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(last updated 6/1/09)

2009-2010 Project List

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Capitol Hill Housing
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Denise Louie Ed Center
El Centro de la Raza (2 positions)
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Orca K-8 Public School Garden
Penny Harvest
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Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority
Seattle Community Farm Project
Sound Childcare Solutions
The Service Board
United Way (2 positions)
Vietnamese Friendship Association (2 positions)
YMCA Young Adult Services
YWCA of Seattle, King and Snohomish County: Social Justice Initiatives

American Friends Service Committee

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has been working to promote a more just and peaceful world since 1917. AFSC Pacific Northwest builds the capacity for positive change in our community and world.

Position Descriptions

Regional Indian Program – NW Indian Justice Project

The AmeriCorps*VISTA project consists of the following three major components:

- Strengthening program committees
- Helping build the economic sustainability of Native artists
- Helping with the healing justice through Washington Indian Civil Rights Commission

The impacts of colonization and poverty have taken a profound toll on Native youth, leaving many disconnected from their history, culture, and prospects for a bright future. Beginning in 1993, our program identified the annual Northwest Intertribal Canoe Journey as an innovative vehicle for building youth leadership, renewing tribal cultures, and strengthening intergenerational ties in a drug and alcohol free context. Since then, AFSC's involvement has enhanced and expanded the Intertribal Canoe movement through projects that support and build upon youth, family, and community development efforts in Pacific NW Native communities. Our primary strategy is to bring low-income families together and support their participation in the year-round planning and preparation that culminates in the annual journey. Thousands of Pacific NW indigenous peoples participate in the journey itself, a majority from Washington State.

In addition to assisting with organizing for the Intertribal Canoe Journey, the VISTA member will work on community capacity building for Indian arts and crafts, capacity building for small Indian organizations and native entrepreneurs, and engage in native peace and social justice support and organizing.

Capitol Hill Housing

Capital Hill Housing is a community-based, nonprofit housing development and management corporation. While principally active in Capitol Hill, we also have properties in several other neighborhoods including the Denny Regrade, Ballard, Central Area, Southeast Seattle, West Seattle, Cascade and Northeast Seattle. We strive to meet the need of affordable housing and preserve neighborhood character in Seattle by:

- Developing, and managing quality affordable housing.
- Serving a variety of income groups, with a special interest in providing housing for households with children. Most households are at 30% of median area income.
- Developing properties that will further neighborhood objectives.
- Maintaining properties at a level that meets or exceeds neighborhood standards.

Position Descriptions

Development Coordinator

The AmeriCorps*VISTA project will be indirect service supporting the Fund Development, Executive and Human Resources Departments of the organization. These departments fit into our mission by keeping rents affordable and having talented staff working to support our tenants. The AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer will help with individual giving and corporate donation processing, conduct grant research, write grants, support annual fundraiser, the annual meeting, and donor cultivation events, compile the e-newsletter, create fundraising mailings support, coordinate resident success story interviews and photos, and spearhead preserving Capital Hill Housing historic documents.

City of Seattle – Human Services Department

This AmeriCorps*VISTA project will support the department's internal Race and Social Justice Work Plan which includes the facilitation of focus groups, workshops, speakers, and other events primarily focused on Seattle's homeless population. The position will support the various division of HIGBA including the Safe Harbors Homeless Information system, and the division's survival services unit. The position will also support the City of Seattle Consolidated Plan Process including public engagement activities to insure community inclusiveness' in City funded projects.

Position Descriptions

Race & Social Justice Organizer

The VISTA volunteer will work with communities that are underrepresented in traditional homeless policy decision-making processes and coalitions to help bridge them with these groups. They will work to create opportunities for these communities to directly educate City employees and homelessness coalitions about the particular needs, history, and situations facing their community in regards to homelessness. The objectives will be to:

- Engage the expertise of community members in explaining and interpreting their own needs as well as the causes of and solutions to the circumstances that they face.
- Use expertise from the forums and the partnerships with community contacts to work to develop culturally appropriate housing programs that will serve the needs of a particular homeless community.
- Provide training to City staff, agencies, and community members on their experiences with and understanding of homelessness in their own communities.
- Create sustainable connections between these communities and the City of Seattle Human Services Department as well as other ending homelessness work in Seattle.

