



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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# AmeriCorps dedicates more than \$7 million in service hours to Virginia

*AmeriCorps Week is May 9-16*

**Richmond, Va.** – Governor Timothy Kaine has proclaimed May 9-16 as AmeriCorps Week in Virginia. During the designated week, AmeriCorps members, alumni, project staff members, commission members, friends, and supporters will participate in various events. The goal is to bring more Americans into service, salute members and alumni, and thank the partners who make AmeriCorps possible.

Throughout Virginia, organizations are making a difference and touching lives through participation in AmeriCorps. Last year, AmeriCorps\*State resulted in \$7.4 million dollars worth of service to Virginia. The Commonwealth's 17 programs and their 371 AmeriCorps members recruited approximately 10,000 volunteers resulting in nearly 380,000 service hours.

### Virginia AmeriCorps Week Events

- [SynerGeo, Inc.](#) will host a volunteer/member recognition dinner, a partner/program participants art show, and a community event.
- The [Virginia Commonwealth University](#) AmeriCorps program will deliver meals to needy senior citizens in the Richmond area through Meals on Wheels.
- [Mountain Empire Community College's](#) (MECC) AmeriCorps will participate in a walk-a-thon to benefit an area emergency fuel assistance program that helps senior citizens.
- [Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps in Virginia](#) will participate in a build-a-thon in Iowa, building homes for 2008 flood victims in conjunction with 500 other Habitat AmeriCorps members from across the country. This event is slated for June 13 – 20.
- [Congressman Tom Perriello](#) will host an AmeriCorps member open house in Charlottesville on May 11.

AmeriCorps is a national network of programs that engages more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in communities. Participants receive work experience, incentives such as health insurance, and a stipend for living expenses. During its 15-year-history, the program has provided opportunities for 542,000 Americans donating 705 million service hours to give back in an intensive way to their communities.

See a complete list of [AmeriCorps Week events](#) across the country. For more information about AmeriCorps in Virginia, visit [www.vaservice.org](http://www.vaservice.org).

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*Interviews are available upon request. For additional story ideas and information, contact Carla Harris, VDSS, (804) 726-7107 or [carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov).*

*The VDSS Home Office is located in Richmond and administers social services programs, consistent with federal and state law and policy of the State Board of Social Services through 120 local departments of social services throughout the state. The VDSS mission is “People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse, and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities.”*