

Service

TO OUR
COUNTRY

VOLUME I
ISSUE II



Jaime Jasso (mentor) and Cristobal Lopez (mentee) at Bobby Duke Middle School in East Coachella Valley

Kern County
Superintendent
of Schools
Office of Christine Lizardi Frazier
...advocates for children

The
California
Endowment



Building Healthy Communities/Youth AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Week: AmeriCorps Works!

AmeriCorps Members make our communities safer, stronger, healthier, and improve the lives of tens of millions of our most vulnerable citizens. AmeriCorps impacts are proven and measurable. Since 1994, 775,000 Members have served one billion hours and managed or mobilized 3.4 million additional volunteers. Additionally, AmeriCorps Members leveraged \$480 million in cash and in-kind donations in fiscal year 2010 alone.

Each year during AmeriCorps Week, we recognize the commitment of AmeriCorps Members and alums by highlighting the extraordinary impact AmeriCorps makes

across our nation every day. This year, AmeriCorps Week took place from Saturday, March 10 through Sunday, March 18, 2012.

This is how AmeriCorps Works in some of our target communities:

South Kern: Youth had the opportunity to participate in various community service projects at school sites culminating in the "College: Making it Happen" event at California State University, Bakersfield. At the event, youth learned about admissions requirements, financial aid, and college life. This was the first time stepping on a college campus for many of the participating middle school youth.

East Coachella Valley: AmeriCorps Members cleaned properties of elderly residents in North Shore.

Long Beach: AmeriCorps Members worked with mentees to produce picture posters for a senior citizen center. Members also facilitated activities, games, and entertainment for the local senior center.

Visit americorps.gov for more info!

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What is BHC/Y AmeriCorps?



2011-12

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools and The California Endowment mobilizes over 70 AmeriCorps mentors for nearly 2,000 youth in ten California communities. Of the youth living in these communities, 65-80% do not feel safe at school. AmeriCorps Members deliver high-quality mentorships to reinforce positive choices and behaviors. In addition, AmeriCorps Members recruit community volunteers to contribute more than 2,000 hours of community service. This is part of the California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities initiative, which represents a 10-year, holistic approach to improve community health and initiate systemic change.

Andrea Amador and Flor Lopez - AmeriCorps Members, Haven Drive Middle School



Site Supervisor Corner

AmeriCorps at Haven Drive Middle School has been an effective form of youth development this year. Our two AmeriCorps Mentors (Flor and Andrea) have served in many areas in a mentoring capacity, including Safe School Ambassadors, field trips, service projects, etc. In addition, Flor and Andrea helped with the state prison diversion program. The mentors monitor students' academic progress and build strong relationships with parents. They maintain positive relationships with their mentees and have contributed to positive behavior and academic outcomes for our students.

Gayle Hui - Site Supervisor (South Kern)

BHC Career Mentoring

At Castle Rock High School in Del Norte County, AmeriCorps Member Dolly Noon has facilitated her fair share of college/career mentoring.

Recently, Dolly helped a mentee complete the Emergency Preparedness/First Responder certification. This is an important skill/need for the Crescent City community due to the damages suffered by the tsunami in Japan last year. This certification bolstered her mentee's self-esteem and could lead to future employment. To support her mentee, Dolly attended safety classes, learning safety measures and proper blood pressure and medical transport regulations.

College/Career Mentoring

Activities to do with your mentee

1. Help identify and navigate post-high school options
Meet together with a school counselor. Research college/military/job opportunities online.
2. Build a resume and/or cover letter
Gather work and school experience, milestones, accomplishments, etc. Meet with a local career center for tips. Share your resume!
3. Create (or start) a school/professional portfolio
Gather certificates, report cards, writing samples, letters of recommendation, etc. This may also help with information for resume.
4. Help complete applications
Use sample or real school/job applications - both paper and online.
5. Teach interview and soft skills
Do mock interviews. Teach proper dress and manners. Review common questions and faux pas.



ANONYMOUS STATEMENT FROM BHC MIDDLE SCHOOL MENTEE

AMERICORPS: I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY MENTOR FOR HELPING ME WITH ALL MY HOMEWORK AND OTHER CLASS WORK; IT CHANGED MY LIFE A LOT. BEFORE I MET MY MENTOR AND BECAME INVOLVED WITH THE AMERICORPS PROGRAM I USED TO GET IN SO MUCH TROUBLE, AS A MATTER OF FACT, I ALMOST GOT EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL. I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T GRADUATE BECAUSE OF FIGHTING, STARTING FIGHTS, DISRESPECTING TEACHERS, AND MY GRADES. I HAD ALL FS IN ALL MY CLASSES WHEN I MET MY MENTOR. BUT EVER SINCE MY MENTOR TOLD ME THAT I COULD GRADUATE IF I TRIED, I HAVE TRIED MY HARDEST TO GET MY GRADES UP. IN FEBRUARY, I HAD NOTHING BUT CS AND BS. THAT'S HOW MY MENTOR CHANGED MY LIFE. MY MENTOR BELIEVED IN ME.

