



2014 Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiative (GOCI), it is my honor to present to you the 2014 Annual Report for the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV).

Each year, 1.3 million Marylanders volunteer, providing over 151 million hours of service to improve our diverse communities. Alongside the GOSV, GOCI supports this diversity and aims to create a collaborative State through established ethnic and cultural commissions, including the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Governor's Commission on Caribbean Affairs, the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs, the Governor's Commission on African Affairs, the Governor's Commission on South Asian Affairs, the Maryland Commission on American Indian Affairs, and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture.

In 2014, the GOSV supported 612 AmeriCorps members at over 600 nonprofits, schools, and government agencies; and the GOSV received over 250 nominations from across the State for the 31st Governor's Service Awards. Led by Maureen Eccleston, Director, and Alex Garcia, Commission Chair, the GOSV continues to fund and support AmeriCorps programs and celebrate volunteer programs that meet the critical needs of Maryland citizens and the State.

As you read through this report, you will see how the accomplishments of the GOSV and the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism promote civic engagement across Maryland. I hope you will join us in celebrating, promoting, and engaging in service to bolster our communities.

Steven J. McAdams
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Community Initiatives



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the Governor's Commission of Service and Volunteerism, I am honored to present the 2014 Annual Report, which portrays the accomplishments of the staff of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) and of the Commission.

Our Commission, a bipartisan group appointed by the Governor, values service as a flexible, innovative response to the challenges facing our State. Through diverse experiences in corporate, nonprofit, and national service settings, Commissioners have found common cause in giving service to others. Our work in 2014 included recognition of over 200,000 Marylanders for their service, including 15 different youth volunteer groups through the Honor Rows program. The Commission serves as a conduit for GOSV to commend those who serve Maryland communities, and promotes volunteerism state-wide.

We also supported the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism in its administration of \$3.8 million in federal AmeriCorps funds, which funded 15 programs in 2013-2014. These programs leveraged an additional 16,980 Marylanders in service--a powerful multiplier effect. Further, we supported the awarding of Volunteer Generation Funds to four new grantees in 2014, which helped them develop effective volunteer management practices and recruit skilled volunteers. These efforts strengthen the capacity of Maryland's nonprofits and volunteer programs.

The 2014 Annual Report gives a detailed picture of service in Maryland, and of the complex work of the GOSV and Commission. Such work encourages the robust ethic of volunteerism evident in Marylanders across the State. We are eager to continue this work under the leadership and vision of Governor Hogan and his administration.

Alexander Garcia
Chair
Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism

SELECTED STRATEGIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014

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Executive Summary

The GOSV funds and supports volunteer and service efforts that engage all Marylanders to strengthen our communities. Each year, the GOSV recognizes the individual contributions of volunteers and leads state-wide events to shine the spotlight on the importance of volunteerism to the State, in communities, and to individuals. This recognition is provided by the Governor, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, and in partnership with M&T Bank, the Baltimore Ravens, and the Maryland State Fair.

In addition, staff of the GOSV work with the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism to review and approve all AmeriCorps State funding requests in Maryland. AmeriCorps is a national program that provides human and financial resources to help tackle some of our country's toughest problems. AmeriCorps projects improve schools and other education programs, preserve and protect the environment, improve public safety, and help meet basic human needs (food, shelter, employment, and more). AmeriCorps is a resource for both organizations and individual citizens who want to make a visible difference in our State.

SELECTED STRATEGIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014

Volunteer Recognition:

Through a combination of individual recognition and regional and state-wide events, the GOSV partnered with a variety of agencies to recognize over 200,000 Maryland youth, adults, and groups in 2014.

Funding:

The GOSV awarded more than \$3.3 million in AmeriCorps grants for 15 programs across the State. These programs raised over \$5.3 million to match the federal grants and engaged 612 AmeriCorps members. The GOSV provided \$119,000 to four volunteer centers to support the Maryland Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF), and the volunteer centers contributed \$118,870 to match the awards. Additionally, the GOSV offered \$25,000 in mini-grants to 14 organizations to support service projects for September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance and the Day to Serve regional initiative.

Results:

In 2014, the government agencies, nonprofits, and AmeriCorps members supported by the GOSV mobilized more than 38,619 volunteers who served 125,298 Maryland citizens.



GOSV Commission

The Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism was created and appointed by the Governor in 1994 to review and approve all AmeriCorps State funding in Maryland and to serve as a body of ambassadors for service and volunteerism in local communities. With the Governor's approval, the Commission may apply to the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that manages AmeriCorps, and other public and private sources for additional funding. This year, the GOSV welcomed Alexander Garcia, Cole McMahon, Grant Melville, and Dr. Marilyn Smith as the newest members to the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

SELECTED STRATEGIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014

2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Maurice “Mac” Nachlas, Chair (Baltimore City)

- President of the Mount Washington Swim Club
- Member of the WYPR Community Advisory Board

Fay Mauro, Vice Chair (Anne Arundel County)

- Founding Executive Director of the Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center
- Vice President of the Maryland Volunteer Centers Association

Alan Lyons, Secretary (Carroll County)

- Student at McDaniel College
- Volunteer with The Arts Coming Together In Carroll County and the Timber Ridge Residences

COMMISSION MEMBERS

The following Commissioners served full or partial terms:

Crystal Biles, ex officio (Federal Government)

