

Measuring Success

2006



Making a Measurable Difference



Governor Joe Manchin III

People who volunteer their time, their talents, and their experience are a very precious resource. They work tirelessly to address the many issues we face in our state.

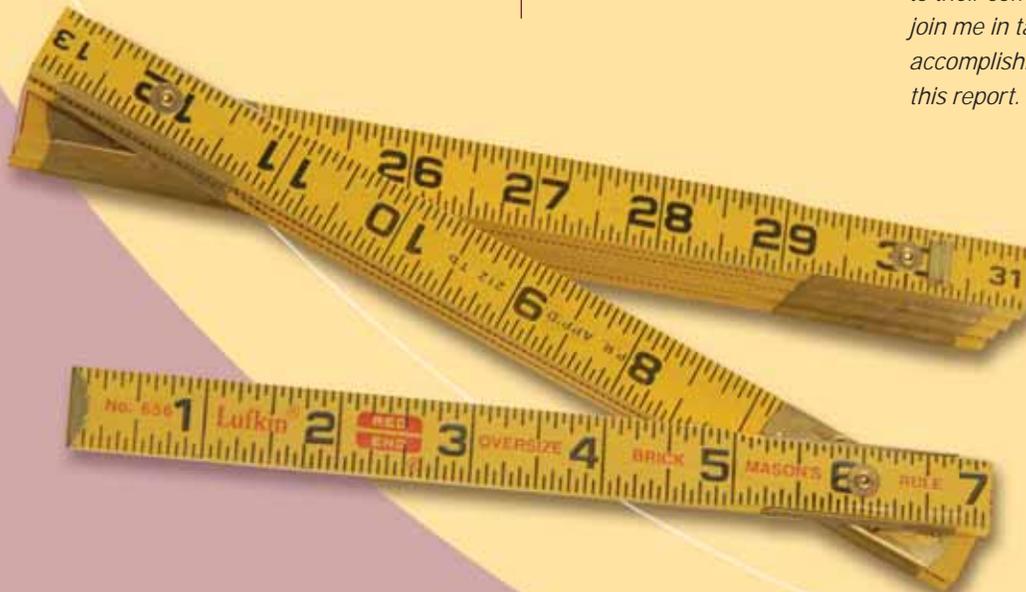
Volunteering is the heart of what makes West Virginia great, what makes our people great. It is certainly what will continue to move us forward. West Virginians have a long tradition of helping our neighbors in time of need. So many times people say, "I just want to help." It's that caring attitude and willingness to pitch in that the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service works to recognize and celebrate. As the state's volunteer agency, the Commission's success in spurring volunteerism and service will continue to reap great benefits for the Mountain State.



Linda Kay Wellings

Some people look at work to be done and are overwhelmed, convinced that there are too many challenges and too much to do. Others find joy in the challenges. West Virginia is home to thousands of dedicated, compassionate volunteers who tutor students, provide humanitarian relief in disasters, and engage in many other community service projects. Whatever the issue or need, as the state's volunteer agency, the Commission can help volunteers make a difference.

In 2006, the Commission focused on three priority issues: building learning communities, economic development, and emergency preparedness and response. In this annual report, we are measuring our progress so we can build on successes and continue to strengthen our state volunteer networks. All of us at the Commission are grateful to those who give back to their community. Please join me in taking pride in the accomplishments highlighted in this report.



2006 Commission Programs

AmeriCorps

Administered by the Commission, the AmeriCorps national service program strengthens communities by providing grant funds to engage citizens in addressing the needs of the underserved in our state. The program provides training, health insurance, living allowance and an education award to its members.

Faces of Leadership

The state conference on Volunteerism, National Service, and Service-Learning. The state's premier training event for volunteers brings together West Virginians of all ages who are actively working in their communities for a better future.

LeadershipPlenty

A grassroots community leadership development program that provides people from diverse backgrounds with the skills to work together.

Volunteer West Virginia

A free web-based volunteer matching tool that connects people who want to help with organizations that need volunteers. Volunteers can use the website www.volunteerwv.org to track volunteer hours for schools, businesses, churches, and organizations. County partner organizations assist volunteers at the local level.

CERV

The Community Emergency Response Volunteer program brings community members together to plan, prepare, respond, and recover from disasters and emergencies through the establishment of Citizen Corps Councils.



