



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**
Random Acts of Kindness Week (February 9-15)
<http://www.actsofkindness.org>

AmeriCorps Week March 10-18, 2012
- **Upcoming 2012 Federal Holidays:**

Memorial Day

ISSUE

06

FEBRUARY 2012

VISTA SHOUT OUT

Current Team Members

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

Current Host Sites

- ◆ Block By Block
- ◆ Matthew 25 Ministry Hub
- ◆ Horizons
- ◆ Willis Dady
- ◆ Shelter House
- ◆ Mount Mercy
- ◆ Jane Boyd
- ◆ United Way
- ◆ Mound View Neighborhood Assoc.
- ◆ Lundby- Home to Stay



VITA (VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE) SITES NOW OPEN!

January 16th CCIA VITA sites began scheduling appointments through 2-1-1 and on Tuesday, January 17th the program assisted their first filer!

SUPER TAX SATURDAY

All tax appointments are scheduled through United Way 2-1-1 and the event will feature a financial education fair. It is a great opportunity to pick up some great money tips!

There will even be PRIZES!

AMERICORPS WEEK 2012

AmeriCorps Week is March 10-18, 2012. Be sure to watch your e-mail for upcoming local and statewide activities to celebrate.

this issue

- Updates & Exciting News **P.1**
- Educational Opportunities **p.2**
- Policy Spotlight **P.2**
- Online Trainings **P.3**
- Reminders and Resources **P.3**
- Mark Your Calendar **P.4**
- Volunteer Bulletin Board **P.4**

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START PLANNING AHEAD

It's amazing how quickly 365 days can go! For those members who began service in the summer, your year of service is already more than 50% over—I certainly hope that you are making the most of your time in our community.

In addition to making sure that you have a clear plan to complete your projects it is important that you begin exploring your options for Life After VISTA as well. (Of course a second or third year of service in an excellent choice as well!)

Remember:

- If you are considering re-enrollment, send the Program Supervisor an e-mail ASAP as positions fill quickly
- Please be sure to update your contact information in the MyAmeriCorps system (especially if you relocated for service)
- Always ask your supervisor before listing them as a reference, some employers have now begun utilizing e-mail reference checks and this can prevent unintentional deletion

VISTA SHOUT OUT Issue 06 February 2012

Volunteer Bulletin Board

Remember to send in any opportunities

Follow-up from Sleep Out for the Homeless 2011...Remember to check out our current VISTA Host Sites' websites to learn what team members are up to!

Kayann Bowen, AmeriCorps VISTA, United Way of East Central Iowa

"We slept out at Green Square Park for the 6th annual Sleep Out for the Homeless event. We all got together and we designed homes out of cardboard boxes, and a lot of people came out and supported the event, so it was really good."

David Savino, AmeriCorps VISTA, United Way of East Central Iowa

"It was quite the event. It was great to see everybody out in the community really shedding light on this issue that needs more attention, and so we, here at the United Way, made a great little castle."

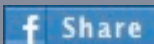
10 Tips for Non-Profits on Facebook

Facebook can be a valuable tool for non-profits worldwide, yet many non-profits may be unsure how to proceed with social network marketing. There are many different ways to utilize the service for your non-profit, from creating an application to setting up a store or even buying Facebook ads. If your non-profit is already on Facebook, or if taking your non-profit's message to Facebook is something you're planning to do, these tips can help you strengthen your social network presence.

Facebook has directly catered to non-profits present on the social network with a resource page, [facebook.com/nonprofits](https://www.facebook.com/nonprofits), specifically to help them use the site. It includes the latest examples of how many organizations are using Facebook today. Be sure to take a look for more information.

1. Create a Facebook Page (as opposed to a Group)
2. Use Causes
3. Make Your Facebook Page Unique
4. Be Active
5. Talk Back
6. Create an App, Game or Quiz
7. Add a Store, Donations or Other Boxes
8. Heed Feedback
9. Segue Into Other Media
10. Buy a Facebook Ad

www.insidefacebook.com



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DAVID & KAYANN

David Savino and Kayann Bowen are instrumental VISTA's working at the United Way of East Central Iowa (UWECI). Savino is the Education Initiatives Coordinator at the United Way and Bowen works with increasing the financial stability of low-income individuals and families.

Savino began his position at the beginning of June of last year and Bowen began her term during the third week of August last year.