- State Program Director for Maryland and Delaware State Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service
- AmeriCorps VISTA alumna

Brian M. Dunne (Baltimore County)

- Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC.
- Board member on the National Exchange Club of Highlandtown-Canton



Jennifer H. Daniels (Prince George’s County)

- Part of the Children’s Liturgy of the Word Team for St. Ambrose Catholic Church
- Serves as a Texas State Society Board Member

Alex Garcia (Baltimore City)

- Baltimore Site Director for the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers AmeriCorps program
- United States ReturnedPeace Corps Volunteer, serving in the Errachidia Province of Morocco

Griff Garwood (Frederick County)

- Attorney (retired)
- Board member of Historical Society and United Way Frederick County

Bruce Goldensohn (Montgomery County)

- Non-technical Systems Engineer for Management at TASC Inc. (retired)
- Served Montgomery County region in various capacities, including his past service as Mayor of Gaithersburg

Lillian M. Lowery (State of Maryland Department of Education)

- State Superintendent of Schools
- Represented by Julie Ayers and Vanessa Diggs

Mark R. Heckman (Baltimore City)

- Principal at Marks, Thomas Architects Inc.
- Member of the AIA Urban Land Institute and Congress of New Urbanism

Melvin Hotz, ex officio (Baltimore County)

- Licensed Professional Engineer (retired)
- Medicare Counselor, SHIP Division, Baltimore County Department of Aging

Dr. Rahul M. Jindal (Montgomery County)

- Staff Transplant Surgeon at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
- Professor of Surgery at Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Bethesda

Cherie Krug (Garrett County)

- Executive Director of the Garrett College Foundation at Garrett College
- Board Member of the United Way of Allegany County



Beverly Landis (Baltimore County)

- Senior Vice President, Y Family Centers and the Member Experience at the Y of Central Maryland
- United States Air Force (retired)

Michael P. Lewis (Allegany County)

- Education Consultant for Creative Intellectual Capital LLC.
- Executive Board Member for Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals

Cole McMahon (Baltimore City)

- Partner in the McMahon Consulting Group working with state service commissions and AmeriCorps programs
- Twenty years of national service experience

Grant Melville (Wicomico County)

- Volunteer and Education Coordinator at Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art
- AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Alum

Lupi Quinteros-Grady (Prince George's County)

- Deputy Director of the Maryland Multicultural Youth Centers

Shirley Sagawa (Montgomery County)

- Co-Founder of Sagawa/Jospin consulting firm
- Served as the Managing Director for the Corporation for National and Community Service

Dr. Marilyn Smith (Montgomery County)

- Founding executive director of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism
- Former director of Learn and Serve America at the Corporation for National and Community Service

Casey Schurman (Baltimore County)

- Teacher at Bollman Bridge Elementary School
- Chair of the Oriole's Advocate Charitable Foundation's committee

Theresa Testoni (Montgomery County)

- Executive Assistant at Adventist HealthCare
- Vice President of Membership for the Corporate Volunteer Council of Montgomery

Corae Young (Charles County)

- Assistant Director of Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation, Inc.
- National Night Out Committee Chair for Charles County Commission for Women

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM STAFF

Maureen K. Eccleston
Director

Julie Mendez
Outreach Manager

Magdalena Nowosadko
Program Officer

Dana Schwartz
Program Officer

State Service Plan

The State Service Plan is the current work plan for the GOSV and the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. It was developed by the GOSV with public input and includes areas of development and strategies for January 2013 – December 2015. During this period, the GOSV and the Commission will focus, in broad strokes, on: resource development and grants management; sustainability of staff and operations; Commission training and development; and promoting and marketing national service and volunteerism across Maryland.

STATE SERVICE PLAN

Strategy #1 Recognize extraordinary service of Maryland volunteers in all communities

- Partnered with M&T Bank and the Baltimore Ravens to honor 800 outstanding youth volunteers and 15 youth-serving organizations as part of the Honor Rows Program
- Recognized 19 individuals and groups with Governor's Service Awards
- Honored 6,544 local citizens with Governor's Volunteer Certificates
- Provided 39,855 Maryland State Fair passes to volunteers and their families for the Governor's Volunteer Appreciation Day at the State Fair

Strategy #2 Build the capacity of Maryland service organizations to effectively mobilize and manage volunteers

- Completed the fourth year of Maryland's Volunteer Generation Fund
- Provided funding to Maryland organizations for September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance and Day to Serve service projects
- Continued to promote available resources and trainings provided by local and regional networks of professional volunteer administrators through the GOSV website and social media accounts
- Promoted all Maryland Volunteer Centers through the GOSV website, social media, and publications

Strategy #3 Expand awareness of national service opportunities and programs

- Supported an annual AmeriCorps member and alumni networking event in partnership with Volunteer Maryland in May 2014
- Hosted the Maryland AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary and Swearing-in Ceremony event and promoted the AmeriCorps 20th anniversary on the GOSV website, social media, and publications
- Continued to provide information on AmeriCorps programs in Maryland (State, National, NCCC, and VISTA), Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund on the GOSV website

Volunteer Recognition

The GOSV works with a number of partners to provide opportunities for nonprofits, businesses, government agencies, and schools to honor the contributions of local volunteers. Throughout 2014, the GOSV highlighted the importance of volunteerism by thanking local volunteers in a variety of ways. From providing individual certificates to honoring businesses and community leaders at an annual awards ceremony, the GOSV, on behalf of the Governor's Office, honored Maryland's volunteers of all ages, from all backgrounds, and from all parts of the State. Through these partnerships and the activities in the following pages, the GOSV honored 200,000 volunteers in 2014.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Governor's Service Awards

The Governor's Service Awards is an annual recognition event for extraordinary volunteers across Maryland. Nominations were received on June 10. The GOSV staff worked with a team of volunteer leaders to review the nominations. The 2014 awards were presented in Annapolis on October 9. Each recipient received a service medal of honor from Israel "Izzy" Patoka, former Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, and Maurice "Mac" Nachlas, former Chair of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. During the awards ceremony, the Governor's Office honored 19 individuals and volunteer groups for their dedication to Maryland.