Special Service Days

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January, National Volunteer Week in April, and Make a Difference Day in October encourage citizens to devote a day to meet a need in their community.

Project FLOW

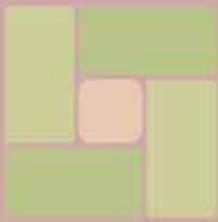
The Commission was awarded a highly competitive Community-Based Learn and Serve America Grant for this new program. Next year, Project FLOW (Future Leaders of Watersheds) will award grants to community organizations to engage youth in service to promote watershed health. The three year grant will bring \$1.2 million to local communities to protect and beautify area water sources.



The 2006 Governor's Service Awards ceremony, held during a banquet at the annual statewide volunteer conference, showcases the accomplishments of extraordinary volunteers. This year there were eleven award winners from eight counties.



From Left: Paul Luttamus (Luttamus Communications), Stephen Hafertepen (MUSHROOM), Bob Hartley, David Deci (MUSHROOM), Kaitlin Mehle, Jake Mehle, Diana Mehle, Larry Lower, First Lady Gayle Manchin, Melody Williams, Philip Stahl, Jeanne Mozier, Harry Comm (Hancock County Savings Bank), Ronald Seaton (Summers County Wellness Center), Robert Mayhew.



Building Learning Communities

The Commission's education and training programs support environments where members of the community have opportunities for shared learning.



Because of my time in AmeriCorps and with the MS Society I ended up getting the opportunity to be the Executive Director of the Soup Kitchen... The Commission, along with the Faces of Leadership conference has led me to have a career giving back to the community.

Becky Shilling-Rodocker

Former AmeriCorps member
and current Executive Director of the Soup Kitchen

Last summer 3,141 low income elementary school children from 44 counties were fed breakfast and lunch for six weeks, and received over 46,000 hours of reading, writing, recreation, and art enrichment activities from the Energy Express AmeriCorps program. 64% of the children tested demonstrated a gain of five months in broad reading skills.

LeadershipPlenty trained new community leaders from 32 counties to find "the leader within." The Rural Leaders program in southern West Virginia allowed participants to use skills learned through LeadershipPlenty to form partnerships to address needs in their communities.

Over 41,000 hours were contributed by AmeriCorps members in local education systems to tutoring and developmental activities for 4,400 preschool through 12th grade students.

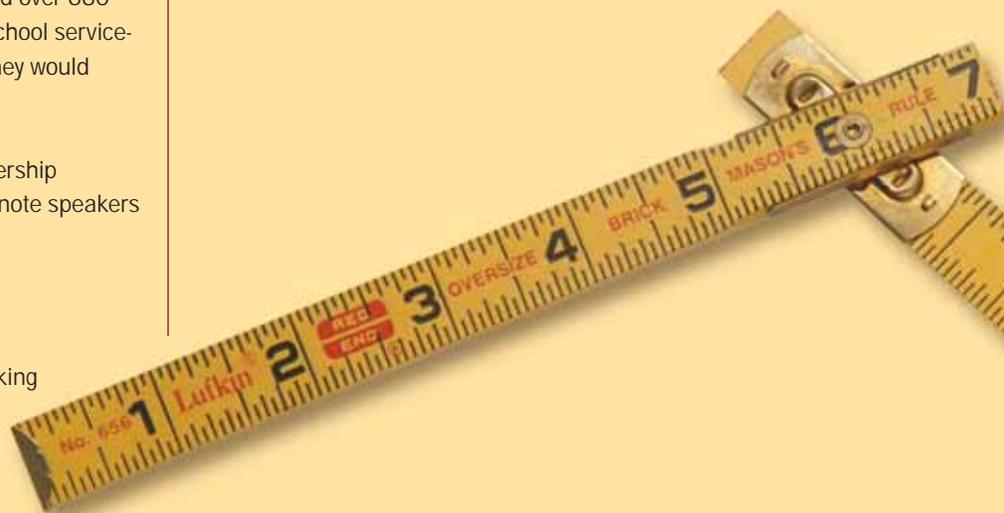
In Marshall County, AmeriCorps members contributed over 680 hours to involve 245 children participating in after-school service-learning projects. Most participants reported that they would volunteer for community projects in the future.

