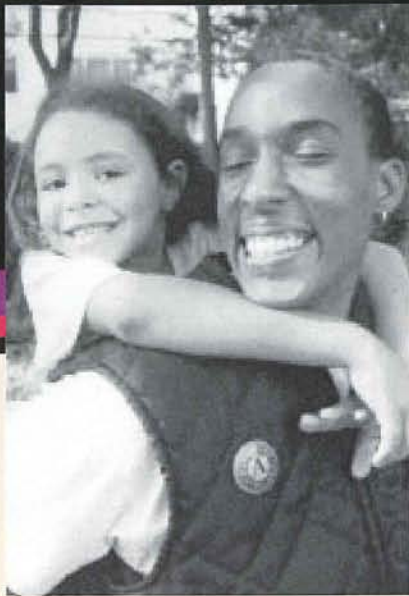


09 - 0320

Making Minnesota Better





Making Minnesota Better

The dramatic impact of service highlighted in this report is possible because over 700 Minnesotans were willing to give a year of their life to make Minnesota better. We are all indebted to these Youth Works•AmeriCorps members. We are indebted not only for the gift of their service but also for their leadership in responding to the President's call to service.

As Minnesota faces an unprecedented financial crisis, the actions of these AmeriCorps members are a source of hope. In the face of problems so great, many despair. AmeriCorps members choose to take action toward the positive. They choose optimism as the lens through which they view the world. This is not denial. This is courage. Rather than surrender to feelings of negativity and despair, they consciously and creatively move in the direction of greater hope. Rather than rehearse catastrophe, they remember the ever-present potential for change. They remember to never stop looking for solutions. They remember to never stop being active citizens!

ServeMinnesota, Minnesota's Commission on National and Community Service, is proud to share the results and stories featured in this report. We are proud of the leadership of our Youth Works•AmeriCorps members, and their active citizenry.

As each of us continues to hear the unacceptable stories of children who cannot read, schools that are not safe, an environment that does not receive the care it deserves, youth who are disenfranchised, families that cannot afford decent housing, it is my hope that we will also remember the example of YouthWorks•AmeriCorps members and their service. While they cannot completely right these wrongs, they are making a difference. They are making Minnesota better!

Audrey Suker
Executive Director



Board and Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellis Bullock	Mark Langseth
Daniel Capouch	Harry Melander
Cy Carpenter	David Nasby
Paul Cumings	Laura Offerdahl
Joshua Downham	Howard Orenstein
David Durenberger	Beth Pederson
Bonnie Esposito	Corrie Schueller
Pamela Harris	Jackie Sinykin
Thomas Horner	Kathleen Vellenga
Don Helmstetter	Cheri Pierson Yecke

EX-OFFICIO

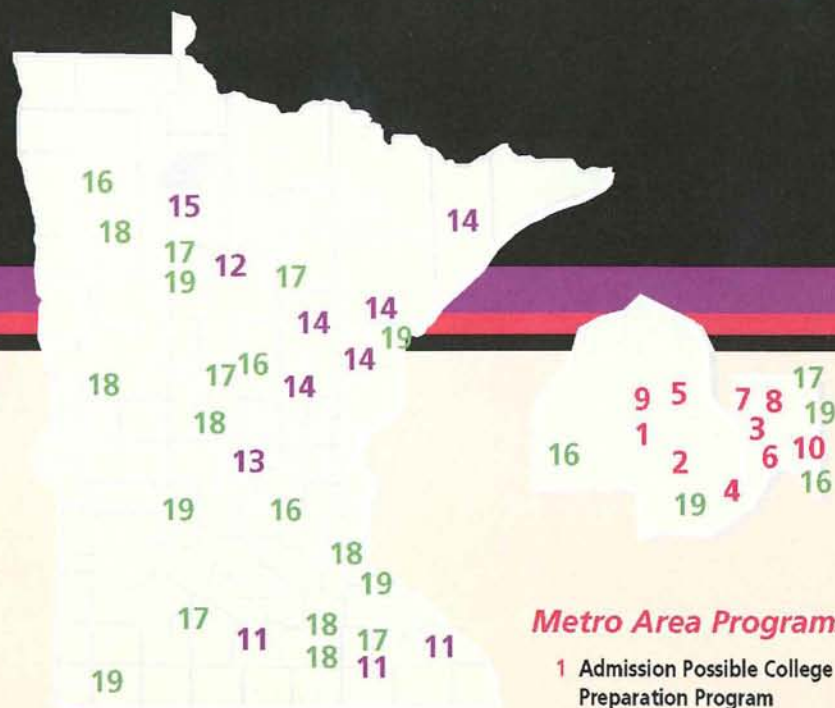
Bob Jackson
Senator Dave Knutson
Senator Steve Kelley
Mary Sheehan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Audrey Suker

