

*1995 Annual Report
of*



*submitted to
The Governor and Legislature
January 30, 1996*



STATE OF MAINE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE PLANNING OFFICE

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
GOVERNOR

EVAN D. RICHERT, AICP
DIRECTOR

January 24, 1996

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor of the State of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor King:

On behalf of the Maine Commission for Community Service, I am pleased to present the Commission's second annual report. The Commission has completed its first full year of operation with the assistance of the State Planning Office as part of its planning and interagency coordination role.

The first 20 Commissioners were sworn in September of 1994 under Executive Order 6 FY 93/94. This event signaled Maine's final full participation in the federal initiative to establish a national service infrastructure aimed at strengthening communities. Just eight months later, the Commission responsibilities to Maine citizens were affirmed with passage of LD 386, which you signed into law on May 3, 1995.

The Commission aims to engage volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, whether paid or unpaid, in meaningful service that addresses local unmet public safety, education, human, or environmental needs. The basic driving force behind this work is the belief that communities are the best judges of how local needs can be met. With guidance and technical assistance, the Commission members believe citizens can not only accomplish visible results but, also, learn how to support each other through all phases of life. In short, their vision is for a revitalized service ethic and sense of personal responsibility among Maine citizens.

As you review their first full year of work, you will note the Commission successfully tackled a challenging agenda and got many things done. The plans for this year are equally challenging because they will move beyond implementation of a new National Service program, AmeriCorps, into planning, priority setting, networking, and capacity building among community service and volunteer efforts.

In October, during swearing in ceremonies at the Blaine House, you challenged AmeriCorps members to keep you informed of progress and they are hoping your schedule will allow that at mid-year. The Commission would appreciate an opportunity to give you the larger picture and exchange ideas on how their work can complement your efforts to keep Maine moving toward a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Evan D. Richert, AICP
Director





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Sincerely,

Paul Chretien, Chair

Maine Commission for Community Service





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The Honorable Jane Amero, Chair
State and Local Government Committee
Maine State Legislature
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Amero:

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As you and your committee members review the Commission's first full year of work, you will note that it successfully tackled a challenging agenda and got many things done. The plans for this year are equally challenging because they will move beyond implementation of a National Service program, AmeriCorps, into planning, priority setting, networking, and capacity building among community service and volunteer efforts.

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Evan Richert, AICP
Director

Paul Chretien, Chair
Maine Commission for Community Service

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Telephone (207) 287-3261 / FAX (207) 287-6489

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The Maine Commission For Community Service

What we are:

The Maine Commission For Community Service is established under 5MRSA c373 §7501 *et seq.* and, in part, links the Corporation For National Service with the State of Maine.

Our Mission is:

The Maine Commission For Community Service fosters community service and volunteerism to meet human and environmental needs in the state of Maine.

What we do:

The Commission is responsible for developing a comprehensive State plan for community and national service; identifying service efforts that can meet critical public safety, environmental, educational and human needs; developing priorities and strategies to provide those services; and for program development and training.

The Commission makes sub-grants in accordance with provisions of the federal National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 and it recommends State priorities regarding programs that receive financial assistance under the federal Domestic Volunteer Act of 1973.

The Commission administers Maine's AmeriCorps program, and coordinates with the Maine Corporation for National Service Office regarding Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and Senior Corps, and, with the Maine Department of Education, Learn and Serve (K-12).

The Commission acts as a clearinghouse for people interested in national and community service and for agencies recruiting volunteers, provides technical assistance for program planning and implementation and grant applications.

What was accomplished in 1995:

The Commission started from “ground zero”. In partnership with the State Planning Office and the Corporation for National Service (a federal agency), the Commission carried out an ambitious work plan which included setting up its own basic operations. The Corporation for National Service had set out from its inception to be a new model of federal/state partnership in which State Commissions become the shapers and policy-setters for national and community service.

The first year activities focused primarily on working with the Corporation for National Service to launch a brand new service program, AmeriCorps. In Maine, AmeriCorps put 61 Members in communities to address public safety, environmental, educational, and health needs. The initiative was unique in that it placed equal emphasis on product objectives (“getting things done” in tangible form) and performance objectives (how communities were strengthened) as well as the personal skill development of Members (experiential learning).



AmeriCorps Members served predominantly on a full-time basis for one year. They could make such a total commitment to service thanks to a federally-funded living allowance and basic health insurance.

Upon completion of 1,700 hours of service, they receive an educational award of \$4,725. This money can be used for post-secondary education in a college or vocational school or to retire portions of educational loans.

