

*Positive Action.
Positive Change.*



ServeMinnesota
MAKING MINNESOTA BETTER

ServeMinnesota's *Vision*

Inspiring action to change Minnesota communities for the better.



ServeMinnesota is a catalyst for positive social change, working with AmeriCorps and community partners to meet critical needs in Minnesota. We get measurable results through:

Innovation

Researching and applying the best methods to create powerful local solutions.

Investment

Raising and allocating funds for AmeriCorps program development, and people serving in those programs, to maximize return.

Alignment

Aligning with local community and government priorities and setting consistent program standards.

Message to the Community

Dear Friends,

It is always a delight to share our annual report because of the remarkable contributions AmeriCorps programs are making to improve Minnesota communities. As Minnesota's Commission for National and Community Service, ServeMinnesota has the following responsibilities:

- To be Minnesota's catalyst for community service – helping community organizations extend their services, get people involved, and use federal, state and private funding to train and place AmeriCorps members where they will benefit Minnesota communities;
- To improve the lives of Minnesotans by offering life-changing service opportunities for those ready to serve and life-changing solutions for those who need a helping hand; and
- To provide leadership, human and financial resources to effectively and cost-efficiently address Minnesota's critical needs.

We rely on multiple partnerships and for these we express our gratitude to the following:

- AmeriCorps members for their willingness to give a year in service in exchange for a modest educational scholarship and a very modest living allowance;
- Community organizations that administer the programs at the local level and are masters at providing strong leadership and making every dollar stretch as far as possible;
- The Governor's office and the Minnesota legislature for providing state dollars that leverage federal funds, making Minnesota the fifth largest recipient of federal AmeriCorps funding in the country; and
- Minnesota's philanthropic community for partnering with us to help the Minnesota Reading Corps reach 15,000 children from age 3 to grade 3 over the next two years.

We hope this report inspires you and we look forward to working with you to continue to maximize the impact of AmeriCorps in Minnesota.

Audrey Suker
Executive Director

Bob Rumpza
Board Chair



Minnesota Reading Corps



ServeMinnesota's Reading Corps improves the early literacy skills of children age 3 through grade 3 across Minnesota. AmeriCorps members and trained volunteers work one-on-one and in small groups with children struggling to read using research-based tutoring methods.

Necessary

One in five Minnesota third graders do not read at grade level. Reading skills are critical for learning, working, and becoming productive citizens. Forty-three percent of Americans with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty and 70% have no job or only a part-time job. Early intervention by the Minnesota Reading Corps can help all children in Minnesota become successful readers, and successful in life.

Effective

For the third consecutive year, outside evaluation of the program found that pre-school children reached by Minnesota Reading Corps volunteers started kindergarten significantly more prepared in literacy skills than other children. Children in grades K-3 reached by the Minnesota Reading Corps acquired literacy skills at a rate that allowed them to "catch up" to grade level expectations.

Unique

Minnesota Reading Corps tutors (AmeriCorps members and community volunteers) use research-based methods to instruct children in five key literacy areas: rhyming, alliteration, picture naming, letter naming fluency, and letter sound fluency. Instruction is provided several times a week. Tutors receive

Reducing the Literacy Achievement Gap

intensive, uniform training resulting in higher quality instruction and clearer results than many other tutoring programs.

Growing

The program began as a pilot in 2003 serving 400 children. The Minnesota Reading Corps has grown every year since, reaching 2,594 children in 2006-2007. ServeMinnesota plans to double the number of children served in 2007-08.

Efficient

One-to-one tutoring is very effective, but is also cost-prohibitive for many schools. Since AmeriCorps members give a year of their lives to service, costs for the Minnesota Reading Corps are low. AmeriCorps members also mobilize additional community volunteers (e.g. senior citizens, college students) who increase the number of children reached with little additional financial investment.

Respected

Commissioner of Education Alice Seagren helped form the Minnesota Reading Corps in 2003 in response to growing awareness of the large number of Minnesota children who were struggling to read. The Minnesota Reading Corps is a collaboration among ServeMinnesota, the Minnesota Literacy Council, Saint Croix River Education District, and many local schools and education programs. Its Business Leadership Group builds bridges between the program and business supporters at the local level.

