



Community  
HealthCorps



# Community HealthCorps

Statewide Impact Report  
(2009-2010)

## Washington



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
Community Health Centers





## Introduction

Founded in 1995 by the National Association of Community Health Centers, Community HealthCorps is the largest health-focused, national AmeriCorps program whose *Mission* is to improve health care access and enhance workforce development for community health centers through national service programs. Members (AmeriCorps participants) provide a variety of health services/programs for patients and community frequently serving as community health workers (CHWs). Members also serve to improve the capacity of health centers to provide quality health services and programs to medically underserved people. The *Vision* of Community HealthCorps is to serve as a national service pipeline for careers in community health centers that is improving access to necessary primary and preventive care services for the medically underserved.

The cover of this brochure depicts just one of the many activities our members participate in. Here, you can see Krystal Kekula teaching a young girl how to plant a garden. Community HealthCorps members not only provide guidance to communities on how to navigate the health care system, but they also help educate communities on healthy ways of life.

## Members Reflect & Work in Underserved Communities

Community HealthCorps members serve rural and racially/culturally diverse urban communities and suburban, as well as migrant farm worker, homeless and public housing populations. Members are as racially, ethnically and economically diverse as the communities they serve. Educational attainment varies from high school and some college to graduate degrees. In addition, some members are active or retired health and social service professionals.

No matter their background, Community HealthCorps members become part of a person's struggle for better health and economic independence.

## Members are Highly Trained and are known as "Agents of Change"

Community HealthCorps\* AmeriCorps members acquire new skills and knowledge that enhance their effectiveness and value to patients and other individuals through pre-service orientation, in-service and advanced trainings.

In addition, Community HealthCorps\* VISTA Members alleviate poverty by improving the capacity of health centers to provide quality health services and programs to medically underserved people.



*Members volunteer within their community*



"We are almost through our second Tobacco Cessation group class and the experience of working with these motivated clients couldn't be more rewarding. Their appreciation is great and their consequent support for others is beautiful to see. We are lucky to have provided these people with the space and opportunity to find the support they need."

-2010-11 SeaMar Community Health Centers  
Member, Elisa Pehlke

*Yakima Valley members prepare a healthy Thanksgiving dinner to members of their community in Toppenish*

## We're everywhere, including Washington!

For program year 2010-2011, nearly 500 Community HealthCorps\* National and VISTA members will serve full-time through nearly 40 partner organizations and three affiliate organizations at more than 150 delivery sites across 19 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

This year, two (2) operating sites will host over 30 members at 28 placement sites in Washington alone. These operating sites include:

SeaMar Community Health Centers (Seattle, WA)  
www.seamarchc.org

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic (Toppenish, WA)  
www.yvfwc.org



*Yakima Valley members participating in the 2010 Make a Difference Day*

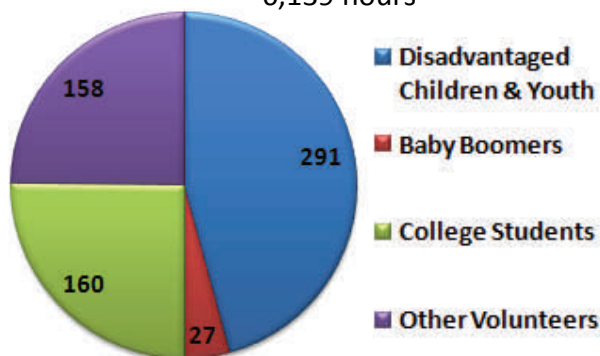


"I would have to say that this month my most memorable experience was when I went to help at the Southeast Community Center. Families stood outside in the cold for 3 maybe even 4 hours just to meet Santa Claus and get a present. These were families that were not going to get anything else for Christmas, so for them it was important to attend this event. I was glad that I was able to help with this event because it opened my eyes to see what a difference I could make in the lives of these kids."

-2010-11 Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Member, Maria Andrade



Members in Washington generated 636 additional community volunteers who volunteered a total of 6,139 hours



## A Quick Look at Community HealthCorps in Washington 2009 to 2010

- 77,065 Encounters for sharing information about health issues, health insurance plans, and health services/programs, including eligibility determination
- 3,183 Enrollments in health insurance plans, and health services/programs
- 3,278 People using preventive and primary health care services two or more times in the program year
- Members participated in 282 health fairs and 571 service days/events, therefore benefitting 10,656 people
- 51,624 combined hours served among 38 members worth \$1,093,396.32 in 2009\* (\*Washington State Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour: \$21.18 per hour according to latest available data [2008] — <http://www.independentsector.org>)



To learn more about our organizations, please visit:

**Community HealthCorps**  
[www.communityhealthcorps.org](http://www.communityhealthcorps.org)

**NACHC**  
[www.nachc.com](http://www.nachc.com)

**AmeriCorps**  
[www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org)

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