Governor's Volunteer Appreciation Day at the State Fair

In partnership with the Maryland State Fair, the GOSV honored Maryland's volunteers during the Governor's Volunteer Appreciation Day at the State Fair. The GOSV distributed 39,855 state fair passes that provided discounts on admission, concessions, and rides on August 24, 2014.

Governor's Volunteer Certificates

Each year, the GOSV disseminates volunteer certificates for individuals or groups to be presented during volunteer recognition ceremonies. The certificates are a symbol of the high esteem with which the Governor's Office and the State of Maryland hold the citizens who serve in every community. The certificates may be requested via the GOSV's website, and they are signed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Secretary of State. The GOSV distributed 6,544 certificates to local groups in every region of Maryland in 2014.

Honor Rows Program

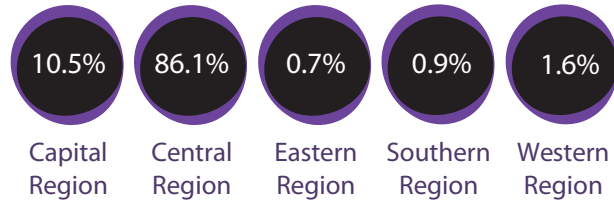
The GOSV partnered with M&T Bank and the Baltimore Ravens to honor the service of school and youth-based groups and programs that serve youth. Nominations were received and reviewed in August, and honorees were selected by a panel of service leaders with the assistance of the Baltimore Ravens, M&T Bank, and the GOSV. At each Baltimore Ravens home game during the 2014 regular season, honorees received game tickets for volunteers, special in-game seating and gear, official in-game recognition on the M&T RavensVision screen, and pre-game recognition on WBAL. This year, 15 groups and 800 volunteers were recognized for their vital service as part of the Honor Rows program.



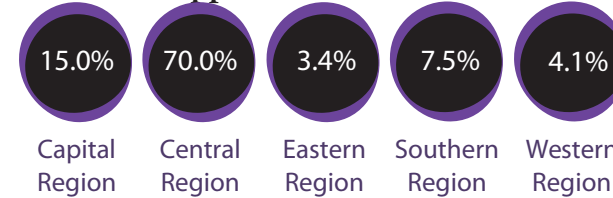
2014 Requests Made by Region (%)

The graph below shows the percentage of individual requests for volunteer recognition tools (i.e. certificates, State Fair passes) made throughout Maryland. Requests are generally made by individuals who are responsible for volunteer recognition at nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and governmental agencies.