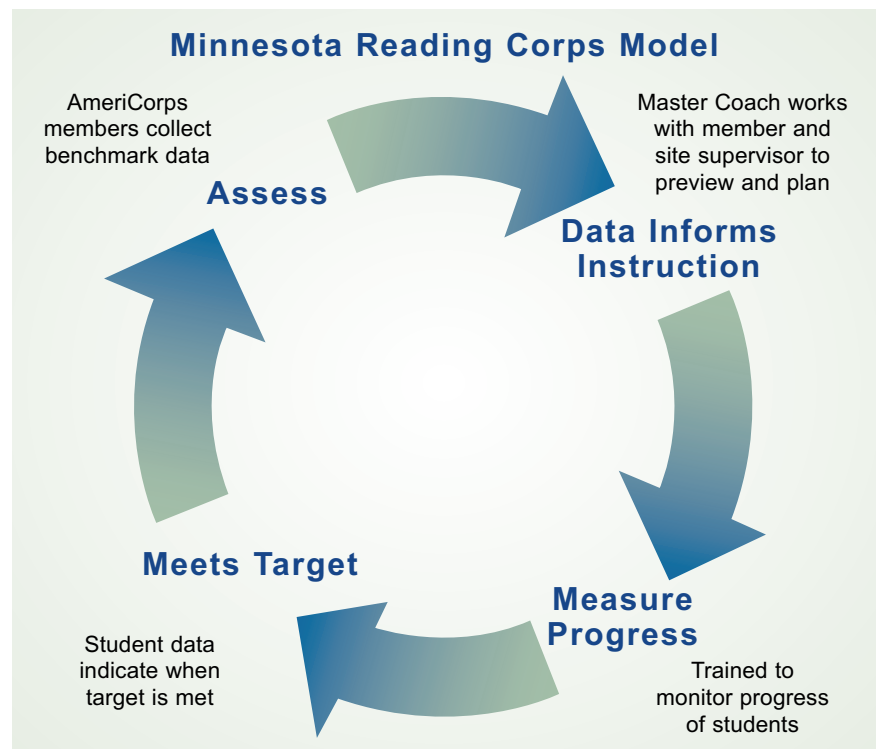
Significant Legislative Support

The Minnesota Legislature passed a bill in 2007 providing \$1 million annually to support the Minnesota Reading Corps. This support ensures thousands more Minnesota children will become successful readers. ServeMinnesota would like to recognize the leadership of the bill's chief authors, Senator Kathy Saltzman and Representative Augustine Dominguez, as well as the vital support of Commissioner Alice Seagren and the Department of Education.

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“Students in my class have found true success through the Reading Corps program. This intense intervention has not only made a difference in their academic success but also in their confidence! I hope this program will continue in future years.”

– Duluth area classroom teacher





2007 Reading Corps Highlights

- The Minnesota Legislature passed a bill providing \$1 million annually to support the Minnesota Reading Corps.
- 2,594 children received tutoring through the Minnesota Reading Corps.
- 136 AmeriCorps members served in the Minnesota Reading Corps.

Partners in the Minnesota Reading Corps

Northwestern Minnesota

Fergus Falls Kids Care, Fergus Falls
OtterTail-Wadena CAC Head Start, Wadena
Parkers Prairie Head Start, Parkers Prairie
Pelican Rapids Head Start, Pelican Rapids

Northeastern Minnesota

Braham Elementary School, Braham
C.E. Jacobson Elementary, Rush City
Chisago Lakes Primary School, Chisago City
East Central Elementary, Finlayson
Duluth Head Start, Duluth
Grant Magnet Elementary, Duluth
Hinckley Elementary, Hinckley
International Falls, Head Start
Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids
Itasca Resource Center, Grand Rapids
Lincoln Park Elementary, Duluth
Nettleton Magnet Elementary, Duluth
Northome School, Northome
Pine City Elementary, Pine City
Sunrise River Elementary, North Branch
Taconite, Head Start
Taylors Falls Elementary, Taylors Falls

Central

Brainerd Head Start, Brainerd
Crosby Head Start, Crosby
Dent Elementary, Dent
Discovery Elementary, Waite Park
Heart of the Lakes Elementary, Perham
Lincoln Elementary, St. Cloud
Little Falls Head Start, Little Falls
Long Prairie Head Start, Long Prairie
Milaca Elementary, Milaca
Staples Head Start, Staples
Verndale Head Start, Verndale

Twin Cities Region

Cedar Center Head Start, Cedar
Cimarron Preschool, Lake Elmo
Family Development Center, Coon Rapids
Helen H. Taylor Early Childhood Family
Development Center, Golden Valley
Oakdale Center, Oakdale
Lakes Center Head Start, Forest Lake
Rutherford Elementary, Stillwater
Stillwater Head Start, Stillwater

Minneapolis

Bethune Community School
East Side Neighborhood Services
Luxton Park (Pratt Community School)
East Side Neighborhood Services
Mulberry Junction
East Side Neighborhood Services
(Tuttle Community School)
Fraser Early Childhood Family
Development Center
Glendale Early Childhood Family
Development Center
McKnight Early Childhood Family
Development Center
Nicollet Bethlehem Community Center
(Whittier Community School)
Northeast Neighborhood Early
Learning Center
Park Place Early Childhood Family
Development Center
Rueben Lindh Multicultural
Therapeutic Preschool
YWCA of Minneapolis- Downtown
Children's Center
YWCA Midtown Children's Center
YWCA Phillips
YWCA Abbott

St. Paul

YWCA (after school program)

Southern Minnesota

Child Care Resource and Referral Head Start,
Albert Lea
Child Care Resource and Referral Head Start,
Rochester

Horizon Milling and the Minnesota Reading Corps A Partnership That Works For Kids

In the small town of Rush City, a very special partnership has developed between dedicated flour mill workers and children at the local elementary school. Six employees of Horizon Milling, a Cargill subsidiary, have stepped up to volunteer so that third graders at Jacobson Elementary School who need focused help with their reading have a tutor every day of the week.

Managers at Horizon Milling have organized a schedule so the six volunteer “readers” can leave the plant during the work day to visit the elementary school. There, the readers work one-on-one with children whose reading skills are below grade level. “The kids look for us. If we’re not there, they watch out the door until we come,” says reader Pam Griffith.

“There are so many kids that slip through the cracks,” says reader Jerry Schumacher. “They just need a little extra push to be reading at grade level. Getting one-on-one attention is huge for them.”

In the beginning, Cargill’s Community Involvement Team at the mill met with representatives of ServeMinnesota to learn about the Reading Corps. The mill’s Location Manager Mike Ginal learned that before third grade, children “learn to read.” “That’s essential so they can ‘read to learn’ other school subjects after third grade,” comments Ginal.

Cargill’s Community Involvement Team started getting employees involved in December 2006. The volunteer readers receive significant training in research-based tutoring interventions, setting the Reading Corps apart from many other tutoring programs.

“Having these adults there every day is important. You need to do it every day to show real progress,” says Jacobson Elementary teacher Kim Erdman.

The commitment by Horizon Milling and its employees is a model for other businesses to follow. ServeMinnesota is thankful for the leadership of Mike Ginal at the mill, and Melanie Hedberg, the Minnesota Reading Corps AmeriCorps member, at the school.

According to Hedberg, “It is so exciting for me to be part of this adventure, to be considered on the cutting edge of a community partnership improving students’ literacy. The volunteers are all wonderful! I can tell they are excited about working with students and I can see their team spirit at Horizon Milling.”

“We’ve reached a lot of kids,” says reader Theresa Shaleen. “Once they improve, they ‘graduate’ from our program. It is a joy.”



(top photo) The mill’s manager Mike Ginal tutoring at Jacobson Elementary in Rush City.

(bottom photo) The six Horizon Milling readers are proud to support the Minnesota Reading Corps with their time and financial resources. Pictured (from left to right) are Jerry Schumacher, Colleen Schmeling, Mike Ginal, Theresa Shaleen, Denny Pederson, and Pam Griffith.



AmeriCorps



*"AmeriCorps
gave me
strong skills in
communicating,
networking,
and leading."*

– AmeriCorps Promise Fellow

ServeMinnesota provides AmeriCorps grants to community organizations across Minnesota. The grants are used to recruit, fund, and train AmeriCorps members who serve children and adults in need. AmeriCorps members are adults of all ages who commit to serve their communities for one year in exchange for a modest living allowance and an educational award. The amount of each grant reflects the number of AmeriCorps members in each program. 12 organizations received AmeriCorps grants totaling \$5.7 million in 2006-07.

Increasing the Impact of Minnesota's Nonprofit Organizations

Admission Possible **Admission Possible** **Twin Cities – \$587,397**

44 AmeriCorps members served 950 students in 13 Twin Cities high schools. Admission Possible makes college admission possible for promising low-income students by preparing them for college admission exams and helping them navigate college applications. Since 2000, 98% of the program's participants have earned admission to college.

AmeriCorps Building Community **Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity** **& Project for Pride in Living** **Twin Cities – \$443,614**

33 AmeriCorps members built, rehabbed, and repaired 70 homes in partnership with thousands of community volunteers and low-income clients in the Twin Cities. Members also provide education and support services and activities for children and families, making it possible for them to build the skills to sustain themselves in their homes.



Photo by Laura Golubeva

2006-07 **Highlights**

- 569 Minnesotans gave a year of their life in service as “AmeriCorps members.”
- AmeriCorps members mobilized over 20,000 volunteers in communities across the state.
- Over 35,600 children and adults in need were served by AmeriCorps members.

See program descriptions for additional details on the communities and people served by AmeriCorps in Minnesota.

AmeriCorps READS Initiative **Southern MN Initiative Foundation** **Southern Minnesota – \$333,759**

30 AmeriCorps members in AmeriCorps READS (Reading Early Achieves Development Success) increased literacy and learning readiness for young children in Southern Minnesota. Members mobilized hundreds of volunteers and provided direct service to families, reaching 450 children in 2006-07.

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“AmeriCorps gives you experience that you can't find in a textbook.”

– Ben

“I would recommend the experience of AmeriCorps to any person of any age, culture or abilities.”

– Monica

**City of Lakes AmeriCorps
Minneapolis Public Schools
Minneapolis – \$250,117**

22 AmeriCorps members provided in-school tutoring and after-school activities to over 150 low-income, at-risk children and youth in ten Minneapolis schools. They recruited over 200 volunteers to help with these activities. The members’ and volunteers’ services improved the youth’s school attendance, academic achievement, and social skills.



**Community Technology
Empowerment Project
St. Paul Neighborhood Network
Twin Cities – \$328,069**

29 AmeriCorps members bridged the “digital divide” experienced by new immigrants and low-income people. They built the capacity of community-based technology centers and developed culturally-appropriate outreach methods to encourage use of the centers. They helped over 400 people learn computer skills and/or search for jobs.

**Minnesota Reading Corps
Minnesota Literacy Council
and partners
Statewide – \$1,177,311**

136 AmeriCorps members and the community volunteers they mobilize provided one-one-one tutoring to over 2,500 at-risk children. The children participate in structured, weekly tutoring sessions, resulting in significant reading skill improvements.

**Minnesota Alliance with Youth
Faribault Public Schools
Statewide – \$788,961**

60 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows served in schools and community organizations to address Minnesota’s academic achievement gap. Promise Fellows mobilized over 2,000 adult volunteers who tutor, mentor, and promote civic engagement, benefiting 29,000 youth. Nearly 60% of youth reduced the number of failing grades they received. Promise Fellows also engaged over 2,000 youth in community service.



**Multicultural
Communities in Action
CommonBond Communities
St. Paul – \$545,623**

42 AmeriCorps members served in after-school programs, pre-school programs, and in the St. Paul public schools providing one-on-one tutoring, homework help, and literacy instruction. They provided academic tutoring and/or homework help to over 600 children in 2006-07.

**Partners in Service to America
Red Lake Tribal Council
Red Lake – \$328,739**

29 AmeriCorps members improved K-12 student academic achievement through tutoring, after-school programs and cultural activities. Members also provided domestic violence education to elementary school students and mobilized over 200 additional community volunteers to meet community needs.

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“My time in AmeriCorps has taught me a lot about my community, the world, and myself.”

– Michelle

“The best part of my service is feeling that I am really affecting people's everyday lives, and helping them achieve their goals.”

– Mari



St. Cloud Corps
St. Cloud State University
St. Cloud – \$222,793

16 AmeriCorps members provided mentoring and youth development activities for at-risk youth, expanded service-learning opportunities, and recruited Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers to assist with disaster preparedness and homeland security needs. They also led a group of community volunteers to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to repair roofs and perform other hurricane relief activities.

True North AmeriCorps
Duluth Area Family YMCA
Northeastern Minnesota – \$688,499

86 AmeriCorps members provided academic support and mentoring to

639 children and youth in Northeastern Minnesota. Members mobilized 3,429 additional community volunteers who helped in activities such as after-school programs, constructing hygiene kits for homeless shelters, and creating books on tape for pediatric hospitals.

Work in Progress
Rise, Inc.
Twin Cities, St. Cloud & Chisago County – \$480,600

43 AmeriCorps members served nearly 500 people with disabilities and others with significant barriers to employment. Members provided one-on-one job search assistance, mobility/bus training, job coaching, community integration and instruction in self-dependency skills.

Getting Things Done for *Minnesota*



“I will get things done for America – to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

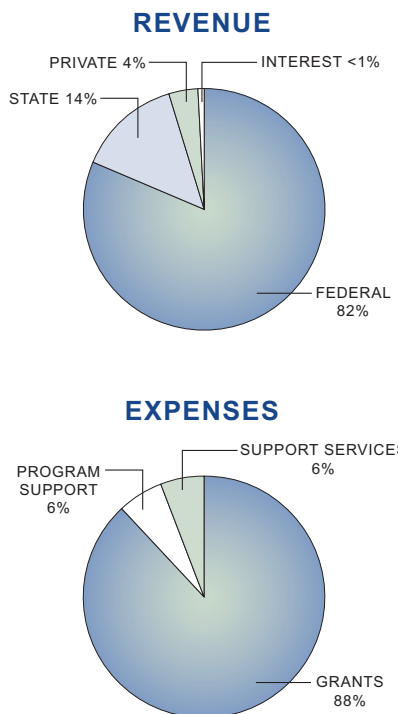
Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.”

– AmeriCorps Pledge

2007 Financial Statement



ServeMinnesota Statement of Financial Position

August 31, 2006

	2007	2006
ASSETS		
<u>Current Assets:</u>		
Cash	266,938	266,756
Accounts Receivable	290	—
Grants Receivable	1,085,734	731,214
Pledges Receivable	75,000	—
Prepaid Expenses	16,664	18,115
Total Current Assets	<u>1,444,626</u>	<u>1,016,085</u>
<u>Non-Current Assets:</u>		
Equipment - Net	7,187	—
Security Deposit	3,798	3,798
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,455,611</u>	<u>1,019,883</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
<u>Current Liabilities:</u>		
Accounts Payable	74,732	10,836
Grants Payable	1,003,303	579,733
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,078,035</u>	<u>590,569</u>
<u>Net Assets:</u>		
Unrestricted	150,000	150,000
Designated	152,576	155,055
Temporarily Restricted	75,000	124,259
Total Net Assets	<u>377,576</u>	<u>429,314</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>1,455,611</u>	<u>1,019,883</u>

ServeMinnesota Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year ending August 31, 2007

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:			
Governmental Grants	6,792,051	0	6,792,051
Contributions	25,000	289,755	314,755
Interest Income	12,236	0	12,236
Other	49,197	0	49,197
Net Assets Released from Restriction:			
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	339,014	(339,014)	0
Total Support & Revenue	<u>7,217,498</u>	<u>(49,259)</u>	<u>7,168,239</u>
EXPENSE:			
<u>Program Services:</u>			
AmeriCorps	5,249,107	0	5,249,107
Youth Works	865,686	0	865,686
Program Support	88,201	0	88,201
Training	112,467	0	112,467
Disability	119,539	0	119,539
Reading Corps	315,746	0	315,746
Total Program Services	<u>6,750,746</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,750,746</u>
<u>Support Services:</u>			
Management and General	373,832	0	373,832
Fundraising	95,399	0	95,399
Total Support Services	<u>469,231</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>469,231</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>7,219,977</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,219,977</u>
Change in Net Assets	(2,479)	(49,259)	(51,738)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	305,055	124,259	429,314
Net Assets - End of Year	<u>302,576</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>377,576</u>

Leadership

Board of Directors

Andersen, Karen	Leonard, Adam
Arendt, William	McFarlane, Carol, <i>Rep</i>
Bly, David, <i>Rep</i>	Melander, Harry
Burnett, Bescye	Murphy, Shawn
Dixon, Keith	Norsby, Jerry
Durenberger, David	Rumpza, Robert, <i>Board Chair</i>
Harris, Laura	Russell, Judith
Harris, Pamela	Seagren, Alice
Heegaard, Susan	Sinykin, Jackie
Horner, Thomas	Taylor, Susan
Jackson, Robert	Wiegert, Christine
Jones Sichko, Martha	
Kelly, Kate	

Corporate and Foundation Support

ADC Foundation	H.B. Fuller Foundation
Bremer Bank	Martin & Squires, P.A.
Cargill	The McKnight Foundation
Citizens for Blatz Committee	St. Paul Travelers Foundation
Curtis L. Carlson Family Foundation	Target Corporation
Deluxe Corporation	Hugh J Andersen Foundation
Target Stores	Health Partners
Ford Foundation	Eco Lab Foundation
General Mills Foundation	Sheltering Arms Foundation

Reading Corps Business Leadership Group

Steve Shank, Capella Education Co. (Chair)	Tim Penny, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
John Ellenberger, AMS	Megan Remark, HealthPartners
Pam Harris, Martin & Squires, PA	Arthur Rolnick, Federal Reserve Bank
Tom Horner, Himle-Horner	Bob Rumpza, Rumpza Consulting LLC
Kate Kelly, Minnesota Bank & Trust	Bill Sands, Western Banks
Jan Kruchoski, Larson Allen	Kathy Tunheim, Tunheim Partners
Malcolm McDonald, Space Center	Christine Wiegert, TKDA
Jeanne Mock, Target Corporation	



"AmeriCorps helped me understand the role I can play in working on challenging social issues."

– City of Lakes AmeriCorps Member



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Alternative formats of this report available upon request.