2020–2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Notre Dame Mission Volunteers

EST. 1992
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Reflecting on this past year of service, I am both inspired and humbled. 2020-2021 has challenged us as never before. It has immensely impacted our organization as well as the communities we serve. We faced challenges alongside our colleagues in Haiti as political and environmental impacts shook the foundation of our growing bakery and water project. Our domestic communities faced the challenges of the ever-changing landscape of education in the midst of a global pandemic. In addition, urgent needs in the areas of food security, computer literacy, and social-emotional wellness were identified. In the face of this tumultuous time, the resiliency, unshakeable commitment and strength of NDMV shone through. Our Haiti team pivoted and began online and in-person business trainings for Bakery workers. Our NDA members across the US not only mentored their networks in virtual learning communities but with our partners, pivoted to creatively meet the additional urgent needs of their communities. Despite much uncertainty, our organization continued to dig deep, learn, and evolve.

In this new year, we find ourselves stronger, more committed and ready for what’s next. The world around us continues to evolve and so does our organization. As we begin the search for the next Executive Director, we are even more excited for the next chapter of NDMV. We continue to find strength in each other and in you, our extended family. Your support sustains us and keeps us moving forward. While much has changed in a year, our commitment to create access to education in our community has not. As you will read, we’ve grown in depth and scope. We are grateful for your ongoing support and partnership and we remain committed to equity and growth.

Adrienne Andrews  
Executive Director

Shannon Fritz  
Board Chair
The challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical need for consistent, positive and innovative service. NDMV members were able to assess and address community needs in unique and appropriate ways. Food insecurity and educational technology support were two areas NDMV members were able to make an important difference. While maintaining the focus of our service on education, we expanded our efforts around food insecurity due to the sharp increase in community need. Student and family support has taken many forms including partnering with other organizations to support family members in finding jobs, accessing health care, COVID-19 tests and vaccines. With the help of NDMVA members, our partnering sites were able to mobilize and distribute over 1.7 million pounds of food to people in the communities we serve.
THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

NDMV as an organization is committed to lifelong learning. Part of that learning is data collecting and evaluation. This reflection is necessary to insure that we are continually in alignment with our mission and values. For an external review and evaluation, we partnered with Dr. Helfenbein from Mercer University to take a critical look at the work we are doing in Atlanta, GA was crucial to our own learning and growth. The external evaluation that was conducted has given us remarkable insight into the impact that our AmeriCorps members are able to have with the communities they are serving.

This study showed that educators and advocates involved in NDMVA programs played a crucial role in student's academic success through socio-emotional support. This observation was underscored by NDMVA's holistic approach to working with immigrant/newcomer youth. Dr. Helfenbein observed, a “the balancing of one-on-one and small group approaches while involving the broader community proves to be a remarkable strength of the programming.” We are humbled and empowered that, despite constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to continue to serve diverse communities and stay aligned in our mission of connecting, educating, and providing opportunities. (Helfenbein & Warren, 2021)

As we continue to navigate the ever changing landscape of our service, maintaining connections and access to important services has been a focus of our members. NDMVA members assisted the shift to virtual programming by training staff, parents, and students in using virtual platforms. NDMV members provided educational technology support reaching 18,864 students and adult learners. Our members also helped in designing virtual programming, and supporting students in one-on-one and small group tutoring and social activities. Other shifts in curriculum included integrating more social-emotional learning into lessons such as meditation and other mental health strategies.
Our members’ commitment to service and their ability to remain vigilant with the ever changing needs of their communities is remarkable. What’s even more remarkable is that while we see positive change in these communities through our members’ direct service, members are also being changed.

I started my AmeriCorps position as the College Access Coordinator knowing I had a passion for students and education. Working in the College Access Program at HOPE these past two years has exposed me to a whole other realm of possibilities within the field of education that I didn’t know was a possibility for me. I have really come to love what I do and have recently accepted a job that is very similar to the one I have held for the past two years as an Notre Dame AmeriCorps member. My time in AmeriCorps has prepared me to take on the role of College Success Coach with the non-profit Take Stock in Children. I have learned the necessary tools I will need to be successful in this position and continue to make a positive impact in the lives of students I will come to serve.