Over 450 people attended this year's Faces of Leadership volunteer conference in Charleston, July 11-13. Keynote speakers Margaret Wheatley, Vaughn Grisham, and Jim Hunt anchored the 66 workshop choices, which included a volunteer leadership academy and a service-learning academy. Participants from more than 180 organizations benefited from networking opportunities and reported improved skills.

Through a partnership with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), the American Red Cross, West Virginia Citizens Corps Council, and the Department of Homeland Security, this year's annual volunteer conference included a two-day pre-conference that enabled first responders and community volunteers to meet and strengthen relationships. Specialized disaster training included topics on Volunteers in Police Service, pandemic preparedness, crisis volunteer self care, Medical Reserve Corps, and disaster planning for special needs populations.

AmeriCorps members receive an education award, similar to the GI Bill, when they complete their service. In 2006, over \$1 million was earned by West Virginia AmeriCorps members to further their education or repay student loans.

1,260 students in West Virginia schools were actively registered with volunteerwv.org and logged over 64,000 service hours.





Economic Development

The increased quality of life made possible by the volunteer networks the Commission supports makes West Virginia an attractive place to live, work, raise children, and retire.



Our strong partnership with VolunteerWV has resulted in new strategic partnerships and collaborations that ultimately led to the success of our region. It has been a tremendous asset to be able to assist individuals and organizations with volunteer opportunities which lead to successful employment and economic success.

Melissa A. Aguilar

Interim Executive Director

Director of Entrepreneurship and Business Development

Region 1 Workforce Investment Board

In 2006, over \$3.6 million in federal volunteer and community service related funding was used in West Virginia to address community needs. \$2.5 million was awarded to West Virginia AmeriCorps programs.

The Commission recruits thousands of volunteers every year through www.volunteerwv.org who add value to West Virginia communities by improving the quality of life. This year 22 Volunteer West Virginia county partner organizations covering 41 counties assisted individuals without internet access to find volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer West Virginia spurs economic development through its partnership with the West Virginia Workforce Investment Board. AmeriCorps VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America) in four regions identified volunteer opportunities that served as on-the-job training options offered by Workforce West Virginia offices. By volunteering, individuals learned new skills and contacts that increased their employability.

The AmeriCorps program recruited 9,000 volunteers for a total of over 100,000 volunteer service hours. Even using minimum wage to measure the value of volunteer services, this resulted in a contribution of over half a million dollars to the state.

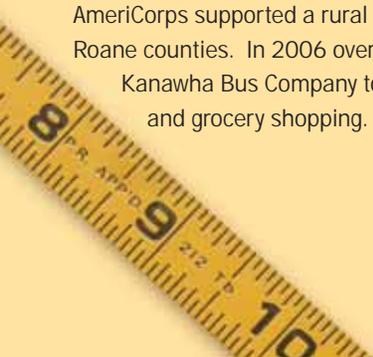
AmeriCorps supported a rural transportation system in Calhoun and Roane counties. In 2006 over 2,040 adults traveled on the Little Kanawha Bus Company to training, jobs, doctors' appointments, and grocery shopping.

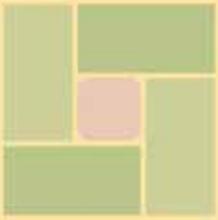
The Community Emergency Response Volunteer Program (CERV) strengthens a community's economic development by enabling the community to be more prepared for a disaster. When communities have good recovery systems in place for dealing with emergencies that arise, it allows them to recover more quickly than a community not prepared. CERV Program Developers worked to build the readiness of communities across the state by encouraging citizen involvement in 48 Citizen Corps Councils.

National service can make big contributions in small counties. Surveys by AmeriCorps members discovered that there were more than 1,000 business enterprises in rural Monroe County. Members then facilitated discussions based on these community assets to address common community needs.

AmeriCorps members identified 34 farmers who were interested in establishing the first farmer's market in Union, WV. Members also worked with rural state agricultural producers to market products to restaurants and state resorts. AmeriCorps involvement enabled the Monroe County farmers to collect \$45,000 in general gross sales their first year.

600 AmeriCorps members received training and work experience that increased their employability. Recent results from a statewide Commission evaluation demonstrated that after a year of service members feel more connected to their community, and therefore more likely to stay in West Virginia.





Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Commission helps people realize that having food, water and an emergency plan to account for family makes a critical difference when disaster strikes.



Volunteers are the backbone of our community's emergency response initiatives. Your contribution makes a significant difference to our residents...

Robert L. Grimm

President, Pendleton County Commission

(stated in letter to local CERT members)

In 2006 over 260 people participated in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training across the state. This training educates people about preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Once trained, CERT members assist others in their neighborhood or workplace and take an active role in emergency preparedness for their communities.

CERTs are not only in communities, but can be active in schools and businesses. The faculty crisis team of Union High School, Mt. Storm, completed the CERT 20-hour training course. The training was organized with the support of Mt. Storm Volunteer Fire Company members.

In 2006, the Commission became the state partner with the State Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to manage the Citizen Corps program in all counties. Citizen Corps Councils are groups of community volunteers formed throughout West Virginia to increase awareness and preparedness for emergencies. West Virginia has 48 certified Citizen Corps Councils with several more in the works. One Citizen Corps Council in St. Albans is made up of the entire St. Albans City Council serving as volunteer members.

Disaster Volunteer Reception Centers (DVRCs) establish procedures for managing unaffiliated volunteers, or community members who hear about an emergency or occurrence and rush out to the site of the disaster to help.

CERV and Volunteer West Virginia sponsored two DVRC training sessions in Morgantown and Charleston this year. Participants from government, private, and nonprofit organizations engaged in planning exercises to use spontaneous volunteers in providing disaster-related services. 22 Volunteer West Virginia county partners and over 50 volunteer program leaders were trained.

Volunteers who register at www.volunteerwv.org are asked if they can be contacted in the event of an emergency or disaster, creating a volunteer bank of hundreds willing to be called on for help when needed.

Volunteers in the CERV program more than doubled to 507 members statewide.

In 2006, 80 disaster and emergency preparedness events were held throughout the state during September's National Preparedness Month, four times as many as in 2005. Only two states had more events than West Virginia!

Thirteen Neighborhood Watch Programs have been started in Logan County. Together they formed the Southern West Virginia Neighborhood Watch Association (SWVNWVA) to help new groups in other communities. During this past year 3,000 citizens attended a National Night Out event developed by the SWVNWVA group in partnership with the CERV/ Citizen Corps program.



West Virginia AmeriCorps Programs

APPALREAD

Appalachian Family Literacy Corps

Provides rural and southern West Virginia elementary schools with AmeriCorps members serving as reading coaches to help children and families gain skills they need to succeed in reading. Members serve in Boone, Logan, Mingo, and Wyoming counties.

Building a Community of Champions

AmeriCorps members address educational needs in Monroe County. Members provide tutoring, gather information about community needs, and foster relationships between education and businesses. Members serve in elementary and middle schools, as well as the 21st Century Community Learning Center during the summer.

Energy Express AmeriCorps

A six-week summer program that promotes successful reading skills for children living in rural and low-income communities across the state. Children receive two nutritious meals a day and participate in reading programs that reinforce word identification, reading fluency, and reading comprehension.

KISRA

The Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action, Inc., (KISRA) sponsors AmeriCorps members for the Harambee Children and Youth Development Project. Members address early childhood development and academic enrichment needs of children and youth in Dunbar, West Dunbar, and Institute areas of Kanawha County. AmeriCorps provides a safe, drug-free, after-school program where children receive homework assistance and tutoring, as well as literacy and other enrichment.



LifeBridge AmeriCorps

LifeBridge AmeriCorps members tutor at-risk students to improve academic performance. Members involve families in children's reading by engaging them in developing literacy activities; they provide education assistance for adults seeking their GED, and recruit and train parent and community volunteers. LifeBridge AmeriCorps members serve at 31 sites in 18 counties across the state.

Project MOVE

Project MOVE assists people in west-central West Virginia moving from welfare to work toward self-sufficiency. They also provide transportation service to low-income or unemployed people in Calhoun and Roane counties for them to access needed services and obtain jobs.

Partnerships for Learning Excellence

The Partnerships for Learning Excellence located in Marshall County utilize 10 AmeriCorps members to address key issues in their efforts to build a learning community. These members provide service learning opportunities for youth and adults, enhance the quality of education through tutoring and mentoring, enrich youth development programs, provide family support services, increase family and community engagement and assist in community development.



