Improving lives and strengthening Wyoming communities through volunteerism
Dear Friends of ServeWyoming,

There is no doubt that service and volunteerism play a major role in strengthening the fabric of our communities and in addressing important needs. As we look back on 2015, we are amazed at the wonderful work that our program partners and volunteers have accomplished. Thousands of Wyoming volunteers and AmeriCorps members have given their time and talents to make positive differences in their communities.

The stories of service in this report not only reflect the beauty of our state, but also reveal an inner beauty that thrives in small and large communities across Wyoming. We thank the AmeriCorps members and volunteers represented in this report and all those who have served to make Wyoming a better place to live!

As our state’s Commission on National and Community Service, an integral component of our mission is to effectively leverage federal AmeriCorps funds to help address critical needs across the state. It’s a unique responsibility. We are the only entity that, by executive order, exists in order for Wyoming to access AmeriCorps funds. The power of our organization comes through how we manage those resources and deliver outcome-focused programming. Inside, you’ll find the latest on our various programs: AmeriCorps, Volunteer Wyoming, Emergency Preparedness, and the Pro Bono Volunteer Network, including data showing our commitment to improving lives and strengthening Wyoming communities through volunteerism.

The people represented in this report are doing extraordinary things and are a vital part of our communities! We appreciate your support and interest in our work and know that you, our partners, rely on us to deliver results. That responsibility is our constant driver, and we will continue our strong focus on proven approaches and program enhancements to ensure that 2016 is just as noteworthy as 2015.

Shelly McAlpin
Executive Director

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

2015 proved to be another remarkable year for AmeriCorps programs all across the state! Throughout Wyoming, AmeriCorps programs have:

* Tutored or mentored more than 175 children and youth
* Provided nearly 65,000 hours of service valued at over $1.5 million
* Recruited more than 1,010 volunteers
* Leveraged more than $412,000 in cash or in-kind resources to date

To learn more about the specific impact areas our AmeriCorps programs address, see below!

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<th>Programs</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Program Impact</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Wyoming-Wyoming</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Promote leadership &amp; provide natural resource &amp; environmental management experiences to young adults.</td>
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<td>Conservation Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Wyoming Big Brothers Big Sisters</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Provide outreach &amp; support to new mentors &amp; recruit mentors/AmeriCorps members to improve the lives of youth in Wyoming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teton Science Schools</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Provide education &amp; science training for educators, youth, &amp; young adults &amp; promote environmental education.</td>
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<td>Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence &amp; Sexual Assault</td>
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<td>Provide leadership, education &amp; systems advocacy to advance social change &amp; end violence, including crisis intervention.</td>
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<td>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Wyoming</td>
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<td>Provide after school educational &amp; enrichment activities, mentoring, &amp; homework assistance to local youth.</td>
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<td>Feeding Laramie Valley</td>
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<td>Working for food security &amp; a sustainable local food system. Now a VISTA and Foster Grandparents grantee.</td>
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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 Alumni, and the Franklin Project.

To become an Employer of National Service, organizations will demonstrate policies and practices that emphasize the skills that national service alumni bring to the workplace. A commitment to be an Employer of National Service could include at least one of the following:

• Explicitly indicate in relevant job announcements an interest in recruiting AmeriCorps members and returned Peace Corps volunteers (For example, "AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, and other national service alumni are encouraged to apply.")

• Provide an opportunity for job applicants to identify themselves as AmeriCorps or Peace Corps alumni. (For example, placing a check box on your employment application that asks a question along the following lines: "Did you serve in an AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, or another national service program?")

Organizations from all sectors are eligible to become Employers of National Service! To learn more and/or sign up, please visit http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/employers-national-service.

How do you benefit as an employer? Employers of National Service 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. A commitment to be an Employer of National Service could include at least one of the following:

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ServeWyoming is proud to be an Employer of National Service!

Check out who has joined us in Wyoming so far:

• American Red Cross
• Comcast and NBCUniversal
• Corporation for National and Community Service
• Disney
• National Park Service
• Sodexo
• Southwest Wyoming Recovery Access Programs (SW-WRAP)
• Teton Science Schools
• U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
• U.S. Department of Agriculture

As of December 15, 2015, more than 22,939 Wyoming citizens utilized Volunteer Wyoming, resulting in more than 1,711 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, and this year from We’re With You Day—a service day event we partnered with WyHy Federal Credit Union on in August. See page 7 for pictures from our 2015 National Service Day events.

This past year, we produced six volunteer guides, distributed in Campbell, Sheridan, Laramie, Park, and Natrona counties. The purpose of our Volunteer Guides is to provide a complimentary resource to our online database (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 businesses 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 about how we trained AmeriCorps NCCC Team Silver 5 to operate the VRC in Lusk on page 9.

Contact ServeWyoming to request a training.

Left: ServeWyoming staff and commissioners, Foster Grandparents, and AmeriCorps members join Mayor Powell at the Natrona County Volunteer Fair in April where he commemorated Mayor’s Day. Below: We’re With You Day volunteers help make pet toys for the Cheyenne Animal Shelter as part of the Cheyenne-Casper August 15th event.

Above: We’re With You Day volunteers help Wyoming Food For Thought Project with their garden project in Casper on August 15th.

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

Volunteer Wyoming's Mission

Volunteer Wyoming is a statewide volunteer organization that connects people with nonprofits. We provide a free volunteer database/matching website, www.volunteerwyoming.org, to link together all the various community volunteer activities, opportunities, and needs with volunteers and resources; supporting nonprofits when they need it most.