-Apopka 2020

This past year, just like every year, had its own set of challenges and our members stepped up to meet community need. This year alone our members distributed 1.7 million pounds of food to those experiencing food insecurity and served over 11,000 meals a month. NDMVA members provided critical technology support to students over 17,000 times in the past year.
2021 was a year of immense challenge for the Boulangerie Notre Dame in Les Cayes, Haiti, in a time already filled with unprecedented pain and uncertainty. After pivoting in 2020 to continue bakery operations despite COVID-19, continued inflation, and widespread protests in Haiti, the Boulangerie Notre Dame was hit by a devastating earthquake in 2021.

Despite the historic challenges facing Haiti, there is room and a great need for hope. Thankfully, all bakery workers survived the earthquake, and the Boulangerie Notre Dame was able to reopen and continue its vital work providing food, employment, and hope for the communities of La Savane and Les Cayes. The resilience shown by the bakery workers and community members has been nothing short of heroic, and there has been a tremendous outpouring of support for the bakery and water projects.

One of our major funders, The Kellogg Foundation, put into words their commitment to the children and families of Haiti. Their statement mirrors our own dedication to this work. Despite the challenges of this year’s developments, the awe-inspiring commitment and resilience of our bakery workers and community members, alongside the renewed support from our partners and supporters, has only reaffirmed our commitment to provide basic needs, education, and development opportunities to the community of La Savane/Les Cayes. We move forward in hope and service.
Fiscal Year '20/21 Program Efficiency

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\text{EFFICIENCY RATIO} = \frac{\text{Program Service Expenses}}{\text{Total Expenses}}
\]

\[
82\% = \frac{\$7,482,451}{\$9,072,532}
\]

According to Charity Navigator, 7 out of 10 NGOs have a program efficiency ratio of at least 75%. At NDMV, $0.82 of every $1 supports direct service in communities across the United States and Haiti.

*Does not include in-kind donations

Our organization is multifaceted and so are our financial plans. Our international programs, including the Boulangerie Notre Dame, receive funds independently from our AmeriCorps programs. This year to date, we have received $62,970 from private donors.
LOOKING FORWARD

Every year has its own set of challenges and opportunities for growth and this year was no different. As we look forward into our 30th year as an organization, we are dedicated to carry on the legacy that our founders, The Sister’s of Notre Dame de Namur. It is increasingly evident that NDMV’s focus on one-on-one and small group instruction has lasting, positive, impacts on students. The consistency and support that our members are able to provide through this type of learning community increases student attendance, engagement, and confidence.

We continue to work within communities that have more need for this kind of support. We intend to prioritize our work with refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants where our direct service has had a great impact. There is exciting potential for continued growth for our AmeriCorps programs because there is continued need in our communities. NDMV is dedicated to creating spaces where community need and input is at the forefront of the service members provide. Whether we are working alongside students in Cincinnati or bakery works in Les Cayes, NDMV is moving forward into our 30th year excited to reach a new depth of service.
Thank you to all our donors who believe in our organization and our mission. With donor support we are able grow and find new paths to share education with everyone.

- Alice Boyle Shepard
- Arthur Milholland
- Bill & Ave Salmon
- Cat Koehn
- Donald Gillespie
- Helen Geiser
- James and Rita Davis
- Julie Knauer
- Kelly Dunn

- Larry & Isabel Smith
- Linda Bodnar
- Maureen Galia
- Maureen Egen
- Michael Corr
- Patricia Artimovich
- Richard & Betty Corr
- Teresa Cattaneo
- William Sheehan

Organizational Donors

- The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- Saint Martin De Porres Church Corp.
- The Dunn Family Foundation

And many, many more!
We know that for some the Notre Dame mission never ends. Our vibrant and giving network is integral to the work we do and the communities we are able to serve. If you would like connect with us and be a part of our mission feel free to contact us! This report can also be found in full on our website.