A Message from the CEO

Dear Friends,

Even with the backdrop of government budget cuts, I am happy to report that America’s Service and Conservation Corps grow stronger every year. In 2015, the member Corps of The Corps Network planted more trees, improved more miles of trail and restored more acres of habitat than during any other year in recent memory.

The more than 24,600 Corpsmembers of The Corps Network generated impressive project outcomes, but these numbers represent a fraction of the work accomplished in 2015. The story behind the numbers is even more extraordinary; it’s the story of young people, from all walks of life, who – as a result of their service experience – now have the skills and knowledge to move forward towards their career and educational goals.

I stand in awe of what our Corpsmembers can accomplish, both in terms of project results and personal growth. The Corps model works: young people who participate in Service and Conservation Corps make a difference in their community and realize their own potential in the process. Here at The Corps Network, we are dedicated to advocating for the Corps model and offering our member organizations the guidance and access to funding opportunities that allows them to engage even more young people.

In 2015, due to ongoing advocacy efforts by The Corps Network and the Public Lands Service Coalition, the federal land management agencies exponentially increased project funding for Corps. For example, the National Park Service sponsored about $5 million-worth of Corps projects in 2013. This past year, that number grew to $25 million. As a result, Corps were able to enroll an additional 3,000+ Corpsmembers.

Another result of The Corps Network’s advocacy was the recent introduction of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) Act in the Senate by Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Michael Bennet (D-CO). We worked closely with both of those offices and continue to work with other Congressional offices to gain additional support for the bill. Like the PLSC Act, which we continue to promote, the 21CSC Act would do a great deal to expand opportunities for young people and veterans to serve in Corps and have the resources to translate their service into careers with our land and water management agencies.

2015 was also a big year for The Corps Network’s AmeriCorps programs. We grew our Opportunity Youth Service Initiative through additional funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service, as well as new funding from the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Justice. We also expanded our AmeriCorps Education Awards Program (EAP) through a partnership that places EAP members at YMCA locations throughout the country.

This past year also saw the growth of The Corps Network’s Gulf Coast Restoration Initiative. With funding from the Walton Family Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, we supported the establishment of two new Service and Conservation Corps, Climb CDC Conservation Corps in Mississippi and Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast in Florida.

Please read through our 2015 Annual Report to learn more about how The Corps Network, our 130 Corps, and our many Corpsmembers continue the legacy of the Civilian Conservations Corps.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Sprenkel
CEO
Our Mission
The Corps Network provides critical leadership to the Corps movement and to our nation’s Service and Conservation Corps as they harness the power of youth and young adults to tackle some of America’s greatest challenges and transform their own lives.

Table of Contents

- Corps in Numbers 2015 3
- Programs and Initiatives 5
- Events and Gatherings 12
- Partnerships 15
- Outreach 17
- FY15 Financials 19
- Photos 21
Corps in Numbers - 2015

Number of Corps

131 = Service and Conservation Corps
118 = Full SCC Members
13 = Emerging Corps Members
58 = Affiliate Members
385 = AmeriCorps Basic Members

Corpsmembers

24,631 Young people served in Corps in FY15
55.2% male
44.3% female
>60% unemployed prior to service, formerly incarcerated and/or from families below the poverty line

Corpsmember race, ethnicity

- 48% White
- 28% Black, African American
- 16% Other
- 4% Asian
- 4% American Indian, Alaskan Native, Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
* 19% identified as Hispanic

- 4,640 Number of Corpsmembers who received health insurance through The Corps Network
- 8,690 Number of Corpsmembers who earned an industry-recognized certification
- 4,529 Corpsmembers enrolled in HSD/GED program (31 Corps offered such programs in FY15)
2,877,344 trees planted

10,807 miles of trail constructed or improved

567,173 acres of habitat restored

2,127 miles of waterway restored

364,976 acres of invasive species removed

31,567 acres of hazardous fuel reduction

16,059 public facilities / community spaces improved or constructed

3,050,560 square feet of graffiti removed

16,545 low-income homes weatherized/retrofitted to improve energy efficiency

22,044 energy audits performed on low-income homes & public facilities

371,357 community members who benefitted from education programs provided by Corps

17,984,000 pounds of waste collected & recycled/properly disposed of

396 number of disasters Corps responded to, including fires, floods and storms

402,363 volunteer hours generated through Corps-organized community service events

285 historic structures restored
Accreditation

In 2015, the first twenty-one Service and Conservation Corps to undergo The Corps Network’s new Accreditation process received Full Accreditation.

