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From the wellspring of generosity flows a mighty river of hope.

### MINNESOTA STREAMS OF SERVICE

Minnesota Commission on National & Community Service Department of Children, Families and Learning



Annual Report 1999

#### MINNESOTA COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### VISION AND MISSION

#### VISION

All Minnesotans will engage in service that strengthens the well-being of both self and community.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service promotes and supports community service and service-learning for all Minnesotans through resource development, public relations and outreach, training and evaluation and continuous improvement.

#### MINNESOTA STREAMS OF SERVICE

The Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service was established in 1994 to coordinate a variety of community service and volunteer programs. The Commission is also charged with creating a unified vision for service in Minnesota.

The Streams of Service refer to the many programs and organizations that – under the collaborative efforts of the Minnesota Commission – work together to ensure all Minnesotans are engaged in service. The Commission leads the state by bringing together many initiatives – the Streams of Service – into a mighty river of hope for all Minnesotans.

STREAMS OF SERVICE PARTNERS THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE MINNESOTA OFFICE

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING/LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA

THE MINNESOTA ALLIANCE WITH YOUTH

MINNESOTA CAMPUS COMPACT

THE MINNESOTA OFFICE OF CITIZENSHIP AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES

THE NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service is proud to share the results and stories featured in this report. The impact of service is dramatic and easy to feel throughout these pages. However, I ask you to consider this report an invitation to feel hope about our capacity as a state to solve our biggest problems. I think the report communicates that we are experiencing a fundamental change in how communities solve problems. As you sense this change, you will begin to feel the seeds of hope being planted in your heart. I believe opening ourselves up to hope changes our world perspective, changes our energy and changes what we get done! With that perspective, National Service becomes more than a strategy to mobilize individuals and communities to solve problems through service. It provides a

unifying perspective about what we all need to live joyful lives. In the words of George Bernard Shaw:

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can....This is the true joy in life.

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 would be my hope that while we cannot completely right these wrongs, we can do something! We can believe that a brighter future is possible through service to each other.

Audrey Suker, Executive Director

#### WORKING TOGETHER FOR REAL RESULTS 1998-1999 Minnesota YouthWorks®AmeriCorps accomplishments

- I0,539 people impacted by health awareness programs
- Housing related services 307 units rehabbed 45 units weatherized 78 units constructed
- 500 job skill and business development programs supported
- 23,737 community and emergency responses
- 22,368 children tutored
- 2,268 children served in early childhood development (day-care, preschool, etc.)
- 4,038 children mentored
- 870 adults educated

 Over 100,000 people's lives improved by community building activities:

27,011 pounds of trash cleaned up
8,786 pounds of material recycled
85 gardens planted
11,701 trees planted
4,200 pounds of food delivered
340 vouchers honored

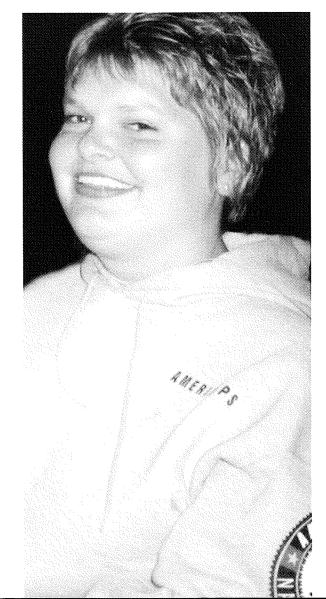
- 16,000 toys distributed
- Served 693,516 hours valued at \$9.9 million.
- Recruited 8,914 volunteers who have served 128,757 hours valued at \$1.8.
- Together, members and volunteers served 822,272 hours valued at \$11,758,501.



# AMERICORPS AND MINNESOTA YOUTHWORKS

The Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service was established in 1994 to administer and coordinate a variety of community service and volunteer programs.

