



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
*Office of the Commissioner*

Margaret Ross Schultze  
COMMISSIONER

December 16, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe  
Governor of Virginia

Members, Virginia General Assembly

**FROM:** Margaret Ross Schultze

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Ross Schultze", written over the printed name.

**SUBJECT:** Report on the Work of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service & Volunteerism

I am pleased to submit the attached annual report on the work and activity of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism, pursuant to § 2.2-2481 (5) of the Code of Virginia. Please contact me should you have any questions.

MRS:kc

Attachment

A Report of the  
Department of Social Services  
Commonwealth of Virginia

**Governor's Advisory Board on Service  
and Volunteerism  
2015-2016**

December 2016

**Annual Report to the Virginia General Assembly on the Work of the  
Governor’s Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism**

**July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

**Table of Contents**

Executive Summary .....	i
Report Mandate .....	1
Background .....	1
Activities and Outcomes during 2015/16.....	2
Conclusion .....	9
Appendix.....	A-1

**Annual Report on the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism  
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

**Executive Summary**

Article 25 (§ 2.2-2478 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 charges the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism (Board) with advising on matters related to promotion and development of national service in the Commonwealth and meeting the provisions of the federal National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Board was established in compliance with the provisions of the National and Communities Trust Act of 1993, under which Virginia receives AmeriCorps State grant funds. Section 2.2-2481 (5) requires an annual report on Board activity. This report documents the efforts and results achieved through the collaborative efforts of Board and Department of Social Services (DSS) for the period of July 2015 – June 2016.

The power and duties of the Board as established in § 2.2-2481 include:

1. Advise the Governor, the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Natural Resources, the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, the State Board of Social Services, and other appropriate officials on national and community service programs in Virginia in order to (i) fulfill the responsibilities and duties prescribed by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and (ii) develop, implement, and evaluate the Virginia State Service Plan.
2. Promote use of AmeriCorps programs to meet Virginia's most pressing human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs.
3. Collaborate with DSS and other public and private entities to recognize and call attention to the significant community service contributions of Virginia citizens and organizations.
4. Assist DSS to promote the involvement of faith-based organizations in community and national service efforts.
5. Submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly of the activity and work of the Board no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly.

Major activities and outcomes achieved during this report period include:

- More than 5,700 people of all ages and backgrounds helped to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in Virginia. Serving at more than 660 locations, these citizens tutored and mentored children, supported veterans and military families, provided health services, restored the environment, responded to disasters, increased economic opportunity, and recruited and managed volunteers.
- The CNCS provided more than \$12,760,000 to support Virginia communities through national service initiatives. Through this public-private partnership, this federal investment leveraged an additional \$6,980,000 in other resources to strengthen

community impact. These initiatives were carried out by national service members and volunteers participating in AmeriCorps, VISTA, the Foster Grandparent Program, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Senior Companions.

- New collaborations with the Governor’s Office and public and private colleges and universities resulted in a Virginia College Compact that will promote a service year among 18-24 year olds. The Board helped sponsor two Governor’s summits at the College of William & Mary and James Madison University which brought together college presidents to explore ways to promote the Service Year within their institutions.
- In recognition of the unique and transferable skills that participants develop during national service, Virginia became the first state in the nation to be recognized as an “Employer of National Service.” This initiative builds a talent pipeline to connect AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni with leading employers from private, public, and nonprofit sectors to create recruitment, hiring, and advancement opportunities as well as creating easier access by hiring managers to highly skilled and committed national service alumni.
- The annual Virginia Conference on Service and Volunteerism hosted nearly 540 community service leaders and national service members from across the Commonwealth September 30 - October 1, 2015 in Roanoke. Two full days of training workshops were provided including a demonstration of Microsoft’s Global Initiative. Attendees also participated in service projects throughout the Roanoke Valley.
- In partnership with Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League, the Commonwealth celebrated the 4th Annual Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service, where 36 local community officials recognized the thousands of individuals who work to solve pressing human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs.
- There was increased presence of the National Civilian Community Corps in Virginia. These teams of trained AmeriCorps members assisted in Virginia with projects such as: the Richmond Bike race, disaster cleanup, and trails for persons with disabilities. Altogether, 15 NCCC teams spent time in Virginia in 2015, compared with 6 in 2014.
- The Governor and First Lady received the National 2016 State Leadership Award from Voices for National Service in recognition of their leadership roles in promoting national service.
- Veteran pinning ceremonies were held in several communities to recognize those veterans that devoted themselves to both military and national service.
- Working with the faith initiative Day to Serve, more than 600 service projects were completed including a 30,000 pounds donation of food to Feeding America Southwest Virginia.

