Kelly, Chair  
*Bremer Banks*

Jeanne Mock  
*Target Corporation*

John Ellenberger  
*General Mills*

Megan Remark  
*HealthPartners*

Thomas Horner  
*Himle, Horner & Associates*

Chuck Slocum  
*The Williston Group*



ServeMinnesota's statewide literacy initiative, the Minnesota Reading Corps, has completed its third year of operations and results for 2005-2006 are in. Children served by the program recorded continued measurable progress toward becoming successful readers. The results suggest exciting promise as the program expands to serve more Minnesota children, age 3 to grade 3, who struggle to learn to read. Sixty-seven members served across six partner programs and organizations during the 2005-2006 program year. Minnesota Reading Corps members were hosted by the Minnesota Literacy Council (*Early Literacy Corps and Minnesota Reading Corps*), Neighborhood House (*Multicultural Communities in Action*), Duluth Area Family YMCA (*True North AmeriCorps*), St. Croix River Education District (*Minnesota Reading Center*), and Worthington Independent School District 518 (*Reaching Our Communities Kids*).

*The recently released results indicate:*

### Real Change in Children's Literacy Skills

The progress of more than 1,000 Minnesota children receiving Reading Corps support was above that expected for typical students. Data for 2005-2006 showed an increased number of students reaching performance targets that correlate with reading success by third grade:

- Pre-K children showed growth across a number of key early literacy indicators that are closely linked with learning to read. These indicators include picture naming, rhyming, letter naming, letter sounds and alliteration. In fact, in a matched sample analysis, children in Minneapolis who participated in Reading Corps during their pre-K years in Head Start recorded statistically significant greater progress at the end of kindergarten than children of similar backgrounds who did not participate. These results, shown in the graph at right, indicate that Reading Corps is helping children arrive at kindergarten better prepared to succeed.

- In K-3, the average literacy growth rate of Reading Corps participants exceeded the target growth rate, indicating that Reading Corps participants are making faster progress toward grade-level expectations than they were at the start of participation. This is especially promising in view of research that shows that children whose reading skills do not catch up to grade level by the end of third grade usually never catch up.

### More Students Served

In 2005-2006, more than 1,400 Minnesota children age 3 to grade 3 were served by the Reading Corps program. This is an increase from 400 served in the first year and it's half the number projected to be served in 2006-2007. The Reading Corps is



## The Minnesota Reading Corps – A Teacher's Story

Claudia Anick teaches basic skills at Lowell Music Magnet Elementary School in Duluth, Minnesota. Until last year Ms. Anick was a Title 1 teacher at Lowell with three educational assistants. Last year due to a drop in the free and reduced lunch program, Lowell lost the Title 1 program as well as the three educational assistants.

Ms. Anick knew that a Minnesota Reading Corps member could help fill the huge gap if she worked intensively with an individual member teaching them how to work in the classroom.

Sara, a college graduate with a degree in economics, decided to dedicate a year of her life to national service through AmeriCorps. With the intensive on-site training from Ms. Anick, Sara quickly applied her education and training to become a Minnesota Reading Corps tutor.

Sara now uses her new skills combined with Minnesota Reading Corps methods and assessment tools in the Basic Skills classroom to tutor two students every half hour. After beginning her work with Ms. Anick, Sara realized teaching children is something she loves. The rewards come from her daily work and seeing the improvement her students make on a regular basis and knowing her efforts benefit the community she grew up in. Sara is now planning to attend graduate school to pursue a Master's degree in Education.

Sara and Ms. Anick discovered another common bond. Sara's parents live on the same block as Ms. Anick and know one another.

Ms. Anick who will retire from teaching this year, has much to offer Sara, and understands her investment in time and training pays off for current and future students. "I have worked for many years and know what methods work," offers Ms. Anick, "and the Minnesota Reading Corps works optimally when the members have a staff person that they can work closely with."

Together, Ms. Anick and Sara serve 55 students daily. "It's as though the students are getting a private tutor every single day," reports Ms. Anick. When asked if Minnesota Reading Corps students are making noticeable progress three months into the school year, Ms. Anick says, "Absolutely!"