The primary service program administered by the Commission is AmeriCorps, and its state equivalent, Minnesota YouthWorks. Individuals join YouthWorks•AmeriCorps and devote one year of service to address human, educational, environmental and public safety needs in com-



munities throughout the state. Within each community, additional organizations or groups partner with YouthWorks•AmeriCorps to best accomplish the priorities identified for that community.

Because the education and the development of children and young adults is so critical to Minnesotans across the state, many members of YouthWorks•AmeriCorps tutor and serve as mentors. Others build housing in lower income neighborhoods or work with those who are homeless, have disabilities, or are elderly.

Members are paid a modest living allowance and then receive an education award to help pay for college or student loans. Between 1994 and 1999, 1,842 individuals have received \$7,250,112 in education awards.

- Youth and young adults comprised 89% of the total members. Almost half (47%) were age 20 or younger.
- 68% were white, 13% black, and 8%
   American Indian or Alaskan Native, 4%
   Asian. 11% were Hispanic.
- Women comprised 54% of total members with men at 46%.
- Education levels varied. 23% of members had not completed high school. 31% had completed high school or had earned their GED.
   19% had some college or technical school experience. 28% had completed college or earned their Associate degree.



# CITY OF LAKES MINNEAPOLIS

City of Lakes members organized tutoring and after-school activities, and sponsored citizenship, literacy, and English programs for youth in the Phillips and Northeast neighborhoods of Minneapolis.

YouthWorks•AmeriCorps members tutored children and assisted youth in the classrooms. With the help of AmeriCorps members, adult learners obtained their GED and/or passed US citizenship exams.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS COURAGE CENTER FRANKLIN LEARNING CENTER HUMPHREY INSTITUTE – PUBLIC ACHIEVEMENT MINNEAPOLIS KIDS MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC EDUCATION SOUTHSIDE FAMILY SCHOOL YMCA OF METROPOLITAN MINNEAPOLIS YWCA OF MINNEAPOLIS





# CITY OF SAINT PAUL FUTURE FORCE

The 18 members of Future Force served at 21 school and community sites, focusing on the Frogtown Neighborhood in St. Paul.

Members offered early childhood education instruction, one-on-one tutoring, after-school enrichment and education instruction, and safety training.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS CAMPFIRE BOYS AND GIRLS CAPITAL COMMUNITY SERVICES CITY OF ST. PAUL CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH HALLIE Q. BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER INNER CITY YOUTH LEAGUE UNION GOSPEL MISSION CHILD CARE CENTER ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS THOMAS DALE BLOCK CLUB AMHERST H. WILDER FOUNDATION YOUTH EXPRESS YOUTH SERVICES COMMUNITY INSTITUTE





# MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

The 41 members of this corps served on St. Paul's west side to create and teach multicultural curriculum for students, sponsor activities to reduce gang interaction, tutor and mentor, teach English and citizenship.



**COMMUNITY PARTNERS** BAKER COMMUNITY CENTER BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB CASA DE ESPERANZA CHICANOS, LATINOS UNIDOS ES SEVICIO (CLUES) COMMON BOND COMMUNITIES EL RIO VISTA RECREATIONAL CENTER QUADELUPE AREA PROJECT JANE ADDAMS SCHOOL FOR DEMOCRACY MN HISPANIC EDUCATION PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE RIVERVIEW SCHOOL SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ST, MATTHEW'S SCHOOL CHILD CARE ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL TEATRO DEL PUEBLO TEENS NETWORKING TOGETHER UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS-HISPANIC PRECOLLEGE PROJECT WEST SIDE CITIZENS ORGANIZATION WEST SIDE FAMILY CENTER

"AmeriCorps members helped tutor my daughter in English after school...now she speaks English as well as her native Spanish."



# PILLSBURY NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

The 44 members of this corps in Minneapolis supported the community through tutoring, mentoring, coordinating after school enrichment and recreational programs, ESL and citizenship classes, and work at food shelves.