- Norfolk was one of ten cities national selected as a new pilot site for Resilience AmeriCorps. As a partnership with CNCS, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Rockefeller Foundation, the pilot program will recruit, train, and embed AmeriCorps VISTA members to help develop plans for building resilience in vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change.
- With the help of the Board, Governor McAuliffe selected and recognized the impact of volunteerism in Virginia and formally announced the recipients of the 2016 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Winners provided significant contributions in far reaching areas including improving the environment, helping homeless youth, providing free cancer care, increasing voter registration among young adults, and offering free physician services at a free clinic. These award winners represented but a few of the many volunteers in Virginia. According to the annual survey research conducted by the CNCS for Virginia for 2014 (most current available): 2+ million Virginians volunteered; 30.1% of Virginians volunteer; volunteered 311+ million hours; and \$7.8 billion in economic impact. Virginia ranks in top half in U.S. for volunteerism

The accomplishments and activities of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism helped the citizens of the Commonwealth improve the lives of their fellow Virginians through service. Working hand in hand with local partners, the Board tapped the ingenuity and can-do spirit of Virginians to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing the Commonwealth.

## **Annual Report on the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism 2015-16**

### **Report Mandate**

Article 25 (§ 2.2-2478 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 charges the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism (Board) with advising on matters related to promotion and development of national service in the Commonwealth and meeting the provisions of the federal National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Section 2.2-2481 (5) requires submission of an annual report on Board activity and work no later than the first day of each regular General Assembly session.

### **Background**

The Code of Virginia charges the Board with advising on matters related to promotion and development of national service in the Commonwealth and meeting the provisions of the federal National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Board was established in compliance with the provisions of the National and Communities Trust Act of 1993, under which Virginia receives AmeriCorps state grant funds. The Appendix includes a roster of Board members for the report period.

Powers and duties of the Board, as established in § 2.2-2481, include:

1. Advise the Governor, the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Natural Resources, the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, the State Board of Social Services, and other appropriate officials on national and community service programs in Virginia in order to (i) fulfill the responsibilities and duties prescribed by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and (ii) develop, implement, and evaluate the Virginia State Service Plan, which outlines strategies for supporting and expanding national and community service throughout the Commonwealth.
2. Promote the use of AmeriCorps programs to meet Virginia's most pressing human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs.
3. Collaborate with DSS and other public and private entities to recognize and call attention to the significant community service contributions of Virginia citizens and organizations.
4. Assist DSS to promote the involvement of faith-based organizations in community and national service efforts.
5. Submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly interim activity and work of the Board no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly.

Section 2.2-2482 designates the Department of Social Services (DSS) as staff to the Board. The Board is strategically placed within DSS' Division of Community and Volunteer Services. This organizational placement allows staff to integrate service and volunteerism priorities with ongoing statewide programs and projects.

## **Activities and Outcomes during 2015/16**

The following details the activities and outcomes for each of the Board mandates.

**Mandate 1: Advise the Governor, the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Natural Resources, the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, the State Board of Social Services, and other appropriate officials on national and community service programs in Virginia in order to (i) fulfill the responsibilities and duties prescribed by the federal CNCS and (ii) develop, implement, and evaluate the Virginia State Service Plan, which outlines strategies for supporting and expanding national and community service throughout the Commonwealth.**