To become Accredited, a Corps must undergo an in-depth review of its general operations, governance standards, financial management practices and risk management guidelines. The process involves a site visit as well as a thorough assessment of the Corps’ key documents and policies. In addition to receiving the “general” Full Accreditation, Corps can also choose to invite additional scrutiny in order to be Accredited with specific “designations” that recognize their experience or capacity in one (or more) of four areas:

21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) Program:
Corps that have been officially designated as 21CSC programs by the National Park Service and/or U.S. Forest Service.

Education Corps:
The Corps provides programming designed to help Corpsmembers obtain a high school-level credential and advance to post-secondary education

Workforce Development Corps:
Corps that receive funding from YouthBuild and/or the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), or offer formalized training to increase work-readiness of Corpsmembers, provide connections to employers, provide connections to workforce-related supportive services, etc.

Human Services Corps:
The mission, programming and service activities of the Corps are focused on remediating a variety of human service problems (poverty, incarceration, health-related issues, etc.)

Simply preparing for the Accreditation process offers Corps the opportunity to review current practices and implement new policies or initiatives that can help streamline operations and lead to more efficient and effective programming.

By successfully completing the Accreditation process, a Corps demonstrates its accountability to funders and donors and its capacity to provide meaningful programming to Corpsmembers and high quality results to their community and project partners.
The Gulf Coast Restoration Initiative (GCRI) was launched in 2013 through a partnership between The Corps Network and the Walton Family Foundation. The initiative was developed in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which released nearly 5 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico, causing extensive damage to marine life and to the region’s fishing and tourism industries. The goal of the GCRI is to build Conservation Corps capacity across the Gulf; a robust network of Corps will help restore coastal habitats and provide conservation-related job training to youth and veterans in underserved Gulf Coast communities.

FY 2015 saw a number of accomplishments for the GCRI:

The first two pilot projects completed during FY 2015
The first was a two-phase project in Mississippi that involved a partnership between The Corps Network, The Nature Conservancy, Texas Conservation Corps and Climb Community Development Corporation (Climb CDC). Through this project, Climb CDC, a local job training program, recruited Corpsmembers to collect baseline data about stream quality at 29 sites throughout coastal Mississippi. Corpsmembers also participated in invasive species removal, nesting habitat rehabilitation and fuel reduction projects. The Nature Conservancy trained Corpsmembers in the skills and knowledge needed for this project, while Texas Conservation Corps provided experienced Crew Leaders to manage Corpsmembers and project work.
The second pilot project, which occurred in Florida, involved a partnership between The Corps Network, the City of Apalachicola, Franklin County Promise Coalition (FCPC), and Community Training Works Inc./Young American Conservation Corps. Through this project, FCPC recruited Corpsmembers to build a nature trail on property owned by the City of Apalachicola. CTW/YACC – an established Corps – provided logistical support.

Both pilot projects were a great success, demonstrating to communities and local governments how the Corps model can help address environmental concerns as well as unemployment and the labor demands of the growing field of habitat restoration.

**Creation of two new Service and Conservation Corps**

In order to complete the pilot projects, The Corps Network identified Gulf Coast-based workforce development organizations – Climb CDC and Franklin County Promise Coalition – that had the capacity to recruit and manage local youth to carry-out the projects. As a result, the pilot projects helped create two new Service and Conservation Corps: Climb CDC launched the Climb CDC Conservation Corps, while Franklin County Promise Coalition established Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast.

**RESTORE Council Initial Funded Priorities List**

After multiple listening sessions – for which The Corps Network and Corpsmembers provided testimony – the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council) released their Initial Funded Priorities List of projects to receive funding from the Deepwater Horizon legal settlements. A Gulf Coast Conservation Corps program was among the RESTORE Council’s proposed projects. The Corps Network aims to put itself in a position to help the RESTORE Council implement this program.
AmeriCorps Education Awards Program

Through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, The Corps Network operates an AmeriCorps Education Award Program (EAP). Upon successful completion of their term of service, EAP members are eligible for an education award (scholarship) which can be used for future educational endeavors or to repay student loans. Corpsmembers serving during the 2014 – 2015 program year received up to $5,645. They have up to seven years to use this award.