The VISTA will work together with HSD and community contacts to support inclusion of communities that may be outside of the traditional homeless service sector.

The VISTA volunteer will assist the Homeless Intervention and Block Grant Administration in strategically incorporating more communities in the regular communication lines and flow of information from the Division, particularly as part of the ongoing Survival Services Updates. This will be part of a broader effort to create sustainable connections between these communities and the City of Seattle Human Services Department.

Denise Louie Education Center

Mission of the Denise Louie Education Center:

In order to promote success in school and community, Denise Louie Education Center provides quality, multi-cultural early childhood education services to children and their families. We will respect and preserve each child's individuality, cultural heritage and home language. We will promote personal and social responsibility with integrity and love in a non-sexist, non-violent and non-racist environment.

Founded in 1978 and named after a young Chinese-American activist who played an integral role in revitalizing Seattle's International District before her tragic death, Denise Louie Education Center (DLEC) is a non-profit Head Start program that provides quality, multicultural early childhood education and family support services to low-income children and families living in Seattle and its surrounding neighborhoods.

Project Descriptions

Volunteer & Development Coordinator

The AmeriCorps*VISTA project will consist of the following three major components:

- Create a sustainable volunteer program: this will directly support our mission by keeping a steady, qualified stream of community volunteers on hand for work both in and out of the classroom.
- Create, populate, and maintain a comprehensive development database: this will streamline the everyday aspects of the development office and help us more effectively and efficiently raise money.
- Create marketing and communications plan (to include integrated web outreach): this will help us to expand our audience and extend the scope of our fundraising efforts to better support our mission.

El Centro de la Raza

Founded on the teachings of King, Chavez, and other social justice leaders, El Centro de la Raza works with community members to provide events and volunteer opportunities that support our community building services and programs. As an organization grounded in the Latino community, our mission is to build unity across all racial and economic sectors, to organize, empower, and defend our most vulnerable and marginalized populations and to bring justice, dignity, equality, and freedom to all the peoples of the world.

El Centro has 23 programs and services which include child development, after school tutoring and mentoring, academic assistance, civil rights history and poetry classes, citizenship support, ESL classes, infant mortality prevention, senior wellness, basic healthcare plan sponsorship, homeownership and financial literacy counseling, job skills and employment counseling, teen parent and family support, and parent leadership development.

Project Descriptions

Events Coordinator (Position 1)

Our events program includes coordinating fundraising, cultural and community events, cultivating donors, and assistance with event volunteer coordination. The ongoing support of our annual fundraising event allows El Centro to continue to provide quality services to low-income communities and communities of color.

The VISTA Events Coordinator will participate in coordinating an annual fundraising event and smaller social events with the help of our development team, which also includes an individual giving component. Responsibilities include securing a venue and event services, coordinating printing of event materials, coordinating event sponsors and donations, tracking sponsors and attendees, tracking event costs and revenue, evaluating events, and developing procedures for future event planning to sustain the events program.

Volunteer Coordinator (Position 2)

Our volunteer program includes coordinating volunteers, working with staff and community members to develop volunteer opportunities, building volunteerism infrastructure, and developing an recognition program to honor volunteers that support social justice work in low-income communities and communities of color.

The VISTA Volunteer Coordinator will assist with volunteer coordination for events and donor cultivation tasks, developing volunteer program procedures, and cultivating volunteers. Responsibilities include giving agency tours to volunteers, writing volunteer job descriptions, using a database to track hours for volunteers, working with volunteer groups, developing a recognition program for volunteers, assisting with fundraising strategies and developing sustainable volunteer program infrastructure. Bilingual in Spanish and English to communicate with our Spanish speaking volunteer base is a plus.

ElderHealth Northwest

ElderHealth Northwest enhances the quality of life of elders, disabled adults and their caregivers by providing community-based alternatives to institutional care. Its services include:

- Adult day health care (activities, skilled nursing and rehab therapies) at five locations throughout King and Snohomish Counties
- Specialized day programs for persons with Alzheimer's, brain injuries or developmental disabilities
- Housing for persons with memory loss
- In-home care
- Visiting volunteers for isolated elders
- Case management to ensure coordinated care

Help us reach frail elders and disabled adults in need of community-based health and social services. Provide outreach, volunteer recruitment and community education.

