

2006-2007 Staff

Marsha Meeks Kelly, Executive Director
 Margaret Graham, Deputy Director
 Michele Baker, Director of Communication & Training
 Danny Blue, Chief Financial Officer
 Ola Cupstid, Financial Analyst
 Jennifer Delmas, Disaster Training Coordinator
 Harriet Fitts, Administrative Services Manager
 Janet Hillebrand, AmeriCorps*VISTA Leader
 Natasha Johnson, Purchasing Accountant
 Nedra Redd, AmeriCorps Program Officer
 Robert Renfroe, Special Projects Coordinator
 Suzanne Scales, AmeriCorps*VISTA Leader
 Joy Smith, Administrative Services Manager
 Vincent Staten, Director of Volunteer Resources
 Judy Stein, Director of AmeriCorps Programs
 Sadelle Sweet, Disability Coordinator
 Gini Tucker, Training Officer

2006-2007 Commission Members

William T. "Quint" Withers, V, Jackson, Chair
 Marcie Skelton, Jackson, 1st Vice Chair
 First Lady Marsha Barbour, Jackson
 (honorary Chair)
 Roktabija Abdul-Azeez, Jackson
 Nick Ardillo, Columbus
 Derek Arrington, Hattiesburg
 George Birdrow, III, Biloxi
 Katherine Blessey, Biloxi
 J. Durr Boyles, Ridgeland
 Dr. Daphne Buckley, Jackson
 Billy Campbell, Meridian
 Patty Cappaert, Vicksburg
 Jay Carney, Columbia
 Kenny Dill, West Point
 Portia Ballard Espy, Jackson
 Dr. Joe Haynes, Ridgeland
 Stuart Kellogg, Jackson
 Elizabeth Lee Norris, Tupelo
 Bruce Nourse, Biloxi
 Diann Payne, Moss Point
 Chip Reno, Jackson
 William Richardson, Jackson
 Robin Robinson, Laurel
 Dr. Susan Rucker, Jackson
 Deborah Johnson Schumaker, Columbus
 Karen Sock, Biloxi
 Chuck Ueltschey, Gulfport

Thank you to Mississippi's Congressional and Legislative offices and the Corporation for National and Community Service for 13 years of support.

Our Timeless Mission

To engage and support Mississippians of all ages and backgrounds in service to their communities.

For more information:

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION for

Volunteer Service

3825 Ridgewood Road, Suite 601
 Jackson, MS 39211

Telephone: 601.432.6779

Fax: 601.432.6790

Toll-free: 888.353.1793

TTY: 601.432.6970

www.MCVS.org



Our Story

2007

A N N U A L R E P O R T



MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION for

Volunteer Service

Making Volunteerism Work.



We know for the last 70 years, Presidents of both parties and their Congressional champions have recognized that service programs – with government support, the active support of community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, and the private sector – can play an important role in strengthening communities, teaching the virtues of civic engagement and strengthening the bonds that connect us.

We are certain that service is not only an effective strategy for solving our problems; it is a way to remind Americans of all ages that we have a responsibility to give something back to our country. As AmeriCorps nationally reached the 500,000+ members mark and Congress and governors saluted the program for its positive impacts on communities this year, national publications like TIME showed their interest along with every presidential hopeful in discussing his or her platforms of service.

We believe that those who do service – whether as part of school or community-based service learning, senior volunteer programs, places of worship, or community-based organizations – are part of one of the great currents of American history: working with one's neighbor to build a better community and a better nation.

National service in Mississippi has made substantial progress in meeting ambitious goals, and we look forward to working throughout Mississippi to improve the lives of all Americans through service. We are stronger now than ever before, neighbor helping neighbor – even those neighbors who once lived in another state! The official number of volunteers given towards Katrina recovery has continued to rise, and is now at 600,000+.

The national landscape is changing as well. The merger of Hands On Network and the Points of Light Foundation creates the world's largest volunteer organization. Congress is debating reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service through a bill called the GIVE Act. Baby Boomers are retiring and want to offer their vast talents and skills as meaningful volunteer service.

Our partnership with the Mississippi Center for Nonprofits and other agencies has produced its third amazing conference. Soon, a new year of national service will begin and the orientation conference will allow them to gather and create esprit d'corps.

So much is happening! We have cause to celebrate. Keep the wonderful world we've created in front of you, and see the changes surrounding us as the opportunities they are. These are our stories in 2007.



Marsha Meeks Kelly

*Executive Director,
Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service*

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1

Why What We Do Matters

CHAPTER 2

A Few Fast Facts

CHAPTER 3

Volunteer Center Network

CHAPTER 4

The AmeriCorps Story

CHAPTER 5

Rebuilding the Coast - Staying Prepared

CHAPTER 6

Training for the Future

CHAPTER 7

Disability Inclusion

CHAPTER 8

The Financial Picture

CHAPTER

1

Why What We Do Matters

The timeless mission of your state office of volunteerism – the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service (MCVS) – is “to engage and support Mississippians of all ages and backgrounds in service to their communities.” It’s a mission that guides everything we do, creating a common theme throughout the chapters of our story.

