

*Celebrating 15 Years!*

# Our Story 2008

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



MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION *for*

**Volunteer Service**

*Making Volunteerism Work.*

*Transitioning into a new year is always an exciting time of change, this year is even more special, our Board of Commissioners has identified our new Executive Director, David Mallery. His strong, steady hand will take your state office of volunteerism to new heights. David comes with a strong background in management, a heart for solving community problems, and a fresh perspective for our future. We are blessed.*

Seldom has there been a time in our national history when service has been of more critical importance to our nation's strength and security. As we reflect on the last 15 years of our work, our collective passions have only strengthened regarding the powerful force that volunteers and national service members generate within our society. When times are tough, as we have learned from Katrina, our services are most in need. Mississippi has shown the nation that volunteers help bind America together.

This 15 year anniversary issue highlights our continuing work. We are fortunate to work with a dedicated staff, faith-based and nonprofit groups, and individuals who have worked in our most vulnerable communities, providing help and hope to people facing economic and social needs. Mississippi is stronger through our network of volunteer centers whose reach impacts all 82 counties and our national service programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, National Civilian Community Corps and Learn and Serve America.

The service movement is an exciting laboratory for new ideas. There are generations who have held "service" as a sacred honor and there is an emerging generation that will take the reins from us with a renewed national focus on service and volunteering. Mississippi's growing infrastructure of agencies and partners, along with an enduring "love thy neighbor" response to those in need, leads us to prepare for greater demand for our services. We are indeed blessed! Please enjoy this annual report and come join us in this experience of a lifetime!



photo courtesy of Joe Ellis, *The Clarion-Ledger*

**Marsha Meeks Kelly**  
*Executive Director Emeritus*

**David Mallery**  
*Executive Director*

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## CHAPTER

# 1

## *Why What We Do Matters*

The enduring 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 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 700,000 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.



**"[We] must be the change [we] wish to see in the world."  
— David Mallery, on his leadership philosophy, paraphrasing Mahatma Gandhi**

## CHAPTER

# 2

## *A Few Fast Facts*

Together with your state office of volunteerism, other organizations (such as the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Mississippi Department of Education, and the Mississippi Center for Nonprofits) 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*

*700,000+ volunteers have worked over 7 million hours the past three years in Hurricane Katrina recovery; over 30 disaster relief organizations are still housing and feeding volunteers in the lower six counties*

*\$72.4 million competitive and formula national service funds since 1994 have benefited 500+ volunteer organizations in communities across Mississippi and 80+ school districts*

*800 AmeriCorps slots in 15 programs in the 2008-2009 program year; 11,000 Mississippians have served since 1994*

*17,000 Mississippians are participating in all national service programs this year (AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America) and are meeting local needs in 313 programs*

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

*10 Volunteer Centers provide coverage to all 82 counties, connecting willing volunteers to unmet needs*



**"I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." – Lily Tomlin**

## CHAPTER

# 3

## *Mississippi Volunteer Centers*

Volunteer Centers are a key resource for citizen involvement, promoting engagement in the community and mobilizing volunteers to meet community needs. By working with local nonprofit organizations to identify and address local issues with strategic initiatives utilizing volunteer resources, Volunteer Centers also enhance the lives of the people who deliver and receive volunteer services. MCVS supports the development of new Volunteer Centers and strengthens the capacity of Mississippi's ten existing Volunteer Centers through training, knowledge sharing and resource development. [www.volunteermississippi.org](http://www.volunteermississippi.org)

### **MCVS Volunteer Centers:**

*Recruited 2,810 community volunteers (1,113 are Baby Boomers),  
who have contributed 96,005 service hours and  
Produced \$323,684 of in-kind contributions and \$113,555 in cash resources*

The Mississippi Disaster Preparedness and Response Project provides National Service resources to Volunteer Centers, institutions of higher learning, local government agencies, and community-based nonprofit organizations. AmeriCorps\*VISTA members assigned to this project serve their host site by building organizational capacity for services and resources, with a special focus on disaster preparedness issues. MCVS was the first state commission to run a VISTA grant; 44 VISTAs are available to be placed through MCVS. The continued growth of projects and resources generated by MCVS through the Disaster Preparedness and Response Project underscores and supports the commitment and dedication of Mississippi volunteers to improving their communities.



