



Home for the Holidays: A great time to talk about VISTA!



Promise Fulfilled: How will your VISTA experience shape you?

VISTA Viewfinder  
Issue 16:  
November 25, 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

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## SNAPSHOTS

ISSUE 16: November 25, 2008

VISTA Alum, Senator Jay Rockefeller, speaks about VISTA: [view here](#)

CNCS CEO David Eisner's Farewell Address: [view here](#)

West New York AmeriCorps VISTA: [learn more](#)

## Happy Thanksgiving from VISTA Outreach!

['Tis the Season](#)  
["But now I do have that chance..."](#)  
[And the winner of this issue's free VISTA hoodie is...](#)

## 'Tis the Season

As you celebrate this season with family and friends, whether it is at a dinner table or over the phone, the question of what you are doing in life might find its way into the conversation. Here's an opportunity to inspire them with your VISTA service and what being a VISTA means!

## THE LANDSCAPE



VISTA Campus now launched!

"V is for \_\_\_\_"



To learn more about "V is for," visit [www.vistacampus.org](http://www.vistacampus.org)

To request a V pin



**At the Dinner Table:** A VISTA “home-cooked Sunday supper” in Chicago, 1967. The two women on the left were VISTAs, as well as the man who is taking the photo. The others were college students who lived in the same boarding house. (Photo courtesy of Olga Bourlin, second from left. To view Olga’s VISTA photostream, [click here.](#))

Tell them your story. Let them hear about how you raised \$2,000 for improvements to the local health care center or how you are organizing 15 volunteers from the community for a child literacy program.

Let them understand the community you are serving, and how the key to being a VISTA is making sure your service is impactful and how the outcome of your service will be sustained beyond your year.

Let them see how the movement of VISTA spans beyond you and your community, into communities around the country, and how 6,000 other Volunteers in Service to America are engaged with you in this movement to empower neighbors to end poverty in their communities.\*

And, if during this moment (when you are waxing poetic on what being a VISTA means to you) you realize that you are sounding a bit too much like you are on a [soapbox](#), simply let them know that each day you wake up happy, because you know you are doing good work in this world.

*\* Want some fast facts about the collective effect VISTAs have? Here’s a [fact sheet](#) with information you can share.*

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## “But now I do have that chance...”

On March 15, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson delivered a speech to Congress entitled “The American Promise.” The speech presented the Civil Rights bill to Congress, and was broadcast live across the nation that evening.

The video excerpt below is from the sections of the speech

(limit one per VISTA), e-mail your name and address to [VISTAOutreach@cns.gov](mailto:VISTAOutreach@cns.gov)

Win a VISTA hoodie. [Click here](#) to find out how

Join AmeriCorps Alums—for current VISTAs too! [Join now](#)

My AmeriCorps Portal:  
Is your information up-to-date?  
[visit My AmeriCorps](#)

V Cafe Question of the Month:  
What opportunities and successes have you had in connecting to and leveraging community leaders?  
[answer now](#)

VISTA on MySpace:  
[visit Myspace](#)

VISTA on Flickr:  
[visit Flickr](#)

VISTA on YouTube:  
[visit Youtube](#)

VISTA on Facebook:  
[visit Facebook](#)

FAQ

[Click for Frequently Asked Questions](#)

titled “Rights Must Be Opportunities” and “The Purpose of this Government.”

President Johnson reflects on his first job out of college, as a teacher to poor students in Cotulla, Texas, and how this experience of service shaped many of his goals as President.

How will your experiences as a VISTA shape you?

For a transcript of the entire speech, [click here](#).

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**And the winner of this issue’s free  
VISTA hoodie is...**



**Marianne Yahyaoui**  
VISTA  
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest  
Phoenix, AZ

Marianne, e-mail [VISTAOutreach@cns.gov](mailto:VISTAOutreach@cns.gov) with your address and shirt size, and we’ll send you a VISTA hoodie!

VISTAs and alumni, keep posting “V is for” photos and stories to enter the contest. Remember, winners are chosen at random so upload a photo today! You only have to post once to be eligible for every issue. For more information, visit the [VISTA Campus](#).

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## 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](mailto:vistaoutreach@cns.gov). Use the Viewfinder to highlight your VISTA service and share your experiences with others across the country!*

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