Highlights of the Commission's Year:

- ★ With regard to national service programs the Maine Commission for Community Service ...
 - conducted a competitive grant process to award \$300,000 state formula “pass through” funds for AmeriCorps;
 - successfully obtained an additional \$276,000 in AmeriCorps competitive monies to pass through for community service initiatives;
 - developed a collaborative proposal under Subtitle H: Governor's Innovative Program which would rehabilitate housing for mentally ill citizens and engage formerly

- homeless young adults as mentors for juvenile offenders sentenced to community service;
- with a \$65,000 federal grant for program development assistance and training, linked the four AmeriCorps programs in Maine with technical assistance and training resources;
- conducted monitoring and technical assistance activities for the AmeriCorps programs;
- in collaboration with the Maine Dept. Of Human Services, established a forum on the Pine Tree State Bulletin Board to facilitate communication among all national service programs;
- compiled and distributed a list of the demonstrable results national service achieved in Maine.
- won a competitive Learn & Serve America (K-12) grant, bringing \$148,000 for community-based service learning to Maine;
- facilitated joint service and training activities by participants in Learn & Serve (K-12) school-based programs and AmeriCorps*USA members;
- helped the Maine Dept. Of Education assess the progress of its school-based Learn & Serve programs;

I *t's just
easier to
learn
when it's
hands on.
Instead of
just reading a
book and
doing a
worksheet, we
do projects.*

**-Joleen Tourgee
Nokomis High,
Newport**



- ★ To renew and extend the Comprehensive State Plan for Community and National Service, the Commission hosted an "Open Space" planning conference. Participants represented volunteer and community service programs (including youth who serve). The conference was conducted with help from staff at the Maine Office of Substance Abuse.

- ★ The Commission received testimony from eleven (11) state agencies who enlist volunteers in delivery of services. The agencies identified their pressing volunteer management issues.
- ★ The Commission developed the basic elements of its own infrastructure and communications:
 - a succinct mission statement;
 - a vision statement of future conditions to work towards;
 - passage of LD386 which became 5MRSA c373 §7501 *et seq.*;
 - *Community Currents*, the quarterly newsletter on national and community service in Maine;
 - a Home Page on the State Planning Office page of the World Wide Web with links to national community service resources;
 - applied to the federal Corporation for National Service for \$157,000 in year-two formula state funds to support Commission activities beyond the national service programs.

As the year closed, the Commission was further challenged by the federal shutdown. Rather than disrupt the work of state Commissions, the Corporation for National Service directed state commissions including Maine to temporarily use restricted training funds until the federal government re-opened.

Thus, the Maine Commission for Community Service was able to forge ahead, uninterrupted, in its goal of addressing all its responsibilities: comprehensive planning, infrastructure development, administration of national service programs, and -- most importantly -- fostering the ethic of community service and volunteerism in Maine.

W *e want to get people - all kinds of people - to work together to solve local problems. We're standing in the great tradition of the CCC, the Peace Corps, and VISTA as a further extension of the great idea of community service fostered in the Great Depression."*

- MCCS Commissioner Norman Duzen, Cutler

The appointed members of the Commission are:

Paul G. Chretien Acting Chair	AFL/CIO Labor Relations	Brewer
Margaret M. Bean Secretary	Maine State Housing Authority	Windsor
Norman Duzen	Retired UCC Clergy; Senior Companion	Cutler
Perry Gates	Educator, Projects, Inc.	Camden
Becky Hayes-Boober Ex-Officio	Dept. of Education. Children's Partnership	Augusta
Mark E. Hews	USDA-NRCS Threshold of Maine	Poland Spring
Susan Jennings	Cooperative Extension	North Waterford
Lawrence LaPierre	Senior Corps	Old Orchard Beach
Greg Lavertu	CCCM-AmeriCorps	Auburn
William Lowenstein	Maine Office of Substance Abuse	Auburn
William Michaud	Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Mid-Coast Maine	Friendship
Alfred Millette	Catholic Charities of Maine	Waldoboro
Mary Pelkey Ex Officio	State Office, Corporation for National Service	Portland

