

2011 RECOGNITION WINNERS

For programs operating or participants serving
between September 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010

Governor's Community Service AmeriCorps Program

Given to a National Service Participant or program who has made significant contributions to Wisconsin through community service.

Kathleen Hein AmeriCorps Farm to School Crawford Co.
DATCP

Governor's AmeriCorps®VISTA Participant

Given to national service participants or program who has made significant contributions to Wisconsin through community service efforts to fight poverty.

Teresa Steffens Washington Elementary School

Governor's Senior Corps Participant

Given to the national service participant or program who has made significant contributions to Wisconsin through Community Service efforts using their invaluable skills and experience.

Judy Halderson Coulee Region RSVP-FGP

Serve Wisconsin Disability Inclusion Recognition

Awarded to an AmeriCorps®State or National program for their efforts towards disability inclusion.

Arc-Wisconsin Volunteer Partners-AmeriCorps Program

Governor's Service-Learning Recognition

Given to an individual or organization within the education system that has had a positive community impact through service-learning.

Elisha Witt Clintonville Public Schools

Marty Stein Friend of Service

Given To an exemplary supporter – individual or organization – of a national service program in Wisconsin.

Madison College Keith Cornille, Gerard Xavier, &
Juanita Comeau

Scott Walker
Governor

Joel Haubrich
Chair

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Executive Director

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SERVE WISCONSIN!

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Governor's Service Recognition Winners Announced

[Madison, Wisconsin] – Six winners will be recognized at the Governor's Service Recognition Luncheon and Conference at 11:30 A.M., on April 6, 2011 at Monona Terrace, One John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI. John Gomperts, Director of AmeriCorps, from the Corporation for National and Community Service and Leigh Mills, Channel 15 Madison will present the awards and congratulate the winners. The Governor's Service Recognitions are presented to programs and individuals participating in organizations funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America. This event provides an opportunity to recognize organizations and individuals that help solve serious social issues and help strengthen their community through service.

2011 Governor's Service Awards

Governor's Community Service AmeriCorps Participants Recipient
Kathleen Hein-AmeriCorps Farm to School Crawford County

Governor's AmeriCorps*VISTA Participant Recipient
Teresa Steffens-Washington Elementary School

Governor's Senior Corps Participant Recipient
Judy Halderson-Senior Corps RSVP.
Coulee Region RSVP

Governor's Service-Learning Recipient
Elisha Witt-Clintonville Public Schools

Serve Wisconsin Disability Inclusion Recipient
Arc-Wisconsin-Volunteer Partners- AmeriCorps Program

Marty Stein Friend of National Service Recipient
Madison College Team-Keith Cornille, Gerard Xavier, Juanita Comeau

Serve Wisconsin, with the support of the CNCS sponsors the Governor's Service Recognitions.

Serve Wisconsin is a 22-member citizen body appointed by the Governor responsible for overseeing AmeriCorps programs in WI, which address unmet human, environmental, public safety, educational, and homeland security needs. For more information about Serve Wisconsin or funded AmeriCorps programs, visit



www.servewisconsin.wi.gov.

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. Together with the USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

Following are brief descriptions of each award winner.

Kathleen Hein will receive the Governor's recognition for AmeriCorps members. She has worked over the past three years to address the real and urgent issues of food insecurity and health in three school districts in Crawford County. Poverty rates are below the states average and there are high percentages of free and reduce lunch participants in area schools. Kathleen created a "Harvest of the Month" theme day program at Prairie du Chien, Wauzeka, and Seneca schools. During these theme days the students sampled local foods like apples, cranberries, potatoes, and cheese and learned about their history, growth or processing cycle, and nutritional significance. In addition she started a weekly snack program for approximately 225 children at B.A. Kennedy Elementary School. Instead of relying on parents to send cupcakes or cookies, the food service staff purchase and prepare fruit or vegetable snacks like carrots sticks or dried cranberries. The program is funded entirely by parent donations. Kathleen began a school vegetable and butterfly garden at B.A. Kennedy School raising \$8,000 in supplies and labor through donations from the community. Kathleen has raised over \$33,000 in cash and donated supplies to help teach students in Crawford County about the path from farm to fork and instill healthy eating habits. She has involved over 50 community volunteers and collaborated with over 30 community organizations and businesses. Lastly, she has educated teachers and the community about the benefits of farm-to-school programs through outreach, newsletters, and regular e-mails.

Teresa Steffens an AmeriCorps*VISTA will receive the Governor's AmeriCorps*VISTA participant award. Teresa committed two years of service to Washington School as a VISTA member. During the past year and a half, she has accomplished what no person or team in the organization has been able to accomplish before; beginning an after school program, increasing parental involvement, creating numerous community partnerships, increasing the number of volunteers serving the school, developing a volunteer training program, and facilitating an Action Team for Partnerships to continue the work in the years to come. As a result of Teresa's efforts, Washington School has a highly effective "Lighted School House" program that provides 60 students with homework assistance and enrichment opportunities. She has worked tirelessly on sustainability by writing grants, to ensure that funding and personnel are available to continue the "Lighted School House" project and continue other partnerships even after present personnel changes hands.

