

# UFF - DA !

*Useful Facts and Figures - Data for Affiliates!*

April 2011

## AmeriCorps\* VISTA Update

*The Habitat for Humanity Minnesota VISTA program recently completed the selection process for VISTA Host Affiliates for the 2011-2012 year-long VISTA program and the 2011 Summer VISTA program. Congratulations to the affiliates selected to host VISTAs!*

Each VISTA member has a workplan that outlines goals, objectives and tasks designed to increase the organizational capacity of the affiliate. For the 2011-2012 program year, the most common workplan themes are A Brush with Kindness and Communications/Public Relations.

A recent survey of affiliates indicated their greatest areas of need for support and technical assistance from Habitat Minnesota are in resource development (fundraising) and family support/family selection. Affiliates have also expressed interest in starting A Brush with Kindness programs and ReStores. The VISTA placements for 2011-2012 reflect these trends in affiliate needs as affiliates requested VISTAs to do capacity building projects in these focus areas.



## Year-long VISTA Placements August 2011- August 2012

Affiliate Name	VISTA Workplan Focus
1. Central Minnesota	Family Services
2. Central Minnesota	Resource Development
3. Freeborn Mower	A Brush with Kindness
4. Goodhue County	A Brush with Kindness & ReStore
5. La Crosse Area	Volunteer Program Development
6. Lake Agassiz	Community Outreach
7. Lake Agassiz	ReStore
8. Lakes Area	Communications & Social Media
9. North St. Louis Co.	Volunteer Program Development
10. Northwoods	A Brush with Kindness
11. Twin Cities	Communications & Social Media
12. Twin Cities	Family Services
13. West Central MN	ReStore
14. Winona-Fillmore Co.	Community Development
15. Habitat Minnesota	Communications
16. Habitat Minnesota	Program Evaluation
17. Habitat Minnesota	VISTA Leader

## Now Recruiting VISTAs

### You Can Help!

We are currently seeking applicants for year-long and Summer VISTA positions. If you know anyone interested in an opportunity to serve as a VISTA with Habitat encourage them to contact Kristi Kehrwald, Habitat Minnesota VISTA Leader [Kristi@hfhm.org](mailto:Kristi@hfhm.org) or call (612) 331.4439 ext. 5. *The application deadline is May 6th!*

*The VISTA Program is a great way for people to gain professional experience while helping out their community. As a college graduate, finding work was difficult because I lacked experience...my year as a VISTA will help me find a job. – Sarah, VISTA 2009-2010*

## Workplan Focus by Program Year

Workplan Focus	# of Positions 2011-2012	# of Positions 2010-2011	# of Positions 2009-2010	# of Positions 2008-2009
A Brush with Kindness	3	0	0	0
Faith Relations	0	2	4	3
Community Dev.	1	2	1	1
Family Services	2	1	0	0
Resource Development	1	0	0	3
Communications / PR	3	3	3	1
ReStore	2	2	3	3
Volunteer Program Dev.	2	4	4	4
Other	3 (Community Outreach, Program Evaluation & VISTA Leader)	3 (Capacity Building, Program Evaluation & VISTA Leader)	2 (A Brush with Kindness & VISTA Leader)	2 (Green Building, & VISTA Leader)
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>

**Summer VISTA Placements  
June 3, 2011 – July 29, 2011**

Host Site	Types of Positions	# of Summer VISTAs
Goodhue County	Construction	1
Lake Agassiz	Construction	2
North Saint Louis Co.	Construction	2
Northwoods	Construction	2
Rice County	Construction	2
Rochester Area	Construction	1
Twin Cities	Construction	2
Winona County	Construction	2
Habitat Minnesota	Habitat 500	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

**Summer Associate VISTAs**

Habitat Minnesota is thrilled to offer the Summer Associate VISTA program again in 2011. This will be the third year of the program. Due to a decrease in the federal funds available to support the program this year, the number of placements was reduced. At the same time affiliate interest in the program grew making this the most competitive year yet for affiliates requesting Summer VISTA placements. For 2011, 15 members will be placed down from 20 members in 2010. The Summer VISTAs will serve full-time for 8 weeks.

Summer VISTAs will work on Habitat affiliate construction sites assisting with daily construction activities, leading volunteer groups and ensuring materials are on-site. One Summer VISTA will be placed at Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota to assist with public relations and volunteer coordination for the Habitat 500 Bike Ride.

Thanks to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) for making the resources available to offer this valuable program.

*I enjoyed every minute of working along side the volunteers and the construction manager. I learned a lot about building houses and community. I have a new found appreciation for HFH and what they do for the community.”*

– Geoff, Summer VISTA 2009 & 2010

**VISTA Project Highlights**

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



**Family Support – Community Resource Guide**

Bridget Dinter, the Family Services VISTA at Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity (CMHFH) in St. Cloud, created a 25 page guide to St. Cloud Area social services. It provides information about emergency housing resources, help-lines, health services, financial counseling, legal services, emergency childcare, food, clothing, health services as well as resources for seniors and people with disabilities. Each resource is listed with an address, phone number, website and a short description of the services provided, along with information about qualification and participation requirements. The guide was provided to all Family Mentor volunteers and is utilized by the staff at CMHFH in other program areas. It is the “go to resource” around the office when connecting community members to additional programs. The creation of this guide gave Bridget the opportunity to meet and build greater partnership with many of the social service agencies in the area, including the Tri-County Action Program and the staff at the African Development Center.



**ReStore – “Home is the Where the Art Is” Event**

Hailey Adkisson, VISTA serving with Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity in the Fargo/Moorhead area, helped plan and coordinate a ReStore Art Auction event which attracted over 250 people and raised \$8,000 in donations and sponsorships. To attract new customers and publicity to the ReStore on the limited budget of a small non-profit, the ReStore Public Relations committee had to get creative. With the vibrant arts community of Fargo/Moorhead in mind, the committee decided to host an auction of art created from reusable materials sold at the ReStore. They invited local artists to select items from the store and create a piece that used those elements. They incorporated the art into a night of music, refreshments, and awareness-raising for the Habitat mission. With construction for five new homes planned for this summer and the 20th anniversary of the Habitat affiliate approaching, the outreach and financial support the Restore provides for Lake Agassiz Habitat is more important than ever.

*The VISTA program is a great opportunity for anyone who is looking to gain experience, strengthen their resume and make a difference in their community.*