Savino is from Madison, Wisconsin and spent his first two years of college at the University of Delaware and then graduated with a degree in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison last May. Bowen is originally from Queens, New York where she went to Monroe College there. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

Savino has a large job responsibility at the United Way. "I am responsible for constant communication, support, guidance, etc. for our programs in the Early Childhood and Youth Development areas. I provide support for the Early Literacy Program (called RED Ahead) by ana-

lyzing data, completing inventory of resources, ordering books and materials, etc. On the Youth Development side, I develop and utilize needs assessment research, community data and best practice research to support decision-making and program development/assessment processes," Savino said.

Bowen is involved with many different projects within the United Way. "I assist with [the] planning and development of materials for Partner Agency meetings, and research and data collection. I also coordinate, participate and/or attend meetings. I assist with different projects as needed."

Savino has an oversight role to the RED Ahead program. Savino said, "I have been able to witness the effects and advantages of exposing children (birth to age five) and their mothers to quality literacy techniques. The RED Ahead program aims to address a growing community need of addressing low-income children and their inability to master reading proficiency by the fourth grade. An early literacy specialist at the clinic sees the enrolled families for about ten to twenty minutes each where she describes the program, provides literacy coaching, and supply's them with educational materials in-

cluding books."

Bowen has assisted with many different projects within Cedar Rapids. Recently, she worked on updating the Linn County's Emergency Shelter and Food Assistance Resources Sheets. She said, "The sheets provide updated information on pantries, meal sites and emergency shelters. The sheets assist low income clients in accessing the resources that they are most in need of."

She went on to say, "I've done some research on possible grants to assist in funding programs specifically designed for low-income families. I am very excited and looking forward to working with HACAP Food Reservoir and the Iowa Food Bank Association on the SNAP Outreach Project. The SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Outreach Project offers us the opportunity to go into the community (pantries, meal sites, schools, etc.) and speak to those who are affected by economic and other challenges. We will provide information on public enrollment benefits and assist them with the OASIS Online application process."

Savino and Bowen really enjoy their jobs at the United Way. "Being able to work



with so many community members who are passionate about this area and its children has been truly inspiring. No two days are the same, and the opportunities to make a difference are abundant. It feels great to be apart of an organization like the United Way, and I only hope my next six months are as fulfilling as the past six!" Savino said.

Bowen said, "I'm grateful for the opportunity to work for an organization that persistently strives on improving the lives of those who are struggling to make ends meet. That in itself is rewarding!"

CNCS Policy Spotlight

<http://vistacampus.org/mod/book/view.php?id=2093&chapterid=2168>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CREATED DURING SERVICE

You have the right to copyright work that is subject to copyright, including software designs, training manuals, curricula, videotapes, and other products created by you while serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA member. You may not sell any work, howev-

er, that includes an AmeriCorps logo without prior written approval of the Corporation. By enrolling in AmeriCorps VISTA, with regard to products created by you while serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA member, you agree to give the Corporation and the sponsoring organization an unlimited, royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to obtain, use, reproduce, publish, or disseminate products, including data produced for the sponsoring organization, and you agree to authorize others to do so. The Corporation may distribute such products through a designated clearinghouse.

5 Things You Should NEVER Include in a Professional Email

1. Misspellings, poor grammar, abbreviations that might confuse the reader
2. Negative statements about anyone with whom you do business
3. The wrong person's name after "To:"
4. Unnecessary attachments
5. Questionable jokes, photos, comments, etc.



Remember: "Delete" Doesn't Mean "Gone"

If you are writing emails on company computers, the content of your emails belongs to the company. Deleted emails are retrievable and can be subpoenaed for use in court.

Fred Pryor Career Track

REMINDERS & RESOURCES

Project Proposals

The VISTA Corridor Recovery project prides itself on its continued ability to identify the needs of the Cedar Rapids community and develop strategies to meet these needs. Members wishing to take on a particular project must submit a project proposal clearly outlining the entire project start to finish. Information on project planning can be found online at the National and Community Service Resource Center. Members should review proposals with their Program Specialist/Site Supervisor prior to submitting the final proposal to the Program Supervisor for approval. Proposals must be approved prior to the start of any new projects in the community.

Goodwill

Have you checked out our local Goodwill stores since relocating? Not only are is Goodwill a great resource to make your living allowance stretch; it is a great cause. Goodwill Industries International enhances the dignity and quality of life of individuals, families and communities by eliminating barriers to opportunity and helping people in need reach their fullest potential through the power of work.

<http://locator.goodwill.org/>