**Mississippi Volunteer Centers connect volunteers with opportunities to serve.  
[www.volunteermississippi.org](http://www.volunteermississippi.org) - **Volunteer Y'all!****

## CHAPTER

# 4

## *The AmeriCorps Story*

What an amazing 2007-2008 program year we had! We began it by bringing on three new programs (Corps Network/Gulf Coast Conservation Corps, Habitat for Humanity/Mississippi, and MSU/Early Childhood Literacy-South), toward the end of the year we added another program with disaster formula funds – Digital Opportunity Trust/TeachUP!, and then we ended our year by evacuating our coastal members and staff to Piney Woods School for Hurricane Gustav and postponing our 2008 Orientation Conference due to that guy Ike. (And staging loads of \*NCCC members at MS State Hospital & Piney Woods School.) During the 2007-2008 program year (August 1, 2007 – August 30, 2008), the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service had 15 AmeriCorps programs. Our AmeriCorps members:

*Recruited **54,000+** volunteers who provided over **400,000** hours of community service.*

*Tutored **14,369** students, which was **4,000+** students PER DAY students in school  
and **10,000+** in after school programs throughout the program year.*

*Junior Citizen Corps Clubs planned and carried out **80** projects on Global Youth Service Day.*

*Transitioned **21** individuals with disabilities from assisted living facilities back into independent living.*

*Renovated, rehabilitated and/or weatherized **500+** homes/housing units*

*Participated in **300+** new home builds*

*AmeriCorps members earned \$2,306,125 in education awards.*





Since 1994, our AmeriCorps members have used over \$39 million in education awards at Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning:

Colleges and Universities - \$16,999,875  
 Community and Junior Colleges - \$11,354,271  
 Loans for School - \$8,196,321  
 Private Schools and Others - \$2,602,909

**2007-2008 Programs:**

**America Reads-Mississippi**

**Boys & Girls Clubs  
of the Gulf Coast/Takes ACTION**

**City of Jackson/Capital City Rebuilds**

**Piney Woods School / Changing the World**

**Habitat for Humanity - Mississippi**

**Hands On Gulf Coast**

**Meridian Housing Authority/  
AmeriCorps Rebuilds Mississippi**

**MSU/Mississippi Early Literacy Corps**

**MSU/Mississippi Early Childhood  
Literacy Corps-Southern Region**

**Living Independence  
for Everyone/Project LINC**

**USM/Campus Link**

**Western New York/Next Steps**

**YouthBuild - Mississippi**

**Corps Network/Gulf Coast  
Conservation Corps**

## CHAPTER

# 5

## *Rebuilding Mississippi - Staying Prepared*

Since Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi's nonprofit and volunteer sectors continue to make headway. More than 700,000+ volunteers have taken part in rebuilding Mississippi. Using a conservative estimate of just 10 hours per volunteer (and many people gave weeks or even months), over 7 million hours have been contributed in the last three years.

Six of MCVS's 15 AmeriCorps programs (40%) are related to Katrina recovery or housing activities, and many other national service programs – like AmeriCorps\*NCCC and national direct AmeriCorps grantees – are also serving.

MCVS was designated by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to be responsible for the Volunteer and Donations Annex (ESF 6) of the state's Emergency Management Plan. Staff manned the MEMA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) desk 24 hours a day during the landfalls of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. With an \*NCCC team and other volunteers, MCVS manned the 211 call center phones, handling 10,000+ calls. Nearly 120 shelters were opened, housing 14,500 evacuees from the Gulf Coast and Louisiana.

An AmeriCorps\*NCCC campus will open in Vicksburg in the summer of 2009, the ideal location to deploy corps of 18-24 year old members in three- to four-week “spikes” to natural disaster sites in the Gulf Coast and in the southeast.

MCVS is training its network of Volunteer Centers to become volunteer reception centers to register, train, and affiliate the volunteers with an organization prior to being sent out to serve at disaster sites.



