



JUNE 6, 2019
MONONA TERRACE
MADISON, WISCONSIN

PROGRAM

Welcome - Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director - Serve Wisconsin

Remarks - Governor Tony Evers

Awards Presentation

AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Alexis Dean - Schools of Hope

AmeriCorps Program of the Year

Marshfield Clinic Health System AmeriCorps Recovery Corps

AmeriCorps VISTA Member of the Year

Marco Marquez - Milwaukee Succeeds

Senior Corps Volunteers of the Year

Richard Hoffman - RSVP of Dane County

Mary Ann Steep - SWCAP Foster Grandparent Program

Senior Corps Program of the Year

RSVP Interfaith of Washington County

Veteran Volunteer of the Year

Steve Conto - Veterans of Foreign Wars

Volunteer Coordinator of the Year

Rachel Guenther - The Beacon

AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year

Khong Meng Her - Blugold Beginnings

Ashley Lee - Public Allies Milwaukee

Adrienne Strelcheck - Pathfinders Street Beat Outreach Team

AmeriCorps VISTA Alumni of the Year

Ellen Carlson - Middleton Outreach Ministry

Marty Stein Friend of National Service Exemplary Supporter

Brian Blahnik - Marshfield Clinic Health System

Closing Remarks - Paula Horning, WNCSSB Chair

The Governor's Service Awards honors outstanding volunteers, national service participants, and programs that have helped to address serious social needs in their communities. These honorees have made significant contributions to Wisconsin through their service efforts. Their generous service is impacting the lives of countless Wisconsinites.

HONOREES

Alexis Dean

AmeriCorps Member of the Year

Alexis serves with Schools of Hope as the AmeriCorps Literacy Tutor and Tutor Coordinator at Mendota Elementary School in Madison. Officially, he is responsible for overseeing volunteers who work with students on literacy goals and for providing individual tutoring to students, but he does so much more.

Alexis has fully dedicated himself to the scholars and staff at Mendota, jumping in wherever needed and thoughtfully seeking out opportunities to better the school and the experience of students. He has spent a countless amount of time outside the school day helping with after school enrichment clubs, serving on the school PTO, and attending various community school events.

Alexis was always willing to step up to enable student participation in outside events, chaperoning students on evenings or weekends to provide the opportunity for students to take swimming lessons so they could compete in the Tri 4 Schools triathlon and for students to attend the annual strings festival. He was also an integral part of the school team that led Mendota's Disney musical production of *The Aristocats*, a job that required five months of late hours at rehearsals. He used his creativity throughout the year to create engaging videos and songs to spark the interest of students and gain their greater participation. After realizing the number of scholars that struggled with attendance, Alexis created a video to showcase the many reasons why being on time and present at school is imperative to school success. This video was featured on the local news and was shared with other schools across the district.

Through his leadership, radiating positivity and joy, his service has greatly impacted staff, students, and families in the Mendota Elementary community. The staff at Mendota Elementary has noted that Alexis has shown exceptional leadership, dedication, and creativity in his AmeriCorps position, consistently going above and beyond his duties to make the school a place that shines with student strengths and that the school was instantly a better place with him involved.



Marshfield Clinic Health System AmeriCorps Recovery Corps

AmeriCorps Program of the Year

Marshfield Clinic Health System (MCHS) AmeriCorps Recovery Corps was started in 2017 with the goal of selecting individuals in recovery themselves, or who were impacted by substance abuse, to be trained and become recovery coaches to address the growing opioid and other substance abuse crisis head on. The AmeriCorps members in the program receive extensive training in the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery Model, providing them with the skills needed to guide, mentor, and support anyone who would like to enter into or sustain long-term recovery from an addiction to alcohol or drugs. Following their training, Recovery Corps members provide educational presentations with local substance abuse organizations, operate a warm line that was set up for referrals and open calls from individuals in the community seeking help, and serve as recovery coaches with individuals struggling with substance abuse to create and follow wellness plans to guide their efforts.



In the most recent service year, Recovery Corps has provided 23,000 hours of service and has 221 clients enrolled into the program, of which, 78% are making progress in their wellness plans and showing health improvement. Over 6,500 pieces of educational material were distributed across the area to help promote the program and reduce stigma related to substance abuse. Additionally, 104 community volunteers were recruited and provided 1,000 hours of support to educational programs and recoverees.