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BRIAN COYLE COMMUNITY CENTER CHICANOS, LATINOS UNIDOS ES SERVICIO (CLUES) DISTRICT 202 YOUTH CENTER HEART OF THE BEAST THEATER HOLLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEP JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (LEP) LITTLE EARTH HOUSING ASSOCIATION PYC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL AMERICAN RED CROSS THE BRIDGE FOR RUNAWAY YOUTH WAITE HOUSE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER OAK PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER





# **CROOKSTON IMPACT**

Inclusivity Makes People Act (IMPACT) increased it membership from 20 in 1998 to 39 in 1999.

Members help with educational and recreational programming, and provided classroom assistance, mentoring and tutoring to students in grades K-12.

IMPACT also provided direct services to people who are elderly, physically challenged, or have low incomes.

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

CROOKSTON HIGH SCHOOL CENTRAL JR. HIGH LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AREA LEARNING CENTER TRI-VALLEY HEAD START UMC CHILDREN'S CENTER UMC SERVICE LEARNING CATHEDRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"It's a pleasure having an IMPACT member in my classroom every day – it's great to have someone to help students with special research projects."





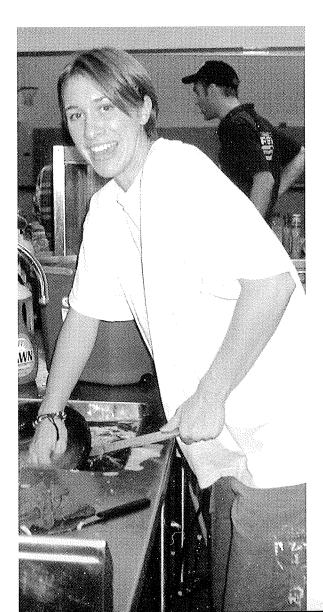
# SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

70 YouthWorks•AmeriCorps members in Mankato, Rochester and Winona provided direct care to individuals in need of independent living assistance. They also provided educational assistance, tutoring and mentoring.

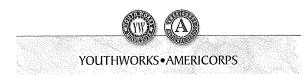
They have been involved in community service efforts and special events such as disaster relief in St. Peter, Rake the Town, Project Shore Restore, and other programs to support people in need.

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

THE INITIATIVE FUND OF SOUTHEASTERN AND SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO OVER 45 OTHER SITES



"AmeriCorps members made the difference in hundreds of kids lives and helped our schools improve community service opportunities."

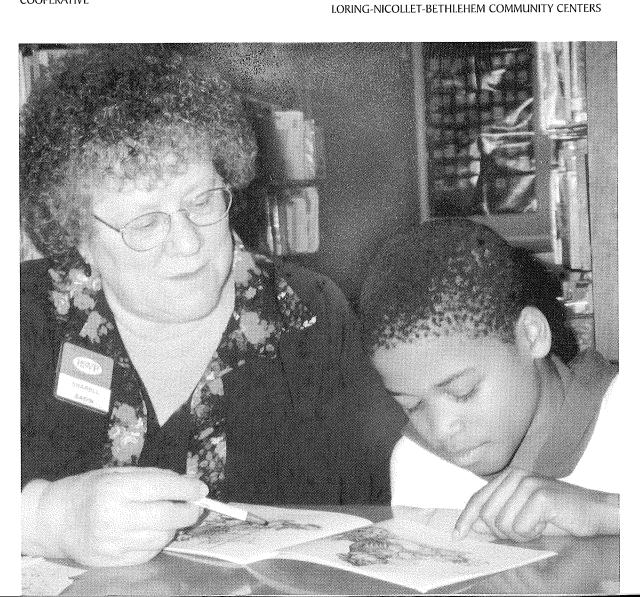


### MN SERVE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

MN Serve has 117 members across the state. They provided classroom assistance, tutoring, and assistance with daily activities for Head Start. They also worked with Habitat for Humanity.