State Fair Discount Passes

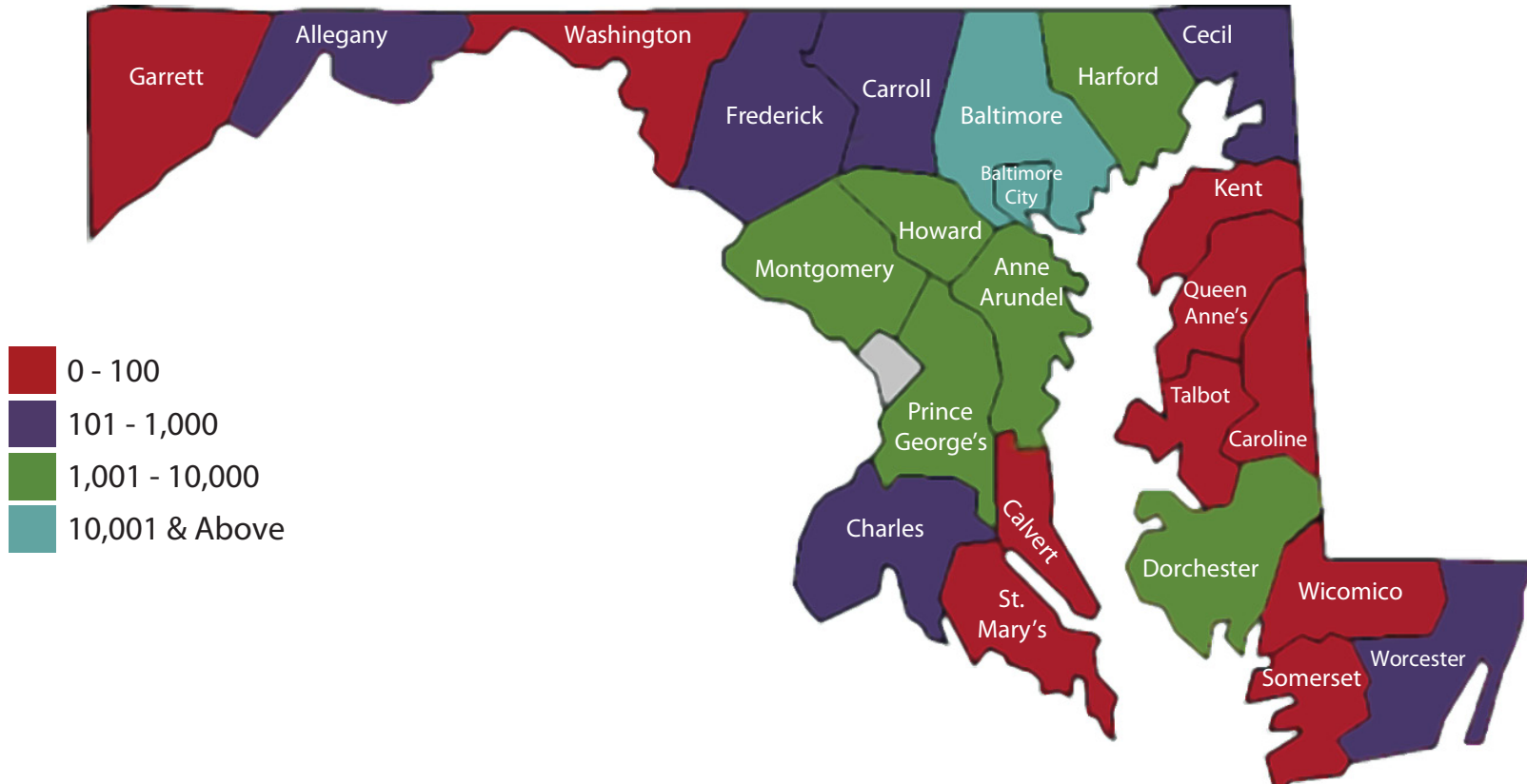


Volunteer Appreciation Certificates



Beneficiaries

The map below shows the number of people who benefited from requests made for volunteer recognition tools (i.e. received volunteer appreciation certificates, gained access to discounted State Fair passes for the Governor's Volunteer Appreciation Day).



Volunteer Generation Fund

In January 2014, the GOSV awarded four Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) sub-grants of up to \$35,000 to volunteer centers in Maryland. This was the fourth year of the awards for Maryland's VGF program, and the funding was provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Maryland received VGF funding in order to engage more local citizens to solve community problems. By the end of the grant year, VGF recipients had secured \$118,870 in matching funds and in-kind donations, leveraged 16,980 volunteers, and served community members across the State.

In September, the GOSV sub-granted \$25,000 to 14 grantees to mobilize community volunteers for projects held on the September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance and/or Maryland's Day to Serve (September 11 – September 28). The recipients secured \$26,428 in matching funds and 1,674 volunteers were mobilized.

VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

2014 Volunteer Generation Fund Grantees

The four volunteer centers that received funding through the Volunteer Generation Fund program serve various areas in Maryland including Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, and Montgomery Counties. Recipients and highlights of 2014 VGF grant activities are provided below.

This year, the **Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center** improved volunteer leadership programs including the FLEX Project Leaders, whose volunteers engaged in episodic team-based service projects, and the skills-based leadership program, which helps nonprofit agencies engage professional volunteers as board members, development consultants, and website designers. Skilled volunteer services provided this year included IT planning, administrative support, and financial consulting.



Business Volunteers Maryland, in Baltimore City, provided a new mentoring component and training in leading skilled volunteer projects and a new mentor component for their Service Ambassador alumni. Business Volunteers also provided training to nonprofits on effective recruitment, engagement, and retention of volunteers, as well as on managing skilled volunteers. A strategic partnership with the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore was launched to help develop the next generation of civic leaders; through this partnership, Business Volunteers developed a series of skills trainings, issues education, and opportunities to hear from community leaders targeted at individuals aged 25-40.

The **Montgomery County Volunteer Center** (MCVC) supported its volunteer projects and activities, including connecting volunteers to nonprofits. Between January 2014 and September 2014, MCVC made 28,958 referrals to 692 agencies for 7,762 volunteers. In addition to referrals, the Montgomery County Volunteer Center managed large events on Martin Luther King, Jr Day, including the 2014 Maryland Science Bowl, which engaged more than 125 volunteers from more than two dozen area companies, federal agencies, schools, and community organizations, who served as timekeepers, moderators, and judges.

The **Volunteer Center Serving Howard County** supported volunteer and service activities, including facilitating Camp Make a Difference, a summer program for youth, which engaged 48 participants in 864 hours of service benefiting local nonprofit agencies. In surveys, 75% of the campers indicated that they were not currently volunteering at the time of the camp. 96% felt they made a difference in the community, 77% said they would volunteer again, and 86% believed that the things they learned will have a positive impact on the way they think, feel, or act in the future. Additionally, the center partnered with Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center and Ft. Meade Army Community Services to present Spotlight on the Military, an event focused on engaging veterans, active military, military families and civilians as volunteers.



VGF September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance and Day to Serve Mini-grants

Through Maryland's 2014 Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF), 14 Maryland nonprofit organizations and government agencies received federal funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service to mobilize community volunteers during September. These funds were designed to increase the number of volunteers serving in existing projects or to develop new projects that would engage new volunteers in service to Maryland communities. Service projects were required to align with Day to Serve 2014's focus areas of hunger eradication and/or environmental stewardship. Recipients and examples of the grant activities are below:

Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center coordinated a Day of Service and Remembrance event in Annapolis, which kicked off with heartfelt speeches acknowledging the losses both at home on September 11 and abroad. After the opening ceremony, 200 volunteers paid tribute through service. Volunteers served 681 hours by recycling 900 pounds of debris and trash, removing truck-loads of hedge trimmings, planting native species, weeding, mulching, and much more.