Each member has their own Wellness Plan to help them continue to grow and stay focused. In addition to the initial CCAR training, MCHS also hosts monthly team webinars and encourages personal development through educational and development opportunities and conferences. This unique and targeted approach gives members the tools they need to progress throughout the year and maintain their personal development. One member commented on her term of service stating "Recovery Corps is the best thing I have ever given myself."

Recovery Corps is currently serving in five counties (Oneida, Vilas, Price, Iron, and Forest) and three tribal nations (Potawatomi, Lac Du Flambeau, Sokaogon Chippewa) in northern Wisconsin as part of the HOPE Consortium. It is estimated that each individual that stays in recovery saves the state of Wisconsin about \$40,000 per year, although the even greater result is the meaningful impact recovery has on the communities and families that have been affected.

Marco Marquez
AmeriCorps VISTA
Member of the Year

Having earned his bachelor's degree and with a set of data-related skills in hand, Marco Marquez decided to put those skills to use through service as an AmeriCorps VISTA member by digging deeply into the inequities in Milwaukee's education system. With a position at Milwaukee Succeeds, a community-wide education initiative based on collective impact that focuses on systems change, Marco effectively uses data to both help uncover root causes of educational inequities and highlight promising practices that are working to improve them.



With his keen data skills, Marco was able to quickly disaggregate, analyze, and translate raw data into useful information for colleagues and partners, particularly through learning how to use data visualization software and creating user-friendly methods for presenting the information. Highlights from this aspect of his service included gathering and sharing information on FAFSA with Milwaukee high schools, compiling the key indicator on employment rates and postsecondary graduates for the kickoff of the Higher Educational Regional Alliance, an analysis and report of Seton Catholic Schools Measures of Academic Progress, and an internal performance measures assessment for Milwaukee Succeeds. Marco also helped to redesign the Impact section of the Milwaukee Succeeds website, which serves to highlight important educational data to the community. Additionally, Marco served as the liaison between the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee on their "Board Pipeline" Initiative, which seeks to prepare young Latinx individuals to sit on nonprofit boards in Milwaukee.

Marco's self-directed participation in conferences, seminars, and webinars focused on reducing equity gaps helped him better question the data and how it was used by Milwaukee Succeeds. The staff at Milwaukee Succeeds found that Marco approached his work with curiosity, reflection, and persistence, asking thoughtful questions and digging deeply into data to determine what story needed to be told, particularly from an equity perspective. Additionally, they felt that he eagerly greeted each challenge and sought out opportunities to continuously improve his skills and abilities due to an innate passion for his work to make a difference in the community.

Richard Hoffman
Senior Corps Volunteer of the Year

Since his start with RSVP of Dane County in 2007, Richard Hoffman has volunteered in positions requiring increasing responsibility. He has dedicated more than 5,850 volunteer hours serving senior citizens in the Stoughton area. He started as an RSVP driver in 2007 and then took on the Ride Coordinator position in 2010, a demanding job that requires hours of phone calls and emails to arrange for weekday rides for Stoughton area seniors. In 2012, in addition to his other volunteer efforts, Dick joined the RSVP Board of Directors and became a driver for the Vets Helping Vets program. As a board member, he brought his considerable business experience to the role, serving as Finance Committee Chair, Grant Committee Chair, Personnel Committee Chair, and as an Executive Committee Member. He researched and wrote grants to extend the services of the Vets Helping Vets program, successfully receiving grants from the Stoughton Area Community Foundation and the Wahlin Foundation. Dick also brings his experience as a ride coordinator to the Affordable Transportation Program, a nonprofit in Stoughton that serves any individual who qualifies as low-income as determined by HUD and provides rides to a wide range of appointments, calling on a force of just six volunteer drivers to assist these low-income citizens.

The staff at RSVP of Dane County noted that the sense of personal and professional responsibility Dick had as Senior Executive VP in charge of consumer lending at Stoughton Bank has carried forward into his roles as an RSVP volunteer driver, ride coordinator, and board member. He has a true compassion for people and empathy for what life can hand them. He goes the extra mile for his passengers, which means the world to seniors who are isolated without personal transportation. This sense of loyalty is also offered to his drivers, many of whom he has personally recruited through his many connections in the community.