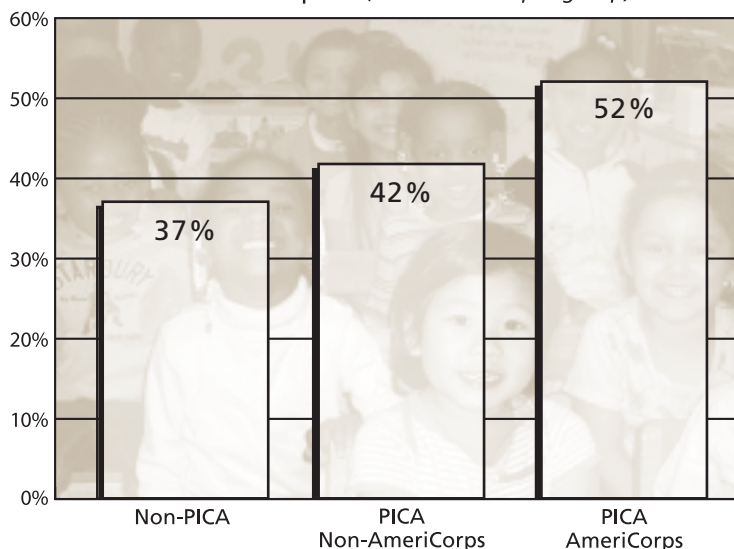


made possible by AmeriCorps members – individuals who dedicate a year to Minnesota Reading Corps service in schools and at early childhood learning sites.

### High Quality Program Implementation

Reading Corps is being successfully implemented in pre-school, elementary school and community-based settings across Minnesota. The Reading Corps instructional model is built around best practices developed and validated through early literacy research. Thus, quality implementation and coaching of members is key to the program's effectiveness.

Reading results for kindergarten children  
in Minneapolis (*n=72 students per group*)



Percentage of students "on course" to read well in grade 3.

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AmeriCorps –

## Increased Impact of Minnesota's Nonprofit Organizations

ServeMinnesota granted \$6.1 million in AmeriCorps grants in the 2005-2006 program year to nonprofit organizations across the state. Grants to these partner organizations are applied to recruit AmeriCorps members to provide direct services to Minnesotans. Grants are funded with a combination of federal and state funding, as well as local support from public sources and private contributions.

In 2005-2006, the 16 partnering programs recruited 596 AmeriCorps members who provided over 785,000 hours of service. Their contributions are described in the following pages.



### Reducing the Achievement Gap

Ten of the programs granted funding during 2005-2006 focus much or all of their efforts on making a difference in a young life to increase academic achievements – whether that be teaching letter sounds to a kindergarten student, providing homework help in algebra to an 8th grader, or linking a high school junior with test preparation services for the ACT. Each strategy smooths the educational pathway for Minnesota's youngest residents.

*These ten programs include:*

#### MINNESOTA ALLIANCE WITH YOUTH

A grant of \$788,961 was made to the Faribault Public Schools to host 60 AmeriCorps members\* across the state. Members, or Promise Fellows, served the community partners to improve mentoring programs, out-of-school activities, youth volunteer programs, scholarship and job training programs and health education projects.

\*Member Service Year



#### MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

A grant of \$546,410 was made to Neighborhood House to support 40 AmeriCorps members to serve in schools and organizations in St. Paul's West Side, East Side, Midway, Frogtown, and West Seventh neighborhoods. AmeriCorps members provided tutoring, homework help and English instruction in after-school programs and through the St. Paul Public Schools. Seven additional AmeriCorps members served in Minnesota Reading Corps.