The **Cecil County Senior Services & Community Transit** coordinated the Charlestown Maryland Town Park Improvement Project. Volunteers planted 50 grasses, 24 shrubs, and 200 bulbs at Foot Log Park, Veterans Park, and Fair Green Park to prevent stormwater runoff, flooding, beach erosion, and/or to help hold the soil in place during heavy rain. In total, 18 volunteers served 105 hours.





The **Friends of Patuxent** coordinated an environmental stewardship project in Laurel, Maryland. Twenty-seven volunteers served 138 hours to plant a new section of the pollinator garden in the School Yard Habitat of the Patuxent Research Refuge. Additionally, volunteers were given a presentation on Conservation and Ecosystem Landscaping for Pollinators in their own yards.

Through **Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna's** coordinated service projects, volunteers participated in a variety of activities including collecting trash, painting community rooms, and weeding at the Boys and Girls Club of Aberdeen; beautifying a playground and greenspace in Victory Park; creating a community garden at Grove Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen; and landscaping a future Habitat Home construction site. In total, 75 volunteers provided 208 hours of service.

The **Jewish Volunteer Connection** led service activities in two Baltimore nonprofits, My Sister's Place and Sarah's Hope. Volunteers provided, prepared, and served meals to clients, including 54 children. In total, 15 volunteers prepared and/or served 173 meals.

Maryland Institute College of Art's AmeriCorps program, The Community Art Collaborative, in collaboration with the Bea Gaddy Family Center, mobilized 65 community volunteers around a food drive and free community event in Baltimore. Volunteers organized and distributed donated produce, completed a community beautification project in a vacant lot, picked up trash in the surrounding neighborhood, and organized the Center's food pantry and storage area. Volunteers served a total of 487 hours, collected 2,500 pounds of fresh produce, and collected four 45 gallon trash bags.

Montgomery Parks Foundation coordinated a service project that aimed to improve the overall quality of the Montgomery Park and stream ecosystems, specifically the water quality, through the removal of litter, while also promoting community involvement in water pollution prevention. Volunteers served a total of 1,326 hours, collected 11,675 pounds of trash, and collected 2,750 pounds of recyclables.

Muslim Social Services Agency hosted an annual service event that provided supplies, resources, and services to the homeless and needy individuals and families in Baltimore. Volunteers distributed over 800 bags of clothing and toiletries, distributed over 6,453 pounds of food, and provided housing, education, employment, and rehabilitation referrals. At the end of the service event, 100 volunteers served a total of 300 hours.

Salisbury University coordinated service projects at Wicomico High School Memorial Garden and the Hazel Outdoor Discovery Center. Volunteers conducted a number of beautification projects including weeding and planting, painting benches, building birdhouses, installing a new patio, clearing trails, and collecting 21 large bags of trash. In total 158 volunteers, 114 of which were youth, served over 446 hours.

St. Mary's Ryken High School led service projects at two homeless shelters on multiple days in St. Mary's county. Volunteers prepared and served over 240 meals, prepared 192 bagged lunches, planted 47 plants and flowers, and filled a new sandbox. At the end of the multi-day service projects, 75 volunteers served over 261 hours.



Wicomico County/Wicomico Partnership For Families and Children, in collaboration with Stop the Violence, Salisbury University (SU), and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) led a service project on September 11. As a part of the project, 29 student volunteers from SU and UMES served over 79 hours of their time to assist the youth in tending plants in the community garden. Further, the students helped to distribute 250 bags of donated food items from the Maryland Food Bank to families living in the local surrounding neighborhood, including senior citizens living in a senior subsidized community.

World Organization for Resource Development and Education (WORDE) hosted a Youth Against Hunger (YAH) event to provide food for the homeless and build awareness in youth about food insecurity issues. During the YAH event, 120 volunteers made 700 sandwiches and chopped 100 pounds of vegetables to deliver to homeless shelters. The volunteers also packed 2,500 cereal snack packs for needy children, which were delivered to local shelters and a local nonprofit.

United Way of Central Maryland engaged students from local colleges and universities in the Harvest Helpers volunteer initiative, an initiative that addresses food insecurity through the efforts of community gardening and commercial farm gleaning. Seventy-seven volunteers harvested vegetables, tended hoop houses, and prepared new fields for future planting. The volunteers served a total of 175 hours, harvested over 600 pounds of tomatoes, and unloaded two pallets of potatoes.

Zion Development Corporation, Inc. led a group of neighborhood volunteers in cleaning up and enhancing a small community rest park and walkway. The community project included cleaning, weeding, planting, painting, and adding lighting to the small park located behind the historic Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church in the Upton Community of Baltimore City. By the end of the service event, 68 volunteers served 485 hours and removed 2.17 tons of trash.



Supporting AmeriCorps in Maryland

The GOSV is the state agency that administers Maryland's AmeriCorps State grants. AmeriCorps is a federal program funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The GOSV's roles in AmeriCorps grant-making are three-fold: the GOSV promotes the availability of AmeriCorps State grants, manages grant selection, and monitors grantees.

