



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

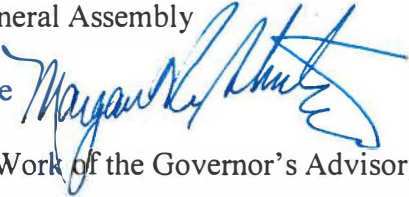
Margaret Ross Schultze
COMMISSIONER

December 1, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia

Members, Virginia General Assembly

FROM: Margaret Ross Schultze 

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

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

MRS:kc

Attachment

**Report to the
Virginia General Assembly
on the Work of the
Governor's Advisory Board on
Service and Volunteerism
for 2016/17**

Report to the Virginia General Assembly on the Work of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism for 2016/17

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Executive Summary

Section 2.2-2478-2.2-2483 of the Code of Virginia charges the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism 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 following report documents the efforts and results achieved through the collaborative efforts of DSS staff and the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism July 2016 – June 2017 to meet the power and duties of the Board as established in 2.2-2481:

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 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 the Department of Social Services and other public and private entities to recognize and call attention to the significant community service contributions of Virginia citizens and organizations.
4. Assist the Department of Social Services 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 for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman of the Board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Board no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

Major activities and outcomes achieved during this report period include:

- More than 5,600 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 610 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.
- In 2016/17, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) provided more than \$12,710,000 (including Segal AmeriCorps Educational awards) to support Virginia communities through national service initiatives. Through this public-private partnership, this federal investment leveraged an additional \$15,270,000 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 Advisory Board helped sponsor the third Governor's Summit at Averett University which brought together college leaders to explore ways to promote the Service Year within their institutions and which resulted in the formation of the Campus Compact for Virginia.
- 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. Virginia Department of Human Resource Management reports that the number of current State employees who previously served in national service programs increased from 35 in 2015 to 114 in 2017.
- The annual Virginia Conference on Service and Volunteerism hosted nearly 400 community service leaders and national service members from across the

Commonwealth, May 16-17, 2017, in Chesterfield County. Two full days of training workshops were provided. Attendees also participated in service projects on-site benefiting Operation Gratitude, McGuire Veterans Hospital, Send Kids the World, and Family Lifeline.

- In partnership with the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League, the Commonwealth celebrated the 5th Annual Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service where 40 local community officials thanked and recognized the thousands of individuals who work to solve pressing human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs.
- There was strong presence of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) in Virginia. These teams of trained AmeriCorps members assisted in Virginia with projects such as Hurricane Matthew recovery, strengthening services for people experiencing homelessness in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula, and construction of mountain bike trails in Norton as a part of a community wide economic development project to bring in more adventure tourism. NCCC reports that, including FEMA projects, there were nineteen NCCC projects in Virginia during 2016/17 utilizing 142 AmeriCorps members contributing 33,197 hours of service.
- Working with the faith initiative Day to Serve, 450 volunteer service events were completed involving 15,100 volunteers and 40,500 hours of volunteer time. Day to Serve volunteers removed more than 2,400 bags of garbage and debris and collected over 195,400 pounds of food for Virginia's food banks.
- With the help of his Advisory Board, Governor McAuliffe selected and recognized the recipients of the 2017 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Winners, selected from 116 nominations, provided significant contributions in far reaching areas including providing free dental care, offering financial planning services, donating food supplies to students, educating the public about health, and assisting homeless individuals and families. The annual survey research conducted by the Corporation for National & Community Service provides volunteer statistics for Virginia for 2015 (most current available): 2 million Virginians volunteered; 30.6 percent of Virginians volunteer; volunteered more than 273 million hours; \$6.1 billion in economic impact; Virginia ranks in the top half of U.S. states 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
2016-17**

Report Mandate

The Code of Virginia directs the Department to carry out the following responsibilities:

§ 2.2-2481. (Expires July 1, 2018) Powers and duties of the Board.

