

# U F F - D A !

*Useful Facts and Figures - Data for Affiliates!*

April 2009

## VISTA Program

*The Habitat for Humanity Minnesota VISTA program recently completed the selection process for VISTA Host Affiliates for the 2009 - 2010 program year. Congratulations to the affiliates selected to host VISTAs starting in August 2009!*

We are currently seeking applicants for these VISTA positions (chart 1). Please help us spread the word about these exciting and rewarding year-long service opportunities. Interested applicants can learn more by visiting the Habitat Minnesota website:

<http://www.hfhmn.org/HFHMN/jobs.html>.

Each VISTA member has a workplan that outlines goals, objectives and tasks designed to increase the organizational capacity of the affiliate. For the 2009-2010 program year the most common workplan themes are Volunteer Coordination and Church Relations followed closely by Public Relations/Marketing and ReStores. Chart 2 lays out the VISTA workplan focus areas for the past three years.

**Chart 1. VISTA Placements 2009 - 2010**

Affiliate Name	VISTA Workplan Focus
1. Central Minnesota	Marketing
2. Central Minnesota	Volunteer Services
3. Freeborn/Mower	Church Relations
4. Habitat Minnesota	VISTA Leader
5. Itasca Co.	ReStore
6. LaCrosse Area	Volunteer Coordination
7. Lakes Area	Public Relations/Marketing
8. Lakes Area	Statewide ReStore Coordination
9. North St. Louis County	Church Relations
10. Northwoods	Church Relations & Campus Chapter
11. Rice County	Volunteer Coordination
12. Rochester Area	Church Relations
13. South Central	ReStore
14. Steele Waseca Area	Volunteer Coordination
15. Twin Cities	Marketing
16. Winona County	A Brush with Kindness
17. Winona County	Rushford Flood Recovery

**Chart 2. VISTA Workplan Focus by Program Year**

Workplan Focus	Number of Positions 09-10	Number of Positions 08-09	Number of Positions 07-08
Church Relations	4	3	7
Volunteer Coordination	4	4	2
Public Relations	3	1	0
ReStore	3	3	4
Fund Development	0	3	1
Other	3 (A Brush with Kindness, Flood Recovery, and VISTA Leader)	3 (Green Building, Flood Recovery & VISTA Leader)	3 (Construction, Flood Recovery & VISTA Leader)

## Summer Builds! Program – Build Green with Habitat

*Habitat Minnesota is excited to announce that we will be offering a Summer Builds! VISTA pilot program starting in June 2009.*

The **Summer Builds!** program was an unexpected opportunity that Habitat Minnesota need to act on quickly and implement using existing staff, therefore it was necessary to identify a limited number of affiliates to place 10 - 12 full-time Summer Associates with 5 affiliates including Itasca Co., Lakes Area, North Saint Louis County, Rochester and Winona. Summer Associates will do direct service construction

activities on Habitat build sites. Our hope is that the Summer Builds! pilot program will serve as a springboard to eventually offer a year-long AmeriCorps program.

Summer Associates will work on Habitat affiliate construction sites assisting with daily construction activities, leading volunteer groups and ensuring materials are on-site. The Summer Builds! program will also have a green building training component. Summer Associates will receive instruction in the use of performance testing equipment used to document energy efficient construction techniques and practice in how to educate families on the proper use and care of their green homes. If you know anyone interested in serving as a Summer Associate encourage them to email Habitat Minnesota VISTA Leader, Jane Knealing at [jane@hfhmn.org](mailto:jane@hfhmn.org).

## VISTA Project Highlights

*Habitat Minnesota currently has fifteen year-long VISTA members serving with affiliates around the state. Below are two examples of VISTA projects with some exciting outcomes.*

### Volunteer Recognition

Jessica Bullinger, VISTA member with Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity in Moorhead (Shirley Dykshoorn, Supervisor) helped organize the affiliate's 4th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. In the months leading up to the event Jessica identified a venue, solicited food donations and recruited volunteers to help at the event. A total of 160 people attended and enjoyed food donated from 9 different restaurants. The total estimated value of the food donations was over \$2,300. One board member congratulated Jessica on the success of the event, stating it was the best Appreciation Dinner he had ever attended!



### Fundraising & Resource Development

Eric David, a VISTA member with Winona County Habitat for Humanity (Nancy Iglesias, Supervisor) is coordinating efforts to build the first Habitat for Humanity home in the flood devastated community of Rushford, MN. Eric is working with a steering committee of more than ten committed volunteers in who are helping to raise money, select a partner family and promote community awareness of Habitat's new presence in Rushford. Eric is also securing funds and in-kind donations for the Rushford Habitat home. A successful playhouse raffle raised \$8,300. In addition, commitments have been secured for in-kind donations of concrete, electrical work, HVAC and painting labor valued at more than \$20,000.



Eric is currently coordinating an auction fundraiser for the Rushford Habitat home. They are accepting bids online for more than 50 donated items including a custom made playhouse, an Apple Cidering Adventure & Dinner at Sun Prairie Farm, and Fly Fishing lessons for two! The goal of the auction is to raise \$5,000 and also to sign up volunteers to help with construction of the home. As another fundraising boost, the Habitat home in Rushford was selected to be the 2009 Habitat 500 sponsored *bike.home*. The Habitat 500 Bike Ride will be visiting Rushford July 13th to 15th and is expected to raise approximately \$30,000 for the Rushford Habitat home.

## Save the date! Upcoming Mini-Conference

### Bridges Out of Poverty, April 24

Based on Dr. Ruby Payne's *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, this training provides a basic structure for understanding generational and situational poverty as well as the hidden social norms that govern behavior and decision-making. **The registration deadline is April 14.** For more information, please visit: [www.hfhmn.org/hfhmn/training.html](http://www.hfhmn.org/hfhmn/training.html)

## What's in store for the May UFF-DA! Report?

In the May edition of the UFF-DA! Report, learn about the variety of second mortgage terms and shared equity arrangements amongst Minnesota affiliates. How does your affiliate compare and how do second mortgage terms affect long-term affordability and affiliate sustainability?

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