Project Descriptions

ElderFriends Resource Development Coordinator

The AmeriCorps*VISTA will work to expand the fundraising capacity of the ElderFriends program that focuses on relieving isolation and loneliness among at-risk elders through volunteer companionship. The VISTA member will work with the program director to research grant prospects and develop funding proposals and supporting materials. The VISTA will also be responsible for developing strategies to increase donations from individuals and will work with the ElderFriends advisory council to devise a plan for continued fundraising efforts.

Haller Lake Christian Health Center

HLCHC is located in North King County. Even though Seattle is known as a city where health care is readily available, the statistics indicate that for the low-income uninsured, access to health care is still poor. According to health policy analysts, the working poor continue to be hit the hardest when it comes to health care costs. Nationally, 80% of the low-income uninsured are the working poor. Others include homeless individuals and families, the disabled, single parents, children, the unemployed, minorities and immigrants. These individuals and families do not have private health coverage through group plans because it is unavailable to them or the cost is prohibitive. Further, they do not qualify for government plans because their income levels are too high. They are overlooked by the traditional health care system.

We are doing everything in our power to meet this need. In order to do this, we must strengthen our infrastructure in order to grow. Our immediate plans are to increase the number of patients served at our clinic in North Seattle, with a long-term goal of expanding to other locations through a mobile medical clinic. A VISTA volunteer will help us meet this goal by enabling us to increase our capacity to raise funds and recruit and train volunteers so that HLCHC can be the medical home for our communities' low-income, uninsured and working poor populations.

Project Description

Development Coordinator

The VISTA volunteer will help build HLCHC's infrastructure to ensure sustainable organizational capacity. As a result of his/her work, the clinic will be better positioned to partner with local churches, healthcare providers, and community organizations to raise funds, recruit, train and manage volunteers, and meet patient needs at each clinic location.

Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) provides refugee resettlement services for refugees from all over the world and provides immigration counseling and advocacy for immigrants. The mission of LCSNW is to partner with individuals, families, and communities for health, justice, and hope. The Multicultural Community Services (MCS) division of LCSNW is responsible for bringing that mission to the refugee and immigrant communities that we serve. MCS provides family reunification for both refugees and immigrants who live in the Seattle region. We do this by offering Refugee Resettlement services, social services and an immigration advocacy program. Through these three programs MCS works to create a comprehensive program for refugees and immigrants to allow them to reunite with their families and to help them to integrate into their new communities and achieve self-sufficiency.

Project Description

Refugee and Immigration Services Coordinator

The VISTA member will be responsible for developing new resources to assist the refugees and immigrants that we serve, recruiting volunteers to assist newly arriving refugee families and researching, writing, and submitting proposals to potential funding sources.

Neighborhood House

The mission of the Neighborhood House is to help diverse communities of people with limited resources attain their goals for self-sufficiency, health, financial independence and community building. Neighborhood House has embarked on a journey to transform based on the goal of more sustainable future. Most importantly, Neighborhood House wants to ensure that low-income and moderate-income communities are included in this sustainable future because they are the ones who often suffer first and suffer the most from environmental decay. One of the Neighborhood House's central commitments is the High Point Neighborhood Center's Living Green Project. The Living Green Project (LGP) is teaching environmental stewardship to the High Point community – traditionally one of the highest concentrations of poverty in King County that has now been redeveloped into a mixed-income, refugee neighborhood. Neighborhood House provides its core of critical social services to families through the High Point Neighborhood Center while also implementing a model environmental education project aimed at increasing knowledge among an ethnically and economically diverse community.

Project Description

Living Green Outreach Manager

The AmeriCorps*VISTA will be responsible for coordination and implementation of the Events & Outreach components as well as Educational Materials. In relation to Events and Outreach, the volunteer will create High Point Neighborhood Center tours and workshops. In terms of Educational Materials responsibilities, the VISTA will be in charge of training and working with volunteers, creating multi-lingual green video vignettes, developing the website, coordinating project evaluation and bidding on contractors.