The Board shall have the power and duty to:

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 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 the Department of Social Services and other public and private entities to recognize and call attention to the significant community service contributions of Virginia citizens and organizations.
4. Assist the Department of Social Services 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 for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman of the Board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Board no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

2015, cc. 26, 452.

§ 2.2-2482. (Expires July 1, 2018) Staffing.

The Department of Social Services and any other executive branch agencies as the Governor may designate shall serve as staff to the Board. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall assist the Board upon request.
2015, cc. 26, 452.

Background

Section 2.2-2478-2.2-2483 of the Code of Virginia charges the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism 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 following report documents the efforts and results achieved through the collaborative efforts of DSS staff and the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism July 2016-June 2017 to meet the power and duties of the Board as established in 2.2-2481.

The Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

The Governor's Advisory 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.

In accordance to § 2.2-2478 The Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism (the Board) is established as an advisory board, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive branch of state government to advise the Governor and Cabinet Secretaries on matters related to promotion and development of national service in the Commonwealth and to meet the provisions of the federal National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

§ 2.2-2479. (Expires July 1, 2018) Membership; terms; quorum; meetings.

- A. The Board shall consist of no more than 20 non-legislative citizen members, to be appointed by the Governor from the Commonwealth at large. Non-legislative citizen members appointed to the Board shall be selected for their knowledge of, background in, or experience with the community and volunteer services sector and in accordance with guidelines provided in the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Governor may appoint additional persons, at his discretion, as nonvoting members.
- B. After the initial staggering of terms, non-legislative citizen members shall be appointed for terms of four years. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No non-legislative citizen member shall be eligible to serve more than two successive four-year terms; however, after the expiration of the remainder of a term

to which a member was appointed to fill a vacancy, two additional terms may be served by such member if appointed thereto.

C. The voting members of the Board shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman annually from among its membership. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. The Board shall meet no more than six times per year. The meetings of the Board shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever the majority of the members so request.

§ 2.2-2480. (Expires July 1, 2018) Compensation; expenses.

Members shall receive no compensation for their services. However, all members shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Funding for the costs of compensation and expenses of the members shall be provided by the Department of Social Services in accordance with federal law.

Activities and Outcomes during 2016/17

The following section of this report details the activities and outcomes for each of the mandates of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism.

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 Corporation for National and Community Service 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 DSS meets the responsibilities and duties of the Corporation for National and Community Service (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 participate on grant-review panels which review, score and recommend programs and funding levels for AmeriCorps Competitive Proposals and Formula Proposals. The full Board receives and concurs with funding recommendations totaling approximately \$3.6 million annually.
- The Board's new strategic direction for FY17 and beyond was implemented through public awareness and training and by incorporating the new strategies in the design of FY 18 funding applications. The new strategies call for investing in larger, stronger programs, which can then move more successfully from the State competition to National

funding competition. At the conclusion of the year's funding processes, the Commission successfully reduced the number of AmeriCorps subgrantees from 20 to 12 and increased the size of the grants significantly.

- 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. On October 7th, Virginia's AmeriCorps programs coordinated five regional events across the Commonwealth to kick off the 2016-17 program year. More than 500 members took the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done for America" at events in Arlington, Chesterfield, Wytheville, Danville, and Hampton. New members were inspired by stories from AmeriCorps Alums and current members before they took their AmeriCorps pledge. Members participating in the Danville launch, held in conjunction with the Averett University College Presidents' Summit, were honored to have their AmeriCorps pledge administered by First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe. Many of the events were attended by local officials and members of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism. Several of the events featured service projects in their communities. These events took place in conjunction with the ceremonies nationwide as part of the Corporation for National and Community Services' milestone of 1 million members since the program's inception.

