



Know someone who would make a great VISTA?: Thousands of positions coming soon!



Now accepting outstanding nominees: Recognize the great leadership around you!

VISTA Viewfinder  
Issue 22:  
March 18, 2009

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



# VISTA viewfinder



E-Newsletter

1 VISTA since 1964  
2 Volunteers in Service  
3 175,000 Strong

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## SNAPSHOTS

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009: What National Service is Doing  
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Illinois VISTA and the Safe Homes program  
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VISTA and the gymnasts  
[view here](#)

VISTA in Ohio getting students on the right path  
[view here](#)

Tennessee VISTA helping residents take charge of community  
[learn more](#)

VISTAs in Nevada

## ISSUE 22: March 18, 2009

[Calling all VISTAs Profiles in Service](#)  
[Spirit of Service Awards 2009](#)  
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## Calling all VISTAs



As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Volunteers in Service to America will be adding approximately 3,000 VISTAs to assist communities across the nation. This is a considerable increase in our numbers, and we are looking for your help in recruiting new VISTAs.

Do you have any friends who are graduating soon? Or do you know of someone who would love to help their fellow citizens? Perhaps someone with great skills who never thought about national service before?

This is the time to let them know about opportunities with VISTA. Point them to [www.AmeriCorps.gov](http://www.AmeriCorps.gov) and tell them to search for projects (or better yet, send them the link to a

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

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

Join AmeriCorps Alums—for current VISTAs too!  
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assisting teens  
with disabilities  
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VISTA in Hawaii  
searches for  
public school  
volunteers  
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project description and tell them you think they would be great for the position!). Offer to be a reference for them in their application. Talk to them about the known benefits of service (Eli Segal Education Award, skills development, etc.) and about the unknown benefits (waking up everyday and being excited about going to work!).

Lastly, over many years of recruitment, we have discovered one factor that trumps others in terms of why someone decides to apply. It's amazingly simple but true - **the applicant knew someone who was a VISTA**. Moral of the story: talk to your friends about VISTA.

*AmeriCorps NCCC needs your assistance too!*

NCCC is currently accepting Corps Member and Team Leader applications for its fall 2009 and winter 2010 classes. The fall application deadline date for Corps Member and Team Leader applications is April 1, 2009. The winter application deadline dates, for Corps Members and Team Leaders, are July 1 and August 1, respectively.

If you know an 18-24 year old who is team-oriented and not afraid to get moving, get dirty, and have a little fun, visit our website and apply today: [www.AmeriCorps.gov/nccc](http://www.AmeriCorps.gov/nccc).

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## Profiles in Service

We all know the core principles of VISTA: anti-poverty focus, community empowerment, capacity building, and sustainable solutions. But, how much do you know regarding the type of projects in which these principles are applied? Surely you know your project, and perhaps the projects of VISTAs in your state or VISTAs you met at PSO. But what do you know about all the other VISTAs and their projects around the country?

[VISTA: Overcoming Poverty, Building Capacity](#), a new VISTA publication, profiles 52 projects - one from each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. It's available on the VISTA Campus and tells some of the stories behind the great numbers achieved in 2007 (such as **610, 785 community volunteers mobilized and \$172,000,000 in value of cash and in-kind resources raised**, in case you were wondering).

For example, you can read about the great work of 19 VISTAs at the North Arkansas Partnership for Health Education. Or you can discover the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago and the incredible ways VISTAs assist community members with needs in such areas as family law, domestic violence, housing, and employment.

*Overcoming Poverty, Building Capacity* is a showcase of what our core principles look like in action. The projects we take on, the programs we grow, and the communities we support. And as we as VISTAs find ourselves facing

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V Cafe Question  
of the Month:

Have you seen new  
economic difficulties in  
your community  
resulting from the  
current financial crisis?

[answer now](#)

VISTA on MySpace:

[visit Myspace](#)

VISTA on Flickr:

[visit Flickr](#)

VISTA on YouTube:

[visit Youtube](#)

VISTA on Facebook:

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FAQ

[Click for Frequently  
Asked Questions](#)

numerous problems and issues for our projects during these tough economic times, these profiles serve a reminder of just how much we can and will accomplish.

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## Now accepting outstanding nominees:

Nominations Deadline March 30th



AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service are committed to recognizing and celebrating outstanding service by their members and alumni. The Spirit of Service Awards pay tribute to the most outstanding participants in each of the Corporation's programs, which also include Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America.

The awards will be presented to the winners during special ceremonies at the 2009 National Conference on Volunteering and Service, June 22-24 in San Francisco, CA. Nominations are currently being sought. Nominees must exemplify the spirit of national service, demonstrate exceptional service or leadership, and serve as role models for others in their community.

[Click here for complete AmeriCorps nomination information](#)

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## And the winner of this issue's free VISTA hoodie is...



**V is for inVigorating**

Flickr scrennname: **lewisre3**  
Michigan

**lewisre3**, 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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