Mississippi has a strong history of charity and volunteerism, and boasts some of the largest and strongest national service programs in the nation. Combined with Mississippians' natural generosity, the efforts of volunteers from other states (and countries) in rebuilding the Gulf Coast have created much progress. Over 600,000 volunteers have worked along Mississippi's coastline, working to restore homes, businesses, and green spaces. There is still work to do and many homes left to be built, but the reinvestment in our communities and volunteer spirit is working!

This story is not complete without recognizing the hard work and dedication of our staff and board and the cooperation and support of our grantees and our national service family in making our work relevant. Thank you for your efforts and enthusiasm.



“The nation today faces breathtaking opportunities disguised as insoluble problems.”

— John Gardner, former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare

CHAPTER

2

A Few Fast Facts

Together with your state office of volunteerism, other organizations (such as the USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Mississippi Department of Education) are working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility to America.

\$5 million appropriated by Congress to establish a fifth AmeriCorps* NCCC campus in Vicksburg

490,000 Mississippi volunteers dedicated **55.8** million hours of service last year; and an additional **138,000** people volunteered informally by assisting neighbors in their communities, according to "Volunteering in America: 2007 State Trends and Rankings in Civic Life."

16,000 Mississippians are participating in national service programs this year: AmeriCorps, VISTA, Learn and Serve America, and Senior Corps (Foster Grandparents, RSVP, and Senior Companions) and are meeting local needs through **304** national service projects.

71 out of **82** counties have national service programs or participants strengthening communities. In MS, partners for national service include MCVS, MS Department of Education, and the MS Corporation for National and Community Service Office.

\$70 million in AmeriCorps funds has benefited **500+** nonprofits and foundations through grants from MCVS since 1994.

125 Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Awards to individuals and organizations for outstanding volunteerism have been presented by MCVS since 1993.



For many young Mississippians, a lifetime of leadership begins with us.

CHAPTER

3

Volunteer Center Network

MCVS recognizes that volunteers are a key resource for citizen involvement by promoting volunteerism and mobilizing volunteers to meet community needs. Volunteer centers also enhance the lives of the people who deliver and receive volunteer services. A key strategy of MCVS is to create new volunteer centers and to enhance the capacity of existing volunteer centers to ensure a steady source of volunteers to address community needs.

The Commission has helped start

10 community-based volunteer centers, **8** volunteer centers on college/university campuses, **7** special needs project sites

The Mississippi Disaster Preparedness and Response Project provides training and resources to volunteer centers and other agencies throughout the state. AmeriCorps*VISTA members are assigned to these organizations to build their capacity to meet the needs of communities. The Commission has a total of **22** VISTAs, with others expected to come aboard after training.

MCVS Volunteer Centers:

Have recruited **2,387** community volunteers (**1,221** are Baby Boomers), who have contributed **97,307** service hours and who have produced **\$291,359** of in-kind contributions and **\$130,707** in cash resources

The project sites and resources generated by MCVS through the Disaster Preparedness and Response Project will only continue to grow, demonstrating the commitment and dedication Mississippi volunteers have to improving their communities.



Our Volunteer Centers connect ordinary opportunities and extraordinary volunteers.

CHAPTER

4

The AmeriCorps Story

AmeriCorps programs in Mississippi present opportunities for hundreds of concerned citizens to get involved in their communities. Our statewide network of programs offers a variety of choices to meet diverse interests.

482 members completed their year of service and earned \$1,867,188 in scholarships

Recruited 25,243 volunteers who gave 248,536 hours to school and community projects including tutoring 11,192 students

Junior Citizen Corps Clubs planned and carried out 57 projects on National Youth Service Day

Provided disability skills training to 510 individuals with disabilities

Transitioned 25 individuals with disabilities from assisted living facilities back into independent living

Renovated/rehabilitated 552 homes/apartments and participated in 24 home builds

Assisted 2 families in completing homeownership training, repairing their credit and purchasing a home

Assessed needs of 285 Katrina impacted families and provided case management to 231 families



Our AmeriCorps membership encompasses all faiths, genders, creed, races, and abilities.



AmeriCorps in Mississippi (March 1, 1994 - April 12, 2007)

- # Mississippi AmeriCorps Members*: 8,558
- Total # of Hours Served: 13,999,924
- Total \$ (Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards) earned: \$28,484,325

*AmeriCorps members (including VISTA & NCCC) claiming Mississippi as their home state (determined by member's permanent address) enrolled between March 1, 1994 and April 12, 2007; includes members who exited before completing their terms of service. Information gathered by CNCSS.

2006-2007 Programs:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| America Reads-Mississippi | Delta Reads Partnership | Living Independence for Everyone/
Project LINC |
| Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast/
Takes ACTION | Hands On Gulf Coast | USM/Campus Link |
| City of Jackson/Capital City Rebuilds | Meridian Housing Authority/
AmeriCorps Rebuilds Mississippi | Western New York AmeriCorps |
| Corinth Public Schools/FOCUS | MSU/Mississippi Early Literacy Corps | YouthBuild |

CHAPTER

5

Rebuilding the Coast – Staying Prepared

MCVS sees the need to keep volunteer groups across Mississippi engaged in the rebuilding that continues along the Gulf Coast. We are also making sure that volunteers have plans, tools, and skills in place, should they be necessary. Our preparations and accomplishments in 2007:

Organized 8 government and voluntary agencies into a Volunteers and Donations Coordination Team to operate in times of disaster on behalf of MEMA.