Northwest Network

The Northwest Network increases our communities' ability to support the self-determination and safety of bisexual, transgendered, lesbian, and gay survivors of abuse through education, organizing and advocacy. We work within a broad liberation movement dedicated to social and economic justice, equality and respect for all people and the creation of loving, inclusive and accountable communities. We provide support and advocacy for LGBT folks of all genders who are surviving abuse.

Our services are free and confidential. They include support groups, individual counseling, legal advocacy, shelter referrals, safety planning, basic needs assistance, community education and community organizing. The NW Network provides unduplicated services to LGBT survivors of domestic violence, over 75% of whom are low-income people at risk for homelessness and poverty in addition to the physical and emotional danger of abuse.

Project Description

Community Outreach Coordinator

The VISTA worker will strengthen the NW Network's through the following three components.

- Playing a significant role in prevention and outreach event planning/implementation. Coordinate outreach and educational materials production/distribution.
- Coordinate the fundraising activities and fund development of the organization.
- Coordinate internal operation.

OneAmerica

Founded immediately after September 11, 2001 to address the backlash against immigrant communities of color, OneAmerica has emerged as a strong and credible voice on immigrant and refugee issues. Our mission is to advance the fundamental principles of democracy and justice at the local, state and national levels by building power within immigrant communities, in collaboration with key allies. Our integrated strategies build collective power across immigrant and allied communities, and engage these communities in the democratic process. We drive policy change at multiple levels, provide replicable models for grassroots advocacy in other regions, and lay the groundwork for a sustainable national movement to restore rights for all.

Project Description

Community Outreach Coordinator

The AmeriCorps*VISTA project will consist of the following three components: 1) increase community awareness about the importance of naturalization and increase access to naturalization services for immigrants; 2) point people to pathways for civic engagement and participation and foster strong linkages between OneAmerica and community based programs across the state that serve immigrants and refugees; 3) to gain greater media coverage on the benefits of naturalization to the immigrant communities that have the greatest need.

Orca K-8 Public School Garden & Environmental Program

Orca is an alternative, K-8 school located in the south Seattle neighborhood of Hillman City. We maintain a rich and diverse population of students, families, teachers, and community. We strive toward a foundation of tolerance, understanding, acceptance, and a connected worldview. Our primary focuses are social justice and environmental sustainability.

We have maintained an award-winning garden program for over 10 years, providing programs that range from seed germination, organic food gardening, vermiculture, composting, native plant propagation, and flood plain management, all delivered in a connected curriculum that extends from kindergarten to 6th grade. We want to build environmental literacy and empower youth of diverse backgrounds to advocate for equity and sustainability.

Project Description

Garden Education Manager

The VISTA member will assist Environmental Education and Garden teacher in delivering core curriculum to elementary school students, work in garden and coordinate with other local agencies to connect food, nutrition, and farming to topics of environmental justice and racial equity.

Activities and responsibilities include:

- Work with Lead teacher, parent liaisons and others to deliver core lessons to kids
- Align food garden production with Lettuce Link, P-Patch and other local agencies
- Work with kids to produce food starts and crops in new greenhouse for annual Plant Sale
- Align volunteers to maintain rich food garden, greenhouse and P-Patch plot
- In our garden, we all belong!

Penny Harvest

Penny Harvest (formerly Common Cents) has been engaging young people in addressing local community issues such as homelessness and poverty since 1991. Penny Harvest is dedicated to advancing social justice and equal opportunity by emboldening a generation of young people to become community activists and good citizens during their youth. The Penny Harvest begins in October when youth collect pennies and other coins from their neighbors, families, and fellow community members and bring them into their schools. Once the Penny Harvest is complete, coins are collected and taken to the bank. In the winter, students form Philanthropy Roundtables and decide how to allocate their funds. In addition, a youth leadership board convenes and decides how to allocate the funds to local community.

Last year, Penny Harvest engaged over 17,000 youth at 54 participating schools and raised over \$64,000! Youth Philanthropy roundtables made 90 community grants and planned 22 service projects all to address issues such as hunger, homelessness, children's healthcare, and animal welfare.