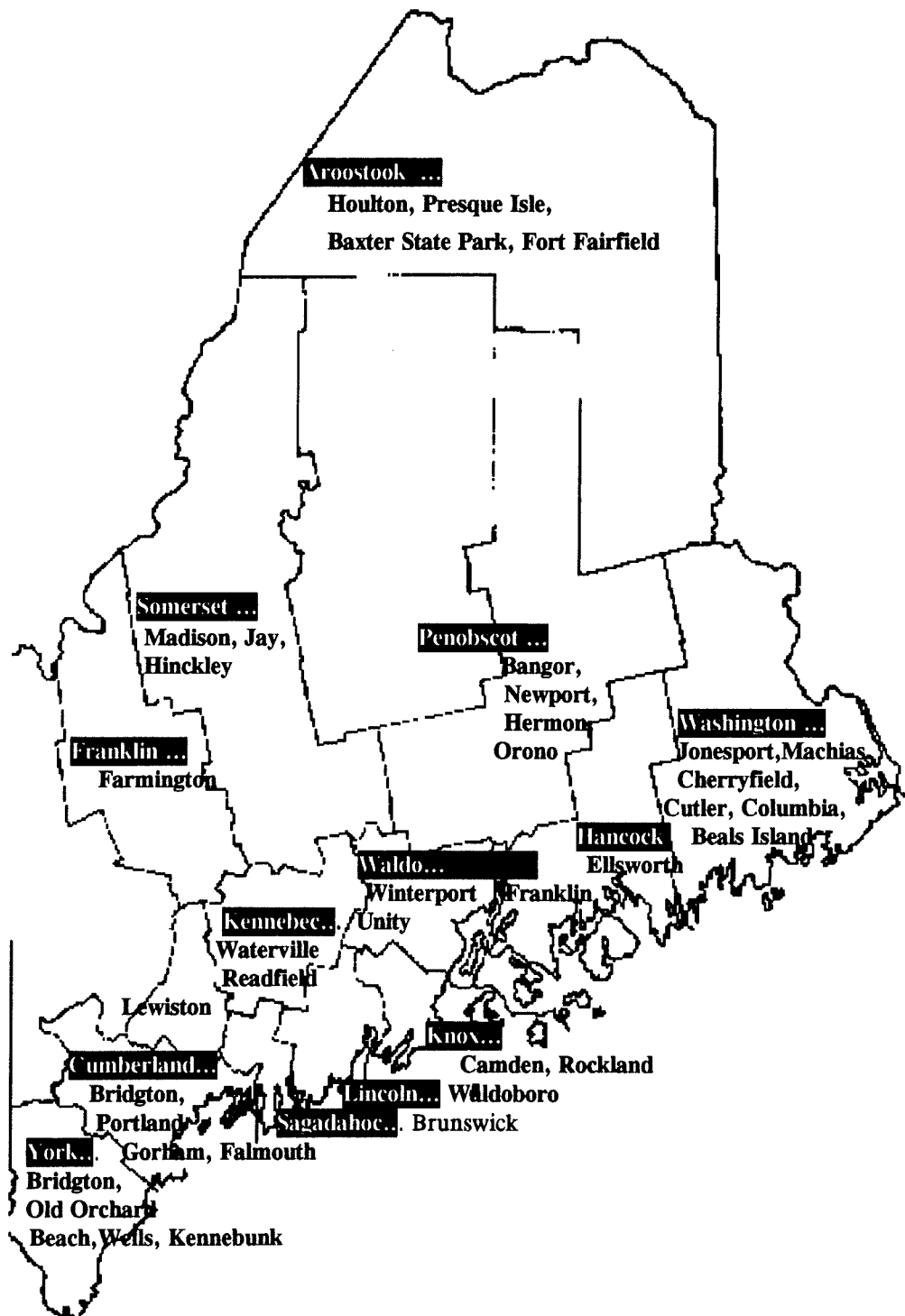
Katherine Roberts	Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers	Portland
Edith R. Scott	Peoples Heritage Bank	Clinton
Jay Skriletz	Penobscot Theatre	Perry
Kathryn Tremper	KIDS Consortium	Topsham
Kaye Woolam	Student-Richmond High School, 4-H	Richmond

I*t's great to know we've made a difference. We meet people on the street; they say "we've seen you, we know who you are - we see you work with our kids."*

**- Suwan Blaisdell,
Portland AmeriCorps Member**

Where we've been:

The National Service programs which the Commission For Community Service coordinates reach into all parts of Maine. The accompanying map identifies towns directly involved with Commission-coordinated efforts.