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By the Numbers

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As of December 15, 2015, volunteerwyoming.org has 1,272 active agencies, 3,037 active users, and 408 active volunteer needs posted. From January 1-December 15, 328 new users and 35 new agencies created profiles on the site. In 2015, October saw the highest volunteer activity with 4,807 Volunteer Need Views, 40 New Member Registrations, and 33 Need Responses. August saw the most Agency Page Views with 3,482. In 2015 a total of 193 need responses through volunteerwyoming.org!

Left: The Fall 2015 Natrona County Volunteer Guide, featuring 81 local organizations and 170 opportunities.

Left: ServeWyoming staff and commissioners, Foster Grandparents, and AmeriCorps members join Mayor Powell at the Natrona County Volunteer Fair in April where he commemorated Mayor’s Day. Below: We’re With You Day volunteers help make pet toys for the Cheyenne Animal Shelter as part of the Cheyenne-Casper August 15th event.

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volunteerwyoming.org
On November 13, 2015 during a Veteran Corps pinning ceremony, Senator Enzi, with ServeWyoming and the Corporation for National and Community Service, recognized veterans who have continued a life of service as AmeriCorps and VISTA members and Senior Corps volunteers, and also those national service members who are serving veterans and military families.

ServeWyoming collaborated with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to recognize the dedicated individuals as members of the National Veteran Corps, as part of a larger effort to raise awareness of the value veterans bring to communities.

Last year, more than 23,000 veterans served in their local communities as AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers. Additionally, more than 780,000 veterans and military families were served through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs. The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service each year through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and other programs. For more information, please visit www.servewyoming.org.

National Veteran Corps pins were presented by Senator Enzi to thirty AmeriCorps/Senior Corps members, at his Cheyenne office. This event was one of nearly 200 recognition events featuring National Veteran Corps pin presentations taking place across the country throughout the month of November.

Scott Gnaud, AmeriCorps member and United States Air Force veteran serving with Greater Wyoming Big Brothers Big Sisters

“To be able to attend something like this with Senator Enzi honoring me for both my service then and my continued service now, really meant more than words could say.”

Source: VolunteeringinAmerica.gov

Volunteers: 142,640
Hours of Service: 17.7 million
Estimated Value of Service: $409.2 million

Source: VolunteeringinAmerica.gov

MLK Day was once again a successful event in 2015. 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 a celebration of the VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) 50th anniversary and a Community Solutions Summit to build awareness and create solutions around homelessness. All in all, we had approximately 192 participants, totalling to 384 hours of service.

AmeriCorps Program Directors and ServeWyoming helped Wyoming Food For Thought Project stuff bags for their Weekend Bag program. The bags are given to children in Natrona County who may otherwise go hungry for the #NationalDayofService in remembrance of 9/11.
Emergency Preparedness

ServeWyoming plays an active role in WYVOAD (Wyoming Organizations Active in Disasters), where we assisted with two local disasters this past year. Read below to find out how!

Lusk Flood

Between May 24 - June 6, Wyoming was inundated with a number of severe weather events bringing flood damage and destruction. One AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team (10 members) deployed on June 13 to Niobrara County and the city of Lusk to support Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) operations, donations management, debris clearing, and mucking/gutting. After the team departed on July 13, Niobrara County identified a continued need for AmeriCorps support due to the high level of damage. The Disaster Service Unit (DSU) shared the need with neighboring AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams (A-DRTs) and Montana Conservation Corps swiftly made arrangements to fulfill the request. The 7 person crew (6 members, 1 staff) assisted mostly with external debris removal, clearing the river channel and surrounding landscape of debris as well as utilizing their chainsaws to remove hazard trees. The crew also helped with some fencing, as well as rehab and construction work. The crew arrived on July 28 and stayed until August 7.

ServeWyoming was active in providing VRC training to AmeriCorps NCCC Team Silver 5, referring volunteers and connecting with NCCC and Montana Conservation Corps to assist in deployment efforts in the area.


Cole Creek Fire

On October 11, 2015 in the town of Evansville, many citizens were displaced due to the Cole Creek Fire that destroyed approximately 20 homes and left many others damaged.

Because ServeWyoming awards and monitors multiple federal grants, we accepted the role of housing monetary donations given by generous donors across the region for the Cole Creek Fire victims. Once the donations are received, a committee of local emergency relief agencies will allocate the funds via an application process to assist with any unmet needs. We also partnered with the Burn Fund in Casper, who will also be using our application to administer funds to those affected by the fire. Once applications are returned, the committee will review and award funds to cover any unmet needs as determined by the applicant and their caseworker. ServeWyoming is donating staff time towards the administration of the Cole Creek Fire Fund. We have also partnered with the Cole Creek Fire Recover Organization (CCFRO) to help with relief efforts.

In addition, ServeWyoming coordinated community volunteers to assist with clean up efforts following the fire.

ServeWyoming matched community volunteers with Team Rubicon above to assist with debris cleanup following the Cole Creek Fire in Casper.

As part of a multi-agency response effort, the AmeriCorps NCCC Team Silver 5 above was assigned to assist the Town of Manville, Town of Lusk, and Niobrara County Emergency Management. Thank you for all of your help!

ServeWyoming supports 109 Pro Bono Volunteers registered to help Wyoming nonprofits!

Pro Bono Volunteer Network

In 2010, ServeWyoming embarked on the Pro Bono Volunteer Network in an effort to establish a network of business and social leaders who volunteer their time and expertise to nonprofits for a short-term project/training. In order to be eligible to be matched with a professional volunteer, nonprofits must apply for a Service Grant through ServeWyoming. Once approved, ServeWyoming facilitates the match between the awarded nonprofit and a professional volunteer matching the skills required.

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.
Wyoming is ranked 21st in the Nation for volunteering!

Keep that number rising by contacting ServeWyoming today!

www.servewyoming.org
www.volunteerwyoming.org