

HUMAN. KIND.

The Annual Newsletter from Notre Dame Mission Volunteers



29 YEARS OF SERVICE

Executive Director Adrienne Andrews

When we say "yes" to serve, we don't always know what it will mean. It was this way 29 years ago when the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur began this program and it was the same this year. Stretched by the needs of our surroundings, we grow to learn: we're capable of more than we realize.

The way we lived out our "yes" meant a lot of adaptation this year. Many members were forced to alter the spaces where they teach and learn. No longer could we just focus on students and classrooms – we reached out to support parents and families. Our service truly extended to entire communities.

Looking forward, as NDMV's 30th year approaches, we see how service has taken our members and alumni so many different directions. You are all a part of our Notre Dame learning community and we look forward to seeing you all next year, to reflect on our 30 year service journey.



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SERVICE IN 2020 – MEMBER STORIES AND IMPACT

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN 2020

"I delivered science supplies to students so that they could participate in at home science club. One student was cheering in the window he was so excited he would be able to make ice cream at home!" – *Greater Boston Member*



**450 Members
Served
12,800
K-12 and Adult Students**

"I started a Model U.N. exposing students to the field of international relations and to develop their critical thinking, researching, and writing skills. With the global health crisis, I believe it is especially important in a globalized society to be an **ACTIVE GLOBAL CITIZEN.**"
– *Tampa Member*

"When I got to the Julie Center, there had been no education programming for several months due to COVID-19. Now, I have been able to offer small group and one-on-one tutoring sessions and my number of students is consistently growing. I have been able to **BUILD** a thriving program even with relatively limited resources." – *Baltimore Member*



**Technology
Support to
15,226
Students &
Their Families**

**Served 32,179 meals
Provided
382,000 pounds of
food to
100,402 people**

"I hosted a resume workshop for my high school students to apply for summer STEM internships. I have been working one on one to help them craft their internship applications and finalize their resumes. I **AM PROUD** to say that they are applying to Nasa, MITRE, the Institute of Systems Biology, and COSMOS (UCSD), and more!"
– *Los Angeles Member*



"I have seen an **IMPACT** by developing relationships with community members through our food pantries — a sense of familiarity and connectedness, which many people in our neighborhood need."
– *New Orleans Member*

FINDING PURPOSE THROUGH SERVICE

by Laura Roch, Northeast Ohio Site Director



"I'm like a chameleon, I can morph into the role I need to play", Ulicia Woods lovingly replied when asked about how she deals with change serving in Dayton, Ohio. Her fourth year as an NDMV AmeriCorps member presented a unique challenge to Ulicia and her colleagues at Adventure Central. Last year, in mid-March, staff decided they would have to switch from in-person programming to virtual programming. Woods had been proud of her class before virtual programming, "the children went from being shy to being excited about reading - they even lead my virtual reading sessions."

Instead of mourning the change to virtual programming, Ulicia and her colleagues decided to take action. Mondays became STEM education days, Tuesdays turned into cooking with Ms. Linda, Wednesdays became Ulicia's book club, and Thursdays were for arts and crafts. Many people at Adventure Central were upset about not seeing the children every day, but Ulicia said they were surprised they got to know the children better during virtual education. She has also been delivering food once a week to approximately 75 families in the Dayton community.

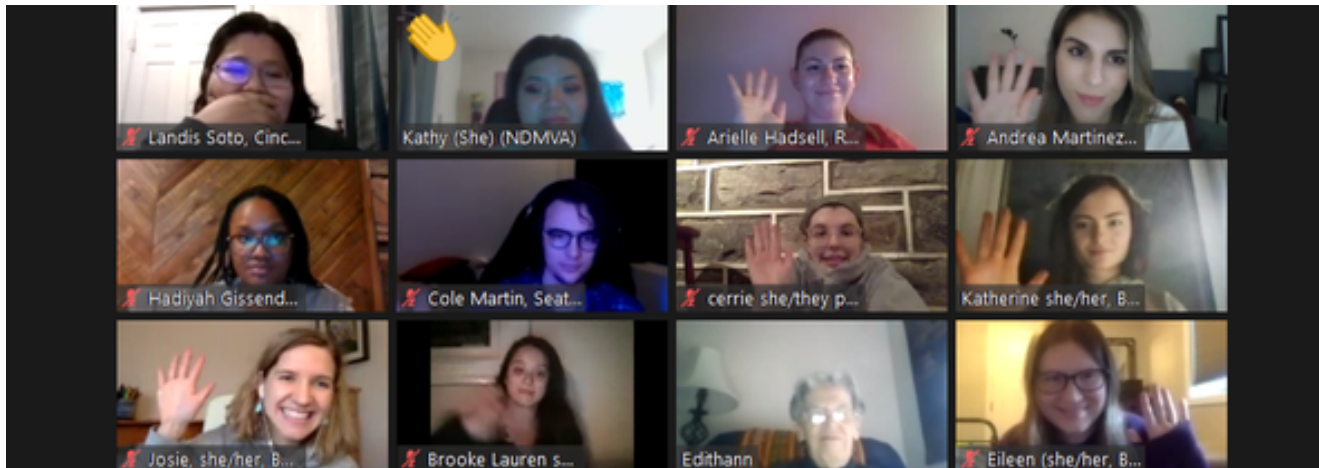
“ I feel like
I'm
a natural
here. ”