### 2005-2006: AmeriCorps in Minnesota

#### **Education** – AmeriCorps members in Minnesota:

- Tutored 61,584 students in grades 1 – 12
- Within the group tutored, provided Minnesota Reading Corps tutoring and literacy interventions to 1,400 preschool and K – 3rd grade students
- Provided out-of-school (field trips) enrichment to 2,017 students
- Coordinated sports and violence avoidance after-school activities for 1,096 students
- Mentored 1,151 at-risk youth
- Counseled 457 high school juniors and seniors in college preparation skills
- Conducted service learning and community education activities benefiting 4,203 students

#### **Affordable Housing** – AmeriCorps members in Minnesota:

- Supported the construction of 73 housing units and 953 housing repairs, benefiting a total of 691 Minnesotans

#### **Human Service** – AmeriCorps members in Minnesota:

- Prepared and delivered daily meals to 480 reservation elders
- Counseled 315 people in job development and placement
- Provided independent living assistance for 432 people

#### **Closing the "Digital Divide"** – AmeriCorps members in Minnesota:

- Provided 20 Community Technology Centers with the capacity to serve targeted communities

#### **Homeland Security** – AmeriCorps members in Minnesota:

- Distributed informational materials benefiting 853 people
- 55 AmeriCorps members and community volunteers were trained as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training

#### **Promoting Community Service** – AmeriCorps members in Minnesota:

- Recruited and placed 30,608 community volunteers who, in turn, provided 301,985 hours of service to their communities



### CITY OF LAKES

A grant of \$525,841 was made to the Minneapolis Public Schools to support 38 AmeriCorps members who provided in-school tutoring and led after-school activities for low-income, at-risk children and youth to ensure academic and social success for students. The members also served as volunteer coordinators, engaging members of the community to mentor young people.

### TRUE NORTH AMERICORPS

A grant of \$431,650 was made to the Duluth Area Family YMCA to support the work of 31 AmeriCorps members who provided in-school mentoring and tutoring, community-based mentoring and other academic support to children and youth. Nine additional AmeriCorps members served in Minnesota Reading Corps.

### AMERICORPS – READS INITIATIVE

A grant of \$386,200 was made to the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to support 28 AmeriCorps members who provided tutoring for K-5 grade students, mentored at-risk youth, and provided basic skills education and independent living assistance to new immigrants and other adults in need. Six additional AmeriCorps members served in Minnesota Reading Corps.

### PARTNERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA

A grant of \$328,742 was made to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians to support 25 members who tutored students and led after-school activities. Members educated elementary school students on domestic violence and its prevention and delivered meals to homebound elders.

### ADMISSION POSSIBLE

A grant of \$276,148 was made to Admission Possible to place 21 AmeriCorps members at Minneapolis and St. Paul high schools to provide after-school college prep sessions. Admission Possible is dedicated to helping promising, low-income young people prepare for and earn admission to college through test preparation, college and financial



aid access assistance, and guidance in the transition to college. In 2005, Admission Possible won the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Mission Award for Innovation for the program efforts, results and the application of national service to the problem of college access. 100% of 2006 participating seniors were accepted into college and 2006 participating juniors increased their ACT scores, on average, by 20%.



*“Faced with  
apathy, I will take  
action. Faced  
with conflict, I  
will seek common  
ground. Faced  
with adversity,  
I will persevere.”*

– from the AmeriCorps Pledge of Service



#### ST. CLOUD CORPS

A grant of \$263,000 was made to St. Cloud State University and its partner organizations to support 20 AmeriCorps members. The members provided mentoring and youth development activities, volunteer mobilization, and service-learning opportunities. Two AmeriCorps members recruited and trained Community Emergency Response Team volunteers to assist with disaster preparedness and homeland security.

#### REACHING OUR COMMUNITIES' KIDS (ROCK)

A grant of \$242,700 was made to the Worthington Independent School District 518 to support 18 AmeriCorps members who provided academic tutoring, mentoring, and after-school activities to children and youth in Worthington and Bemidji. Two additional AmeriCorps members served in Minnesota Reading Corps.

#### TEACHER CORPS

A grant of \$99,000 was made to the Minnesota Literacy Council to support 100 education award - only AmeriCorps members participating in Teacher Corps. Teachers Corps recruited educational assistants (paraprofessionals) to integrate literacy and service-learning activities into their roles and to provide additional literacy tutoring to K-3 children in after-school and community-based programs.