2006 Financial Report

2006 Commission Funding Sources: July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

Beginning Balance July 1, 2005 \$ 92,935.14

INCOME

Federal

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Corporation For National And Community Service (CNCS) | \$ 3,209,251.52 |
| U.S. Dept. Of Commerce, Technology Opportunities Program | \$ 180,201.33 |
| CNCS/Passed Through West Virginia Office Of Emergency Services | \$ 249,601.13 |

State of West Virginia

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Education And The Arts | \$ 160,050.00 |
| Development Office | \$ 15,500.00 |
| Office Of Emergency Services | \$ 70,606.69 |

Private

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Training Fees | \$ 21,742.00 |
| In-Kind | \$ 121,617.06 |

Total Income \$ 4,028,569.73

EXPENSES

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Grants To Communities | \$ 3,131,945.75 |
| AmeriCorps Support | \$ 243,851.90 |
| Volunteer And Community Service Support | \$ 372,610.91 |
| Administration | \$ 270,705.58 |

Total Expenses \$ 4,019,114.14

Ending Balance June 30, 2006 \$ 102,390.73

Because the Commission exists, millions of dollars are available every year to community organizations for direct services to meet needs identified by the community.

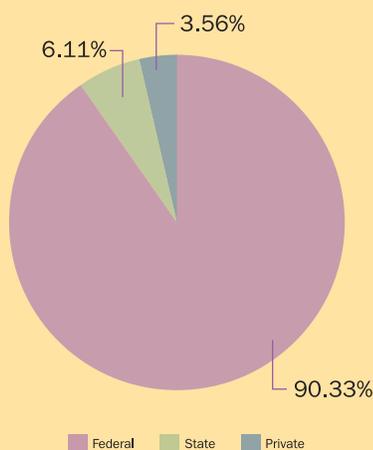
West Virginia receives over \$15 in federal and private resources for every dollar of state funds invested in the Commission.

The Commission used 6.7% of its resources for administration.

Total Expenses by Program Type



Total Funding



Commissioners

John Ballengee, Charleston
 Tammy Barr, Summersville
 Dallas Bailey, Lost Creek
 David Bell, Vienna
 Kyle Christensen, Morgantown
 Sam Cipoletti, Charleston
 Shannon Cunningham, Weston
 Jim Ferguson, Hurricane
 Jimmy Gianato, Charleston
 Kay Goodwin, Charleston
 Reta Griffith, Marlinton
 Sallie Harrington, Charleston
 Sheila Johnson, Huntington
 Susan Landis, Beckley
 Regina Lipscomb, Huntington
 Gayle Manchin, Charleston
 Helen Matheny, Charleston
 Jim Mylott, Parkersburg
 Sue Riggs, Moundsville
 Judith Russell, Charleston
 Jim Thomas, Charleston
 Mary Jo Thompson, Charleston
 Tom Tinder, Charleston
 Pamela Holstein-Wallace, Charles Town
 Linda Wellings, Buckhannon
 Kheng Yap-McGuire, Huntington

Staff

Jean Ambrose
 Executive Director
 jambrose@mail.state.wv.us

Todd Beane
 Communications Director
 tbeane@mail.state.wv.us

Joyce Brown
 AmeriCorps Program Officer
 jbrown@mail.state.wv.us

Moya Doneghy
 Program Services Manager
 mdoneghy@mail.state.wv.us

Lewis Honaker
 Financial Manager
 lhonaker@mail.state.wv.us

Katie Kostyo
 Office Administrator
 kkostyo@mail.state.wv.us

Gina Namay
 Administrative Services Assistant
 gnamay@mail.state.wv.us

Mary Pat Peck
 Volunteer and Community Service Manager
 mpeck@mail.state.wv.us

Susan Rice
 AmeriCorps Program Manager
 srice@mail.state.wv.us

Sherry Swint
 Project FLOW Program Coordinator
 sswint@mail.state.wv.us

Lisa Tignor
 Volunteer West Virginia Program Coordinator
 and Webmaster
 ltignor@mail.state.wv.us

Lynn Williams
 Citizen Corps Coordinator
 lwilliams@mail.state.wv.us

601 Delaware Avenue
 Charleston, WV 25302



(304) 558-0111
 www.volunteerwv.org