Project Description

Community Outreach Coordinator

The AmeriCorps*VISTA project will work on building and implementing a comprehensive and strategic community outreach plan to increase the capacity of the Penny Harvest program to engage young people in philanthropy and service learning in their respective communities. Solid Ground sees Penny Harvest as a critical tool in training young people to address issues of poverty and racism in their community through collecting coins, making grants and taking action on issues that they feel are important to creating positive social change in their community such as hunger, homelessness, children's healthcare and animal welfare. The capacity of individuals to organize and create change around issues that they are concerned about is necessary to ultimately end poverty. Penny Harvest starts building this capacity in young people ages four to eighteen!

The three major components of the AmeriCorps*VISTA project are: 1) Development of a comprehensive and strategic community outreach plan that will include community presentations, fundraising events, and partnership building 2) Developing of a contact database to effectively manage relationships with donors, partners, and volunteers and 3) Implementation and evaluation of our new Social Justice Philanthropy curriculum.

People's Institute Northwest

The mission of the People's Institute Northwest (PINW) is to engage communities in creating an anti-racist society where everyone has the opportunity to reach his/her full potential. PINW is a local organizing office of the New Orleans-based People's Institute for Survival and Beyond which was formed in 1980. PINW works for social justice through anti-racism training, leadership development and community organizing. We consider our constituency to be all people who are interested in and/or committed to anti-racism organizing efforts. Of the over 3,000 people in Western Washington who have attended Undoing Racism Workshops, approximately 60% have been white and 40% people of color representing a diversity of ethnicities. Attendees come primarily from the private and public social service sector, educational systems, faith community, criminal justice system, and grassroots organizations. We have provided extensive organizing support to include significant numbers of youth, elders, people who are homeless, incarcerated prisoners and others who have been marginalized by poverty.

Project Description

Community Organizer

Some of the specific duties of the VISTA organizer will include:

- Continued work on the comprehensive fundraising strategy for PINW and CURE (Coalition for Undoing Racism Everywhere) that will include a particular focus on providing economic opportunities for organizers who have criminal justice history
- Direct work with agencies and organizations within CURE to support various actions, strategies and improve communication as they relate to work across institutions with a focus on the education and criminal justice systems
- Support leadership development within CURE
- Respond to community organizing efforts as priorities change and movement grows
- The VISTA position will continue to work with teams of people to promote a cross sharing of expertise and knowledge. The VISTA volunteer will support the learning process and help us to document and understand both our successes and our challenges.

Real Change News

Real Change is an activist community newspaper that exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty. Since our founding in 1994, we have grown from a small monthly newspaper with a limited organizing base and a handful of vendors into an award-winning weekly publication that engages thousands of supporters on vital local issues and offers employment to almost 300 people monthly. We are a recognized and respected part of Seattle's progressive community.

The organization has many faces. We publish a professional quality newspaper, with weekly circulation topping 12,000 copies. We provide low-threshold, flexible, immediate employment to over 270 homeless and very low-income people every month. The Real Change Organizing Project facilitates meaningful, grassroots organizing in a genuinely cross-class environment. Real Change puts money directly into the pockets of people experiencing homelessness, and builds community between the haves and the have-nots.

Project Description

Vendor Services Coordinator (Position 1)

The AmeriCorps VISTA member will join a team of vendor services staff working with over 270 homeless and low-income men and women who support themselves through the sale of Real Change News. Duties may include welcoming vendors at the front desk, training new vendors, assisting them in finding new places to sell or in improving their sales technique, and providing support to vendors having difficulty accessing housing, food, or other services. The AmeriCorps member would be expected to interact with a diverse group of vendors in a respectful and professional way and work actively to meet their needs.

Media Services Coordinator (Position 2)

The AmeriCorps VISTA member will create and manage special media projects. The special media projects include: increasing media representation of low-income people and vendors, maintain general media representation of the organization, and coordinate with the Real Change editorial team around production of media pieces. The AmeriCorps member would be expected to interact with a diverse group of vendors and community members in a respectful way to work actively to meet their needs.

Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority

Since 1975, the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) has led the effort “to preserve, promote, and develop the Seattle Chinatown International District as a vibrant community and unique ethnic neighborhood”. Our goal is to ensure community members of all income levels, ages, and ethnicities can live and thrive in our neighborhood. Neighborhood wide, 56.7% of community residents, including 63% of neighborhood children, continue to live below the poverty level. One in every three residents is over the age of 60 and 75% are Asian with limited English-speaking skills, living on less than \$6,000 a year. It is anticipated that with the development of two affordable family housing complexes in the last decade, statistics in this census tract will change dramatically for 2010, including a stunning increase in the numbers of children, as well as the numbers of East and North African refugee and immigrant families.

SCIDpda’s four program areas, which have been recognized locally and nationally for their innovation, are:

- **Property management** of affordable housing (serving over 700 residents) and commercial/retail space (totaling over 200,000 square feet).
- **Culturally-responsive senior services**, including Legacy House (offering adult day programs, and assisted-living) and our Senior Meal Program (providing seniors with access to hot, healthy meals and nutrition/health services).
- **Community development**, including the construction of International District Village Square (a facility that encompasses family housing, Legacy House assisted care facility, a childcare center, a community based health clinic, a library, community center and small businesses).
- **Neighborhood involvement**, focusing on empowering local residents and business owners to become involved in ongoing community improvement projects.

Project Description

Community Outreach Coordinator

Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority recently made a conscious decision to invest more of its resources into community organizing efforts through the creation of its newest program – the ID 2030 Design & Resource Center. The AmeriCorps*VISTA will work with the new ‘Design Center’ as a platform for catalyzing community action and dialogue, a resource for learning about community development and a technical assistance provider for those seeking to make physical improvements to the International District neighborhood.

- Outreach to and recruit community members for existing and new parks/open space project committees;
- Provide adequate support and training to community members for project and leadership development;
- Develop and document an implementation plan for action for future parks/open space

Solid Ground Seattle Community Farm Project

Solid Ground (*formerly the Fremont Public Association*) is one of the largest, most innovative human service agencies in the Seattle region. Created over 30 years ago, Solid Ground is dedicated to: ♦ developing and providing creative, and effective responses to our community's needs; ♦ offering quality human services in a manner that promotes dignity; and ♦ advocating for policies and initiatives that give all people equal opportunities and resources. Each year, Solid Ground provides shelter, food, counseling and other basic services to over 25,000 people in need in Seattle and King County.

The Seattle Community Farm Project will convert currently fallow land into a vibrant productive urban farm that generates healthy food for local food banks while creating market garden opportunities for immigrant and low-income people in the Rainier Valley. The farm plays a vital role in creating an important resource to address hunger and poverty at a time of substantially increased hunger and unemployment. In this regard, the Seattle Community Farm is directly aligned with Solid Ground's mission to develop innovative solutions to address compelling community needs.

Project Description

Seattle Community Farm Coordinator

The VISTA member assigned to this project will provide a variety of critical task including:

- Coordinating on-site efforts to develop the farm site
- Coordinate efforts to recruit community volunteers
- Secure in-kind contributions for critical farm operations
- Assist in coordinating on-site volunteer activities
- Coordinate community outreach including garden retrofits and other garden education efforts among low-income residents
- Assist in developing a community seed bank which produces and distributes organic seeds to local low-income residents

Sound Child Care Solutions, A Consortium of Child Care Centers

Sound Child Care Solutions offers an innovative way to strengthen child care centers. You can help make low income children's early education more stable, nurturing and focused on learning.

We are an exciting new non-profit offering an innovative approach to the management of child care. Sound Child Care Solutions (SCCS) helps child care centers join together, sharing administrative functions to streamline and strengthen business practice, while retaining their community and family identity. Small, community-based centers, accessible for families, are usually unable to gain the advantages of economies of scale. By uniting across centers and combining cutting edge tools to support early learning and small business, we free resources to improve teacher practice and serve more low-income children better. Our mission is to prepare children for school and life by deeply integrating child-centered, high quality, anti-racist, early childhood education with excellent business practice. At SCCS, centers gain:

- Economic strength from being a part of a larger organization;
- Financial discounts from bulk buying.
- Higher quality early childhood education with a more stable structure, and a deep commitment to culturally relevant anti-bias practice
- Technology tools to individualize teaching.