SIGNED: ANONYMOUS



Brenda Carrillo - AmeriCorps Member - Long Beach

BHC/Y Mentors

By the numbers:

- 23 - 900 hour Mentors
- 50 - 1700 hour Mentors
- 73 - Total Current Mentors
- 6 - Mentors Exited Early

67% of Mentors

Live or have lived in the BHC community he/ she currently serves

37% of Mentors

Serve mentees who attend one or more of the same schools she/he attended as a youth

57% of Mentors

Considering serving a second term with BHC/Y AmeriCorps

18

Average number of mentees currently being served per mentor

13

Average number of mentees in which mentors feel they are making a difference

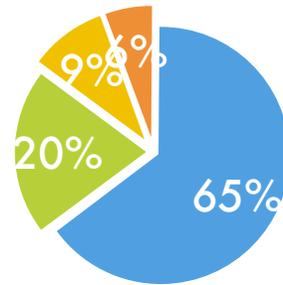
4

Average number of mentees exited per Member

East Oakland AmeriCorps Members



Mentor Highest Education Level



- Bachelor's Degree or Currently Enrolled in Program
- Graduate Degree or Currently Enrolled in Program
- High School Graduate
- Associate's Degree or Currently Enrolled in Program

Top Mentor Activities ...

- Relationship/Social 34%
- In-School Academic Support 32%
- Behavioral Support 12%
- Afterschool Academic Support 8%
- College/Career 4%
- Service-Learning 4%

Age Demographic of AmeriCorps Mentors

18-25	26-30	31-45	46-54	55+
64%	22%	6%	4%	4%

*Information based on a voluntary and anonymous survey with a 73% response rate.

2012	april	may	june
<p><u>April Birthdays:</u> Mitch Johnson 1st - City Heights Keegan Oneal 12th - City Heights</p> <p><u>May Birthdays:</u> Anne Wilson 5th - South Kern Anahi Monreal 7th - East Coachella Valley Ernie Calderon 10th - South Kern Roger Xiong 10th - South Sacramento</p> <p><u>June Birthdays:</u> Brenda Carrillo 6th - Long Beach Kristine Lee 11th - South Sacramento Jesus Jasso 18th - East Coachella Valley Marivel Murillo 21st - East Coachella Valley Laura Yamaguchi 23rd - City Heights Beatriz Hernandez 23rd - South Kern Juan Rosas 24th - East Coachella Valley Jessica Isarraras 24th - South Kern Yuri Lara 26th - Santa Ana Dylan Clawson 29th - DNATL</p>	<p>20 Regional Mentor Training - South Kern Regional Mentor Training - City Heights</p> <p>26-27 Southern CA Planning/ Reflection Meeting - Long Beach</p> <p>27 Regional Mentor Training - Oakland</p>	<p>3-4 Northern CA Planning/ Reflection Meeting - Sacramento</p> <p>9 Local Facilitator AND Site Supervisor Conference Call</p> <p>15 AmeriCorps Member Conference Call</p>	<p>13 Local Facilitator Conference Call</p> <p>18 National Conference on Volunteering and Service - Chicago</p> <p>30 Last Day of 11-12 Programming</p>

Mentor Spotlight - Samantha Aguirre

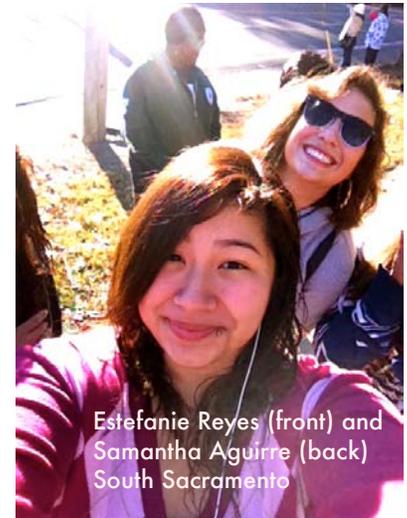
-By Estefanie Reyes-

Samantha is an inspiring person; she is always someone you can relate to, someone that's there to tell you you can do it when you think you can't. She's somebody there to catch you when you fall down, pick you back up and dust you off and tell you keep at it. She's amazing and always there to give you wise and kind words. She's someone I look up to as a role model. Samantha always believed in me when nobody else did. I was never afraid to be myself around her. She always encouraged me to be an individual. Sam isn't just a mentor; she's a lifelong friend. I know that I can always lean on her when I'm at my weakest and I know she's always by my side at my strongest peaks. I'm grateful that I was chosen to have Samantha as a mentor because if I didn't have her to positively influence me, I don't know where I would be today. Only knowing Samantha for several months, I already trust and respect her. I feel like trust and respect is something special to have with somebody. Having trust and respect with Sam has helped her be a better mentor because it's allowed her to get through to me. I picked up some good traits from her that will help me in the long run, like having patience, determination, and perseverance with everything I do.

