ServeWyoming

2014 Annual Report

ServeWyoming

Improving lives and strengthening Wyoming communities through volunteerism
ServeWyoming's Executive Director, Shelly McAlpin, was named the 2014 Outstanding Executive Director for America’s Service Commissions (ASC) Innovation and Leadership Awards. These awards acknowledge and honor the outstanding efforts of state service commission leaders and service programs nationally. Shelly was honored at the ASC Annual Reception on September 16th in Arlington, Virginia. As the awardee, Shelly is featured on ASC’s website and social media.

Please join us in congratulating Shelly on this important accomplishment!

ServeWyoming is Governor Matt Mead’s Commission on National and Community Service, promoting efforts among private, non-profit and governmental organizations that advance community service, volunteer programs and activities in each Wyoming community. We also collaborate with other Corporation for National & Community Service programs such as AmeriCorps VISTA and Senior Corps. ServeWyoming gives every citizen an opportunity to help solve our biggest challenges in education, the environment, public safety, human needs, and homeland security.
AmeriCorps

September 12, 2014 marked AmeriCorps 20th Anniversary and ServeWyoming celebrated two decades of AmeriCorps service in Wyoming on September 13th with a Pledge Ceremony and the Wyoming Day of Service and Remembrance to commemorate the remarkable men and women who dedicate their lives to helping others.

The Ceremony, opened by Casper’s Mayor, Paul Meyer, began at Highland Park in Casper as new AmeriCorps members took their pledge of service. Following the morning ceremony, ServeWyoming, along with Keep Casper Beautiful and the City of Casper, invited new AmeriCorps members and ServeWyoming commissioners to participate in a service project to honor all those who serve our local communities, our state, and our nation. A number of service projects were available, including our Beverly Street Underpass Mural Project (seen above). Designers, Tony and Amy Elmore, led participating local first responders, veterans, police and fire crews, their families, and AmeriCorps members in the painting of the mural.

In addition, Wyoming Food for Thought Project offered a garden project and Keep Casper Beautiful offered a trail clean up to ensure everyone had a way to give back in honor of 9/11 and AmeriCorps’ 20th Anniversary.

AmeriCorps’ 20th Anniversary event was certainly one of the year’s highlights for ServeWyoming and 2014 proved to be another remarkable year for AmeriCorps programs all across the state. Throughout Wyoming, AmeriCorps programs have:

• Tutored or mentored more than 280 children and youth
• Provided nearly 70,000 hours of service valued at $1.5 million
• Recruited more than 1,800 volunteers
• Leveraged more than $340,000 in cash or in-kind resources

To learn more about the specific impact areas our AmeriCorps programs address, see the chart on page 4.

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Many organizations that need volunteers lack the capacity to effectively find and recruit retirees and newcomers. This is why, in 2007, a central resource was created to match needs and opportunities across Wyoming. We call this resource, Volunteer Wyoming. The Volunteer Wyoming Initiative encourages awareness of the importance of volunteering as a way to mobilize people and resources to deliver creative solutions for community problems and opportunities.

As of November 20, 2014, more than 18,000 Wyoming citizens utilized Volunteer Wyoming, resulting in more than 2,993 reported hours of service. These volunteer opportunities are generated through the matching database, the Professional Volunteer Network, and service events such as MLK Day and the 9/11 Day of Remembrance. See page 7 for pictures from our 2014 National Service Day events.

In 2014 we produced five volunteer guides, distributed in Campbell, Sheridan, Laramie, and Natrona counties. The purpose of the Volunteer Guides is to provide a complimentary resource to our online database (www.volunteerwyoming.org), which highlights a variety of volunteering opportunities across the state of Wyoming. These guides encourage and inspire community members to volunteer by providing specific information about local nonprofit volunteer opportunities, while also highlighting local business committed to our communities.

We also provide training opportunities to nonprofits in search of strategies for recruiting, placing or matching, managing and recognizing volunteers. In addition, as part of our Emergency Preparedness initiative, we can train Wyoming citizens how to set-up and operate a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) in their respective counties. Read more about the need for VRC training on page 9. Contact ServeWyoming to request a training.