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

- The Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism led efforts to increase the use of other CNCS national service programs including The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and FEMA Corps. NCCC projects are generally short term, high impact, and relatively low cost to the communities in which they occur. These programs resulted in additional 2016/17 CNCS engagement in Virginia, and accomplished significant activities that otherwise would have not been completed. NCCC teams, including FEMA Corps teams, contributed 33,197 hours of service from 142 members.
 - One example of a NCCC project took place in the City of Norton. A ten-person team served from October 25 – November 20, 2016. The team participated in an ongoing project that is part of the region's ecotourism efforts. With lush forests

described as "an area of biodiversity second only to the Amazon" Norton contends that adventure tourism and ecotourism can prime the economic pump in an area deeply affected by the downturn of coal. The AmeriCorps NCCC team participated in the ongoing construction of an intermediate level mountain bike trail system. This service project had a value of more than \$35,000.

- Another example of NCCC service in Virginia is the team that came to Virginia to support the Hurricane Matthew recovery. Under the direction of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, a team was in Chesapeake from November 21 to December 12, 2016. With nearly 700 requests for clean-up assistance, the team served by conducting cleanup assessments, removing both exterior and interior debris and contents, mold control and remediation, and final cleaning and sanitizing. This service project had a value estimated of at least \$22,600.
 - A final example of a NCCC project included a 9 person team serving in northern Virginia, the Northern Neck and the Middle Peninsula through the Virginia Housing Alliance from January 10 – March 5, 2017. In these locations, members' activities included increasing capacity to provide emergency cold-weather shelter services and housing focused resources, and end chronic, family and youth homelessness; data collection for ongoing housing studies and for the annual Point-in-Time Count; shelter maintenance, supervision, and follow-up calls to clients, volunteer recruitment and coordination; and life skills assistance. This service project had a value of more than \$65,000.
 - In addition to these projects, FEMA Corps had an 8-month presence in Herndon conducting disaster readiness operations, and a 7 week presence in Suffolk conducting wildfire prevention exercises.
- Congress appropriated additional funds for FY17 to the Corporation for National and Community Service (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 were invested in several important initiatives: (1) efforts to build capacity in Petersburg so that a nonprofit agency can successfully apply for AmeriCorps funding. These training efforts will continue. (2) investment in the services of an evaluation consulting firm to help our AmeriCorps programs improve their skills in outcome and performance measurement; (3) specialized training for AmeriCorps programs that work with children and youth through regional Educational Summits. Each summit offered best practices in youth development, idea sharing among peers, and related training from subject matter experts. Local subject matter experts presented training on trauma-informed care, behavioral challenges, youth development, parental engagement, and other topics that affect our youth.

- 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. First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe took a key leadership role in this effort and, during 2015-16, she and several Virginia college and university presidents convened two Governor's Higher Education Presidents' Summits on Service. These Summits led to the development and signing of the Virginia College Compact. During 2016/17 a final Summit was held at Averett University which led to the launch of Campus Compact for Virginia. The 24 founding member institutions include public, private, two-year, and four-year colleges from every region of Virginia who are now sharing the costs of employing the first director of the Campus Compact for Virginia. Throughout this initiative, members of the Governor's Board and the AmeriCorps staff were active supporters.
- 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.

 - The Virginia College Advisory Corps launched at University of Virginia in 2005 has AmeriCorps members serving in 26 high schools throughout the Commonwealth. Those AmeriCorps members had 168,772 "contacts" with students; 15,345 meetings with parents; made 29,783 classroom visits and workshops and 5,095 campus tours; have assisted 8,662 students with SAT preparation; completed 15,899 Free Applications for Federal Student Aid; and increased college matriculation rate of partner high schools by an average of 9.7 percentage points. In Virginia and nationally, these efforts show significant impact.
 - The Literacy Lab has provided daily individualized reading instruction in 21 high-need schools in Virginia to students who are on pace for 3rd grade reading failure. Eighteen elementary schools in the Richmond/Petersburg region and 3 schools in Alexandria were served. As a result of receiving this evidence-based literacy intervention, 155 children in the Commonwealth grew enough to reach and maintain grade-level proficiency in reading. The other students showed significant growth and will be kept in the program and remain on the caseload. Those students will continue to be served until they reach and maintain grade level reading proficiency before they can exit the programs. AmeriCorps members also demonstrated a 96% fidelity rate, indicating that they implemented the organization's proven literacy interventions and assessments according to standardized protocols.

