



## Get Connected

Remember to check out the VISTA Corridor Recovery website and Facebook page! Members are strongly encouraged to submit content!

### Mark Your Calendar...

- **Check Out the Downtown District Community Calendar**  
<http://www.downtowncr.org/Events>
- **Check Out the Cultural Corridor Event Calendar**  
<http://www.culturalcorridor.org/calendar.asp>
- **National Days of Service**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service 1/16  
[www.mlkday.gov](http://www.mlkday.gov)
- **Upcoming 2011/2012 Federal Holidays:**  
Christmas Day, New Year's Day

Be sure to turn in all **Leave Request Forms** for Personal and Sick Leave as soon as possible.

ISSUE  
04  
December  
2011

# VISTA SHOUT OUT

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## Current Team Members

- ◆ Steve
- ◆ George
- ◆ Ryan
- ◆ Josh
- ◆ Johnna
- ◆ David
- ◆ Chris
- ◆ Nate
- ◆ Shane
- ◆ Brad
- ◆ Kelli
- ◆ Marielle
- ◆ Travis
- ◆ Glendy
- ◆ Thomas
- ◆ Jared
- ◆ Angelina
- ◆ Kayann
- ◆ Terry
- ◆ Bill
- ◆ Ruth
- ◆ Paul

## HOW WILL YOU CHANGE THE WORLD IN 2012?

As 2011 comes to a close it is time to reflect on your accomplishments and set goals for the upcoming year. How will you change the world in 2012? Each of you has already made the incredible commitment to Fight Poverty with Passion in the Corridor and for that CCIA and our community is extremely grateful!

Take time to write out your goals for 2012 and the remainder of your year of service. **THINK BIG!!!**

## BRIGHTEN IMPACT REPORT

BRIGHTEN accomplished a significant amount in 2011! In total, we beautified 16 total properties.

- BRIGHTEN contracted with 11 total clients. These individuals/families faced a variety of difficult circumstances.
- 189 different individuals volunteered a total of 1,542 hours with BRIGHTEN in 2011
- Non-Caucasians worked a total of 36% of all volunteer hours
- 56 percent of all volunteers were under the age of 25
- 71 percent of all volunteers were from Cedar Rapids
- 25 percent of all volunteers were from core neighborhoods (19 percent were from Wellington Heights)
- 39 percent of all volunteer hours were contributed by family/friends of clients

Watch for the full report to be available online soon!

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Looking for additional opportunities to *Get Involved*? Check out the Volunteer Bulletin Board! Please submit events/projects in need of volunteer support.

*Note: If activities occur during your regular VISTA hours, you must have site-supervisor permission to participate.*



### MLK DAY

Contact Thomas for information on how to sign up!  
[dukebresciano@gmail.com](mailto:dukebresciano@gmail.com)

All members are expected to *Get Involved* and volunteer in observance of MLK Day!

## Volunteer Bulletin Board

## Book Club?!?!

### Leadership Basics: A Guide to Leading Groups of Volunteers

Developed for conservation volunteer leaders who are responsible for leading groups of other volunteers, by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (60-pg. PDF). <http://www.ontarionature.org/PDFs/leadership.pdf>

### Resources to Increase and Support Volunteers -

A series of nine books by Volunteer Northwest Territories and Volunteer Nunavut in Canada for volunteers and volunteer groups in small and large communities. The initial 7-page PDF contains the table of contents for and links to 9 booklets of 40 pages each, all of which open in the same PDF. [http://www.volunteernwt.ca/resources/resource\\_manuals/CD%20intro.pdf](http://www.volunteernwt.ca/resources/resource_manuals/CD%20intro.pdf)

### Take Root: Volunteer Management Guidebook

From HandsOn Network and the Corporation for National Community Service, this 56-page PDF provides a simple overview of the tasks of managing a project with volunteers (2010). Especially pertinent for volunteers leading other volunteers. [http://www.handsonnetwork.org/files/resources/GB\\_TakeRoot\\_Volunteer\\_Management\\_unkn\\_HON.pdf](http://www.handsonnetwork.org/files/resources/GB_TakeRoot_Volunteer_Management_unkn_HON.pdf)



Lundby Book Donations

## VISTA Corridor Recovery Program Policy

### Holidays

AmeriCorps\*VISTA members enjoy the federal holidays that are recognized by their sponsoring organization and are given as time off to the rest of the organization's personnel. Members do not get federal holidays that are not recognized by their sponsoring organization. For example, if your organization does not give its staff a holiday for Veterans Day, you are also expected to work unless you request and receive approval for one day of personal leave. Additionally, if you want the day off for a religious observance, you should request a day of personal leave.