“As I started my AmeriCorps journey I was lost – there was a road, but I didn’t have the faintest idea where it would lead me. I wasn’t even certain it would take me where I needed to go. I was entrusted to work on early literacy skills with pre-school children, and yet I didn’t really understand what that entailed. Those first

few days I had loosely translated my service into 1700 hours of glorified daycare. Ugh. This would get long....With the help of my literacy coach, I started tutoring. At first children were less than pleased to have to sit down with me and do ‘group.’...Last week, I sat calculating numbers from the Individual Growth and Developmental Indicators results. I computed and re-computed, just to be sure. There was a 95 percent increase in IGD scores at my site from fall to spring. Wow. Wow. This is something to write home about.”

– Member Serving in Minnesota Reading Corps 2005-2006



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*Other grants made during the 2005-2006 program year provided technology assistance, affordable housing, and employment assistance to Minnesotans.*

*Employment Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities –*

## WORK IN PROGRESS

A grant of \$525,999 was made to Rise, Inc. to provide support for 40 AmeriCorps members to provide one-on-one job search assistance, mobility or bus training, job coaching, supervised peer-to-peer support and instruction in self-dependency skills. Work in Progress is a collaborative partnership between AccessAbility, Lifetrack Resources, Opportunity Partners, and Rise, Inc. – all serving people with disabilities and others facing significant barriers to employment.



*Providing Affordable Housing –*

## AMERICORPS BUILDING COMMUNITIES

A grant of \$392,009 was made to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and Project for Pride in Living to support 30 AmeriCorps members support the construction of 73 homes for Twin Cities' families. The members also made renovations on 953 housing units for residents who are elderly or have a disability and provided support to families.



*Closing the Digital Divide –*

## COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

A grant of \$328,069 was made to St. Paul Neighborhood Network to support 25 AmeriCorps members who worked to expand the capacity of community-based organizations and community technology centers to “bridge the digital divide” in urban neighborhoods. Members developed culturally-based outreach and training materials, computer education, public service announcements and web sites.

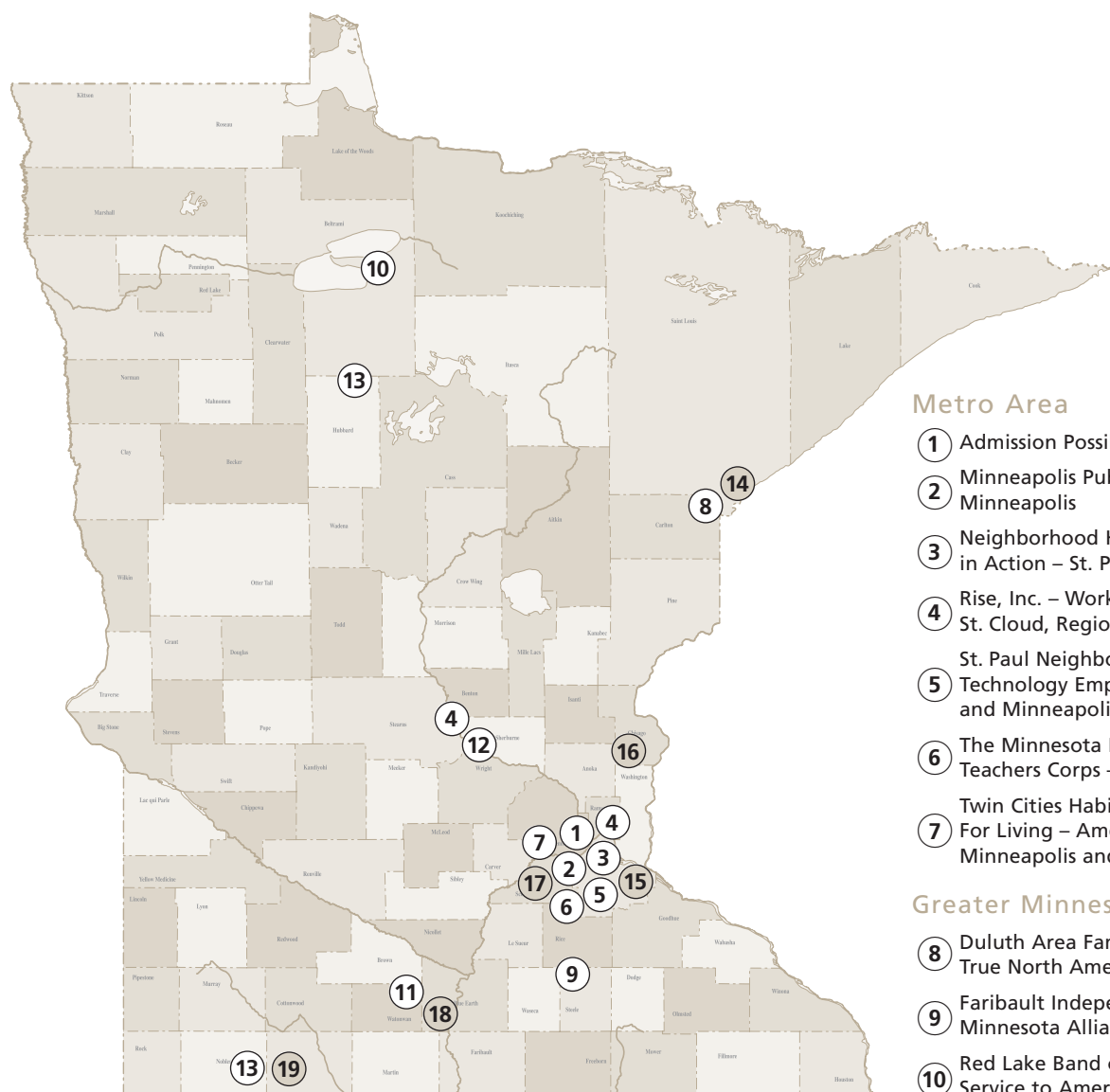
## Closing the gap: Including all abilities