Ulicia Woods,
Dayton, OH

Woods' AmeriCorps journey began in 2017, at the age of 47, when she was laid off from her job as a Janitorial Supervisor. She connected with a friend and became a founding member of "WOMENTors" - a mentorship program for girls. The program opened the door to four years of service at Adventure Central. Since then, Adventure Central has been an integral part of Ulicia's life. It was here that she found her purpose through service. She recalls "I didn't choose AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps chose me." Her site director, Dr. Lisa McGurk describes Woods as outgoing, friendly, and great at making connections. "I love kids, kids love me, I feel like I'm a natural here." She says, "I believe every child should have access to an Adventure Central. If I won the lottery for a billion dollars, I would put one in every city in the United States and across the world!" Her biggest take away from her four years of service is, "AmeriCorps members get things done no matter what or no matter how difficult something seems."

ROOTED IN SERVICE

MID-YEAR CONFERENCE 2021



One-word Reflections

"At Mid-Year I feel..."

motivated
grateful
connected
inspired
Empowered
Connected
calm
grounded
uplifted
empowered

"I am rooted in..."

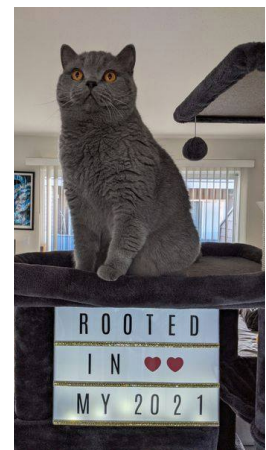
family
service
others
Love
learning
belief
community
Faith
people
growth

NDMV'S FIRST VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Rooted in Service & Creativity

The annual mid-year training conference is a highlight of the service year for many members. So, when faced with a global pandemic, NDMV staff came together (virtually from afar) to coordinate a virtual conference experience. Many quintessential components of the traditional Presidents Day Weekend agenda were included such as city storytelling, workshop opportunities, and small group discussions with members from across the country.

Planning a virtual mid-year conference was a unique challenge since there was not a previous model to base the event on, but the hard work that went into creating a space for connection and growth was appreciated by the 300+ participants.



REFLECTIONS FROM NDMVA ALUMNI

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY FROM SERVICE?

"I loved connecting with my students at Grace Academy. When I returned two years later for the graduation of my 6th grade class, I was filled with pride at the amazing ways these young women had grown and matured."
Julia Temple, 2014 alum.
Life Science Teacher in Winchester, VA.



"The winning of a basketball championship. I was with the boys for every practice and game, driving them, cheering them, feeding them snacks and when they won that last game, it was just magic."
Cemantha Giulian, 2005 alum.
Autistic Support Teacher, Richboro, PA.



"My best memories from NDMVA were connecting with the students at my service site. I still have deep connections with the people I met during my service years and am grateful everyday for the opportunity to serve! "
Mary Bowlby, 2014 alum.
Middle School Counselor in Mount Holly, NJ.

WHAT IS A LESSON YOU LEARNED THAT YOU STILL CARRY WITH YOU?

"I learned about life, advocacy, leaning into what I believe, how important it is to work with people of all ages in a beautiful intergenerational work place, and learned to live life to the fullest."
Rachel Howard, 2009 alum.
Special Education Teacher & Consultant in Gainesville, FL.



"I learned to approach each interaction with another human being with an open curiosity and a willingness to listen to their unique and sacred story."
Cami Carrasquel, 2003 alum.
Hospice Worker in Casselberry, FL.



"I gained a sense of self and self confidence that I had up to that point seriously struggled with developing. I also gained some of the best friends I've ever had through NDMVA. "
Megan Hyde, 2010 alum.
Legal and Policy Technical Adviser in Columbia, OH

"What I took from service is no matter your skill there is the ability to serve."
Lynnette Campbell, 2008 alum.
Theology Teacher in Dayton, OH



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Ocean Discovery Institute

The Ocean Discovery Institute (ODI) is long-time NDMVA partner in San Diego, California. ODI uses ocean science to empower young people from underserved communities to transform their lives, their community, and our world as science and conservation leaders. NDMVA members are part of a group of

diverse, dedicated, and driven individuals who have committed themselves to service in under resourced neighborhoods like City Heights. They all share a deep passion for giving back to their communities and many of the members have been ODI alumni and local City Heights residents themselves. During their

service terms, NDMV AmeriCorps members at ODI mentor students while they learn how to communicate effectively, manage projects, and lead. They bring hands-on science projects to students of a variety of ages and learn how to be advocates for themselves and their community.

"NDMV AmeriCorps Members play an integral role in our programming."