Mary Ann Steep Senior Corps Volunteer of the Year

Over the past 22 years as a volunteer with the Foster Grandparents Program through Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program, Mary Ann Steep has easily given over 20,000 volunteer hours to the Argyle School District, impacting the lives of countless students and peers. The school district has a singular building for grades 4K-12. With an enrollment of just 302 students, it is on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Sparsity list, meaning that because of its small population, it lacks the opportunities and resources of more populated school districts. Mary Ann is one of its most valuable resources, serving as a caring, enthusiastic volunteer that is devoted to providing as much as possible to the children of her community. Mary Ann is embedded in classroom activities and while she focuses on students with special needs, all students benefit from her patience, knowledge and guidance. According to the 2017-18 DPI Argyle Elementary School Report Card, 31.2% of Argyle students are economically disadvantaged and 18% have a disability, so the consistent presence of Mary Ann in the classroom makes a considerable difference for the students.

Mary Ann understands that students learn in many different ways and at various paces. She uses her patience and encouragement to guide her students to success. She makes sure that every classroom activity, from milk count to calendar time, is an opportunity for learning academic skills such as counting, patterns, letter sounds, motor skills, and social and healthy living skills. Mary Ann uses creativity and her years of experience to help her students be engaged in the classroom. She goes far beyond her daily volunteering by using her sewing and crafting skills to make various gifts for the students. These include gifts for Valentine's Day, Halloween, and Christmas, as well as Healing Feeling Dolls for adults and children in the community coping with grief.

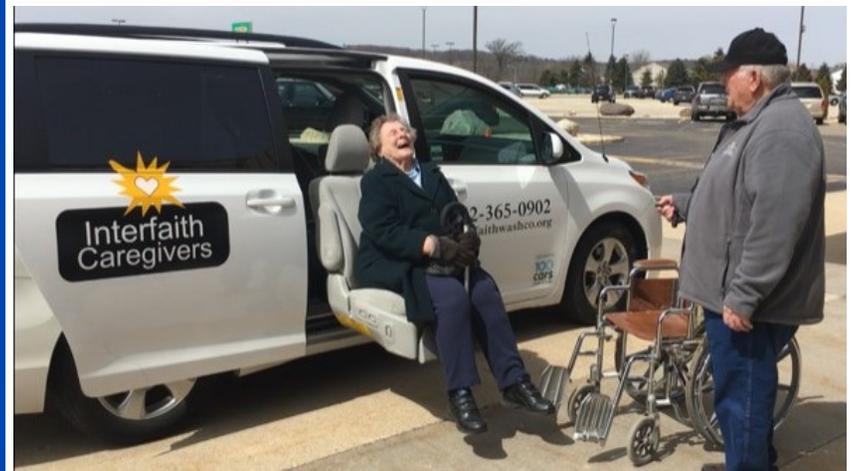
One of the things she enjoys most about being a FGP volunteer is the hugs she receives, not only from the "littles" in the 4K classroom, but from students at every grade level. "I love the hugs you get from the students," she said. "Even the students I see in the hallway, they either always say hi or give you a hug. You can't beat that!" Some of these students have been assisted by Mrs. Steep, but many others simply recognize that she is a positive influence and want to thank her for her dedication. Mary Ann is now seeing some of her former students' children, attesting to her longevity and commitment to her role at Argyle. As 4K teacher Mrs. Dammen says, "Mrs. Steep is just wonderful!"



RSVP Interfaith of Washington County Senior Corps Program of the Year

The Interfaith RSVP program through Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County began in 2017. Based in West Bend, their mission is "to connect seniors with caring volunteers" with a vision that "all seniors in Washington County will have access to the resources necessary to maintain safe, healthy independence and age in place."