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ANOKA COUNTY JOB TRAINING CENTER BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM CENTRAL MN JOBS AND TRAINING CONSORTIUM/CARVER SCOTT EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE HENNEPIN SCOTT CARVER COUNTIES EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING INNER COUNTY COMMUNITY COUNCIL NE MN OFFICE OF JOB TRAINING SW MN PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL STEARNS BENTON EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COUNCIL TRI-VALLEY OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL TWIN CITIES TREE TRUST WASHINGTON COUNTY JOB TRAINING WESTERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINNEAPOLIS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING/





### PARTNERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA RED LAKE TRIBAL COUNCIL

This group has 37 members that provided services to residents of two reservations, Red Lake and Bois Forte.

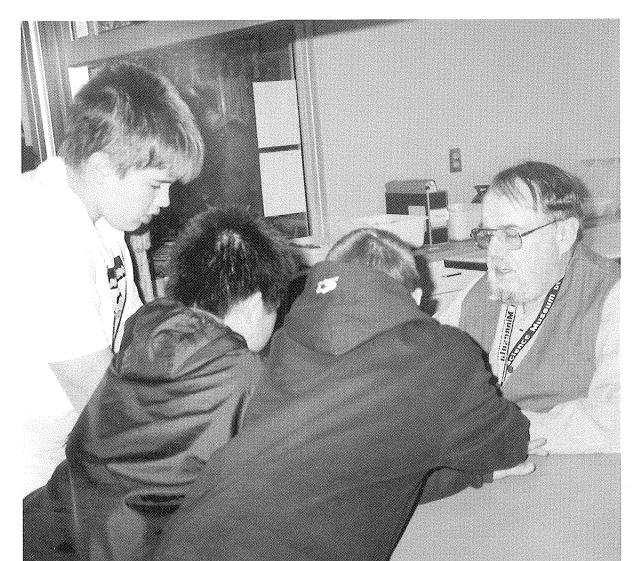
Members tutored in three elementary schools, assisted in Head Start programs, ECFE programs, programs for the elderly such as delivering meals and helping with activities in nursing homes.

Also included in their focus is a host of environmental concerns including land restoration, planting trees, and conducting test samples of water and aquatic life.

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

RED LAKE AND BOIS FORTE SCHOOL DISTRICTS RED LAKE AND BOIS FORTE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCES RED LAKE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM RED LAKE HOUSING AUTHORITY

BOIS FORTE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM





# YOUTHQUAKE

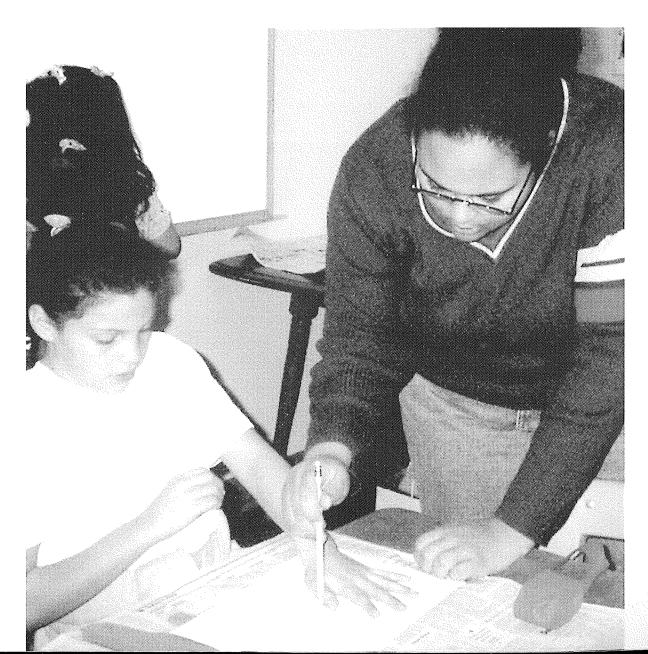
Youthquake has sites in Bemidji, Brainerd, Red Wing, Wilmar, and Worthington that provided tutoring and direct service to youth.