Worked to increase the membership and participation of the Mississippi Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (MSVOAD) and to create a South Mississippi Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, allowing voluntary agencies to work in a more efficient and coordinated fashion in future disasters.

Certified MCVS staff in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) policies and procedures.

Worked with MEMA to ensure that Mississippi's disaster workers have the latest training in volunteers and donations management.

Worked with MEMA to revise the Volunteers and Donations section of the State Response Plan.

Co-sponsored and assisted with two events on the Gulf Coast to address critical mental health issues related to recovery: a Resiliency Retreat for front-line volunteers (counselors, case managers), and a Mental Health Summit to address the emotional needs of Katrina survivors.

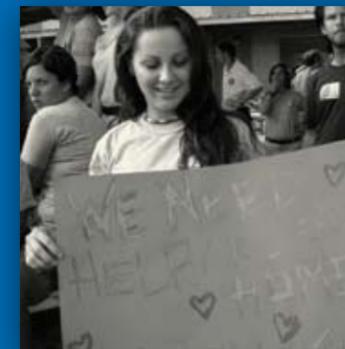
With CNCS and Habitat for Humanity, hosted more than 1,500 AmeriCorps members, alumni, staff, volunteers, and community members at the first ever National AmeriCorps Week.

On the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, two live TV shows highlighted volunteer efforts on the Gulf Coast: CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 and ABC's Good Morning America featuring Robin Roberts.

On Make a Difference Day 2007, Mississippi national service programs collaborated in a statewide "Share the Warmth" Campaign, donating 13,644 adult servings of beef stew and 1,112 winter coats to 52 organizations.



600,000+ volunteers have worked over 6 million hours the past two years in Hurricane Katrina recovery. Over 30 disaster relief organizations are still housing and feeding volunteers in the lower six counties. MCVS works to locate, cultivate, and track volunteers.



CHAPTER

6

Training For The Future

2007's impressive training agenda included the "I Will Get Things Done for America" National Service Orientation Conference; a four-part Train the Trainer series which included "The Magic of Conflict," "Using and Managing Stress to Your Advantage," "Time Management," and "Civic Engagement;" a Resiliency Retreat and a Mental Health Summit for Gulf Coast volunteers; Mississippi's Youth Service Summit; "Reinventing Mississippi: The Conference For Nonprofits And Volunteers" (co-sponsored by the Mississippi Center For Nonprofits), and a Program and Fiscal Management Training.

MCVS sponsored 8 trainings for 1,800 people, improving the quality and impact of our national service programs.

The overall goal of MCVS' training and technical assistance component is to improve the quality and the impact of national service programs in Mississippi by providing effective training events; providing or facilitating practical, usable technical assistance; and utilizing state-of-the-art technology and other media to share opportunities, resources, and best practices.



Whether in one-on-one or large group trainings, MCVS connects people to the information and skills they need.

CHAPTER

7

Disability Inclusion

MCVS is committed to promoting disability inclusion throughout Mississippi and continues to educate communities about disability awareness. As we provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to serve, we broaden the concept of volunteering and turn inabilities into abilities. Volunteering is important to our communities, and people with disabilities continue to make huge contributions every day. They are getting things done for Mississippi. In 2007, National Service members with disabilities made the following contributions:

AmeriCorps members with disabilities
provided life skills training to **510** individuals with disabilities and their families, recruited **860** volunteers to provide **9,100** community hours of service, and assisted with the relocation and placement of **25** individuals with disabilities from institutions into community life.

VISTA members with disabilities
recruited **108** community volunteers, collaborated with approximately **58** agencies across the state to assist with community needs, and conducted **10** trainings focused on first responders and disaster preparedness.

Senior Corps members with disabilities
tutored approximately **25** children after school with reading and math skills and provided over **38** pre-schoolers with the successful tools needed for academic achievement before entering the public school system.



Opportunities for volunteering exist in every aspect of our lives. No matter what the task may be, we can create an opportunity for service.

CHAPTER

8

The Financial Picture

Service Program Funding Sources in Mississippi: For Fiscal Year 2007 (beginning July 1, 2006), service programs in Mississippi received \$13,762,318 made up of \$8,919,406 in federal funds (\$3,694,076 in three-year programs), \$383,679 in state funds, and \$4,459,233 in local matching funds.

For each \$1 the Legislature appropriated to MCVS in Fiscal Year 2007, we leveraged \$34 from non-state sources.

During Fiscal Year 2007, \$5,239,164 flowed through to benefit Mississippi communities through grants. An additional \$248,160 provided training and technical assistance for national service programs and participants. Only \$953,143 or 14% of the total budget was spent for MCVS administration.