**MCVS's disaster response efforts provide willing volunteers to meet unmet needs around the State.**

## CHAPTER

# 6

## *Training For The Future*

2008's impressive training agenda included a wide variety of individualized training opportunities, including:

*Sustainability Training for AmeriCorps Program Directors*

*Safe Spaces training*

*Co-sponsored the Mississippi VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) Conference*

*Mississippi's Youth Service Summit*

*"Reinventing Mississippi: The Conference For Nonprofits And Volunteers"*  
*(co-sponsored by the Mississippi Center For Nonprofits)*

*Program and Fiscal Management Training*

*AmeriCorps Alumni Training*

*Connect 1 Disaster Summit for People with Disabilities*

MCVS sponsored 9 trainings for 1,100 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



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



## CHAPTER

# 7

## *Youth Programming*

With carryover funding from Learn and Serve America, MCVS is working with youth from throughout the state, teaching them ways they can make a difference. Through service-learning, they are developing leadership skills and learning how they can make ripples of change in their communities. In addition to this work, MCVS partnered with other organizations, such as the Mississippi Municipal League, to promote youth-led service projects in youth programs like the Mayor's Youth Councils. In 2008:

*Youth participated in 3 leadership camps in the fall*

*Youth also planned and implemented Make A Difference Day projects in their own communities*

*YES! (Youth Engaged in Service) and MAGS (Mississippi Ambassadors Engaged in Service) alumni were actively engaged by assisting at camps, mentoring youth in the current program and providing feedback on the expansion and development of the YES! program*

MCVS is also engaged in a strategic planning process to revive and expand their full-scale youth program, known as Youth Engaged in Service! (YES!). The Commission hopes to admit new members to the inaugural year of the new YES! program in May 2009.



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

## CHAPTER

# 8

## *Disability Inclusion*

MCVS seeks to provide opportunities for everyone to serve in their community. We can achieve this by building the skills, resources, and knowledge necessary to assure the successful integration and retention of people with disabilities not just among national service programs but also among other state agencies and service provider organizations. We are able to unfold a wealth of knowledge that will not only educate communities throughout our state, but will also provide opportunities for people with disabilities to become the key to creating a better world for everyone. In 2008, National Service members with disabilities made the following contributions:

***AmeriCorps members with disabilities:***

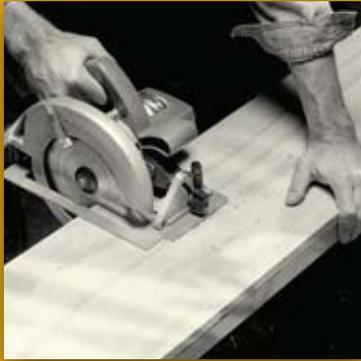
*provided life skills training to 650 individuals with disabilities and their families.  
recruited 910 volunteers to provide 9,000 hours of community service;  
assisted with the relocation and placement of 21 individuals with disabilities from institutions into community life.*

***VISTA members with disabilities:***

*recruited 179 community volunteers.  
collaborated with approximately 140 agencies across the state to assist with community needs.  
conducted 25 trainings focused on first responders and disaster preparedness.*



**Think outside the box...we can turn disabilities into abilities!**



## CHAPTER

# 9

## *Mississippi Case Management Consortium (MCMC)*

The mission of the Mississippi Case Management Consortium (MCMC) is to deliver high quality disaster case management services to clients who meet eligibility criteria by focusing on the case management processes of assessment, planning, advocacy, linking and monitoring.

Begun in June 2008, the MCMC is a statewide program utilizing a consortium of affiliated organizations that communicate, collaborate, coordinate, and cooperate in their efforts to provide high quality disaster case management services. Managed in the field by Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi (LESM), the Consortium is an innovative partnership among 13 Affiliate agencies, some of which provide specialized services to individuals with disabilities and other special needs, as well as to those who require language assistance.

Eligible clients include Cora Brown Bridge cases and individuals with remaining “disaster caused housing needs” who are currently residing in FEMA-funded housing including travel trailers, hotels/motels, and mobile homes. Cases are assigned based on Affiliate capacity, geography, and information provided by each Affiliate concerning its current caseload rosters. The MCMC pilot project runs from June 1, 2008 - May 31, 2009.



**MCMC delivers high quality disaster case management services  
by focusing on assessment, planning, advocacy, linking, and monitoring.**



**MCMC was awarded a \$25 million grant through a unique partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

**MCMC created jobs for 350 Mississippians through a consortium of 13 Affiliate Agencies and 6 subgrantees**

**The MCMC provides high quality case management to those persons still living in FEMA-sponsored housing, with a goal of creating individualized Recovery Plans to assist those people to move into permanent housing**

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### **Affiliates of the MCMC:**