RSVP Interfaith of Washington County provides volunteer transportation and other assistance services for anyone in the county who is over the age of 60 and is of limited means and mobility. In 2018, RSVP Interfaith of Washington County volunteers served over 1,000 elderly citizens in Washington County with 11,708 rides in a volunteer's personal vehicle or in one of Interfaith's fleet of 8 wheelchair accessible minivans. In 2018, RSVP volunteers drove over 220,000 miles to 290 unique service destinations, with over 2,000 of these rides serving wheelchair-bound seniors and over 3,500 to out of county destinations where public transportation does not serve. Interfaith RSVP volunteers also provided over 5,000 "other" assistance services, including spring and fall yard clean-up, friendly visits, therapy dog visits, reassurance calls, light housekeeping, home repair, snow shoveling, stock box and meals on wheels delivery, and other services as requested. Interfaith RSVP volunteers are also trained in Elder Abuse Prevention in order to identify and mitigate financial fraud, abuse, and neglect and to provide education on elder abuse to at-risk seniors and their caregivers. Additionally, RSVP volunteers operate a durable health equipment lending program at two sites in Washington County and a community resource referral program, making it possible to loan out over 1,000 pieces of equipment. Through the transportation services that allow seniors to continue to live independently, the socialization and companionship provided to home bound seniors through friendly visits, and to seniors as a whole through other services, Washington County is a better place for its aging population because of the service of RSVP Interfaith of Washington County volunteers.



Steve Conto

Veteran Volunteer of the Year

Steve Conto served our nation in the Navy for over two decades and has continued his service here in Wisconsin for the past seventeen years by documenting and caring for the gravesites of Wisconsin soldiers that were killed during the Vietnam War. He enlisted in the Navy in 1976, served during the Gulf War, and retired in 1998. While too young to serve during the Vietnam War, his older stepbrother was wounded in Vietnam and he calls all of the guys who served there his big brothers. He was inspired in 2002 after seeing the film *We Were Soldiers* to provide this act of service to veterans that were killed during the Vietnam War. Steve calls the results of these efforts "The Final Bridge," as he "wanted to create a bridge between their names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall and their final resting place so families, comrades and friends can easily find them."



When he started this project, Steve was surprised to find that the state and individual counties did not have complete burial records for veterans. In total, he identified 1,248 Vietnam veterans through several avenues of research, including those who lived in Wisconsin, those who worked here, those who married someone from here, and those who lived elsewhere but are buried in Wisconsin. To find all of the gravesites, he spoke with cemeteries and hundreds of family members of those killed. After locating the gravesites, he traveled with a clipboard, weed trimmer and a bucket of cleaning supplies to each gravesite in the state to record its exact location and to provide necessary cleaning and upkeep. Some of the resting places he visited were difficult to find because grave markers had become hidden by grass, leaves, and other debris. When describing the visit to each gravesite, Steve says that "I clean the marker and I trim around the marker. I sweep it, wash it, clean it, dry it and put a flag by it if I'm allowed, depending on the regulations of the cemetery. Then I take a picture. I'll render honors (salute) and I'll say something to the individual, a welcome home or a quick greeting." He was frequently joined by his wife, Cindy, or his friend Mike Weaver, who was a medic in Vietnam, as they traveled with Steve through all kinds of weather to locate the gravesites. As a result of these efforts, Steve created a registry of all 1,140 Wisconsin Vietnam KIAs with names, hometowns and gravesites by map coordinates that now resides with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison, with the "The Final Bridge" being an officially recognized resource book used by county veterans service officers and others who, like Steve Conto, want Wisconsin's fallen Vietnam veterans to be remembered.

In addition to documenting all of their locations, relatives now know techniques and nationally approved gravestone cleaning solutions for maintenance. He has done additional research through the families of fallen soldiers into the circumstances of their deaths and about the units and veterans with whom they served. He captures their memories through poems and prose describing their service, which he shares with families and the community. Steve is hoping to eventually get to each of the documented graves of Wisconsin KIAs outside of the state, which includes thirty other states, Arlington National Cemetery, Puerto Rico, and Mexico.

Rachel Guenther

Volunteer Coordinator of the Year



Rachel Guenther serves as a volunteer coordinator through AmeriCorps VISTA at The Beacon, which aims to reduce the number of homeless in Dane County and to provide a safe place for them to come during the day where they can connect to services. The Beacon relies on volunteers to run vital services within the program, including the computer lab, showers, laundry, and the kitchen to serve an average of 225 individuals each day. If these areas are not staffed with volunteers, the guests may not have access to assistance completing employment applications, the staff struggles to get breakfast and lunch set up and served, and the laundry and showers, which are vital to the guest's hygiene and dignity, cannot open.

Rachel has been critical to The Beacon, taking on extra responsibilities and keeping their program running smoothly when they lost their full time staff volunteer coordinator. Rachel created relationships with outside agencies through tours and presentations that have increased volunteer efforts by community organizations and brought awareness to the community of The Beacon and what it provides. Since Rachel started at The Beacon, she has trained 84 new volunteers and maintained 163 active volunteers, with these volunteers providing 10,582 service hours.