In addition to distributing AmeriCorps State funding in Maryland, The GOSV celebrates the success of AmeriCorps and recognizes the 2,100 individuals who serve as AmeriCorps members each year.

SUPPORTING AMERICORPS IN MARYLAND

Promoting AmeriCorps Grants

To cultivate high quality grant applications, the GOSV issued a call for Concept Papers in August 2013 with a due date in October. The Concept Paper notice was distributed electronically through multiple sources to reach a state-wide audience, including the Maryland Volunteer Center Network, Maryland Nonprofits, and to 5,000 contacts of the Maryland Governor's Grants Office and the ethnic and cultural commissions of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. Of the Concept Papers received, 87.5% were new applicants to the GOSV.

In an effort to support new grant applicants the GOSV provided an in-depth conference call that reviewed the application requirements, and offered tips on developing a strong proposal. Further, the GOSV provided a two-hour webinar for new applicants. The webinar included a tour of eGrants (an online grants and project management process system), and a question and answer period. This assistance paid off with new applicants submitting strong proposals by the grant deadline.

Managing Grant Selection

Each year, the GOSV works with the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism to review, approve, and monitor all AmeriCorps State activities. To select grant recipients, the GOSV and the Commission are also supported by a panel of external grant reviewers. In 2014, 23 nonprofit, government, and business leaders served as grant reviewers in the AmeriCorps State Formula grant review.

For the 2013 – 2014 program year, the GOSV and Commission approved \$3.3 million in AmeriCorps State funding. This funding supported 15 AmeriCorps programs and provided national service opportunities for 612 Maryland citizens. These AmeriCorps State grantees raised more than \$5.3 million in matching resources (cash and in-kind) to support service programs across Maryland.

Monitoring Grantees

This year, the GOSV continued its extensive monitoring and support plan for current AmeriCorps grantees. Through in-person and online training, desk audits, phone coaching, and multiple site visits, the GOSV continued to focus on improving grantees' reporting and performance measurement. Together, GOSV staff and grantees tackled a number of challenges, including the implementation of new national performance measures.

AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps, the GOSV joined other states and U.S. territories in hosting an AmeriCorps Swearing-in ceremony on September 12 in Annapolis. Over 250 AmeriCorps members, alumni, staff, commissioners, and supporters gathered at the Children's Theatre of Annapolis for the event.

Speakers at the Swearing-in Ceremony included Paul Monteiro, Director of AmeriCorps VISTA; Dr. Marilyn Smith, the GOSV's first Executive Director; former MD Delegate Heather Mizeur, AmeriCorps Alum; MD Delegate-elect Will Smith, Project CHANGE AmeriCorps Alum; Sandy Miller, ASTAR in Western Maryland AmeriCorps alum; Shirley Sagawa, GCOSV commissioner and first chief operating and policy officer at CNCS; and Maureen Eccleston, GOSV Director and AmeriCorps Alum. Messages were also delivered via staff representative or video from Senator Mikulski, Congressman Sarbanes, President Clinton, and President George W. Bush and Laura Bush. In addition, two videos produced by the GOSV showcased Maryland AmeriCorps members and alums. The event was emceed by WYPR's Aaron Henkin, who aired a 27-minute show about AmeriCorps in Maryland on that evening's episode of The Signal.



Maryland AmeriCorps State Programs 2013- 2014

AIM for Excellence (Achievement, Investment in Communities, Mobilization of Volunteers), a Civic Works program, engaged AmeriCorps members in tutoring and mentoring services and in urban farming. AmeriCorps members grew and harvested 17,801 pounds of fresh produce and provided nutrition education for low-income Baltimore communities. Members also tutored and mentored 3,250 students, 97% of which completed the program. All 474 12th grade students that received tutoring services through the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program graduated from high school, and 470 were accepted into college. *(Baltimore City, Baltimore County)*

AmeriCorps Langley Park, led by the Latin American Youth Center, served 574 students in the Langley Park area of Maryland. AmeriCorps members provided tutoring services, homework assistance, life skills lessons, and other enrichment activities as part of in-school, after-school, and summer programs for middle school students. Forty-four youth participated in a STEM-focused summer program, 131 received academic support during the school year, and 69% of those students achieved improved standardized test scores in English and math. *(Prince George's County)*



ASTAR In Western Maryland (Appalachian Service through Action and Resources), based at Frostburg State University, placed AmeriCorps members with local organizations in western Maryland. Through the members' interventions, direct services were provided to 7,495 individuals in the four-county region. Members provided independent living services to 5,142 clients, served 1,459 lunches to children in need, taught citizenship classes, planted 570 trees, and participated in special projects throughout the year to engage the community. ASTAR AmeriCorps members tutored and mentored 84 struggling young readers and an additional 86 at-risk youth, resulting in improved academic scores, attendance, and disciplinary records. Members also engaged 7,789 college students in volunteering, providing an additional 72,163 hours of direct service to the community. *(Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and Washington Counties)*

Civic Works Service Corps AmeriCorps members tutored and mentored 531 students, provided nutrition education to 491 children and youth, completed home safety repairs for 233 senior citizens, retrofitted 632 low and moderate income households with energy efficient fixtures, and rehabilitated two abandoned houses. As a result of member efforts, 753 families reported being better able to afford monthly housing costs. Additionally, the program recruited 1,530 volunteers throughout the year. The program is also designed to open new opportunities to the members themselves: 31 corps members who began their term of service without a college degree completed a college course after ending their term of service. *(Baltimore City; Baltimore County)*



Community Art Collaborative (CAC) hosted by the Maryland Institute College of Art, placed 14 community artists as AmeriCorps members at 13 nonprofits to administer after-school arts-based programs in under-served communities throughout Baltimore City. Over 1,850 economically disadvantaged youth participated in art programs designed to nourish creativity, promote skill development, and improve levels of academic engagement. AmeriCorps members also leveraged 940 volunteers and offered 80 events and activities for the benefit of the communities that they served. *(Baltimore City)*

Community Mediation Corps AmeriCorps members, with oversight and support from Community Mediation Maryland, conducted mediations and built capacity in local mediation centers through partnership development and public education about non-violent conflict resolution. Members supported centers across the State in providing free or low cost mediation services to resolve interpersonal, family, and community disputes, with a special focus on prisoner re-entry mediation, which reduces recidivism by helping inmates to heal conflicts prior to their release. In total, 1,258 community members attended mediation as a direct result of AmeriCorps member services. *(State-wide)*

Elev8 Baltimore, a division of Humanim Inc., provided after-school and summer programming for middle school students in East Baltimore City. AmeriCorps members mentored, tutored, and facilitated additional social and academic enrichment activities for 169 students. Participating students demonstrated improved academic performance in literacy and math, as well as improved academic engagement, including more positive attitudes towards school, increased attendance, and decreased suspension rates. *(Baltimore City)*



Experience Corps–Baltimore City AmeriCorps teams, composed of members age 55 years and older, served as tutors and mentors in kindergarten through third grade classrooms. Fifty-seven members served 1,354 students in eight Title I schools during school time, and provided after-school mentoring and tutoring services to 61 students who, on average, accelerated their progress toward grade level reading by over 40%. Each member committed to serve a minimum of 15 hours each week over the course of the program year, and members exceeded their service requirement by an average of 6.9%. *(Baltimore City)*

Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC), housed in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, is Maryland’s Environmental Youth Corps. The program engaged 30 AmeriCorps members aged 17 to 25 in a year of service. The AmeriCorps members improved 206 miles of trails and waterways, planted and maintained 3,193 acres of parks and public land, completed over 100 park recreation and facility improvement projects, treated over 9,000 hemlock trees for the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid insect, responded to wildfires, planted thousands of Chesapeake Bay grasses and plants, and taught environmental education curricula to over 47,000 students and park visitors. *(State-wide)*

New Americans Citizenship Project of Maryland is an AmeriCorps program that, under the leadership of CASA de Maryland, coordinated the efforts of community-based organizations to support eligible residents in the naturalization process. AmeriCorps members coordinated and enrolled Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) in citizenship and financial literacy workshops and assisted candidates in filling out the citizenship application. Members aided 123 individuals in applying for a loan to afford the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services application fee and enrolled 1,605 LPRs in citizenship classes, of which 592 completed the citizenship application process. *(State-wide)*



Partnership for Adolescents on the Lower Shore (PALS) AmeriCorps members, housed at Salisbury University, increased the capacity of Eastern Shore community agencies by providing direct services and recruiting and managing volunteers. Members provided academic assistance, mentoring services, and recreational opportunities for at-risk and disadvantaged youth. Overall, PALS served 14,444 children and leveraged 1,390 volunteers. *(Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Kent, Wicomico, Queen Anne's, and Worcester Counties)*

Project CHANGE (Collaboratives Helping America's Neighborhoods Grow and Excel) AmeriCorps members built capacity within community-based organizations that provide direct services to Montgomery County residents. They coordinated and implemented enrichment programs and tutoring services for students, engaged youth in leadership programs, and leveraged volunteers to carry out community projects. The program directly benefited 2,021 individuals, including 599 disadvantaged children and youth. *(Montgomery County)*

Reading Partners Maryland AmeriCorps members recruited, trained, and managed community volunteers to participate in a proven literacy intervention program at five Title I elementary schools in Baltimore City. Thanks to AmeriCorps member efforts, 279 students enjoyed the benefits of one-on-one tutoring. Many participating students doubled or tripled their rate of learning, and 85 improved their literacy by one or more grade level. *(Baltimore)*



Tri-County AmeriCorps Service Project AmeriCorps members served the residents of southern Maryland by providing a variety of direct services to combat poverty and improve quality of life. Members provided outreach and education in areas including mental health, financial literacy, first-time home buying, home weatherization, and energy assistance. Members also provided meals for seniors and independent living services to 691 clients. In total, the program served 2,158 individuals. *(Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert Counties)*

Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps members served as volunteer coordinators at 21 organizations across Maryland; they recruited, trained, and managed volunteers to meet an array of critical community needs. Over the course of the year, 23 AmeriCorps members mobilized 8,239 direct service volunteers who dedicated 65,518 hours of service to clients and communities for the benefit of 22,952 community members. As a result of AmeriCorps member service, 100% of participating service sites reported that volunteers enhanced the effectiveness of their organization. *(State-wide)*



SPECIAL THANKS

Individuals

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Valerie Brooks	Natashia Heggins	Marisa Olszewski
Camille Burke	Aaron Henkin	Elise Saltzberg
Emma Byrnes	Elizabeth Hines	Casey Schurman
Shaun Callahan	Megan Hyde	Julia Scott
Melissa Cheek	Devon Hyde	Dr. Marilyn Smith
Tom Caron	Don Jewell	Delegate Will Smith
Rick Decker	Norma Johnson	Megan Sullivan
Brian Dunne	Shirley Sagawa	Beth Wong
Donald Eaddy	Helen Kosoff-Sullivan	Barbara Wilt
Ellen Falk	James Kwak	
Lisa Fischetti	Tonee Lawson	

Organizations

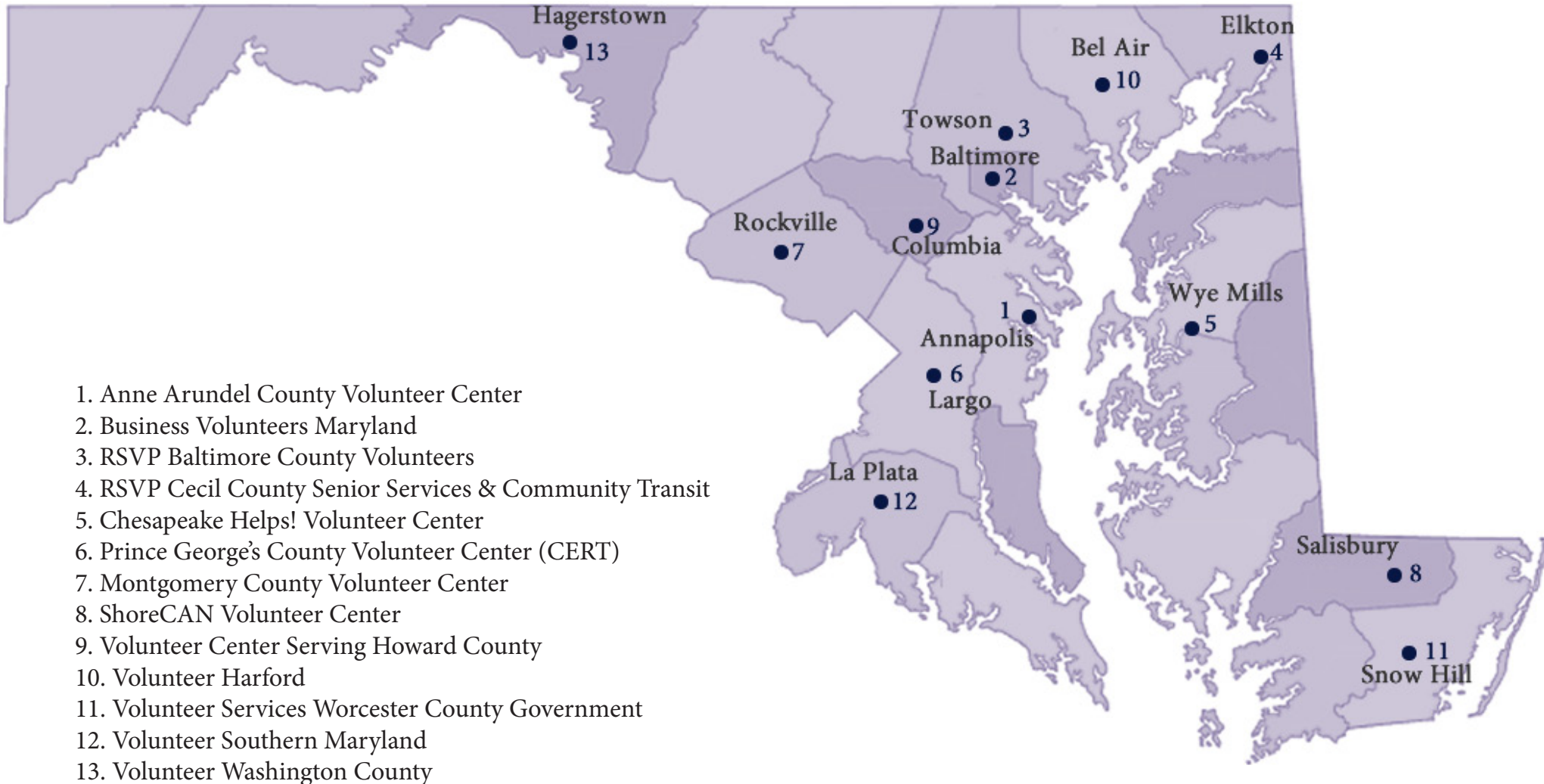
AmeriCorps NCCC
AvideonCRM
Baltimore Ravens
Corporation for National and Community Service
Children's Theatre of Annapolis
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Maryland Department of General Services
Maryland Department of Information Technology
Maryland Institute College of Art
M&T Bank
New Lens
PEP Video

MARYLAND AMERICORPS STATE GRANTEES 2013-2014



1. AIM for Excellence
2. AmeriCorps Langley Park
3. ASTAR In Western Maryland
4. Civic Works Service Corps
5. Community Art Collaborative
6. Community Mediation Corps
7. Elev8 Baltimore
8. Experience Corps-Baltimore City
9. Maryland Conservation Corps
10. New Americans Citizenship Project of Maryland
11. Partnership for Adolescents on the Lower Shore
12. Project CHANGE
13. Reading Partners Maryland
14. Tri-County AmeriCorps Service Project
15. Volunteer Maryland

VOLUNTEER CENTER NETWORK 2014



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