



**VISTA VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SERVICE**  
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**KENNEDY RESIGNS AS VISTA DIRECTOR**

Padraic Kennedy has announced his resignation as Acting Director of VISTA. He said he would remain in his position until a replacement is named. Commenting on Mr. Kennedy's resignation, O.E.O. Director Donald Rumsfeld said, "Kennedy has done an outstanding job. He is an able administrator, a fine person and an excellent public servant."

When Padraic Kennedy first came to VISTA in 1964 he brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in the national volunteer program field. In 1960 he was one of the first ten staff members named by Sargent Shriver to form the Peace Corps. He was the Peace Corps Senior Training Officer and later the Corps' Director of Volunteer Support before he joined the original OEO task force and became one of the architects of the VISTA program. Mr. Kennedy served as VISTA's first Associate Director for Training and Field Support before being named Deputy Director of VISTA in 1965. In June of 1968 he was nominated by the President to serve as VISTA's Director.

Under Mr. Kennedy's direction VISTA has grown from a concept to a \$37 million national service corps with 6,000 full time volunteers and 1500 VISTA Summer Associates serving in 49 states, Puerto Rico and all U.S. flag territories. During his tenure heavy emphasis has been placed upon rigorous evaluation of all VISTA projects, closing out the least productive and expanding programs with high potential.

Mr. Kennedy led VISTA to the "Team Concept" of volunteer placement combining the talents of professionally skilled volunteers (lawyers, architects, community planners, business school graduates, nurses) with those of community volunteers recruited from the ranks of the poor. He also initiated a method through which VISTA funds full time supervisors on projects where they are needed.

In the area of training, under Mr. Kennedy's direction, VISTA became the first national volunteer program to place its main emphasis on-the-job, with the great majority of VISTA trainees spending the largest part of their training periods working on the actual projects where they serve.

KENNEDY (Cont.)

One of the most significant changes Mr. Kennedy spearheaded in VISTA is the new emphasis on the recruitment of professionally skilled volunteers as well as volunteers from poverty communities. With more than 700 graduate attorneys now in VISTA service Mr. Kennedy recently called VISTA "The most exacting and fastest growing law firm in America." Business administration graduates, architects, urban planners and health specialists are among the needed skills VISTA recruiters have brought into VISTA in the last year.

Pat Kennedy's light is always the last to go out in VISTA/Washington. His urbanity, his style, his wit and his tough minded sense of commitment are things staff and volunteers alike are going to miss.

He tells us there is a great deal still remaining to be done. But as his staff colleagues, we say that because of Mr. Kennedy's efforts and leadership VISTA is moving in the right direction and because of his administration we can now look to VISTA's future with great confidence.

VISTA PLANNERS

The coming months will see the beginning of the second cycle of the Planning Development Program (PDP), the highly successful CAP/VISTA cooperative program designed to provide a planning capacity to predominantly rural, low-funded Community Action Agencies. Upwards of 200 Volunteers were involved during the first year of operation, making available the much needed technical know-how and planning assistance so basic to meaningful community action.

Very briefly, PDP provides a unique opportunity to combine basic community organizing with a sophisticated technical assistance program. The role of the PDP Volunteer is to 1) develop, through grassroots involvement, neighborhood programs and plans and insure that they are incorporated into the overall design of the local CAA; 2) develop, expand, and operationalize the planning and management capability of the CAA; and 3) identify and involve other community resources in the total community action effort.

Last year's Volunteer make-up proved to be an interesting combination of first and second year Volunteers. First-year Volunteers were selected primarily for the skills they would bring to the program (planning, architecture, business management, systems analysis, etc.). The second year Volunteers were also nominated for their skills and, equally important, the experience and insight they acquired through their first year in the field.

Again this year VISTA hopes to interest re-enrolling Volunteers in PDP. While serving as one of the first PDP Volunteers, Gary Johnson expressed in a letter to VISTA the need and opportunity for second year Volunteers. "This new role for VISTA can work. It's a challenge. But we need experienced, second year Volunteers. The rural poor need your experience and VISTA needs your impetus."

If you are planning to stay with VISTA a second year and would be interested in becoming a PDP Volunteer, contact your regional office right away. Three training programs will begin October 30:

Southeast (Westinghouse)  
Great Lakes (Jane Adams Hull House)  
North Central (University of Colorado)