

**Summary of Open VISTA Positions Starting in July/August 2008**  
**For the most up-to-date information on open positions and how to apply, please contact**  
**VISTA Leader Marianne Magjuka at 850-488-3143 or at [mmagjuka@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:mmagjuka@admin.fsu.edu).**

**Become an AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member with The Early Learning Coalition!**

The Early Learning Coalition provides community leadership, support, and advocacy for families with young children. Specifically, ELC provides school readiness programs, voluntary pre-kindergarten programs, technical assistance, child screenings, and quality services. ELC priorities include: ensuring that children are enrolled in high quality early learning programs; identifying, coordinating, and providing services for children in need of early intervention services; encouraging parents to become their child's first teacher and to become actively involved in their child's education; and providing coordinated staff development opportunities.

**Become an AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member with Florida Impact!**

Since 1979, Florida Impact has been dedicated to reducing hunger and poverty in Florida and increasing access to food and nutrition programs by conducting aggressive outreach strategies and public policy advocacy. Our four current operational objectives are summer nutrition for children when school is out of session, greater participation in breakfast when school is in session, easier access to food stamp benefits, and coordinated regional advocacy for federal food and nutrition priorities. These objectives will manifest as follows: 1) Assist community leaders to implement the provisions of the new Children's Summer Nutrition Act in six counties where children have had inadequate or no access to the federal summer food program; 2) Coordinate a second breakfast pilot in five Osceola County schools; 3) Work closely with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) to revamp Impact's food stamp prescreening tool to conform with the state modernization plan's electronic application process; 4) Help the Southeast Anti-Hunger Consortium (SEAHC) organize a presence in Washington. Florida's low-income families benefit from the increased ease and access to federal programs these strategies provide. The VISTA will work with child nutrition programs: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in up to six (6) other counties, and Afterschool Snack in 1-2 counties. In Osceola, the VISTA will observe children at school during meals, distribute and analyze surveys, work with local media in outreach efforts, and provide formal reports at the end of the project.

**Become an AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member with Community Tampa Bay!**

Community Tampa Bay formerly known as The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) was founded to fight bias, bigotry and racism in America. NCCJ promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions, and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education. Our role is to advocate, educate and resolve conflict relative to issues of discrimination and oppression of individuals and groups. We work with community, school and government leaders facilitating community and interfaith dialogues, providing workplace consultations, youth leadership development and educator training. Each summer four hundred youth attend NCCJ's Anytown, a week-long, residential, multicultural experience. Youth from diverse backgrounds spend a week learning and sharing with each other on issues such as genocide, racism, prejudice, sexism and other "isms" in experiential workshops, small and large discussion groups, role-plays, lectures and videos. The focus of Anytown is to engage youth in a challenging environment where they can develop solutions to critical human relations problems. For one week, students build relationships with others from across the Bay in order to create a network of youth who will work for justice in their schools and communities. The VISTA project will provide follow up and continued development activities for Community Tampa Bay programs,

specifically focusing on Anytown, our leadership development and diversity awareness program. Specific duties will include: (1) develop a follow-up plan for Anytown alumni; (2) develop outreach strategies for programs; (3) develop volunteer recruitment strategies.

### **Become an AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member with Volusia County Schools!**

The goal of this project is to work with K-12 students at three environmental service-learning sites in Volusia County. Connecting with the family centers at each of these low-income and traditionally underserved population sites will allow us to reach out to the adults from migrant, minimum wage, and single parent households. Students from these low-income households often lack experiential learning due to a lack of resources. The AmeriCorps\*VISTA member will have the opportunity to meet the needs of low-income students and parents while helping to promote student civic engagement to help the community meet environmental and educational needs. The VISTA member will conduct trainings, develop partnerships, assist with the dissemination of educational materials, and work with teachers and students from nine low-income schools in Volusia County.

### **Become an AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member with FSU Center for Leadership & Civic Education!**

Youth Programs was founded in 1998 as the America Reads Program. Its purpose was simple: To ensure that every child was able to read on grade level by the third grade. America Reads has since evolved into Youth Programs, which is designed to help students in grades K-8 become better readers and improve their math, science and writing skills. The program consistently places 300-400 college students each year into low-income housing communities and into Title I elementary and middle schools in Tallahassee. The AmeriCorps\*VISTA for Youth Programs would be responsible for strengthening the middle school program as well establishing a connection with at least one area high school.

### **Become an AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member with Chain Reaction in Pensacola!**

Pensacola's Promise is a non-profit organization committed to building a stronger community and investing in youth programs. To ensure that teens are part of creating community solutions, we opened our Teen Volunteer center, Chain Reaction, in September 2003. Through Chain Reaction, teens develop leadership skills, participate in community service projects, and are empowered to use their own voices.

The FASS VISTA member will expand the Chain Reaction program by creating new service learning projects, conducting leadership training, creating new civic engagement opportunities and recruiting new teen volunteers. The FASS VISTA will expand the opportunities for teens and the involvement of the community in service learning. Tasks and Activities:

- Identify volunteer opportunities for youth in Escambia County
- Identify youth groups (4H, Scouts, church groups) interested in participating
- Develop partnership with Escambia County School administrators at middle/high school
- Coordinate trainings and projects
- Facilitate meetings of Chain Reaction
- Document service hours for teens
- Host recognition event
- Seek additional funding to sustain project

### **Become an AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member with Florida Campus Compact in Tallahassee!**

Florida Campus Compact works with colleges and universities to promote the scholarship of engagement through research, academically rigorous service-learning, campus-community collaboration, civic engagement and collegiate volunteerism. *FL|CC* is a thriving and growing organization comprised of every state university, most of community colleges and more than half of the independent colleges and universities in Florida. *FL|CC* provides leadership to integrate service with academic study and to link the collegiate experience with community agencies that address a spectrum of needs in cities and towns throughout Florida. The VISTA member would work to implement a statewide infrastructure for programming that will connect the resources of colleges and universities with local and statewide community serving entities. This person would implement and strengthen a student fellowship program to increase collegiate student engagement and community-based learning activities locally and statewide; implement and strengthen a train-the-trainer program for furthering engaged scholarship activities in Florida and beyond; and refine Florida Campus Compact's training program and resources for students, faculty, administrators and community organizations.

### **Become an AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member with Jacksonville University!**

Jacksonville University's Community Service Center employs a full-time director and numerous Federal Work Study students during the fall and spring semesters. Since the Center's inception, JU students have given more than 80,000 hours in service to about 100 different non-profit, public and private organizations. Students can opt to create their own service projects, participate in one-day projects organized by the Center, or partner with a local school or non-profit organization. The Center has established many annual projects including National Make A Difference Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday project, Alternative Spring Break and a federal work study community service program.