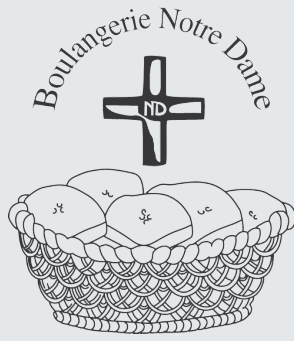
UPDATES FROM OUR FAITH PARTNERS

Hearts as Wide as the World – Expanding our Impact



In the 2020-2021 service year, Notre Dame Mission Volunteers was able to expand our reach through partnerships with other faith based programs including Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Vincentian Volunteers, and St. Joseph Worker Program.

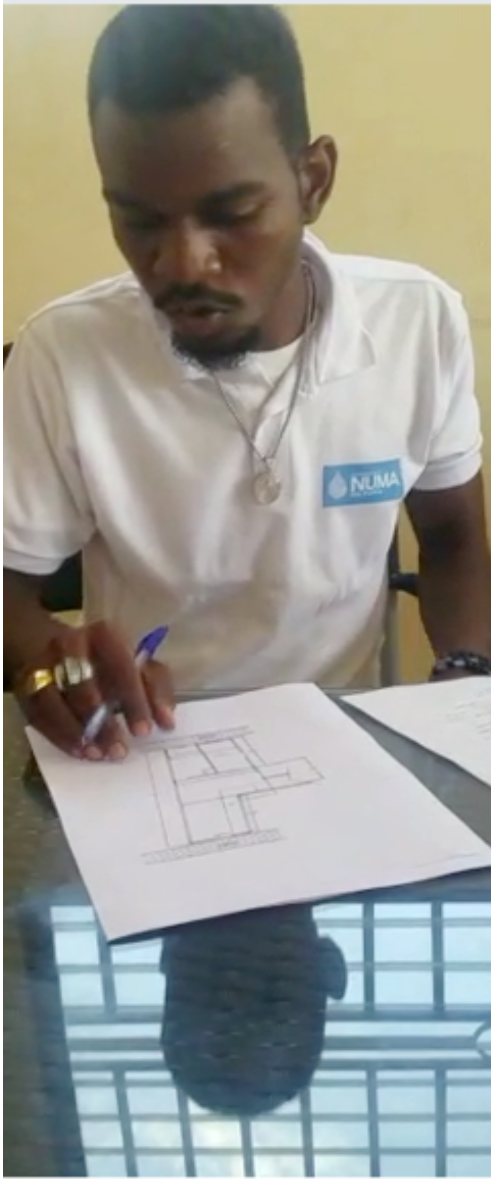
These programs have brought the NDMV mission to 15 new cities, placing AmeriCorps members in classrooms and community centers where they can make an impact. NDMV is grateful for these partnerships and opportunities to engage more students.



Join the team in Haiti!

Apply to volunteer at

www.ndmva.org/serve/international/haiti/



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – BOULANGERIE NOTRE DAME

Sister Katherine "Sissy" Corr and Catharine Helmers



2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges for the Boulangerie Notre Dame, but also one of great learning and adaptation. It began with a continuing crisis of inflation in Haiti, which in turn, led to mass protests (or “manifestations”) across the country. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic only worsened the economic crisis.

The Boulangerie Notre Dame had to adapt after Sissy was required to return to the US due to the pandemic. Sissy kept in touch with the Haitian team through daily WhatsApp calls and Zoom - providing advice and teaching business skills. The bakery, although operating at a reduced capacity under COVID-19 restrictions, was still able to produce 1,100 bags of bread a day—providing crucial food for the community of Les Cayes. While NDMV was unable to bring on U.S. volunteers this year, Boulangerie Notre Dame was able to continue to create employment opportunities and foster a

community learning environment.

The bakery continued to employ 18 bakery staff and provide work for a network of 40 vendors. They also finalized a contract with D'lo Haiti to develop a water purification project, an expansion of the existing Haitian-led bakery model. The building to house reverse osmosis system was completed and is prepared for installation of the new equipment. The bakery team will pilot a selling phase in July or early August, 2021.

We saw a crucial improvement of bakery and distribution processes in 2020. The challenges this year reinforced the need for worker training and education so that the Haitian community can play a central role in every aspect of the bakery project. Boulangerie Notre Dame will continue to focus on training, particularly related to bookkeeping and the business plan. Classes in basic business math and computer skills are already being prepared by NDMV staff.

Stay Connected



Next Generation's Leaders

Become a Mentor in our new Leadership Program and share your experience with members in their second year and beyond.



Contact John Knauer:
jknauer@ndmva.org

NDMV's 30th Anniversary!

Join our team of Alumni Ambassadors! Organize your local alumni to celebrate 30 years of service.



Contact Don Quinn-Jacobs:
dquinnjacobs@ndmva.org

We are Recruiting

Help us find AmeriCorps members and International Volunteers for the 2021-22 service year.



Search our open positions at:
www.ndmva.org/serve