**Boat People SOS of Biloxi**

**Foundation Hope, Inc.**

**Recover, Rebuild, Restore Southeast MS**

**Catholic Diocese of Jackson**

**International Relief and Development**

**Rebuilding Pearl River County Together**

**Catholic Social and Community Services  
of Biloxi**

**Lutheran Episcopal Services in  
Mississippi**

**Recovery Assistance Incorporated**

**East Biloxi Coordination, Relief, and  
Redevelopment Agency**

**Mississippi Protection and  
Advocacy**

**USM Institute for Disability Studies**

**Waveland Citizens' Fund**

## CHAPTER

# 10

## *The Financial Picture*

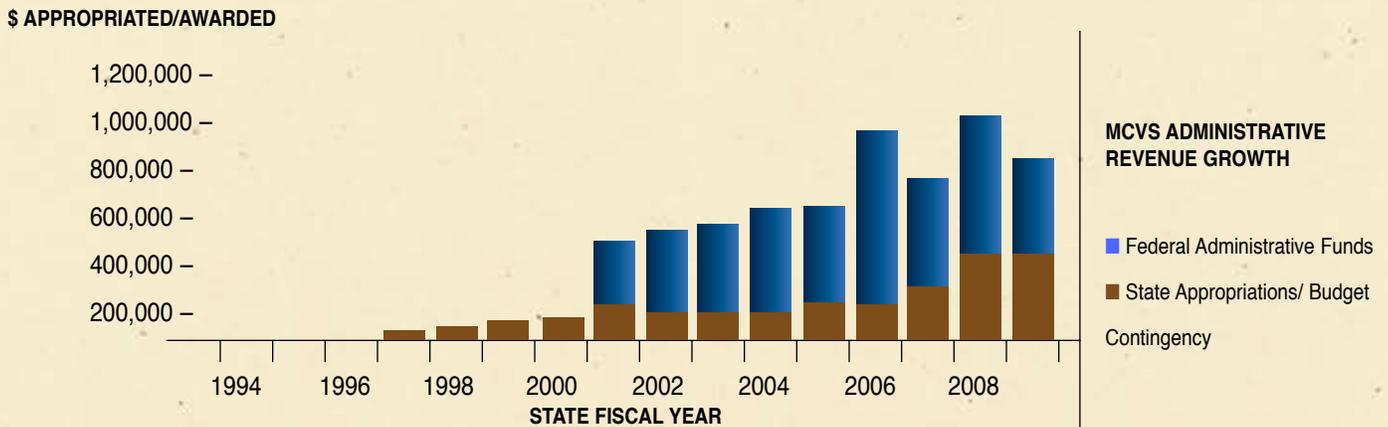
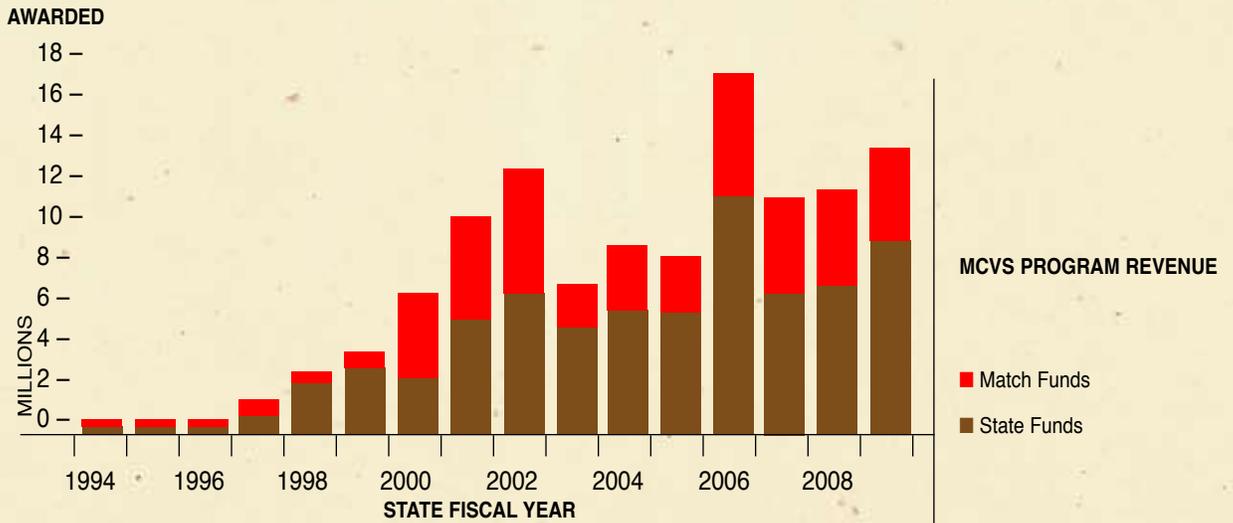
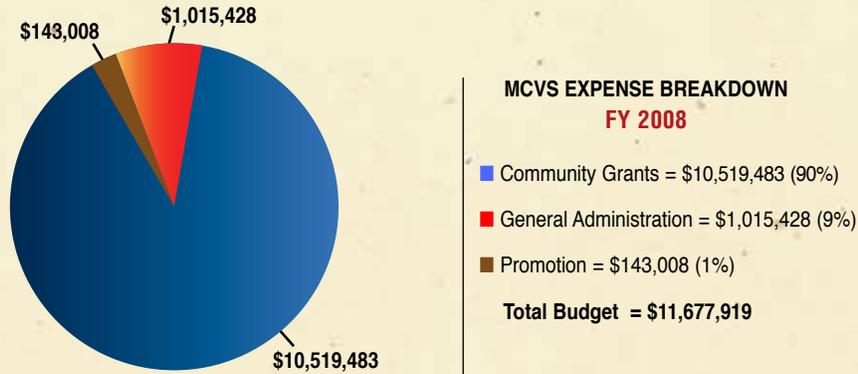
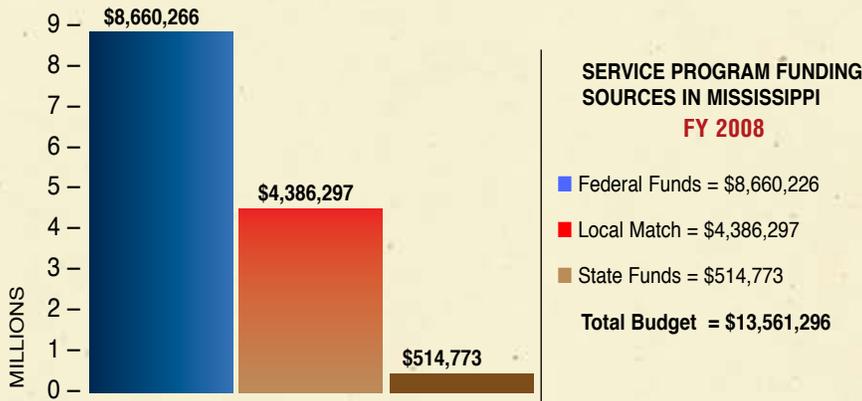
Service Program Funding Sources in Mississippi: For Fiscal Year 2008 (beginning July 1, 2007), service programs in Mississippi received \$13,561,296 made up of \$8,660,226 in federal funds, \$514,773 in state funds, and \$4,386,297 in local matching funds.