AmeriCorps Programs in Maine for the year Oct. 1995 - Sept. 1996:

AmeriCorps*College Conservation Corps of Maine

State House Station #124
Augusta ME 04333
Phone: 287-4931
Facsimile: 287-3611

Program Director: Kenneth Spalding
Funding Support: State Formula grant

The 20 member AmeriCorps*College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) performs conservation and outdoor recreation service projects across Maine. AmeriCorps*CCCM also provides post secondary education opportunities and career training to economically disadvantaged Maine youth.

Projects include constructing new hiking trails at Camden Hills State Park and Cutler Coast Management Unit, developing an outdoor learning center at Jordan Acres School in Brunswick, erosion control in the Allagash Wilder-ness Waterway, and training volunteers in trail maintenance techniques at Wolfe Neck Woods State Park, Freeport.

I joined because I like the ethic of community service. We developed, designed and built an outdoor learning center in Brunswick - over 650 people helped - and taught teachers how to teach environmental education, and taught some classes ourselves. I found that very rewarding.

**-- Steve Niles, Whitefield
AmeriCorps Member**

AmeriCorps Works for ME

155 Brackett Street
Portland ME 04102
Phone: 775-0105

Facs: 780-1701

Program Director: Lynda Simmons
Funding Support: State Competitive Grant

AmeriCorps Works for ME is a 20 member team sponsored by the Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council. Team members engage in conflict resolution training and community mediation in schools.

Collaborating with the police department, public housing authority, and other community organizations, the team conducts a community service program for first time juvenile offenders who work on community improvement projects such as playground restoration and graffiti removal.

Downeast Rural Health Team

Regional Medical Center at Lubec
P.O. Box 130
Lubec ME 04652
Phone: 733-5541

Facs: 733-2847

Program Director: Eunice Rescott

Funding Support: Direct Grant to National Assoc.of Community Health Centers

The 15-member Downeast Community HealthCorps aims to improve health in Washington County. Team members provide health care, disease prevention, and social services such as at-home elder care, community health education, health promotion, and the production of community education videos.

The HealthCorps provides case management and outreach services for Medical Center patients, a transportation program for seniors and others in the Lubec area, and recreation programs at the Lubec teen center, Kids Inc.

Funding is provided in part by the National Association of Community Health Centers as a three-year national demonstration project. The program director is Eunice Rescott.

AmeriCorps*National Farmworker Environmental Education Program

P.O. Box 476
Ellsworth ME 04605
Phone: 667-7543

Facs: 667-3780

Program Director: Jack Frost

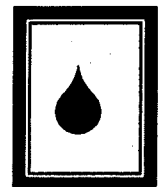
Funding Support: Direct Grant to Assoc. Farmworker Opportunity Programs

Team members train migrant and seasonal farmworkers on how to reduce exposure to pesticides, and how to access health, education, and other support services.

Maine USDA AmeriCorps

5 Godfrey Drive
Orono ME 04473
Phone: 866-7241

Facs:
866-7262



or,

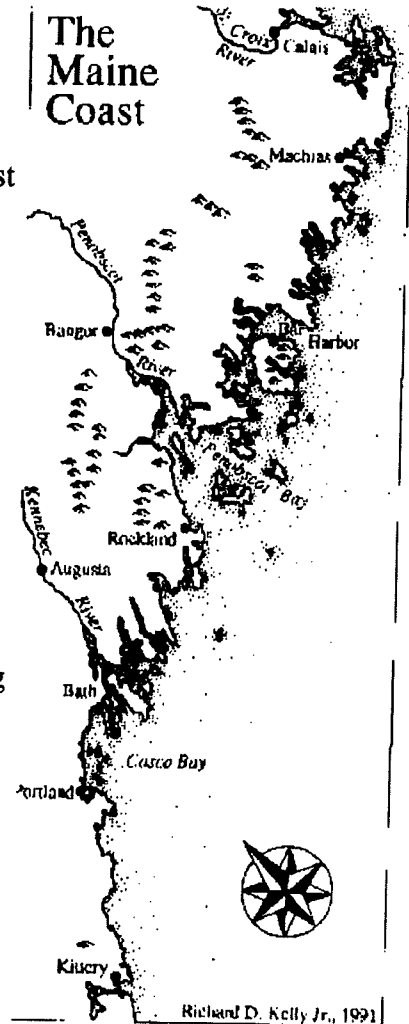
Consolidated Farm Service Agency
27 Westminster Street
Lewiston ME 04240-3531
Phone: 783-9194

Facs: 783-4101

Program Directors: Richard Baird (Orono) and Michael Tardy (Lewiston)

Funding Support: Direct Grant to the US Dept. Of Agriculture
The 20- member Maine USDA team has a variety of projects statewide.