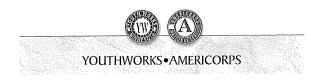
#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS/BEMIDJI COMMUNITY EDUCATION

BRAINERD AREA SCHOOLS/ BRAINERD COMMUNITY EDUCATION

RED WING SCHOOLS/RED WING YMCA WILMAR SCHOOLS/COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORTHINGTON SCHOOLS/ COMMUNITY EDUCATION





# FAMILY HOUSING IMPACT

Family Housing Impact is part of a collaborative with four community partners.

The group has 43 members who constructed, renovated, and repaired housing units for low income individuals. They educated homeowners about financial resources, and provide homeowner education classes.

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

TWIN CITIES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT FOR PRIDE IN LIVING SOUTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES SUMMIT ACADEMY OIC





# MINNESOTA PROMISE FELLOWS

Promise Fellows are a special category of AmeriCorps members who are charged with ensuring that the Five Promises of America's Promise (mentor, protect, nurture, teach/learn and serve) are made available to all of Minnesota's children.

A corps of ten Promise Fellows is managed by the Minnesota Alliance with Youth. The mission of the Alliance is to develop the capacity of Minnesota communities to engage children and youth in reaching their full potential as citizens. Since October 1997, the Alliance and its partners have worked with hundreds of Minnesota communities to: build Communities of Promise, recruit volunteers and commitment makers, engage youth in leadership roles, promote service, and build authentic youth/adult partnerships. Two State Summits, dozens of regional conferences, Five Days of Promise at two State Fairs, and PeaceJam have drawn thousands of participants together to promote positive youth development, connection to the Five Promises and improving resources to build healthy communities. The Minnesota Alliance with Youth is cochaired by Lt. Governor Mae Schunk and high school students, Maya Babu and Michael Radmer. The Alliance is Minnesota's response to General Colin Powell's call to action to fulfill America's Promise.





### AMERICORPS\*VISTA

AmeriCorps\*VISTA provides those who want to make a difference in their community a chance to work as organizers, builders and catalysts for change. Among other activities to help people overcome poverty in Minnesota, AmeriCorps\*VISTA members find resources to build or preserve affordable housing, create tutoring programs for low income children and support newly arrived immigrants. AmeriCorps\*VISTA members live and serve in low-income neighborhoods, reaching out to residents and developing local leadership to create sustainable change. There are about one hundred VISTAs serving statewide in Minnesota annually. AmeriCorps\*VISTA members work with community nonprofit organizations full-time for one year and receive a modest living allowance.

AmeriCorps\*VISTA has a 35-year track record of helping low-income people in communities across the country.

For more information, please contact: Robert M. Jackson, State Director, Corporation for National Service, 431 South Seventh Street, Room 2480, Minneapolis, MN 55415, 612-334-4083, www.mncns.org





# MINNESOTA CONSERVATION CORPS

The Department of Natural Resources' Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) is a crewbased, statewide program with 34 locations. Its mission is focused on accomplishing natural resource conservation projects and youth (k-6) environmental education. MCC enrolls approximately 100 full-time equivalent members, giving preference to those who are economically, socially, physically, or educationally disadvantaged.



# PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service works closely with other organizations to engage Minnesotans of all ages in service. These organizations help spread the reach of the Commission to children, young adults, college & university students, corporate volunteers, senior citizens, and beyond. These Streams of Service work with the Commission by administering national service programs and participating actively in statewide planning and events.

#### PARTNERS INCLUDE:

THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE-MINNESOTA OFFICE

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND LEARNING/LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA

THE MINNESOTA ALLIANCE WITH YOUTH

MINNESOTA CAMPUS COMPACT

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF CITIZENSHIP AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

# LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA

MINNESOTA STREAMS OF SERVICE

The Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service and the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning (CFL) actively engage schools and communities in service-learning. Minnesota is a leader in this field. As part of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Learning in Deed and the Learn and Serve America initiatives, CFL identifies best practices and strategies to integrate service-learning throughout the K-12 and higher education curriculum of every school. The vision is to create opportunities for every student, at every level, in every community to be actively involved in high quality service-learning.