At ServeMinnesota we believe that all citizens should have equal access to all community services, events, and opportunities. This belief is why we continuously strive to make all of Minnesota's AmeriCorps programs as inclusive as possible. This past year we created a captioned version of our recruitment DVD, which has been sent to numerous colleges and universities, and is streaming online at the University of Minnesota. We sent press releases to over 70 media outlets and are working on a 30 minute segment for United Cerebral Palsy of Minnesota's local TV program. We again provided a fully inclusive service retreat at Camp Courage North, and we added a second week because of the popularity of this event. Forty-five members with and without disabilities from multiple programs participated in this week-long retreat.

These efforts in outreach have once again increased the number of members disclosing a disability serving in Minnesota AmeriCorps programs. We were able to provide all accommodations requested this past year, and we are committed to working with all qualified applicants on reasonable accommodations to ensure the member has a successful year. We anticipate that as more people find out about AmeriCorps opportunities and our commitment to inclusion that these numbers will continue to grow.

Minnesota AmeriCorps programs placed 91 (22%) members with a disclosed disability in 2004-2005. In 2005-2006, 103 (24%) members with a disclosed disability were placed.

# AmeriCorps Program Locations



## Metro Area

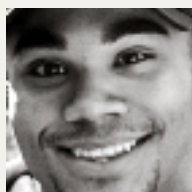
- ① Admission Possible – Minneapolis and St. Paul
- ② Minneapolis Public Schools – City of Lakes – Minneapolis
- ③ Neighborhood House – Multicultural Communities in Action – St. Paul
- ④ Rise, Inc. – Work In Progress – Metro Area, St. Cloud, Region 7E of Central Eastern MN
- ⑤ St. Paul Neighborhood Network – Community Technology Empowerment Project – St. Paul and Minneapolis
- ⑥ The Minnesota Literacy Council – Teachers Corps – St. Paul and Minneapolis
- ⑦ Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and Project Pride For Living – AmeriCorps Building Community – Minneapolis and St. Paul

## Greater Minnesota

- ⑧ Duluth Area Family YMCA – True North AmeriCorps – Duluth
- ⑨ Faribault Independent School District 656 – Minnesota Alliance with Youth – Statewide
- ⑩ Red Lake Band of Chippewa – Partners in Service to America – Red Lake Indian Reservation
- ⑪ Southern MN Initiative Foundation – AmeriCorps READS – Southern MN Rural Communities
- ⑫ St. Cloud State University – St. Cloud Corps – Stearns County
- ⑬ Worthington Independent School District 518 – Reaching Our Communities Kids – Worthington and Bemidji

