



From the Director:
The Voice of VISTA is
Your Voice



National Service Hat-trick:
VISTA Jeff Schuhrke has served in all three
AmeriCorps programs.

VISTA Viewfinder
Issue 2: May 15, 2008

VISTA: Volunteers In Service To America
Since 1964, 175,000 Strong



VISTA viewfinder

1 VISTA since 1964

2 Volunteers in Service

3 175,000 Strong

VISTA
www.americorps.gov
www.nationalservice.org

Made in USA
©2008

E-Newsletter



SNAPSHOTS

Vote for your
favorite AmeriCorps
Week video!

ISSUE 2: May 15, 2008

From the Director

Send to a friend
Subscribe
Archive

THE LANDSCAPE

VISTA Campus:
Coming soon!

[learn more](#)

A fellow VISTA in Florida was featured on ABC News. Click on "Illiterate in America."

[read more](#)

This week is AmeriCorps Week! May 11-18

[learn more](#)

Midwest Consortium VISTA Blog

[read more](#)



[back to top](#)

It's AmeriCorps Week – a celebration of the over 500,000 members and alumni, and of the activities and successes that are at the heart of the AmeriCorps family. You are a valued VISTA, tackling America's toughest problems, making our communities stronger and healthier.

As a VISTA, you are devoting a full year, full-time – on call day or night – to living and working in a poor area to find local solutions to poverty. You are one of about 6,000 VISTAs serving in over 1,000 projects across the country right now.

Wherever you are, I encourage you take a moment during this week and reflect on the inherent beauty in what you are doing. You have chosen to help out your fellow citizens and, in the process, are developing kinships and memories that will last a lifetime. In this year, you are having experiences that can fill up countless VISTA Viewfinders. Whenever I meet a VISTA, I see and hear the passion for service and for leaving something permanent behind in the community.

So in this week of celebration, remember that the voice of VISTA is your voice. Let others know of the great work you are doing, and let them join us as we commemorate another great year of AmeriCorps. I thank you and commend you for being part of the AmeriCorps family.

Sincere regards,

My AmeriCorps Portal:
Is your information up-to-date?

[visit My AmeriCorps](#)

VISTA O-LINC:
Connect with other VISTAs all over the United States

[visit VISTA O-LINC](#)

FAQ

[Click for Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Jean Whaley

Director
AmeriCorps VISTA

[back to top](#)

VISTA's "Triple Threat" in National Service



Jeff Schuhrke, VISTA
American Red Cross
Bay Area, San Francisco, CA

[back to top](#)

Jeff Schuhrke has always been interested in volunteerism. In the last few years, he's served in NCCC, AmeriCorps National and is currently serving as a VISTA.

"I personally feel very connected to the national AmeriCorps movement because I have now served in all three 'branches' and know a lot of people all over the country who have served or are currently serving," said Jeff.

As an NCCC team member, Jeff and 12 others served in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Chicago, West Virginia and Florida. After a year of these short-term projects, Jeff turned his attention to Habitat for Humanity as an AmeriCorps National member, leading teams of volunteer work crews to build affordable homes for low-income families in Omaha. Today, he serves as a VISTA with the American Red Cross in San Francisco.

"During my experiences in NCCC and AmeriCorps National with Habitat for Humanity, I often worked with VISTA members and saw first-hand how their long-term, 'behind-the-scenes,' service built the capacity of non-profit organizations," said Jeff. "I was also interested in the

VISTA program's history and its focus on eliminating poverty."

As a VISTA, Jeff lives and works in the overlooked San Francisco community of Treasure Island, a former Naval base that now houses nearly 3,000 people, most of whom live in poverty or are transitioning from being homeless. He is working to create a Community Disaster Preparedness Committee of residents to address their disaster vulnerabilities and help educate and train other residents.

"I hope that VISTAs realize two things: that the VISTA program is unique, with an honored history in national service; and that VISTA is a member of a larger AmeriCorps family that includes some amazing programs," said Jeff.

[back to top](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is the Viewfinder?

A: VISTA means view-looking out on a broad expanse. The viewfinder, a toy that all generations of VISTAs recognize, was a kind of binocular that focused on points of interest, highlights, and snapshots in living color. The VISTA Viewfinder surveys in the landscape and zeroes in on service.

Q. Why the Viewfinder?

A. Here's your direct link to connecting with other VISTAs, learning what they are doing, and helping to spread the message of VISTA and national service!

Q. How can I contribute?

A. Have a story to tell? Submission ideas? Contact vistaoutreach@cns.gov. Use the Viewfinder to highlight your VISTA service and share your experiences with others across the country!

[back to top](#)