According to the 1999 Youth Development/ Youth Service annual report, over 60% of high schools report offering service-learning courses for credit. In 1999, over 200,000 young people were engaged in service or service-learning.

CFL and MCNCS administered federal grants to schools to support creative strategies to promote service-learning. Among the strategies are: Kellogg Peer Consultants for training and technical assistance, a State Summit for networking and training, a video and publications, and Student Service Awards.

For more information on Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service's service-learning efforts, please contact: Carter Hendricks, 651-582-8307, carter.hendricks@state.mn.us. The National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) is one of the nation's most prominent advocates of service-learning and national service. Founded in 1983, NYLC's mission is to build vital, just communities with young people through service-learning. Among its anchor programs are the Service-Learning Exchange, a national peer-based training and technical assistance center, the National Service-Learning Conference and the National Youth Leadership Camp. In addition NYLC creates curricula and training programs for young people and adults, advocates education reform and progressive youth policy, and maintains extensive networks in support of these measures.

For information about NYLC, please contact: Joy Des Marais, Dir. of Development & External Affairs National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), 1667 Snelling Avenue North, Suite D300, St. Paul, MN 55108, 651-631-3672 x232, 651-631-2955 FAX, NYLCinfo@nylc.org, www.nylc.org,

#### SERVICE LEARNING...

- is a method whereby students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service that is conducted in and meets the needs of communities;
- is coordinated with an elementary school, secondary school, institution of higher education, or community service program and the community;
- helps foster civic responsibility;
- is integrated into and enhances the academic curriculum of the students, or the education components of the community service program in which the participants are enrolled;
- provides structured time for students or participants to reflect on the service experience

# MINNESOTA CAMPUS COMPACT

Minnesota Campus Compact is a coalition of 47 college and university presidents committed to engage their students and institutions in strategic partnerships that strengthen communities and education for informed and active citizenship. Member campuses (public and private, two- and four-year campuses) are located throughout the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.

Minnesota Campus Compact is affiliated with Campus Compact, a national coalition of over 650 college and university presidents, 22 other state Compacts, and a National Center for Community Colleges.

Service-learning and broader campus-community collaboration takes a number of forms at colleges and universities in Minnesota, ranging from students tutoring young children to institutional partnerships and investments in neighborhood economic development. Minnesota Campus Compact estimates that over 25,000 college students contribute over 1,000,000 hours of service annually in Minnesota; over 500 faculty in various disciplines now integrate service-learning into courses.

Minnesota Campus Compact services include professional development, technical assistance, publications, funding and other resources.

For more information contact:

Mark Langseth, Executive Director, Minnesota Campus Compact, 651/603-5082, info@mncampuscompact.org, www.mncampuscompact.org.

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- placed 17 VISTA literacy volunteers on campuses throughout Minnesota
- convened a statewide America Reads conference (over 150 participants)
- made six grants to campuses to strengthen community-based work-study programs
- awarded 12 grants to campuses and community-based organizations through the State of Minnesota's "Post-Secondary Service-Learning Grant Program"
- awarded 41 AmeriCorps Education Awards to student leaders on 12 campuses
- continued discipline-specific workshops for faculty
- Iaunched a new Multicultural Education and Social Change Initiative
- secured all 47 member presidents' signatures on Campus Compact's "Presidents' Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education," a bold new document committing to deeper service-learning and community engagement.

# MINNESOTA OFFICE OF CITIZENSHIP AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES

The Minnesota Office of Citizenship and Volunteer Services (MOCVS) is a statewide resource center and information clearinghouse for anyone managing volunteers or working with citizen initiatives. The mission of MOCVS is to promote citizen participation efforts, increase the impact of volunteer programs, and stimulate public-private partnerships in Minnesota.

