
In 2017, CRC's AmeriCorps Rural Capacity Building VISTA Project:

Placed 18 members in 13 rural organizations in 6 counties

Recruited 514 community volunteers who contributed 2,816 hours of service

Managed 811 community volunteers who contributed 4,233 hours of service

Leveraged \$815,765 of cash resources

Leveraged \$91,836 of in-kind resources



Food Security

Brandon Cox, San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition, Alamosa

Brandon has been instrumental to the Coalition in creating a new logo for their annual harvest festival which has been used on all marketing materials and will be used as the face of the event in coming years. Most recently, he participated in a USDA Rural Development strategic planning workshop which resulted in the creation of a comprehensive flow chart of important information and resources for individuals in the agricultural sector.

Amber Middleton & Marlena Antonucci, Rio Grande Farm Park, Alamosa

Amber developed a strong partnership with the Alamosa Public Library leading to the implementation of a mobile library that supported outdoor story times. Marlena is in the early stages of commissioning art on the Rio Grande Farm Park land. The commission is funded by a generous Arts in Society grant that seeks to support artistic projects at the intersection of civic engagement and social change. She has also begun to get involved in different boards and committees and is now a member of the Valley Food Co-op board and the city Artscape public art Committee.

Homelessness

MK McDonald, La Puente, Alamosa

MK has assisted with the planning and implementation of several events for her organization, including the annual Share the Magic event where they decorated several handmade Christmas trees. During the holiday season she also prepared for La Puente's Thanksgiving basket drive which leveraged over \$31,000 in donations, giving 860 families a thanksgiving meal with all the fixings and raising a considerable amount of funds for La Puente's Food Bank Network.

Children & Families

Cari Caudill, Alpine Achievers Initiative, Salida

During her term, Cari has served on two planning committees - San Luis Valley Youth Collaboration Summit and San Luis Valley Nonprofit Collaboration Summit. She has also assisted in leading and supporting fundraising events, including a popup thrift shop, restaurant night, and Denver Bronco concessions. These events brought in \$2,044 which will be used to strengthen sustainability and expand Out-of-School-Time and Backyard to Backcountry programming.

Jessica Goncalves & Jae Dee Wood, Advocates for Victims of Assault, Summit

In partnership with the local school district, Jessica created and implemented a high school outreach program for AVA that focused on consent and sexual assault. Jae Dee has since partnered with the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program to educate hospital staff on recent changes in Colorado law for reporting domestic violence and sexual assault. She also designed a pocket size card for Summit County Police detailing which agencies to reach out to for support. In addition, she has coordinated with elementary schools to implement a program that teaches children to respect one other hoping to lower incidences of domestic violence in the future.

Natalie Jones, CASA of the 7th Judicial District, Montrose

Since she began her term in August, Natalie has supported marketing and community outreach efforts for their micro-home program which provides affordable housing, financial management training, and career development to foster children who are aging out of the system. She also recently assisted with their Ray of Hope Gala where she raised \$150,000 for her organization.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
SUCCESS STRATEGIES FOR COLORADO NONPROFITS

Samantha Gibson & Tyrell Nelson-Woodard, La Plata Youth Services, Durango

Samantha planned the Unchain my heart Fundraiser which generated cash donations through silent auctions, art sponsorships, and art sales; she also secured a small grant used for general operations in their summer programs. Just two months into his service, Tyrell has assisted with community outreach for their annual art show/fundraiser coming up in February. The art pieces will be handmade by their young clients and sponsored or bought by local businesses. Tyrell is brand new to Colorado and says that he is thoroughly enjoying his new, small town community.

Mara MacDonell, Bright Futures, Telluride

Also only two months into her service, Mara has written two small grants, currently sits on 2 grant committees in two counties, and is in the process of completing community profiles and conducting parent surveys for a planning grant to prevent child maltreatment.

Kristi Hensley & Caleb Miller, Families Plus, Delta

Kristi was heavily involved in community events during her term and successfully acquired a grant which led to 70 children receiving personalized backpacks with everything they need for the 2017-18 school year. As a native Coloradan from Delta, Caleb has jumped in quickly to their holiday extravaganza which provides Christmas gifts to low-income families in Delta County. In 2018 he is looking forward to developing a comprehensive community resource guide for their clients and families in the area.

Seniors

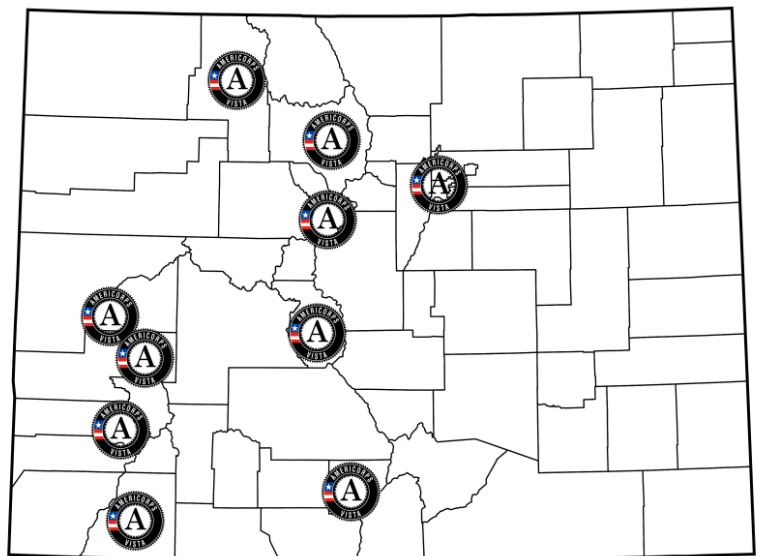
Madison Fowler, Region 10 Community Living Services, Montrose

Madison will be completing her second term with Region 10 and was nominated for the 2017 Outstanding AmeriCorps VISTA Member Governor's Service Award for her contributions in preventing elderly abuse in the 6-county region that Region 10 serves. During her two year term she has worked diligently to secure long-term partnerships, including with the department of health and human services, which she hopes will ensure the longevity of the program. In the final months of 2017, she focused heavily on planning for the implementation of the Senior Companion Program grant which aims to provide companionship to a lonely, homebound, or otherwise struggling senior in the region.

Education

Megan Kinney, Collaborative Management Program and Durango Schools 9R, Durango

Throughout her term Megan has been involved in the Youth Involvement Work Group which targets youth from La Plata County. Recently they have developed a youth input survey which showed that the top three concerns of youth are: mental health and suicide, drug and alcohol use, and feeling isolated. In addition, over 50% of youth surveyed said they wanted advocacy training and to be invited to community meetings where they can make presentations on vital issues.



Hannah Huggins & Hope Mazeika, Grand Beginnings, Hot Sulphur Springs

At the start of the year Hannah collaborated with local dentists, Grand County Public Health, and all Grand County Public and Private school districts to educate and screen all elementary-aged children on oral health. Hope has spent the majority of her term thus far organizing and supporting logistics of various events including "Dine and Donate", a Kaboom playground build at a local elementary school, and their annual festival of the trees fundraiser.