

Michigan Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA Program 2005-2006

What is the MCC AmeriCorps*VISTA Program?

Michigan Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA members placed on college and university campuses across the state have been working to further develop and strengthen campus programs that address the needs of those in poverty. They build mutually beneficial relationships which can lead to long-term partnerships between community-based organizations and colleges and universities; enhance the quality of campus community service and service-learning programs; and encourage increased involvement in the civic life of the community. MCC VISTAs leverage human, financial and material resources in order to create sustainable programs to make an impact in the lives of those in poverty. In the third year of the program, MCC VISTAs continue to be a critical extension of MCC, enabling our network to focus on community level impact.

What is the Impact?

In 2005-2006, thirteen Michigan Campus Compact's AmeriCorps*VISTAs generated impressive human and financial resources in their efforts to build, support, and develop the capacity of college students to address the local needs of children in low-income communities and to gain a richer experience outside the classroom. MCC VISTAs have:

- Developed service programs, recruited student volunteers, and trained them to address the needs of low income youth.
- Assisted in 29 campus-wide days of service such as Project Recycle, Make a Difference Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Relay for Life, Be My Neighbor Day, and Take A Child to Work Day. They also assisted in 28 local community service projects such as Light the Night for leukemia research, hurricane relief, school and community festivals and activity nights, Bowl for Kids with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, American Red Cross/Salvation Army Food Distribution, Read Across America, Reality Store, Catch a Fish Grant a Wish with Make a Wish Foundation, and other events benefiting Alternatives for Girls, the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, and Habitat for Humanity.
- Generated on campus involvement of 2,618 college students performing community service or service learning, and a total of 7,614 new active community volunteers.
- These volunteers performed 96,589 hours of service. At \$18.04/hour (a figure developed by Independent Sector for 2005), this service equates to more than \$1.7 million.
- Assisted in 181 trainings, orientations, and reflection activities for service-learning courses and/or community service.
- Created numerous educational products and documented 23 "effective practices" for those on campuses and in local communities.
- Assisted 78 faculty members in service-learning course development or expansion.

- Engaged 611 community partners, many of which were schools, mentoring programs, after school academic assistance programs, soup kitchens, housing commissions, and other youth serving organizations.
- Made 111 presentations to local businesses, local schools, community organizations and campus organizations about community needs and response strategies.
- Generated in-kind donated goods and services valued at \$12,288. These included donated food, baby clothes, books, T-shirts, speaker's fees, and meeting space.
- Leveraged \$120,091 through fundraising events for local non-profit organizations, grantwriting, and donations from campus departments and student groups.