- **2,920** = Corpsmembers enrolled in EAP during FY15
- **8,542** = miles of trail & waterways constructed/improved by EAP Corpsmembers
- **116,085** = acres of public land improved by EAP Corpsmembers
- **$7,428,344** = total amount of Education Award money EAP Corpsmembers had the potential to earn for the 2014 – 2015 season

Opportunity Youth Service Initiative

Young people, ages 16 – 24, who are out of school and out of work are referred to as “Opportunity Youth.” This term reflects the enormous potential these young people offer if we help them get back on track. Launched in 2013 through an AmeriCorps grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, The Corps Network’s Opportunity Youth Service Initiative (OYSI) seeks to do just that.

Operating at 12 Corps in 13 states, the OYSI engages diverse youth from disadvantaged backgrounds in environmental service. Corpsmembers develop job skills, earn certifications, complete their high school-level credentials, and are assisted in the transition to postsecondary education or the workforce.

In addition to funding from CNCS, OYSI Corpsmember positions for FY15 were also supported by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Forest Service. Using funding from the DOJ and CNCS, the OYSI Corps were able to respectively enroll Corpsmembers with former involvement in the criminal justice system and Corpsmembers with disabilities.

**OYSI FY15 Numbers**

- **607** = # of Corpsmembers
- **4,888** = # of housing units improved for low-income families/individuals or persons with disabilities
- **7,168** = acres of public/tribal land improved

Member of The Sustainability Institute in Charleston, SC. The Sustainability Institute is 1 of 12 Corps participating in OYSI
**OYSI Summer of Service Pilot Project**

Youth are particularly vulnerable to falling off track during the summer when schools are closed. One way to confront “summer disconnection” is to engage young people in national service.

During the summer of 2015, The Corps Network and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) operated a pilot project to demonstrate how participation in even a relatively short AmeriCorps term of service (June – August) in a Corps program can have a positive impact on a disconnected young person.

For this pilot project, three of The Corps Network’s member OYSI Corps (American YouthWorks [TX]; Arizona Conservation Corps [AZ]; and Northwest Youth Corps [OR/WA]) enrolled a total of 82 teens and young adults – most of whom could be classified as Opportunity Youth – in a 3-month-long AmeriCorps term of service. Over the course of the summer, the Corpsmembers engaged in a variety of community and environmental service projects including building and maintaining trails, weatherizing low-income homes, and restoring wild habitats. In exchange for their service, all pilot project Corpsmembers were eligible to receive up to a $1,195 AmeriCorps Education Award.

At the end of the summer, the Corpsmembers were interviewed about their service experience. As a result of participating in just a 3-month-long AmeriCorps term of service:
- 80% felt more aware of the important needs of their community
- 80% felt a greater sense of responsibility for making positive changes in their community
- 75% said they intended to pursue education beyond high school (college, trade school)
- 65% had a clearer sense of their career goals
- 78% would recommend friends/siblings participate in similar program the following summer

24,600 hours served by pilot project Corpsmembers

**HOPE Crew**

HOPE Crew celebrated its first birthday in 2015. Developed through a partnership between The Corps Network and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, HOPE Crew – or the Hands On Preservation Experience program – is designed to train the next generation of preservation craftspeople.

Through this initiative, a project sponsor (such as the National Park Service) engages a Corps to help restore a historic property. Experts from the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s network of craftspeople train Corpsmembers in a variety of preservation techniques. Depending on the needs of the project, Corpsmembers may, for example, learn skills in carpentry, masonry, roofing, painting or repointing.
Let’s Move! Outside

Children and youth today spend half as much time outside as they did just 20 years ago, while spending more than 7 hours a day in front of a screen. To help today’s young people discover and enjoy nature, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) announced its Play, Learn, Serve and Work on Public Lands youth initiative in 2014.

In 2015, DOI partnered with National League of Cities (NLC) and YMCA of the USA to put this initiative into action. Under this new campaign – Let’s Move! Outside – NLC and Y USA are working to make it possible for young people in 50 key cities across the country to have the opportunity to play, learn, serve and work outdoors.

Thanks to a $2.5 million donation from American Express, YMCA locations in each of the 50 cities will appoint a Community Coordinator to work with local organizations to increase awareness about outdoor programs and create new opportunities for people to get outside. The Corps Network is participating in this effort by placing an EAP AmeriCorps member at many of the designated YMCA locations to assist Community Coordinators in outreach and the development of volunteer opportunities on public lands. So far, member Corps of The Corps Network have placed EAP members at Y locations in:

- Albuquerque, NM
- Anchorage, AK
- Atlanta, GA
- Baltimore, MD
- Boston, MA
- Cleveland, OH
- