

# PERSPECTIVE

## The AmeriCorps Accessible Transportation Project Newsletter

Fall 2010



### A Message from the Project Director

Welcome! This upcoming year promises to be an eventful and exciting year for everyone involved in the AmeriCorps Accessible Transportation project. The team at the **State Independent Living Council (SILC)** has worked very hard to assure that support and resources are in place for all our members, partner agencies, host sites, and supervising mentors. On behalf of our Executive Director, **Robbi Barrutia**, I'd like to welcome each and every one of you for your service and commitment to this project. The mission of the SILC is to promote the independent living philosophy for all Idahoans with disabilities: choice, self-determination, and access for all. Please carry this message with you in all that you do in the coming year and throughout your

future endeavors. You can always get a hold of me by phone at (208) 334-3800 or by email at [monique.johns@silc.idaho.gov](mailto:monique.johns@silc.idaho.gov). I appreciate all you do for our communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Thank you,

*Monique Johns*

### A LOOK BACK

On July 31, 2010, eleven AmeriCorps members throughout the state completed their 11-month term on the Accessible Transportation Grant project. All of them received their educational awards. As a result of their efforts, members helped raise over \$181,000, yielded 22 innovative projects, and brought various agencies together to resolve accessible transportation for Idahoans with disabilities.

*"In those days, we finally chose to walk like giants & hold the world in arms grown strong with love & there may be things we forget in the days to come, but this will not be one of them." ~Brian Andreas*

## PERSPECTIVES

### LOOKING AHEAD: THE MISSION OF YEAR THREE

This is the third, and final, year of the Accessible Transportation Grant project. This final year will be a “legacy” year, in which we will work to achieve the program goal of increased access to transportation for Idahoans with disabilities.

AmeriCorps members will spend a good portion of their time in the community to further build sustainable alliances with transportation agencies, Centers for Independent Living, nonprofit organizations, and other groups throughout the community to assure that the Accessible Transportation projects continue past the funding period, which ends August 2011. In doing this, we will assure that the projects that have either been completed or are ongoing, have a community partner to continue their sustainability.



#### **What was the best experience you had with your program? (From the 2009-2010 AmeriCorps Exit Survey)**

“While working on my service project I had random people off the streets offer to help me. I found these random acts of kindness extremely heartwarming.”

“Meeting new people, feeling a sense of accomplishment, and helping the community.”

“Watching as the bus drivers started to announce bus stops because of our project.”

## HOST SITES

We are proud to welcome back three of our host site teams including **Living Independent for Everyone** (Idaho Falls), **Living Independent Network Corporation** (Boise, Caldwell, and Twin Falls), and the **Disability Action Center** (Moscow). In addition, we welcome two new host sites to our AmeriCorps family including **Valley Ride Transit** (Treasure Valley) and **the Council on Aging and Human Services Transportation** (Moscow). The Supervising Mentors at each of these Host Sites will receive additional training prior to and at the pre-service orientation on October 7 and 8 in Boise.

### *HOST SITE ANNOUNCEMENTS*

#### **Vacant AmeriCorps Member Position Available to Host Site**

We currently have one additional AmeriCorps member position to fill. If you have an additional need at your location, or if you know of a partner agency that may need an additional member, please contact Monique at (208) 334-3800.

#### **Don't Forget!**

If you haven't sent Monique your signed Host Site Contract yet, please do so as soon as possible. These are needed before your members can be approved in the system. Please call Monique if you need more information or if you have questions about your contract.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please fill out the Travel Form attached to this newsletter in preparation for the Pre-Service Orientation on October 7 and 8, 2010 in Boise, and send to Monique at [monique.johns@silc.idaho.gov](mailto:monique.johns@silc.idaho.gov).

\* \* \* \* \*

You will each be receiving Welcome Packets for your members, which include the forms I need for them to fill out and return to you. I will have complete instructions attached to the packets for you and your members.

*"She said she usually cried at least once each day not because she was sad, but because the world was so beautiful and life was so short." ~Brian Andreas*

## ***FUTURE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS***

As soon as you have been accepted as an AmeriCorps member with the Accessible Transportation project, you should receive a Welcome Packet from your Host Site Supervisor. Please fill out those forms and return them promptly to your supervisor.

Also, please fill out the attached Travel Form in preparation for the Pre-Service Orientation on October 7 and 8, 2010 in Boise, and send to Monique at [monique.johns@silc.idaho.gov](mailto:monique.johns@silc.idaho.gov).

## ***IMPORTANT DATES***

**September 8, 2010:** Interviews for AmeriCorps members in Boise.

**September 20, 2010:** Interviews for AmeriCorps members and host site training in Idaho Falls.

**September 26-27, 2010:** AmeriCorps member and Host site training in Moscow.

**October 1, 2010:** AmeriCorps Project New Year. This is the date that all members can begin their service. The year goes through August 31, 2011.

**October 7-8, 2010:** Pre-Service Orientation in Boise. Please fill out the attached Travel Form and send back to me as soon as possible so I can make arrangements and accommodations.

## **SEPTEMBER 11 DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE**

This is the second annual 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance. If your organization is doing something to commemorate this day either through a community service project, or some other activity, please consider doing one or more of the following:

- Register your event at [Serve.org](http://Serve.org) so other community members can get involved (and learn more about your organization too).
- Inform your volunteers about this National Day of Service.
- Contact your local media to highlight your event.

If your organization is not planning to coordinate a project on this day, then consider spreading the word to your members and volunteers about the day itself and encouraging them to go on to [Serve.org](http://Serve.org) or [911dayofservice.org](http://911dayofservice.org) to find ways to participate in other community activities.



# Pre-Service Orientation Travel Form



Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Person to notify in case of emergency:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any illness or take any medication we should be aware of in case of an emergency? \_\_\_\_\_

## AMERICORPS MEMBERS ONLY:

AmeriCorps Uniform (select size): Please circle one of EACH

Gray AmeriCorps T-shirt (100% cotton)

Small          Medium          Large          X Large          XX L          XXXL

Gray Hooded AmeriCorps Sweatshirt (*Heavy duty, little shrinkage*)

Small          Medium          Large          X Large          XX L          XXXL

Nametag (*will include your site - indicate your first name, and/or Nickname & last name*)

\_\_\_\_\_

**MEAL PREFERENCES** – Please circle whichever applies. :

Vegetarian    Vegan    Other: \_\_\_\_\_    No preference

**Note:** Your choice of meal preference will be used throughout the year for our trainings. You will need to notify us if you make any changes

**TRAVEL/HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS** - Do you need any accommodations to travel from your site to Boise? If so, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Unless otherwise noted, we put two AmeriCorps members per hotel room during their PSO training in Boise. Please notify the Project Director if this will be a problem by calling (208) 334-3800 and check the box below.

I am unable to stay in a hotel room with another AmeriCorps member during my stay in Boise for the PSO training.