- Members of the Board play a significant role in assuring that the Commonwealth meets the responsibilities and duties of the CNCS. The twenty-member Board met five times during the fiscal year and received regular reports on subgrantee progress and new initiatives. Members of the Board participated on grant-review panels which reviewed, scored and recommended programs and funding levels for AmeriCorps competitive proposals and formula proposals. The full Board received and concurred with funding recommendations totaling approximately \$4 million annually.
- The Board engaged with DSS in strategic planning and set new strategic directions for the coming fiscal year, particularly related to AmeriCorps funding strategies. The new strategies call for investing in larger, stronger programs, which can then move more successfully from the state competition to national funding competition. The overall goal is to bring more CNCS funding into Virginia over the next few years.
- Board members provided additional assistance in meeting CNCS requirements by participating in required AmeriCorps Days of Service in communities across the state. AmeriCorps programs recognize and support 9/11, Veterans Day, MLK Day and Mayor & County Recognition Day for National Service. Individual Board members participated in volunteer service projects, attended ceremonies, delivered speeches, and fostered media attention in support of these special days.
- As AmeriCorps members start their formal year of service, a launch ceremony is held. This year, during the 2015 Virginia Conference on Service and Volunteerism, a special launch ceremony was incorporated for more than 200 AmeriCorps members. The launch and swearing-in ceremony were special because the National AmeriCorps Director, Bill Basl, attended and led the members in the AmeriCorps Pledge. *“I will get things done for America - to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.”*



**Mandate 2: Promote the use of AmeriCorps programs to meet Virginia's most pressing human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs.**

- The Board led efforts to increase the use of other CNCS national service programs including the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and FEMA Corps. These programs resulted in an additional 2015 investment in Virginia of \$1,532,800. Projects included support of the UCI Cycling Races in Richmond and support in Hampton for the Governor's 100 day initiative to end Veteran Homelessness. The City of Norton utilized a team to improve the area's ecotourism efforts, primarily developing both walking/hiking and ATV trails.
- When the devastating tornadoes swept through Appomattox County, hundreds of volunteers immediately appeared to support the affected families. Among the volunteers, 16 ready-to-serve AmeriCorps members were deployed to assist with debris removal and cleanup. Virginia State Parks' Virginia Service and Conservation Corps AmeriCorps program worked alongside volunteers from the community and faith-based groups to lend a helping hand to this hard hit area where a reported 41 homes were destroyed and 141 homes damaged. Conservation Corps AmeriCorps program members serve at parks throughout Virginia to work on projects like trail building, volunteer recruitment, and interpretive programming. Their outdoor project skills and specialized training make them ideal to serve during times of disaster. One member commented about how they were honored to be able to help the Appomattox community saying, *"I'm glad to be a part of such a hard-working and dedicated crew. Thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families and there is plenty more work to be done."*
- Congress appropriated additional funds for FY17 to the CNCS to be allocated to AmeriCorps State Commissions, to be used to provide additional training and technical assistance to AmeriCorps and other national service program grantees. In Virginia, these funds will be used to help AmeriCorps programs improve their skills in outcome and performance measurement as well as efforts to build capacity in Petersburg so that a nonprofit agency can successfully apply for AmeriCorps funding.
- In the AmeriCorps and VISTA model, members serve a full year with no salary and only a small living allowance provided (~\$12,000). This model of providing a year of service to one's country has grown into a national call to action for every young person to have the opportunity to give a year of full-time national service – a service year. Supporters envision this as a cultural expectation, a common opportunity, and a civic rite of passage for every young American. On October 4 - 5, 2015, with sponsorship from DSS and the Board, and with leadership from First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe, Virginia college and university presidents convened at the College of William and Mary for the first Governor's Higher Education Presidents' Summit on Service. At this summit, the Commonwealth's leaders in education discussed the future of national service and explored the important role that higher education plays in creating opportunities for our students and graduates. The event included

First Lady McAuliffe, Secretary of Education Anne Holton, Wendy Spencer, CNCS CEO and John Bridgeland, CEO of Civic Enterprises and Co-Chair of the Franklin Project.

Following the successful summit at the College of William and Mary, college and university leaders convened in February 2016 for a second summit at James Madison University (JMU). As a result of those gatherings, on May 25, 2016, college, university and community college leaders gathered at the Executive Mansion to celebrate the collective signing of a College Compact, in which the colleges commit to supporting, in various ways, expansion of opportunities for young people to participate in a year of service. Guests enjoyed remarks from First Lady McAuliffe, Secretary of Health and Human Resources William A. Hazel, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John Harvey, and the presidents of JMU, Averett University and Lord Fairfax Community College.