Centers serving low-income children need to be included in this great model!

Project Description

Childcare Center Coordinator

The VISTA will work closely with two entrepreneurial early childhood leaders as they implement a new approach to child care management. While SCCS has had interest from centers serving low-income children, it's a big decision to join us and center directors can't carve out the time for the financial and organizational analysis necessary to knowing if it makes sense to join. The AmeriCorps*VISTA Member, with support, will work with centers to:

- coordinate a team assessment of the center by center & SCCS staff and the VISTA Member, develop a capacity building plan outlining tasks to complete, people to complete the tasks (including the VISTA Member, SCCS staff, center staff and outside resource people)
- carry out the plan, strengthening their capacity generally and enabling them to make the decision to join SCCS or not.

The VISTA Member will also ensure that tools developed to help each center can be used by other centers and will conduct research on other resources supporting child care center management.

The Service Board

The Service Board provides Seattle area high school-age youth with life-changing experiences that build self-knowledge, skills, courage, and determination. TSB creates a supportive, caring intergenerational culture that gives young people a safe environment to discover themselves in the midst of teenage chaos. TSB uses mentors to establish deep connections between young people and responsible adults.

TSB serves teens aged 14 to 18 from a broad range of academic, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds primarily from South and Southwest Seattle. Many of the students are youth of color and/or qualify for free or reduced lunch. The Service Board works with 60 new youth every year, along with approximately 500+ program alumni. TSB helps these frequently marginalized students to realize their own self-worth and creativity, turning them into a force for constructive change in their schools, communities, and families. Program participants meet twice weekly from January through June, with weekend activities rotating between intensive service-learning projects and intensive snowboarding. Weeknight curriculum addresses five core competencies: self-knowledge, ethic of service, the arts, job-readiness, and civic leadership. TSB's unique programming curriculum covers topics from racism and social justice to resume writing and women in hip hop. Weeknight sessions develop critical thinking, listening, sharing, and problem solving skills while engaging our youth in subjects relevant to their experience. Our broad curriculum themes give students an opportunity to discover their unique passions and strengths.

Project Description

Program, Fund and Volunteer Coordinator

The AmerCorps*VISTA project will consist of the following three major components:

Volunteer Coordination - tSB can only exist because of volunteers. Each year we recruit 24 adult mentors, snowboard instructors, cooks, bloggers, Board Members and tutors. This position will be responsible for developing a volunteer management system and coordinating with the folks who help us run.

Program Support - The Member will make sure that all youth have the correct paperwork, the mountains know when we're coming, and track evaluations as youth fill them out. We invite our Member to participate in tSB program nights and service projects (4-6 hours a week) as well as snowboarding trips, as they will be the person who makes sure it all happens.

Fundraising - The position will work directly with the Executive Director and the Board to implement our communications and fundraising plan. They will coordinate with snowboarding companies like Ride and Burton to make sure we have enough gear, and research grants to support our operations.

The United Way of King County

United Way of King County mobilizes our community in ways that no single agency, individual, or government can to enhance the ability of people to care for one another. We do this by:

- Bringing the community together to address critical issues such as early learning and homelessness.
- Investing in programs that provide the education, jobs, shelter, food and health people need to be successful.
- Encouraging people to contribute money and time to improve the community.

Project Description

Individual Development Account (IDA) Coordinator (Position 1)

The VISTA will provide oversight and development of the Individual Development Account (IDA) program.

- Successful Transition of IDA Program to Community Based Organization
 - Administration of the 152 existing IDA accounts. Administration includes reporting, accounting/matched withdrawals, technical assistance and training to case managers, database management, maintaining partnerships with financial institutions, working with lenders and vendors on asset purchases, evaluation of the program.
 - Asset Purchases by 30 current participants.
 - Implementation of new IDA Program Model and enrollment of 100 new participants.