Mentee Spotlight - Estefanie Reyes

-By Samantha Aguirre -

Estefanie Reyes embodies the idea that where you come from does not determine where you go. Although, biologically fourteen years old and a high school freshman, Estefanie is marked by an air of wisdom, confidence, and maturity of someone twice her age. Estefanie exhibits unrelenting perseverance to better herself and serve others, which I as an adult and mentor, admire and find strength in. While Estefanie can easily become the next leading engineer due to her exceptional math grades, she aspires to be a social worker to give back to her community. Estefanie's personal story of adversity, overcoming issues with anger management, and being a product of a low-income, gang ridden neighborhood will give her the empathy and insight into the youth she will be serving as a social worker. Humble to a fault; Estefanie demonstrates unrecognized greatness daily, whether it is volunteering to stay late to clean up a room, or mentoring elementary students who refer to her as their "role model." Estefanie's favorite quote is indicative of the life she strives to lead, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." - Martin Luther King, Jr.



Estefanie Reyes (front) and Samantha Aguirre (back) South Sacramento

Did you know?

There are seven AmeriCorps Members serving in the South Sacramento community. The Members work in collaboration with nonprofit agencies and the school district.

We would like to
thank our partners
and sponsors for
their commitment to
our service.

The California Endowment

The Corporation for
National and Community
Service

Tulare County Office of
Education

California School-Age
Consortium

SEED Tech

Transforming Local
Communities

Wild Rivers Community
Foundation

Oakland Unified School
District

Asian Resources Inc.

United Way of Merced
County

HandsOn Central California

California State University,
Long Beach Foundation

Social Advocates for Youth
(SAY) San Diego

KidWorks

Regional Access Project

CaliforniaVolunteers

Get to know MY community...Central Long Beach



Central Long Beach

With an average year-round temperature of 75 degrees, the city of Long Beach is a bustling community that's home to California State University, Long Beach, the Aquarium of the Pacific, and one of the world's busiest ports. Long Beach is home to about 460,000 residents.

History:

Long Beach was the fastest growing city in the United States from 1902-1910. The Port of Long Beach was established in 1911 and became the center of the economy. Oil discoveries also created an economic and building boom. Years later, the city purchased the Queen Mary cruise liner which became a major tourist attraction and hotel.

History of Little Cambodia: In 1975, a radical communist regime took control of Cambodia. As a result, about 4,500 Cambodians evacuated to the US. The evacuees arrived at Camp Pendleton and the Cambodian Association of America sponsored many of the families. Cambodians worked in entry level jobs and at the port. The weather was good for growing fruits and vegetables and the housing was relatively inexpensive. In 1979, a second wave of Cambodian refugees came to the US. The Office of Refugee Resettlement was

concerned about English language learning and assimilation, so the "Cluster Project" was created to identify medium size cities to house refugees. Long Beach was too big a city. Refugees settled in other areas and later reunited with families in Long Beach.

The Economy:

Long Beach has one of the world's busiest ports. Industries in the area include aircraft and auto parts manufacturing, health care, electronics, and tourism.

Median household income has plummeted in the last 20 years, dropping 40 percent from \$34,267 to \$20,466. Furthermore, educational attainment is low for adults with only 37 percent of adults 25 or older with a high school diploma.

The Schools:

The Long Beach Unified School District, has been a finalist for the Broad Prize in Urban Education four times and is very involved in bringing health-related efforts to address student health issues and improve academic performance.

Additionally, the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach Community College, and California State University, Long Beach, established the "Long Beach College Promise" to prepare youth and provide a college education to every student. The initiative and its programming began with students entering 6th grade in 08-09.

Adopted from The California Endowment, Long Beach.com, Visit Long Beach, US Census, Cambodian Community History and Archive Project websites.

Service Sites:

Long Beach Schools' Male Academy



Mission: Improve the graduation rate of underrepresented promising male students and to encourage lifelong learning by preparing them for college and career options.

Schools:

Cabrillo
Butler

Poly
Washington

Downtown Associated Youth Services (DAYS)



DAYS believes that all children and youth ought to have access to programs that create relationships,

inspire, awaken imaginations, and provide enriching opportunities in a safe space.

Schools:

Renaissance
Butler

Washington
Ed. Partnership HS

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