If your sponsoring organization provides its staff additional "floating holidays," "spring breaks," "summer recesses," etc., you are expected to continue to serve on your assignment unless authorized to take the time off as part of your personal leave.

*Taken from the VISTA member handbook*

### CCIA Federal Holidays Observed

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King Jr. Day*	Veteran's Day
Memorial Day	Thanksgiving Day **
Fourth of July	Christmas Day

\*Keep in mind that Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a National Day of Service, and most VISTA members will be working with volunteers that day. The CCIA policy for working on a holiday is as follows: When an employee is required to work a holiday, CCIA agrees to provide holiday time off at a later time but must be used within the subsequent twelve (12) month period. In the event compensatory time is granted, it is scheduled at the request of the employee with the approval of the Supervisor.

\*\*Since the day after Thanksgiving is not a federal holiday, but a "floating" holiday, it is **NOT** considered a holiday for VISTA members.

For more information on benefits provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service please consult your Member Handbook. The full handbook is available online at <http://www.americorps.gov/help/vistahandbook/chapter1.html>.

## POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Below is the Program Policy on Holidays as found in the VISTA Corridor Recovery Member Handbook.

## MEMBER

## SPOTLIGHT



Johnna Percell is a VISTA member in charge of Social and Educational Programming at Lundby Townhome's Home to Stay Program.

Percell said, "Housing is a huge obstacle for families with criminal justice involvement. Lundby Townhomes is serving those families by providing affordable, safe housing. Once this foundational need is met, parents are then able to more effectively provide for their children. The children growing up at Lundby Townhomes are learning better patterns from their parents and will be much less likely to

make decisions which would lead them to lives of hunger and homelessness."

Percell has many different tasks she is responsible for on a weekly basis. "Every day is a little different....I do a lot of research to find educational activities and tutoring resources," said Percell.

Over the summer, Percell organized a summer camp called the Lundby Fun Days, and it was a five week enrichment program. The theme was, "Oh, the Places We'll Go." Percell said, "Every Tuesday and Thursday from two to five

in the afternoon, we [the students] 'travelled' around the country. Each day we learned about an interesting destination in the US and studied a corresponding mode of transportation."

Currently Percell is in the process of developing a lending library for the residents of Lundby.

"I love my job! It's invigorating to be a part of a program that is making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. I've been so impressed with the creativity and willingness to try new things that I have seen evidenced here," said Percell.

## REMINDERS & RESOURCES

### Need Help Managing Your Money?

Whether you're interested in developing a workable spending and savings plan, getting out of debt, taking a look at your credit report, buying a home, or planning for your financial future, there is help. Get free and confidential financial counseling and education through BALANCE. [www.balancepro.net/partners/veridiancu/](http://www.balancepro.net/partners/veridiancu/)

Budget and Credit Counseling is also available through Horizons. <http://horizonscccs.org>

Whether you need a budget, a spending and savings plan or someone to manage your debts our Certified Consumer Credit Counselors will:

- Listen to Your Needs and Concerns
- Provide an Honest and Accurate Assessment of Your Situation
- Help You Identify Your Goals and Priorities
- Work with You to Develop a Plan to Meet Your Goals
- Support You Along the Way

## Make the Most of Your Year—ONLINE RESOURCES

### Nonprofit and Philanthropy Good Practice

[www.npgoodpractice.org/](http://www.npgoodpractice.org/)

NPGoodpractice.org was created in 2002 with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as a one-stop shop for widely accepted and innovative nonprofit practices.



Nonprofit leaders can access hands-on tips, articles and profiled links and apply them to their organizations. In 2010, the site was redesigned with interactive features.

Visitors to NPGoodpractice.org come from all 50 states and over 140 countries.

Full Member Spotlights available on [www.vistacorridorrecovery.com](http://www.vistacorridorrecovery.com)