- Building on the President’s Climate Action Plan, the CNCS and federal partners, the Rockefeller Foundation and Cities of Service announced the selection of Norfolk as one of ten Resilience AmeriCorps cities. The announcement responds to a recommendation made by the President’s State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience to enhance commitments to building resilience in vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change – many of which are already facing economic or health-related challenges. The two-year pilot program will recruit, train, and embed AmeriCorps VISTA members in Norfolk to increase civic engagement and community resilience in low-income areas, and help those communities develop plans for becoming more resilient to any number of shocks and stresses, including better preparations for extreme weather events.
- AmeriCorps is a very performance-based national program. Specific goals are required and measurement standards are strict. Programs work toward pre-identified client outcomes. The following are just two examples of program results.
  - For the past three years, AmeriCorps members, through Alternatives PASS in Newport News, have provided support to the Hunter B. Andrews PreK-8 Afterschool program. Evaluation results indicate that 34% of participating students increased math SOL scores and nearly 25% increased English scores. Students enrolled for longer time periods (i.e., 30-59 days) showed even greater progress, with 77% of participants increasing math SOLS and 76% increasing English scores. Seventy-eight percent of parents reported an improvement in behavior and 95% reported an improvement in the child’s motivation to learn.
  - Virginia College Advisory Corps, launched at the University of Virginia in 2005, has AmeriCorps members serving in 16 high schools throughout the Commonwealth. Those students have had 143,093 “contacts” with students; 11,248 meetings with parents; made 24,711 classroom visits and workshops and 4,147 campus tours;

assisted 7,995 students with SAT preparation; completed 11,043 Free Applications for Federal Student Aid; and increased college matriculation rate of partner high schools by an average of 9.9 percentage points. In Virginia and nationally, these efforts show significant impact. Since 2005, over 650,000 students have been served by the program.

**Mandate 3: Collaborate with DSS and other public and private entities to recognize and call attention to the significant community service contributions of Virginia citizens and organizations.**

- With the help of the Board, Governor McAuliffe selected and recognized the impact of volunteerism in Virginia and formally announced the recipients of the 2016 Governor’s Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Winners, selected from 133 nominations, provided significant contributions in far reaching areas including improving the environment, helping homeless youth, providing free cancer care, increasing voter registration among young adults, and offering free physician services at a free clinic. The annual survey research conducted by the CNCS provides volunteer statistics for Virginia for 2014 (most current available) as follows: 2+ million Virginians volunteered; 30.1% of Virginians volunteer; volunteered 311+ million hours; and \$7.8 billion in economic impact. Virginia ranks in the top half of the U.S. for volunteerism.
- Members of the Board participated in the fourth annual Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service. Mayors and county officials across the state shined a spotlight on the impact of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps and thanked those who serve. Events took place in several areas of the State, a few which are highlighted below.
  - In Richmond, Mayor Dwight C. Jones joined Councilwoman Kathy Graziano, Board Chairperson Elizabeth Childress and area AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs for a special recognition ceremony at Huguenot High School. Mayor Jones issued a proclamation stating the impact of national service on the City of Richmond as an effective way to solve our communities’ biggest issues. More than 75 volunteers then fanned out across the city for several service projects throughout the community, including literacy and cleanup projects.
  - Newport News celebrated Mayor's Day with Newport News Mayor McKinley Price and Hampton Mayor George Wallace joining Board member Leslie Van Horn and Hampton Roads area national service members for a recognition ceremony at the Greater Hampton Roads Boys and Girls Club. The event, which featured a presentation of an official proclamation, was followed by service projects at the Boys and Girls Club and Virginia Peninsula Food Bank.
  - In Abingdon, the United Way of Southwest Virginia Volunteer Generation Fund program hosted a recognition day event at Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center. Abingdon Mayor Ed Morgan and Delegate Israel O'Quinn honored national

- service members. Board Member Terry Frye was also in attendance. Service projects followed the ceremony in the Town of Abingdon.
- The Arlington/Northern Virginia region celebrated Mayor's Day at a special event hosted by Community Residences, Inc. Arlington County Board of Supervisors Chairperson Libby Garvey thanked local national service members along with Board members Jessica Bowser, Omari Faulkner, and Elsa Vasquez Flores. Volunteers participated in a gardening project for Community Residences.
- A new national recognition program started to give special recognition to veterans who are serving as AmeriCorps members and for other AmeriCorps members who are serving veterans. Special pinning ceremonies were held across the state, some of which included:
    - The Virginia Veteran and Family Support AmeriCorps program held a special pinning ceremony in Norfolk for 14 members as Virginia's latest VetCorps team. The former military members and spouses of military members will serve veterans as well as active military members and their family members. Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, John L. Newby, welcomed the group and participated in the pinning ceremony.
    - Veterans and those who serve them were honored during a pinning ceremony at Destiny Outreach Ministries. The National Veterans Corp and Clinch Valley Community Action hosted the ceremony honoring military veterans, Senior Corps members who are veterans or who serve veterans, and family members.
    - A ceremony was held in Tazewell where the Tazewell County Commissioner of the Revenue David Anderson served as Master of Ceremonies and Tazewell County Treasurer, David Larimer, spoke to the group and helped with the pinning.

