



Program Impact Report



VISTA

Volunteers In Service To America

Presented January 2013 by MN VISTA Leaders

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AmeriCorps VISTA Mission

VISTA supports efforts to alleviate poverty by engaging individuals, 18 years and older, from all walks of life, in a year of full-time service with a sponsoring organization to create or expand programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty. VISTA core principles include: sustainable solutions, anti-poverty focus, community empowerment, and capacity building.

In 2011-2012, AmeriCorps VISTA programs in Minnesota focused on these four specific areas:

- ★ Education
- ★ Economic Opportunity
- ★ Healthy Futures
- ★ Environmental Stewardship

VISTA Program Highlights



In 2011-2012, the capacity building support of over **340 VISTA members** serving at approximately **170 sites** across the state made a huge impact in MN:

- **41,233** volunteers coordinated
- **307,878** volunteer hours coordinated
- **\$4,737,203** leveraged in cash or grants
- **\$708,375** leveraged in in-kind donations

PEOPLE SERVED

189,552 individuals

99,323 economically disadvantaged individuals

66,939 youth

EDUCATION

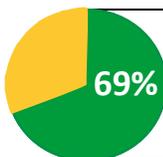
Program Highlights

VISTA members provided, supported, and facilitated access to services and resources that contributed to *improved educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged people, especially children*. In 2011-2012, VISTA members:

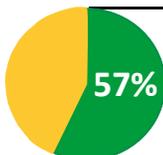
- Tutored or mentored **7,743** youth
- Provided educational services to **2,297** adults
- Served in **58** schools throughout Minnesota

“ We doubled the number of youth we serve and we could not have achieved our service expansion goal without the VISTA member! ”

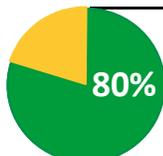
-2011-2012 VISTA project supervisor



69% of the adult learners served by Minnesota Literacy Council VISTA members advanced to a new English language level, obtained an essential skills certificate, or passed a section of the GED.



57% of the students served by College Possible VISTA members graduated from college within six years. Nationally, only 11% of low-income students graduate from college within six years.



80% of the elementary-aged children served by Minnesota Literacy Council VISTA members showed an increase in reading satisfaction or an increased positive attitude towards reading.

Program Highlights

VISTA members provided, supported, and facilitated access to services and resources that contributed to *improved economic well-being and security of economically disadvantaged people.*

1,772

Individuals acquired a job within the program year.



8,481

Individuals received job training with the support of AmeriCorps VISTA members.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Habitat for Humanity's Homeowner Impact Pilot Study, conducted in 2011, found a dramatic decrease in the level of government assistance used by Habitat partner families, after they became homeowners through the services and support provided in part by VISTA members. The study revealed that once these families became homeowners:

- **76%** showed a decreased use of welfare assistance
- **36%** showed a decreased use of food support
- **34%** showed a decreased use of energy assistance

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

VISTA members provided services that



directly contributed to *increased energy and water efficiency, renewable energy use, or improving at-risk ecosystems.* Members supported increased citizen behavioral change leading to

increased efficiency, greater renewable energy use, and ecosystem improvements, particularly for economically disadvantaged individuals, households, and communities.

4,406

individuals have increased preventative health measures



VISTA members provided services that *increased healthcare access for economically disadvantaged, medically underserved, and rurally-residing individuals.* Additionally, VISTA members built capacity, facilitated access to, and ensured the sustainability of preventative and primary health care services and programs.

21,980

individuals have increased access to healthcare services



HEALTHY FUTURES

VISTA members created, supported, and built capacity for health-related services such as:

- Affordable health and dental clinics
- Community mental health services
- Multicultural health education programs



SUMMER ASSOCIATES

VISTA Summer Associates served for eight weeks from June to August, either with *Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, the Minnesota Literacy Council, or the Initiative Foundation.*

During the summer of 2012, over **115** Summer Associates:

- Built or renovated **30** houses for Minnesota families
- Coordinated **41,668** hours of volunteer service
- Read over **16,370** books with Minnesota youth
- Served **8,300** individuals and youth, many low-income

Program Highlights

A VISTA Summer Associate with the **Central Minnesota Sustainability Project** in St. Cloud helped 76 gardeners, primarily low-income new Americans, learn effective and sustainable planting and food production skills. This effort helped gardeners save as much as \$700 per household on food costs, increased access to healthier foods, and built ties between diverse neighbors in the shared community gardens.