Mandate 3: Collaborate with the Department of Social Services 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 his Advisory Board, Governor McAuliffe selected and recognized the impact of volunteerism in Virginia and formally announced the recipients of the 2017 Governor’s Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Winners, selected from 116 nominations, provided significant contributions in far reaching areas including providing free dental care, offering financial planning services, donating food supplies to students, educating the public about health, and assisting homeless individuals and families. The annual survey research conducted by the Corporation for National & Community Service provides volunteer statistics for Virginia for 2015 (most current available): 2 million Virginians volunteered; 30.6% of Virginians volunteer; volunteered 273+ million hours; \$6.1 billion in economic impact; Virginia ranks in the top half of U.S. states for volunteerism.

- Members of the Advisory Board participated in the fifth 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 are highlighted here.
 - In Arlington, National Service members and staff welcomed Arlington County Board Member John Vihstadt who issued a special proclamation celebrating National Service. He reflected on his own AmeriCorps VISTA experiences and encouraged current members to continue service to the community. Mr. Vihstadt joined representatives from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) for a tour and overview of Arlington Works! and Aspire! Afterschool Learning AmeriCorps programs. Representatives from CNCS had the opportunity to chat with students and Arlington neighborhood college graduates about the impact of the program to their lives. Following the day of information and tours, Aspire! Afterschool Learning hosted an event at Barcroft Park, where students, AmeriCorps members and staff completed spring cleaning and trash removal.
 - In Richmond, Mayor Levar Stoney, Henrico County Deputy Manager Tim Foster, and Virginia Delegate Delores McQuinn welcomed an excited crowd of 118 members. Mayor Stoney applauded the members saying, “Service is necessary . . . I know the power of those serving and without them, we would not be where we are today.” Deputy Foster echoed the Mayor’s remarks saying that AmeriCorps and Senior Corps are “vital to the Richmond area and are a cost effective strategy to challenges that don’t stop at county and city lines.” CNCS Chief Operating

Officer Jeff Page and AmeriCorps Director Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi (along with other CNCS staff members) were also on hand to cheer on and offer thanks to the members and staff serving at sites throughout central Virginia. Following the ceremony, more than 100 members and volunteers participated in service projects, including a large-scale cleanup project at historic Evergreen Cemetery.

- In Crewe, Mayor Greg Eanes met with AmeriCorps members at Twin Lakes State Park and gave a history of the town and discussed some of the factors affecting its economic development and some cultural and socio-political aspects of small town life in Virginia. The Virginia State Parks AmeriCorps staff and members were then interviewed on the air by Steve Winn at the town's historic WSVS radio station. The group then worked to clear a path in a new park area within the town.
 - In Carroll County, Bob Martin, chairman of the Carroll County Board of Supervisors, met with 27 AmeriCorps members from the Lift Up AmeriCorps Tutoring Program. Mr. Martin expressed appreciation towards the tutors for their service in the Carroll County Schools and for the many hours of service in different community projects throughout the year. He elaborated on the impact that the tutors have on the students -- not just the academic success -- but the positive relationships that the tutors build with the students with whom they tutor.
- 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. Virginia now seeks out job applicants who are alumni of national service programs and now asks that question of job applicants. As reported by DHRM, the number of Virginia State employees who previously served in a national service role (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, VISTA, etc.) increased from 35 in 2015 to 114 in 2017.
 - The 2017 Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference hosted nearly 400 conference participants representing 270 organizations from 77 counties and cities across Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Washington D.C. on May 16-17, 2017 in Richmond, VA. Attendees were able to choose from 35 workshops which were presented by skilled trainers from across the Commonwealth. The conference tracks included: Capacity Building, Volunteer Management, and Personal/ Professional Development. Some workshops included: Strategic Planning, Developing Corporate Volunteer Programs and Team Communication Styles. This year all attendees had the opportunity to participate in the following service projects: card making for Send Kids the World, letter writing for Operation Gratitude, toiletry kit packing for McGuire Veterans Hospital and Family

Lifeline. Approximately 1,000 toiletry items were collected, over 50 letters were written and approximately 75 cards were created.

- Nearly 100 AmeriCorps program directors, staff, and members as well as representatives from Virginia nonprofit agencies attended a series of communications workshops in December, made possible through CNCS training and technical assistance funds. “How to Make and Effective Communications Plan for Your Organization” held in Wytheville and Portsmouth, focused on helping organizations make a manageable communications plan. “Storytelling for Nonprofits” held in Fredericksburg and Petersburg, detailed the purpose, art, and craft of storytelling to achieve organizational mission.

Mandate 4: Assist the Department of Social Services to promote the involvement of faith-based organizations in community and national service efforts.

- Several members (past and present) of the Governor’s Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism serve on and regularly participate in activities of Virginia’s Faith-Based and Community Initiative (FBCI) Advisory Council. The Faith-based and Community Initiative Advisory Council, which includes leaders of faith based and community partner organizations, informs DSS and helps to increase the participation of such groups in providing and helping to improve human services. FBCI Advisory Council’s priorities for the year integrally focused on collaborations with the Advisory Board and specifically sought to increase faith-based participation in the annual Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference, increase dissemination of information to faith-based and community organizations regarding state contacts and other resources to address important issues such as human trafficking and Virginia’s Opioid epidemic, and finally to increase nominations for the Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Services.
- This year, Advisory Board members partnered with the FBCI Advisory Council and VDSS staff to develop workshops at the 2017 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, including sessions on cultural sensitivity/awareness and refugee resettlement.
- Another way in which the Governor’s Advisory 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 the

communities in which we live. Advisory Council members led the planning and implementation of the 2016 Day to Serve campaign in Virginia. Last year's results from Day to Serve projects in Virginia were outstanding, with more than 450 volunteer service events involving 15,100 volunteers and 40,500 hours of volunteer time. Day to Serve volunteers removed more than 2,400 bags of garbage and debris and collected over 195,400 pounds of food for Virginia's food banks.

- A new website was developed to increase the knowledge and awareness of community and faith organizations across Virginia. The website, VirginiaService.virginia.gov, now features a mobile-friendly format and is organized into easy-to-find categories: AmeriCorps, Volunteerism, and Community Services. The website also serves as a hub for information sharing among Virginia's AmeriCorps State programs and Community Action Agencies. The website currently has more than 20,000 individual users and nearly 80,000 page views since its launch.
- Another effort to broaden awareness of community and faith organizations across Virginia continued through the Volunteer Virginia monthly e-newsletter which is sent to 5,000 faith-based and community partners. The newsletter features the latest resources, news and stories of service from around the state, public and private funding opportunities, and training sessions -- 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 State and works closely with the Governor and local mayors and county supervisors to recognize those volunteer efforts. The Board and its support 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.

**Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism
2016/17**

- 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. 2016/17
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
- Zachary Leonsis, Vice President and General Manager, Monumental Sports and
Entertainment; Washington, DC
- Amy Nisenson, Director, Mary Morton Parsons Foundation and Nonprofit Consultant;
Manakin Sabot
- Tashiara Scott, Visual Communications Designer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond;
Richmond
- Seema Sethi, President and CEO of the Society for Enrichment of Asians; Fairfax
- Karen Stanley, CEO, CARITAS; Richmond
- Julie Strandlie, Government Relations/Grassroots Consultant, Strandlie Advocacy, LLC;
Alexandria
- Rachel Thomas, Press Secretary, Emily's List; Washington, DC
- James Underwood, Business Manage, IBEW Local Union 666; Midlothian
- Steven Valdez, Management Consultant, PriceWaterhouse Cooper; Arlington
- Leslie VanHorn, Executive Director, Federation of Virginia Food Banks; Norfolk
- 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

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