- ⇒ Cranberry water quality coordination, addressing the water quality needs of the Downeast RC & D Cranberry Committee to promote best management practices, and to finalize establishment of a Cranberry Integrated Pest Management Program.
- ⇒ Forestry/water quality education, serving Hancock and Washington Counties from the Downeast Resource Conservation and Development Office (Cherryfield) to promote an appreciation and understanding of water quality needs and land management requirements needed to sustain habitat, aesthetics, and timber production.
- ⇒ Camp road water quality coordination, working in Kennebec County on approximately 200 lakes and ponds, assisting road and lake associations in developing and implementing road improvements, working closely with local NRCS, Soil & Water Conservation District and individual landowners.
- ⇒ Maine Association of Conservation Districts Education (Gorham,) working in local education program development in Maine's 16 soil conservation districts, and working on the water quality portion of the MACD Natural Resource Institute and the Envirothon program in Maine schools.
- ⇒ St. Croix watershed coordination (Machias,) working with communities and organizations within the watershed on water quality programs, Conservation District programs, and coordinating the Downeast Regional Envirothon.
- ⇒ Blueberry/watersheds coordination (Machias,) assisting the District in promoting and implementing an integrated crop management program for blueberry growers; working with interested parties in the watershed to improve water quality of clamflats; and promoting District educational efforts and programs through grant applications and recruitment of volunteers within the watershed.
- ⇒ Water quality/rural development coordination (Houlton,) evaluating and assessing land base sharing, water quality, crop and soil integrity, and the benefits of enterprise integration; creating marketing opportunities; promoting crop management practices to prevent non-point source pollution; and planning and implementing an Adopt-a- Stream program.
- ⇒ Damariscotta River watershed coordination at the Damariscotta River Association (Damariscotta,) assisting the Tidewater Watch water quality



program as a monitor, lab technician, and reporter; and working with the Time and Tide Mid Coast Fisheries and the Maine Department of Marine Resources in their shad restoration efforts.

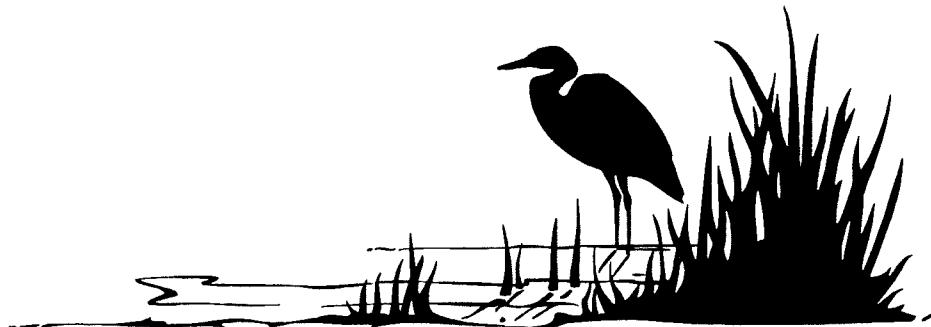
⇒ Environmental education (Gorham,) working a circuit of school districts in Cumberland County to develop outdoor learning classrooms, provide one-on-one teacher assistance on the use of diverse resource curriculum materials, and introducing teachers and students to water quality testing equipment, macro-invertebrate sampling techniques, watershed management concepts, the interrelationship with ecosystem habitats, and stream restoration conservation treatment methods.

⇒ Casco Bay watershed coordination at the Natural Resources Conservation Service field office (Gorham,) working to improve water quality, sustain ecologically diverse habitat, and conserve natural resources in Casco Bay sub-watersheds by organizing community-based resource protection treatment inventories, watershed reports, and restoration plans.

⇒ Mid-coast Fisheries water quality coordination at the Knox-Lincoln Cooperative Extension (Rockland,) assisting 12 partnership towns and agencies in improving water quality in shellfish beds, working with those communities to strengthen volunteer water quality monitoring programs.

⇒ Fish River Lakes water quality coordination (Presque Isle,) assisting the Fish River Lakes Water Quality Association and the St. John Aroostook Resource Conservation and Development to carry out a coordinated water quality program for the Fish River Chain watershed.

⇒ Caribou trails coordination at the Caribou Parks & Recreation Department assists area towns and surrounding unorganized territories in the development of a multi-use recreational trail corridor utilizing approximately 80 miles of abandoned railroad bed.