STAFF

Becky Couvrette
Program Officer
Janet Johnson
Training and Events Coordinator
Molly Moilanen
Program Officer
Jerad Rasmussen
Controller
Ann Richter
Business Manager
Jeanne Ritterson
Grants Administrator



Greater Minnesota Programs

- 11 **AmeriCorps ~ Southern Minnesota**
Mankato, Rochester, Winona
- 12 **Making a Difference**
Cass Lake
- 13 **Mentors on the Move**
St. Cloud
- 14 **Northeastern Minnesota**
Atkin County, Carlton County, Fond du Lac Band, Mille Lacs Band, St. Louis County
- 15 **Partners In Service to America**
Red Lake

Statewide Programs

- 16 **MN SERVE Consortium**
Chaska, Minneapolis, Monticello, Oklee, St. Paul
- 17 **Minnesota Conservation Corps**
Bemidji, Brainerd, Grand Rapids, New Ulm, Rochester, St. Paul
- 19 **Minnesota Promise Fellows - Bloomington,**
Duluth, Faribault, Fergus Falls, Fosston, Minneapolis, Northfield, Owatonna, Rosemount, St. Paul
- 18 **YouthQuake**
Bemidji, Brainerd, Red Wing, Willmar, Worthington

Metro Area Programs

- 1 **Admission Possible College Preparation Program**
- 2 **AmeriCorps Building Community**
- 3 **AmeriCorps Get Ready!**
- 4 **AmeriCorps Pillsbury United Communities**
- 5 **City of Lakes**
- 6 **Future Force**
- 7 **Hmong MN Pacific Association**
- 8 **Multicultural Communities in Action**
- 9 **People Helping People**
- 10 **Teacher Corps**

Inclusive Programs

Minnesota has a rich history of providing awareness to increase participation of people with disabilities in national service programs. Our work is guided by a Disability Advisory Committee that includes individuals with disabilities, AmeriCorps program directors and members and field professionals.

This year, the number of members with severe disabilities doubled; individuals with disabilities were exposed to national service through participation in five different service projects and an accessible week-long service retreat was launched.

Training and Technical Assistance was provided through a variety of successful venues including a workshop for 22 disability agencies, a formal presentation at a statewide conference, a day long training for all AmeriCorps program directors and staff; disability awareness trainings to several programs and through on-going conversations with AmeriCorps program directors, disability agency staff, and individuals with disabilities.

ServeMinnesota! is committed to providing the support and resources necessary to encourage participation, as well as provide ongoing training, support and reasonable accommodations to members with disabilities to increase their success in service roles.

In supporting the diversity of Minnesota communities, ServeMinnesota recognizes members of all abilities make a significant contribution and will continue to promote inclusion in AmeriCorps.

Teacher Corps in Action

This fall, ServeMinnesota, in partnership with the Minnesota Literacy Council, launched the AmeriCorps Teacher Corps Program to help educational/teaching assistants in the Minneapolis and St. Paul Schools achieve teaching licensure at the same time that it assists K-3 children improve their reading skills.

Antwan Flowers, Teacher Corps member, has worked for the St. Paul School district since 1990 as a home-school liaison at Bruce Vento Elementary. He is a student advocate and works with students, parents, teachers and various school staff on numerous issues that affect students' educational experiences.

To fulfill the literacy tutoring component of the Teacher Corps program, Antwan volunteers at Bruce Vento's Extended Day Program to assist kindergarten through third graders improve their literacy skills. His participation in Teacher Corps inspired him to create a literacy tutoring program at the Salvation Army, where he is a program director.

Antwan joined Teacher Corps to help support his goal to become a St. Paul School Teacher and eventually move in to an administrative position. "Teacher Corps will help me to pursue my almost impossible dreams in education," he says. After completing his Associates Degree at Inver Hills Community College, Antwan plans to enroll at Augsburg College to earn his Bachelor's Degree.

According to Antwan, the Teacher Corps has helped him to expand his knowledge about elementary students and has provided the opportunity for him to become more active in the Eastside Community.

"The joy you receive seeing a child improve is like an immediate rush. It brings an instant smile to my face," Antwan explains. "Teacher Corps has been a pleasure simply because Teacher Corps makes the hands on experience of teaching and tutoring creative, fun and motivational."



Antwan Flowers, Teacher Corps member

ServeMinnesota! The Vision

Reinvention of Government

In 2002 the Minnesota Legislature reinvented its 9-year-old State Commission on National and Community Service as the independent nonprofit organization, ServeMinnesota. Under the continued leadership of a Governor-appointed board of directors, ServeMinnesota is now uniquely positioned to be a model of governmental reform to expand citizen-driven public sector initiatives.

Innovative Solutions

ServeMinnesota supports over 19 Youth Works•AmeriCorps programs throughout Minnesota by granting federal and state resources, by providing training and technical assistance, and by creating innovative partnerships for broader impact. For example, ServeMinnesota designed Teacher Corps to address both the shortage of teachers of color and the literacy needs of K-3 students. In its first year, 89 paraprofessionals are earning Federal AmeriCorps Scholarships to further their own education, while 50 schools benefit from over 23,000 hours of volunteer literacy tutoring.

Return on Investment

Since its inception, ServeMinnesota AmeriCorps members have contributed over 8 million hours teaching children to read, building houses, mentoring young adults, caring for the environment, and providing safe after-school places for Minnesota children. ServeMinnesota is the conduit for federal funds available to help Minnesota. To date, we have distributed over \$45 million in federal funds to Minnesota nonprofit organizations and government agencies.

Vision for the Future

ServeMinnesota intends to do more of this good work without increasing reliance on state resources. Like never before, Minnesota needs its citizens to fill the gaps that cannot be filled by increased government spending. Minnesota needs citizens to choose optimism over despair, solutions over catastrophe, action over complacency. ServeMinnesota gives structure to this passion, creating meaningful opportunities for all people to serve their communities.



A Year of Results: 2001-2003

Minnesota AmeriCorps Members

- 763 **AMERICORPS** members
- 671,677 member hours **SERVED** at a value of \$10,075,155
- 440 members **EARNED** Education Awards at a value of \$2,079,000
- 20,494 volunteers **RECRUITED** by members for an additional 161,677 hours

Educational Achievement

- **TUTORING** • 282 pre-school children • 4,926 students in grades 1-12
- **MENTORING** • 1,174 youth were provided with caring adults to support school and personal success
- **SERVICE-LEARNING** • 9,889 youth gained citizenship skills

Affordable Housing

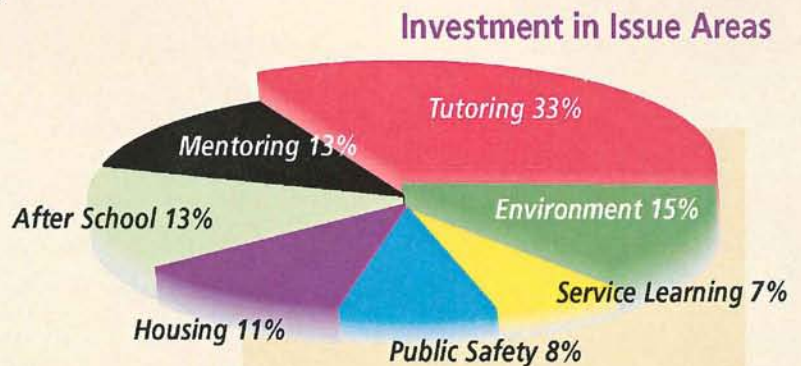
- 49 **NEW HOMES** were constructed benefiting 151 people
- 1,051 **REPAIR PROJECTS** completed for 380 low income individuals
- 1,090 elderly and people with disabilities were provided **INDEPENDENT LIVING ASSISTANCE**
- 105 **LOW INCOME** individuals were recipients of newly constructed/renovated housing units

Public Safety

- 200 **VOLUNTEERS WERE MOBILIZED** by five Minnesota Conservation Corps crews and provided direct response to a major flood in a 3-county area
- 8,670 children were provided **SAFE AFTER-SCHOOL** environments

Environment

- 106 **PARKS** were **RESTORED** benefiting 30,750 various community members
- 109,104 **TREES** were **PLANTED** throughout the state
- 4,744 miles of **ROADS AND TRAILS** were developed and maintained in public parks
- 42,900 acres of land and 9,151 feet of rivers were **CONSERVED AND RESTORED**
- 31 **FOREST FIRES** were responded to benefiting 31 endangered ecosystems
- 4,290 **STUDENTS LEARNED** from hands-on environmental education



Getting Things Done

We believe that there is hope; in people who refuse to be bystanders, in people who never give up looking for solutions, in people who work to change the world.

Education • Human Need • Public Safety • Environment



Minnesota Programs



Metro Area Programs

Admission Possible College Preparation Program

(Admission Possible.) Members are studying to become teachers, guidance counselors and social workers. They lead and support a group of 8-12 low-income, first-generation students in preparing for college admission.

AmeriCorps Building Community

(Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity & Project for Pride in Living.) Members build and repair homes, provide home ownership training to low-income families, and serve in Kids Clubs - a summer youth program for low-income children living in PPL's multi-family rental housing.

AmeriCorps Get Ready!

(Minnesota Higher Education Services Office.) Members tutor and mentor low income 4th-8th grade students, facilitate community service experiences; and help parents help their children succeed in higher education.

AmeriCorps Pillsbury United Communities

(Pillsbury United Communities.) Members support Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis through tutoring, mentoring, and coordinating after-school enrichment and recreation programs.