As of December 1, 2014, volunteerwyoming.org has 1,270 active agencies, 2,657 active users, and 408 active volunteer needs posted. From January 1-December 1, 325 new users and 51 new agencies created profiles on the site. In 2014, October saw the highest viewing activity with 4,307 agency page views and 2,554 volunteer need views, resulting in a total of 193 need responses through volunteerwyoming.org!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for even more volunteer opportunity updates and highlights across the state.

“Become a FAN” of your favorite agency at www.volunteerwyoming.org and be the first to know when they post a new volunteer opportunity or event!
9/11 Day of Service & Remembrance is always a big service event for ServeWyoming. This year, we tried something totally different and partnered with the City of Casper and Color Casper to create a mural honoring all first responders, military members, veterans and their families, and National Service. Following our AmeriCorps 20th Ceremony on Sept. 13th, we invited first responders and their families, along with Wyoming AmeriCorps members, to help paint the mural located at the Beverly Street underpass in Casper. Additional service projects were also available to ensure everyone had a chance to serve in honor of 9/11, including Wyoming Food for Thought’s garden project and Keep Casper Beautiful’s trail clean up. The event was one of our most successful thanks to all the participants!

MLK Day 2014 was a HUGE success! ServeWyoming was so fortunate to have an AmeriCorps NCCC team in Casper to help out. The event included a march down one of Casper’s main streets, followed by a ceremony honoring the importance of MLK Day. The event ended with lunch and an Economic Resource Fair where community members could gather to learn about all the economic resources Casper and the local nonprofits have to offer. All in all we had approximately 340 participants, totaling to 356 hours of service.

To learn more about our Pro Bono Volunteer Network, visit www.servewyoming.org and click on “Get Pro Bono” if you’re interested in applying for a Service Grant. Click on “Give Pro Bono” if you’re a volunteer looking for ways to utilize your skills to make a positive impact.

In January 2014, we awarded 4 Service Grants. Since then, we have closed out 1 Service Grant and currently have 2 in progress and 1 pending a professional volunteer match.

As part of the Sept. 12, 2014, White House ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps, President Obama launched Employers of National Service. This initiative recognizes the valuable skills gained by the 900,000 Americans who have participated in AmeriCorps since 1994 and the 215,000 who have participated in the Peace Corps.

Employers of National Service builds a talent pipeline which connects AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni with leading employers from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to create recruitment, hiring, and advancement opportunities. Through this initiative, employers will have new access to a dedicated, highly qualified, and mission-oriented pool of potential employees and national service alumni will have additional opportunities to apply their skills in the workplace.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers AmeriCorps, is leading this effort along with its partners the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps Alums, and the Franklin Project. As announced on Sept. 12, 2014, there are two dozen charter Employers of National Service. Any employer that signs up to participate by Dec. 31, 2014, will be considered a charter Employer of National Service.

“Citizens who perform national service are special. You want them on your team.”
— President Obama
Emergency PREPAREDNESS

As weather-related disasters continue to dominate our news, ServeWyoming remains as dedicated as ever to help address issues related to volunteers before and after a disaster strike. Through our Emergency Preparedness programming we help to address issues related to volunteers. Specifically, we Pre-Register Disaster Volunteers and offer Volunteer Reception Center Training.

We encourage Wyoming citizens to sign-up as Disaster Response Volunteers ahead of time so residents will be prepared to use their valuable skills, talents and experiences when and where they are needed most.

When disasters do strike, well-meaning community members show up to disaster sites ready to help. But, without a pre-established, centralized location to organize and coordinate their efforts, their offers of help are often underutilized and even problematic to professional responders. That’s why ServeWyoming, together with local partners, has undertaken a statewide plan to train Wyoming citizens how to set-up and operate a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) in their respective counties. VRCs play an important role in not just disaster response, but in the recovery of a community. By coordinating volunteers to respond to situations that best utilize their skills, communities potentially avoid the chaos of spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers that can slow down emergency response efforts.

If you would like to pre-register as a Disaster Response Volunteer or request Volunteer Reception Center training in your area please contact Jessica at (307) 234-3428.

On Sept. 6th, we participated in a Mass-casualty Exercise at the Casper-Natrona County International Airport, where we put our VRC volunteers to the test!

Thank you to all of ServeWyoming’s sponsors, partners, volunteers, & friends for making 2014 and our 10 Year Anniversary such a success! Your support means the world to us!