Our whole theme
is improving
water quality for
everything from clam
flats to blueberry
barrens, cranberry bogs
to watersheds.

*That takes people,
dedicated people, who
care about their
environment and are
willing to learn and
willing to work. I think
we've made a difference.*

— Richard Baird,
AmeriCorps Program
Director, Orono

⇒ Salmonid and Acadian Heritage trails development coordination (Madawaska,) working in the Upper St. John River watershed in the U.S. and Canada to gather recreational fisheries and water quality data and helping to plan the Acadian Heritage Trail System to protect the water quality, wetlands, scenic view sheds, and cultural resources.

⇒ Shellfish water quality/education coordination (Beals Island Fish Hatchery, Washington County,) working with community volunteers and clammers to establish six demonstration programs to reintroduce clams to areas where clams have been depleted, assist local water quality monitoring projects by gathering and reporting data, and informing the communities regarding the project and its economic importance.

⇒ Water quality management coordination (Consolidated Farm Service Agency,) working with farmers to assess the safety of their water supply and to develop crop management programs for predominant local crops. Coordinators will work from Houlton, Bangor, Skowhegan, Belfast and Lewiston.

AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)

537 Congress Street, Suite 406
Portland ME 04101
Phone: 780-3414

Facs: 780-3742

Program Director: Mary Pelkey
Funding Support: The Corporation for National Service

The sixteen-member VISTA Team is working on the following projects:

HEALTHREACH NETWORK-Dayspring AIDS Support Services:

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members 1.) Provide health education to low income individuals who are unserved through eleven health center sites located in Central and Western Maine. 2.) Access funding to provide support services to AIDS patients (e.g., emergency rent assistance, household articles, car repairs, assistance for heat/food).

COLLEGE CONSERVATION CORPS OF MAINE-AmeriCorps*VISTA Members will develop a financial aid program to assist youth in pursuing post secondary education; develop a social services and building trades component; and network to advertise the program and develop new partnerships for continuing the program after the VISTA source has gone.

PORTLAND WEST NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL-Community Employment Project: AmeriCorps*VISTA Members will assist in developing: 1.) An identification and recruitment system targeted at youth released from the Maine Youth Center and high school dropouts; 2.) Fund-raising projects; and 3.) Solicitation of donations of equipment and tools. VISTAs will also be developing the first Portland Youth Conservation Corps which has been chosen as one of three Youth Service Corps grants to be awarded in Maine.

PORTLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY-AmeriCorps*VISTA Member will canvass the low-income refugee population living in the housing developments to assess their educational, cultural and other needs. Working with the Public Housing Authority staff, the VISTA member will develop an orientation program to help meet those needs, including the development of orientation materials printed in different languages.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF MAINE-AmeriCorps*VISTA members will develop their volunteer program and traveling exhibits. The project hopes to encourage families from low income neighborhoods and backgrounds to become involved with the museum as volunteers. The VISTAs will also recruit more businesses to support the museum.

A.C.A.P. ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAM -AmeriCorps*VISTA members will develop and coordinate a media campaign called "Choose Health", which is designed to increase adolescent use of preventive health services in Maine. The campaign will involve adults, parents of teens, and health care providers.

***To have people come up
to you and say 'this
worked' and to know you
made a difference, that's great.***

**-- Pat Lincoln, AmeriCorps
Portland**

SUMNER ADULT EDUCATION-

AmeriCorps*VISTA members will: 1.) design and conduct a survey of local businesses to identify employment-related skills; 2.) design and conduct a survey of resource organizations to support education and training; 3.) create a clearing house of resources and services; 4.) work with existing resources to provide accessible, non-traditional approaches to education and training of low literacy adults.

PORTLAND MINISTRY AT LARGE-Beacon Teen Center: The AmeriCorps*VISTA member will develop resources and expand programming at the Beacon Teen Center, a

low income barrier drop-in center for homeless youth. This includes: establishing a career awareness program to create employment opportunities in local private sector companies through job shadowing and work experience; expanding the existing volunteer base; establishing peer support and youth discussion groups to raise the self-esteem and instill trust in adults.

WALDO CDFCU (Credit Union)-The AmeriCorps*VISTA member will increase awareness of Waldo CDFCU and credit union membership by: developing youth-based accounts and programs; speaking to businesses and community groups; public relations; establish school programs on financial services and the role of the credit unions; establish budgeting and other educational services for members. They will also involve the Waldo CDFCU in local and county economic development projects and bring the concept of CDCU to other parts of Maine.