In addition to her service increasing the number of volunteers, Rachel has put significant focus on improving communications with volunteers and working to improve the services they provide. Rachel revamped the volunteer newsletter and made changes to their website to allow for more frequent communication with the volunteers to keep them connected to what is happening at The Beacon. She updated the orientation program to clarify the training and make it available online. She created and sent out surveys to volunteers to get feedback on their volunteer program and utilized the feedback to make changes to how volunteer stations run so that they are more efficient, such as creating number magnets that move with an individual's laundry from the beginning to the end so that there are fewer errors in the laundry room.

The staff at The Beacon believes that she has been vital to the growth and continuation of their volunteer program, as her genuine relationships and efforts with the volunteers have opened the door to create a more efficient program. Additionally, without her knowledge of the behind the scenes work needed to run the program, staff feel they might have stumbled with these operations due to staff transition, but Rachel helped to keep the program running smoothly so that the guests and the volunteers were not impacted by the change.

Khong Meng Her AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year

Khong Meng Her came to the United States as a refugee at the age of three. After experiencing racism and classism throughout his early life, he has devoted his time since high school to give back and lift up others. He has served students in the Eau Claire area for nearly a decade. As an undergraduate, he completed two minimum-time AmeriCorps terms serving as a student mentor and as an intern in the Blugold Beginnings program. His commitment to AmeriCorps was further demonstrated through two years of service as a full-time AmeriCorps member from 2015-2017 with the Marshfield Clinic Afterschool program after graduating from UW-Eau Claire.

After completing these two terms of service, Khong Meng became an Associate Student Services Coordinator at UW-Eau Claire. He has been involved in the development and implementation of the Blugold Beginnings AmeriCorps program to engage underserved youth in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Blugold Beginnings goes beyond STEM concepts by striving to educate and inspire students in the Eau Claire area, especially underrepresented, low-income, or first generation students, to believe that a post-secondary education is important, attainable, and available. Khong Meng provides support to 57 AmeriCorps members in the program and promotes AmeriCorps service on campus and in the community. He has developed and implemented training, designed college access curriculum, and engaged other service members in creating a "Saturday School" program for the Blugold AmeriCorps members.

Khong Meng also helped to develop a Hmong Living and Learning Community project at UW-Eau Claire. He created a Domestic Intercultural Immersion program where he took students to sites of Hmong settlements in the United States. He developed an international travel immersion experience to study the history and culture of Hmong people in China and secured a grant to fund the project. Khong Meng was also a co-founder of Hmong Heritage Month on the UW-Eau Claire campus. He has devoted hundreds of hours to the development and implementation of its activities and expanded its scope to a year-round project that allows students to explore the beauty of the Hmong culture throughout the academic year.



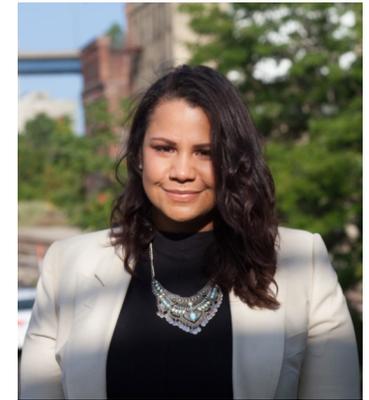
Ashley Lee AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year

Ashley Lee has made a significant impact on the state of Wisconsin and the people of Milwaukee through a lifetime dedicated to improving educational opportunities for children and supporting the development of community resources and future leaders. Throughout her career, Ashley has grown from being an AmeriCorps member to becoming the leader of Public Allies Milwaukee, a prominent AmeriCorps program in the state.

After graduating from college, Ashley served as a Teach For America - Milwaukee AmeriCorps member, bringing her passion of serving students into direct action while teaching at Milwaukee College Prep School. After serving, Ashley joined TFA staff as the Manager of Regional Service. Ashley also led the Milwaukee chapter of The Collective, TFA's alumni of color association, from 2015-2018, guiding its efforts toward the continuous development of alumni of color as transformational leaders accelerating the journey to educational equity.