City of Lakes

(Minneapolis ISD#1.) Members tutor, coach and provide after-school enrichment opportunities for at-risk K-8 students in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

Future Force

(Amherst Wilder Foundation.) AmeriCorps members work with low-income elementary students in and after school, location is in the inner city of St. Paul.

Hmong MN Pacific Association

(Hmong MN Pacific Association, Inc.) Members work with at-risk Hmong youth and young adults to become successful students and active community participants. They also provide training in computer skills and media relations.

Multicultural Communities in Action

(Neighborhood House.) Members serve St Paul's West Side to help children succeed in school, mentor after school; partner with adults to access resources; and welcome low-income immigrants and refugees seeking a better life.

People Helping People

(Lao Parents and Teachers Association of Minnesota, Inc.) Members tutor and mentor grade school students, develop activities and field trips, and teach youth about Southeast Asian culture and history. Members teach ESL, preparing adults for citizenship and providing other support.

Teacher Corps

(Minnesota Literacy Council.) AmeriCorps members serve as para-educators in urban Minneapolis and St. Paul schools providing tutoring and instruction to K-3 students, increasing parental involvement, and expanding service learning.

Greater Minnesota Programs

AmeriCorps - Southern Minnesota

(Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund.) Members provide direct care and education for adults needing independent living assistance. They tutor and mentor Pre-K-12 students, and coordinate service-learning activities for individuals from 10 to 22 years of age.

Making a Difference

(Cass Lake-Bena ISD# 115.) Members tutor 5th-8th grade students with academic needs; provide after-school enrichment opportunities; and renovate homes for low-income families.

Mentors on the Move

(St. Cloud Area ISD# 742.) Members mentor 5th -8th grade students; assist teachers in the classroom; provide after school programming; and meet with students 1-on-1 after school.

Northeastern Minnesota

(McGregor ISD #4.) Members tutor, mentor, and act as service project leaders to youth at risk of chemical abuse and school failure due to the effects of poverty in the region.

Partners In Service to America

(Red Lake Tribal Council.) Members tutor and mentor K-6 students individually or in small groups, assist in the restoration of area land; deliver meals; weatherize homes for low-income, elderly and people with disabilities

Statewide Programs

MN SERVE Consortium

(Carver-Scott Education Cooperative.) Members provide classroom aid, tutor groups and individuals, assist with daily activities in Head Start and pre-school day care programs. Members also develop and implement projects for improving community park facilities.

Minnesota Conservation Corps

(Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.) Crews design, construct and improve outdoor learning classrooms, present information on environmental education programs, preserve and enhance Minnesota's natural resources.

Minnesota Promise Fellows

(Faribault ISD #656.) Members serve economically-disadvantaged and high-risk youth with 5 Promises - Mentor, Protect, Nurture, Teach/Learn, and Serve. Full-time members (Promise Fellows) are placed in capacity-building positions in youth-serving organizations throughout the state.

YouthQuake

(Worthington ISD #718.) Members support K-12 youth by building developmental assets, increasing academic achievement and involving them in the community. Members provide safe after-school and summertime activities.

Financial Summary



ServeMinnesota was established as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization July 1, 2002. Financial information for this annual report reflects the last two months of our 2002 fiscal year. Prior to July 1, 2002, ServeMinnesota was part of the State of Minnesota's Department of Children's, Families and Learning.

ServeMinnesota's Highlights

Return on Investment



- Total budget for ServeMinnesota is \$8,000,000.
 - Operations/Program Support is \$800,000 (10%)
 - Grants awarded to sub-recipients is \$7,200,000 (90%)
- Revenue sources:
 - Federal Government:* The Corporation for National and Community service contributes \$6,000,000 (75%)
 - State of Minnesota:* Minnesota Youth Works contributes \$1,800,000 (22.5%)
 - Other Sources:* Private sources contribute \$200,000 (2.5%).
- ServeMinnesota has developed a three year fundraising plan to secure \$1,000,000 in private sources. Accomplishing this plan will create a diverse revenue mix, promote growth and decrease reliance on state government. We can capitalize on the power of leveraging. For every \$1 of non-federal funds, ServeMinnesota leverages \$8 of federal funds.

Fiscal Year 2003 Budget

Revenue	
Federal	\$ 6,000,000
State	\$ 1,800,000
Private	\$ 200,000
Total Income	\$ 8,000,000

Expenses	
Operating	\$ 350,000
Program Management and Training	\$ 450,000
Grants	\$ 7,200,000
Total Expenses	\$ 8,000,000

Net Revenue (Expenses) 0

Income



Expenses



Making Minnesota Better

AmeriCorps Pledge

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.



formerly the
Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service

431 South Seventh Street, Suite 2540

Minneapolis, MN 55415

612-333-7740 612-333-7758 fax

www.serveminnesota.org