Basic Needs Outreach Coordinator (Position 2)

Many people are struggling with the nation's economic downturn, but it's especially hard on vulnerable people in King County – such as low-income families, elderly people and those with disabilities. The AmeriCorps*VISTA will develop new strategies for meeting the basic needs that are emerging.

- Develop funding and public policies strategies that help end homelessness in our community.
- Raise public awareness about homelessness and mobilize community to help end it.
- Increase access to and utilization of Basic Food Benefits.
- Expansion of United Way's Free Tax Preparation Campaign.
- Expansion of Community Resource Exchange Program – one stop access to services for people experiencing homelessness.

Vietnamese Friendship Association

The Vietnamese Friendship Association (VFA) was formed in 1978 to respond to short-term resettlement needs facing Vietnamese refugees in Seattle. We achieved this mission by providing information and referral, housing, ESL classes, job placement, interpretation and translation service, and access to programs for low-income families. There are almost 30,000 Vietnamese living in King County and around 16.5% live below poverty. Since 2004, VFA has focused primarily on ensuring Vietnamese school-age children and youth receive quality education to succeed in life. Meanwhile the organization continues to develop its capacity, with the long-term goal of providing diverse services to the Vietnamese community, especially targeting at risk children and low-income families. In addition to providing direct services, we also have the mission of raising awareness among donors, policy makers, and mainstream society about the needs and values of the Vietnamese community.

The AmeriCorps*VISTAs will focus on the after-school program, Educational Assistance for Student Empowerment (EASE), which is attended by 34 to 45 students daily from Monday to Thursday. The program, started in 2006, is one of VFA's most successful programs. Students between ages 7 and 19 attend the program to receive academic assistance from tutors. With the encouragement of various VFA partners, students also have the opportunity to enrich their environmental, cultural, health and leadership competencies, thus building interpersonal relationships with their peers and community. Despite its success, there are still many areas to develop.

Project Description

Program Evaluation Coordinator (Position 1)

The AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer will create a method to evaluate the after-school program, (EASE). Program evaluation includes creating a model for assessing the overall effectiveness of the program and recommending methods to make improvements. In the program assessment position, the VISTA will also work collaboratively as a teacher liaison. The volunteer will develop and implement new systems and tools that will be founded on a deep knowledge of the program.

The Service Learning Coordinator (Position 2)

The AmeriCorps*VISTA will coordinate volunteers as well as service learning opportunities. Volunteers support and enrich the EASE program. The Vietnamese Friendship Association would like to offer further support to volunteers and persons in service learning opportunities. The VISTA will transform the use of service learners and volunteers into a program of leadership development and social justice.

YMCA Young Adult Services

YMCA Young Adult Services is a partnership between United Way of King County, Treehouse for Kids, and the YMCA Independent Living Program, serving 5-25 year olds in King county with a focus on youth who are in or have aged out of foster care or experienced homelessness. This program aims to provide Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) for youth ages 15-20 who are currently in DSHS foster care or who recently left DSHS foster care. With an IDA account youth savings are matched 2 to 1 and used to make purchases of housing, transportation, healthcare, education, and/or computer.

Project Description

Individual Development Account (IDA) Programmer

The VISTA will provide oversight and development of the Individual Development Account (IDA) program. This includes case managing participants, teaching and/or coordinating financial literacy and asset specific trainings, development of IDA MySpace/Facebook page, development of IDA newsletter. Conduct outreach and intake into the YMCA Independent Living Program (ILP).

YWCA of Seattle, King and Snohomish County: Social Justice Initiatives

The YWCA serves more than 40,000 women and families in King and Snohomish counties each year with these critical services: Ending Homelessness, Creating Self-Sufficiency, Caring for Youth and Providing Safe Havens. The YWCA Social Justice Initiative was designed to help the YWCA eliminate racial disproportionality, with a focus on the intersectionality of gender and class, in all of services which include Domestic Violence, homelessness, housing, employment, mental health, and women's health.

Project Description

Community Organizer

The AmeriCorps*VISTA will be supporting the YWCA social justice initiative. The project will entail organizing in the communities being served as well as creating a client/community member's assessment tool to further community engagement. The vision of the position is to create more input into the nature and delivery of the YWCA services.