Following her work with TFA, Ashley served as the Special Assistant to the Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools. While serving in this position, Ashley continued to collaborate with AmeriCorps by mentoring members and supporting their efforts in leading student focus groups that informed the projects she managed. One of these projects was developing the Black and Latino Male Achievement Department in response to five years of declining or stagnant graduation rates for black and Hispanic males. As part of this work, she encouraged the participation of another former AmeriCorps member, who now designs culturally responsive curriculum for schools.

Since November 2017, Ashley has been serving as the Executive Director of Public Allies Milwaukee, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary of serving the citizens of the greater Milwaukee area. AmeriCorps members at Public Allies work on service projects that enhance and expand the capacity of nonprofit organizations to deliver critical direct services to Milwaukee residents. This year, Public Allies members are serving with 31 different organizations, striving to improve and grow the ability of their host sites to make a difference in the lives of those in their communities. As part of the mission of Public Allies, Ashley works to recruit young potential leaders whose promise and potential are too frequently overlooked to help create a dynamic pipeline for talented young people to help build their skills and emerge as a network of leaders that can continue to positively impact their communities long into the future.



Adrienne Strelcheck

AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year

Adrienne Strelcheck has been making a difference serving homeless and runaway youth in Wisconsin since 2007. She was motivated to serve these youth by her own personal experiences with housing instability and the challenges of transitioning to adulthood without the traditional supports of a safe and secure home life. She served as an AmeriCorps member for two years from 2007-2009 with the Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services as a member of the Pathfinders Street Beat Outreach Team. She fell in love with the direct way they provide service to youth and help them to reach a safe and healthy adulthood. Pathfinders is Wisconsin's oldest service provider for runaway, throw away, and homeless youth, with Street Beat being Milwaukee's only youth-focused homeless street outreach program.

While serving as an AmeriCorps member, Adrienne identified the need for adequate clothing for the youth that she was serving with her team. She partnered with two of her fellow AmeriCorps members to help solve this problem by starting a youth clothing "store" called Pfitt in the agency's Drop In Center. Ten years later, the "store" is still going strong and Adrienne continues to work with current AmeriCorps members to make sure it is adequately stocked. Following the conclusion of her AmeriCorps service, she began working for Pathfinders with the Street Beat team as a Youth Street Outreach Specialist. Adrienne has continued her work with Pathfinders and has served as the Street Beat Outreach Program Coordinator for the past five years, serving as a mentor to new AmeriCorps members and helping them to develop the skills needed to become effective street outreach workers.

Adrienne believes that "AmeriCorps and Pathfinders helped me nurture the skills I developed in college, allowing me to take these skills out into the real world to fulfill my dream of doing meaningful and significant work with young people." This work is critical, as each day the Street Beat outreach team goes to sites throughout the city of Milwaukee where youth congregate, building trusting relationships with them. They provide safety gear and access to basic resources such as food, clothing, and hygiene products, as well as helping youth access jobs, emergency shelter, long term housing, reentry into school, and physical and mental health care. Adrienne believes

"the essential component to this process is encouraging these young people to build trusting relationships with safe adults. Whatever they identify as a need, we help support them in meeting their goals. I have had the honor of helping literally hundreds of youth transition safely to adulthood."



Ellen Carlson

AmeriCorps VISTA Alumni of the Year

Ellen Carlson has been making a difference in the lives of the citizens of Dane County for the past twenty years. She originally came to Madison to study psychology at the University of Wisconsin with plans to pursue a career in medicine. Upon her graduation she decided to take a break from her studies and joined AmeriCorps VISTA. Ellen served from 1999-2001 with the Schools of Hope Literacy Project, helping address the achievement gap, specifically in the area of literacy. Ellen advanced to be the VISTA Leader during her second year of service, providing support and leadership to a team of VISTAs serving in schools across Madison. During her term of service, she realized that it was not just tutoring that was needed to help bring these children out of poverty, but also the provision of a stable living environment, including food and shelter. After serving two years with VISTA, she realized that her career path was leading her to the non-profit sector, where she has remained ever since.