Judy Halderson is a Coulee Region Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) who will receive the Governor's Senior Corps Participant award. Grandma Judy as she is affectionately referred to, serves in the "Ready, Set, Learn" classroom four days a week five hours a day at the Sand Lake Elementary School, Holmen, WI. Grandma Judy works with individual kindergarten students and small groups who began the year below grade level. Grandma Judy helps struggling students learn daily lessons quickly, her continual practice and emphasis with these students allows them to commit information to long-term memory and improve both in math and literacy skills. Judy likes to share the success story of one of her students, "a little boy practiced all morning to learn the letter 'k' and finally after all of this hard work, he got it. Now he says to me, Grandma Judy, I make really good 'k's"! Many of her students started the year not knowing the ABC's at all and barely able to recognize numbers. Results from test results of students who began the year not able to test at grade level by December were testing high above the grade level thanks to Grandma Judy's dedication to improving our next generation of leaders.

The ARC-Wisconsin, Disability Association, Inc. will receive the Disability Inclusion recognition. Since October, ARC-WI has been able to enroll 25- half-time members, of those 20 have diagnosed disabilities. The members have an amazing amount of enthusiasm for the service projects in which they are involved. Members have made connections with various service organizations around Dane County and seek to fill needs within the

community. Members attended the day of service on Martin Luther King Jr., Day and organized a food drive with numerous volunteers to help fill the shelves of local food pantries. Many members have been disadvantaged their entire lives and understand what it is to be in need of assistance. These members love being able to give back and enjoy bringing others to service events as volunteers. The community wins by having disabled members involved in service and members win because they are giving back by serving.

Elisha Witt will receive the Governor's Service-Learning Recognition for her outstanding work with service-learning projects. Elisha has been involved in the Service Learning Initiative in Clintonville for the last four years. Because of her strong commitment to community and her success with Service Learning in the classroom, Elisha is forging the way to increasing teacher use of Service Learning as an instructional strategy. Elisha's involvement in Service Learning has encouraged the public to believe that young children can make a difference and do good deeds in their community. It is common practice for Elisha's 3rd grade students to read the local newspaper during a classroom "town hall meeting," which often leads to specific Service Learning project ideas beyond the classroom. The other "community" that has been strengthened by her efforts is the teaching community. Elisha has challenged her colleagues both locally and statewide to take a risk and try something new because it's good for students. Presenting these positive results at school board meetings and state conferences has allowed Elisha to extend the impact of Service Learning to an even wider "teaching community." Her tireless efforts to implement Service Learning in the classroom, as well as educate her peers have made Elisha an exceptional role model for the district, community, and State of Wisconsin.

Madison College Team-Consisting of Juanita Comeau, Keith Comille, and Gerard Xavier will receive the Marty Stein Friend of National Service Award. This group of Madison College staff has supported Operation Fresh Start's educational programming in assisting disconnected youth in developing the broad skills needed for successful employability, exposing them to the career track concept, and linking them to credentialing programs of their choice. The Madison College team has developed programming and staff support specific to preparing youth for successful retention in post-secondary education. The support has assisted Operation Fresh Start's youth with the transition into college-level courses by molding Madison College's already established programming to better fit the needs of the AmeriCorps members. Madison College has been a close partner with Operation Fresh Start and supported their graduates as they transitioned to part-time or full-time enrollment. Operation Fresh Start AmeriCorps members come from diverse backgrounds. Access to rich service learning opportunities and post-secondary experiences is new to the members. Forming strong organizational partnerships is key to their success. Keith, Gerard, and Juanita understand this and are committed to success of Operation Fresh Start AmeriCorps members.

In addition to the awards the Wisconsin Service Conference will feature **John Gomperts**, Director of AmeriCorps, CNCS at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Gomperts has served in a variety of positions including Chief Operating Officer at Public Education Network, and Chief of Staff of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps. Gomperts has worked in senior positions in the U.S. Senate, first as legislative director for Harris Wofford, and then as deputy director of the Senate Democratic Leadership Committee, working for Senators Tom Daschle and John Kerry. Before Capitol Hill, Gomperts practiced law and clerked for a federal judge.

At 10:30 a.m. **Shirley Sagawa**, an author and huge supporter of AmeriCorps will keynote the Governor's Awards Luncheon and Conference. Sagawa has been a source of creative energy for the growing service movement in the U.S. for 20 years, from serving on Senator Ted Kennedy's staff when the first tentative steps towards AmeriCorps were accepted by President George H.W. Bush, to cheering on the day President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act in Washington D.C. last spring. Her recent book *The American Way to Change: How National Service and Volunteers are Transforming America*, builds on this experience to document the reasons for success of the national service idea.