During Fiscal Year 2008, 90% of every dollar went to benefit Mississippi communities through grants. Just 1% was used for program promotion and only 9% was used for general administration.

*For each \$1 the Legislature appropriated to MCVS in Fiscal Year 2008,  
we leveraged \$25 from non-state sources.*



**The MCVS is a good steward of state and federal funds; we have exceeded every accounting standard required by independent auditors, the State Auditor's Office, and the federal Office of the Inspector General.**



## Our Timeless Mission

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

## 2008-2009 Staff:

David Mallery  
*Executive Director*  
Marsha Meeks Kelly  
*Executive Director Emeritus (MCVS)*  
*Executive Director (MCMC)*  
Margaret Graham  
*Deputy Director*  
Michele Baker  
*Director of PR (MCMC)*  
Danny Blue  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
Jennifer Clark  
*Youth Programs Coordinator*  
Ola Cupstid  
*Financial Analyst*  
Harriet Fitts  
*Administrative Services Manager*  
Charlie Floyd  
*AmeriCorps\*VISTA Leader*  
Susan Gregersen  
*Director of Emergency Management*  
*Affairs*  
Natasha Johnson-Moore  
*Purchasing Accountant*  
Brandi McNeil  
*Director of Volunteer Resources*  
Suzanne Scales  
*Program Associate (MCMC)*  
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Sadelle Sweet  
*Disability Coordinator*  
Gini Tucker  
*Training Officer*

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Jim Yonge, Lucedale

For more information or to receive this  
publication in an alternate format:

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](http://www.MCVS.org)



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