## Minnesota Reading Corps

- ⑭ Duluth Area Family YMCA – True North AmeriCorps – Duluth
- ⑮ Neighborhood House – Multicultural Communities in Action – St. Paul
- ⑯ St. Croix River Education District – Minnesota Reading Center – East Central MN
- ⑰ The Minnesota Literacy Council – Early Literacy Corps & Minnesota Reading Corps – St. Paul and Minneapolis
- ⑱ Southern MN Initiative Foundation – AmeriCorps READS Initiative – Southern MN Rural Communities
- ⑲ Worthington Independent School District 518 – Reaching Our Communities Kids – Worthington



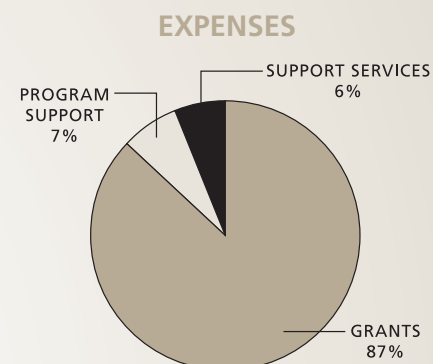
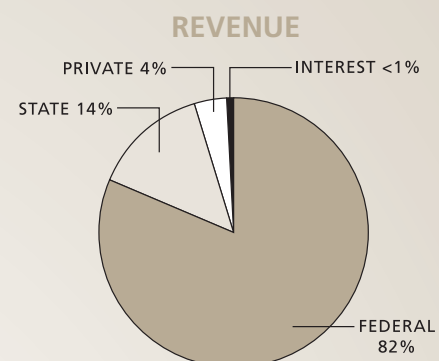
“One day while working on homework, an 8th grade girl was telling me how poor her family is. She also said that there is really no need in her doing well in school because she isn’t going to get to college anyway. I asked her why and she said that she couldn’t afford it. I told her that if she gets her grades up, works on her behavior, and really tries hard that there are other ways to pay for college....The following week she had an English assignment in which she had to tell what an inspirational poster meant....she decided that it meant that everybody should try and do well in school no matter what because there are ways to go to college by doing well.”

– Member Serving in Minnesota Alliance with Youth 2005-2006

# 2006 Financial Statement

## ServeMinnesota Statement of Financial Position August 31, 2006

ASSETS	2006	2005
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash	266,756	200,745
Grants Receivable	685,652	712,446
Prepaid Expenses	18,115	—
Pledges Receivable	—	85,000
Total Current Assets	970,523	998,191
<b>Non-Current Assets:</b>		
Security Deposit	3,798	3,798
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>974,321</b>	<b>1,001,989</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts Payable	10,836	18,569
Grants Payable	579,733	572,441
Total Current Liabilities	590,569	591,010
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	150,000	150,000
Designated	109,493	112,446
Undesignated	—	—
Total Unrestricted	259,493	262,446
Temporarily Restricted	124,259	148,533
Total Net Assets	383,752	410,979
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>974,321</b>	<b>1,001,989</b>



## ServeMinnesota Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets For the Year ending August 31, 2006

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b>			
Governmental Grants	6,282,158	0	6,282,158
Contributions	27,000	235,000	262,000
Interest Income	11,882	0	11,882
Other	46,073	0	46,073
Net Assets Released from Restriction:			
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	259,274	(259,274)	0
Total Support & Revenue	6,626,387	(24,274)	6,602,113
<b>EXPENSE:</b>			
<b>Program Services:</b>			
AmeriCorps	5,513,373	0	4,971,774
Program Support	77,140	0	77,140
Training	96,144	0	96,144
Disability	150,146	0	150,146
Reading Corps	420,009	0	420,009
Total Program Services	6,256,812	0	6,256,812
<b>Support Services:</b>			
Management and General	340,017	0	340,017
Fundraising	32,511	0	32,511
Total Support Services	372,528	0	372,528
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>6,629,340</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,629,340</b>
Change in Net Assets	(2,953)	(24,274)	(27,227)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	262,446	148,533	410,979
Net Assets - End of Year	259,493	124,259	383,752







**ServeMinnesota**  
MAKING MINNESOTA BETTER

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*Alternative formats of this report available upon request.*