Eighty-seven individuals were awarded pins, including veterans from the Army, Navy and Marines as well as RSVP and Senior Companion Program members.

- In recognition of the unique and transferable skills that participants develop during national service, Virginia became the first state in the nation to be recognized as an “Employer of National Service.” This initiative builds a talent pipeline to connect AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni with leading employers from private, public, and nonprofit sectors to create opportunities in recruitment, hiring, and advancement. Outreach to recruit national service alumni is being conducted by the DSS Division of Organizational Development. To support this effort, the Community & Volunteer Services and Organizational Development divisions hosted a meet and greet reception for alumni of national service programs, primarily AmeriCorps and Peace Corps, who are now employees of state government. Fourteen national service alumni attended who now work at state and local departments of social services as well as other agencies, including DCJS, DHCD and SCHEV. The alumni shared

stories of the impact that their national service had on their lives and their career trajectories. A highlight of the event was the participation of First Lady McAuliffe, who greeted the alumni and spoke about the importance of the Employers of National Service initiative as well as the importance of service and volunteerism in general. The alumni also offered ideas on how Virginia can recruit more alumni of national service. They agreed to continue to work together to assist the state in meeting the goals surrounding Employers of National Service.

- The Board helps to host an annual training conference for nonprofit and volunteer program leaders. The 2015 Virginia Volunteerism Conference hosted nearly 540 community service leaders and national service members from across the Commonwealth, September 30-October 1, 2015 in Roanoke. Attendees were able to choose from nearly 40 workshops over the two-day event ranging in topics from stopping hunger to using technology to recruiting volunteers. Speakers also led conference-wide sessions on community resiliency in the face of disaster and the latest volunteerism trends. As part of the conference, more than 300 attendees were part of service projects where volunteers: packed 10,220 pounds of food items feeding more than 8,000 people at Feeding America Southwest Virginia; packaged 11,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now; collected 3,000 items veterans at the Salem VA Medical Center; and performed various duties at the Rescue Mission, including stuffing 30,000+ envelopes for their annual fundraiser.
- The Virginia AmeriCorps program recently sponsored training workshops on new, cutting edge approaches to volunteer management. Approximately 40 individuals from volunteer centers, AmeriCorps programs, and statewide nonprofit agencies gathered at two 2-day workshops to learn and practice new approaches to maximize the impact of volunteerism. On December 7 and 8, 2015 in Wytheville, and on December 14 and 15, 2015 in Fredericksburg, participants heard about current research on engaging and retaining volunteers, and were challenged to then identify ways to put this new knowledge to work in their organizations. The interactive format and team-based discussions provided exposure and highly-transferable problem-solving to individuals from groups with diverse client bases and missions. Participants' comments have been very action-oriented and positive, for example: *"I will follow up on the need to have a concrete process for enlisting volunteers"* and *"We will update the way we portray our volunteer activities in our communications."* The training, provided by Skye Consulting, supported the DSS expectation of volunteer recruitment and management for Virginia's AmeriCorps programs and for Volunteer Generation Fund programs, although participation in the training was not limited to those organizations.
- In February 2016, Governor and First Lady McAuliffe received the National 2016 State Leadership Award from Voices for National Service in recognition of their leadership roles in promoting national service. The DSS is proud to be part of the McAuliffe's efforts to

become the first state recognized as an Employer of National Service and for sponsoring the Governor's Higher Education Presidents' Summit.