Following her AmeriCorps VISTA service, Ellen went to work for Middleton Outreach Ministries (MOM) in 2002. She progressed through several roles at MOM, including leadership positions working on volunteer and donor development, communications and strategic planning, operations, and program development. When she became the Executive Director of MOM in 2017, its board president said that Ellen would "continue in the tradition of responsible and visionary leadership. She'll bring the people of our community together to make sure those most vulnerable are cared for with dignity and hope." Ellen believes that "MOM is here to be that support and hope for people in our community who are struggling with housing security and hunger. This mission makes even the simplest tasks important and fulfilling." She has worked to investigate creative ways the organization can make sure that, despite unstable times, people's basic needs are met. Her vision for MOM is to "determine how we can continue to make local change to the issues of poverty and the inequities in our community," believing that "we can be a community where those most vulnerable have the basic supports needed. Everyone has the right to a healthier and more stable future."

Ellen is a passionate and compassionate advocate for those in the community without a voice or a seat at the table. She works tirelessly in her professional and personal life to help others, taking action to address problems in a thoughtful and purposeful way that includes as many people as possible. Ellen is currently a Board Member of the United Way of Dane County, on the governing board of Madison's First United Methodist Church, and is an active parent volunteer at her sons' schools. She is also a co-founder of Kids Code Madison, an organization that provides youth with free coding classes.



Brian Blahnik

Marty Stein Friend of National Service Exemplary Supporter

For the past 19 years, Brian Blahnik has elevated the status of AmeriCorps and national service through his decisive leadership as an AmeriCorps Manager at Marshfield Clinic Health System.

While in college, Brian was a founding member of a military career exploration program for youth ages 2-21, the Wisconsin Army Cadets, where he still volunteers. After college, Brian, himself an Eagle Scout, worked with Boy Scouts of America as a Senior Exploring Executive, where he honed his skills in member recruitment, youth and mentorship training, and conference planning, all skills which would prove key to his impact through AmeriCorps. Brian then completed a tour of duty with the Wisconsin Army National Guard, developing innovative programming for substance abuse prevention and youth programming, which are themes carried forward into his national service career.

In 2000, Brian joined Marshfield Clinic's Community Outreach Department and successfully launched its first AmeriCorps program, Project Forward, which was both a youth development program and an alcohol and drug prevention program focused on providing community education around the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Brian's impact on national service has grown dramatically since then. Marshfield Clinic Health System now operates three programs: Afterschool, Recovery Corps, and Volunteer Wisconsin. This fall he will enroll Marshfield Clinic's 1,000th AmeriCorps member, demonstrating the scope and impact of these programs during his tenure. Brian has worked diligently the past 19 years to personally connect with each member, supporting them throughout their term and post-term.

Brian has also proven willing to help mobilize AmeriCorps members during natural disasters. This was demonstrated in 2017, when in a matter of hours, Brian mobilized a response team consisting of 18 AmeriCorps members to a flooding disaster in northern Wisconsin impacting the Bad River Tribe in the Ashland County community of Odanah. This winter, Brian asked Marshfield Clinic members to provide immediate support to their communities' unique needs arising from the polar vortex.

Brian's commitment to national service is recognized by his fellow AmeriCorps program directors from throughout the state. His peers affectionately refer to him as "Captain AmeriCorps" because he embodies and lives the spirit of AmeriCorps in all that he does to support members, develop innovative programming, facilitate crisis response, and be a voice for directors statewide. He is seen as a "go to" person for fellow directors, serving as historian, keeper of AmeriCorps knowledge, and as a trustworthy advisor who listens and helps find a viable solution. They believe he keeps a watchful eye on AmeriCorps happenings nationally and consistently steps up to support and grow new initiatives. They also see him as an experienced advocate for AmeriCorps, a role model, and as a professional mentor, stating that his continuous efforts and overall impact are monumental and worthy of deep respect and appreciation.



EVENT SPONSORS

Serve Wisconsin and the CNCS Wisconsin State Office sponsor the Governor's Service Awards. Serve Wisconsin manages AmeriCorps State programs. The CNCS Wisconsin State Office manages AmeriCorps VISTA and Senior Corps programs.



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

Serve Wisconsin is Wisconsin's National and Community Service Board. Our mission is to promote service, provide training, and allocate resources to programs that enrich lives and communities through service and volunteerism. We achieve this mission primarily through our work with AmeriCorps programs and AmeriCorps members throughout the state of Wisconsin. We are governed by a 21-member citizen board appointed by Governor Evers. 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 AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Volunteer Generation Fund, and more. The Corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov/.