More than 2,300,000 Minnesotans volunteer representing a dollar value of \$6.5 billion each year. Approximately 66% of citizens in Minnesota volunteer compared with 56% nationally. A strong volunteer base is essential to building strong communities and solving problems through citizen action rather than government intervention.

For more information contact: Minnesota Office of Citizenship and Volunteer Services, 117 University Avenue, #300, St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-296-4736 or 800-234-6607. www.mocvs.state.mn.us

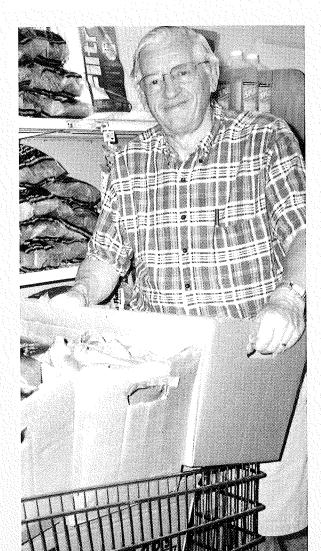
#### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Risk management training and guidebook
   "Planning It Safe" the first of its kind in the nation – to help volunteer programs control liability and reduce their litigation costs.
- Development of a "state of the art" library with over 3,600 books videotapes audiotapes, and other resources on all aspects of volunteer management and citizen action.
- Research and provide technical assistance over 12,000 times including telephone, fax, mail and E-mail of information and reports, forms, books, and videos on volunteerism.
- Training/Statewide and Regional Meetings – Over 3,500 Minnesotans receive training from MOCVS each year, most in Greater Minnesota.
- Electronic resources through MOCVS' web site, 24 hour fax-it-back system, and list serve thousands of volunteer and community leaders across Minnesota have access to MOCVS resources.
- Publications MOCVS issues 10 regular publications and many special reports, distributing approximately 40,000 copies each year throughout Minnesota. MOCVS has published two books and each year produces a detailed statistical report on the rate of Minnesota's volunteerism in comparison to the nation.

MOCVS also houses the Minnesota Alliance with Youth.

### NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORPS

The Corporation for National Service Minnesota Office manages the National Senior Service Corps — a network of more than half a million seniors who are making a difference as Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers. These programs tap the experience, skills, talents, interests and creativity of seniors age 55 and over. Senior Corps participants are committed to sharing their life experience to help solve critical local problems in the areas of education, public safety, the environment and other human needs.



In Minnesota, thousands of National Senior Service Corps volunteers serve through local nonprofits, schools, and community-based organizations. Senior Corps volunteers tutor children in classrooms and after school programs; build homes; clean up rivers and streams; organize community safety projects; provide companionship and light chore services to community members in need of extra assistance; and contribute to a vital and healthy community.

Increasing the awareness of the ever increasing number of "older Minnesotans" and the potential they represent as volunteers to strengthen communities and enhance service delivery is critical to meet tomorrow's needs.

For more information, please contact: Robert M. Jackson, State Director, Corporation for National Service, 431 South Seventh Street, Room 2480 Minneapolis, MN 55415, 612-334-4083, www.mncns.org

#### FOCUS ON CHILD LITERACY

In 1999, Senior Corps projects invested significant time and resources in meeting the literacy and support needs of children and their families.

- Placed I,308 tutors who helped I3,256 children learn to read;
- Placed 837 volunteer mentors with 4,092 children;
- Provided before and after school enrichment activities to 2,822 children through the service of 315 volunteers;
- Assisted 2,101 young children in child care programs;
- Provided outreach services to 359 children with limited English language proficiency.

#### MINNESOTA COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### 1998-1999 COMMISSIONERS

Charles Anderson, Chair Mary Syfax Noble, Vice-Chair Erin Bowley Cy Carpenter Representative Andy Dawkins Bonnie Esposito Robert Jackson Ruth Janisch Marlys Johnson John Hustad James Kielsmeier Andre Lewis Tony LookingElk Senator Becky Lourey Elise Nelson Harry Melander Kathy Sweeney Elaine White

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