**Mandate 4: Assist DSS to promote the involvement of faith-based organizations in community and national service efforts**

- Several members (past and present) of the Board serve on and regularly participate in activities of Virginia's Faith-Based and Community Initiative (FBCI) Advisory Council. The FBCI Council, which includes 23 leaders of faith based and community partner organizations, advises DSS and helps to increase the participation such groups in providing and helping to improve human services. FBCI Advisory Council's priorities for the year integrally focused on collaborations with the Board and specifically sought to work closely with the Board on issues significant to the faith-based organizations and community organizations and to increase faith-based participation in the annual Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference and increase faith-based organization nominations for the Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Services.
- This year, Board members partnered with the FBCI Advisory Council and DSS to develop workshops at the 2015 Virginia Conferences on Volunteerism and Service that would be of interest to faith based and community organizations. Faith and community leaders designed and presented workshops on subjects such as fatherhood and family strengthening; disaster preparedness and response; and cultural sensitivity/awareness.
- Another way in which the Board promotes the involvement of faith-based organizations in community and national service efforts is through the Day to Serve project. Day to Serve is a joint project of the governors of Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia which encourages volunteerism among people from different faith groups and community organizations to improve their communities. Advisory Council members led the planning and implementation of the 2015 Day to Serve campaign in Virginia. Last year's results from Day to Serve projects in Virginia were outstanding, achieving higher levels than those reached in 2014. In 2015, there were more than 550 volunteer service events involving 20,000 volunteers and 69,000 hours of volunteer time. Day to Serve volunteers removed more than 1,900 bags of garbage and debris and collected over 400,000 pounds of food for Virginia's foodbanks.
- Efforts to increase the knowledge and awareness of community and faith organizations of across Virginia was enhanced through wide dissemination of Volunteer Virginia, a monthly e-newsletter, sent to 5,000 faith-based and community partners. Faith and community based organizations were encouraged to use the extensive grants database, training calendar, and resource portal at [www.vaservice.org](http://www.vaservice.org). The website features public and private funding opportunities, training sessions, and resources for faith-based, volunteer, and community organizations.

**Conclusion**

The accomplishments and activities of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism helped the citizens of the Commonwealth improve the lives of their fellow Virginians through service. The work of the Board goes well beyond the federally mandated role of overseeing the work of Virginia's AmeriCorps program. The Board promotes service among the citizens of the Commonwealth and works closely with the Governor and local mayors and county supervisors to recognize those volunteer efforts. The Board and staff at the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service work closely with the volunteer centers and faith-based groups of Virginia, offering information and training to those organizations. Working hand in hand with local partners, the Board tapped the can-do spirit of Virginians to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing the Commonwealth.

**Appendix**  
**Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism**  
**2015/16**

- Lettie Bien, President, Martial Venue, Inc.; Charlottesville
- Jessica Bowser, Director of Outreach, Women Leaders of Virginia; Alexandria
- John Chapman, Member, Alexandria City Council; Alexandria
- Elizabeth Childress, University of Richmond School of Law Student; Richmond. 2015/16  
Advisory Board Chair
- Vanessa Diamond, Director and Co-founder of Hands On Greater Richmond; Vice President  
of the Partnership for Nonprofit Excellence; Richmond
- Omari Faulkner, Strategic Development Director, ManTech International; Bluemont
- Mark Fero, Finance Manager, Public Safety and Enforcement Division, Office of the  
Attorney General; Ruther Glen
- Terry Frye, Commissioner of Revenue, City of Bristol, VA; Bristol
- Peter Goldin, Associate State Director, AARP Virginia; Richmond
- Ashley Hall, Manager, Capital Region Collaborative; Richmond
- Amy Nisenson, Director, Mary Morton Parsons Foundation and Nonprofit Consultant;  
Manakin Sabot
- Seema Sethi, President and CEO of the Society for Enrichment of Asians; Fairfax
- Karen Stanley, CEO, CARITAS; Richmond
- Rachel Thomas, Press Secretary, Emily's List; Washington, DC
- Laurie Turner, Virginia Director, Day to Serve; Herndon
- James Underwood, Business Manage, IBEW Local Union 666; Midlothian
- Steven Valdez, Management Consultant, PriceWaterhouse Cooper; Richmond
- Leslie VanHorn, Executive Director, Federation of Virginia Food Banks; Norfolk
- Elsa Vasquez-Flores, AmeriCorps Site Coordinator, Greenbrier Learning Center;  
Woodbridge
- Leah Dozier Walker, Community and Minority Affairs Liaison, Virginia Department of  
Education; Richmond
- Tynetta Darden, Ex-officio member; State Program Director; CNCS Virginia State Office;  
Richmond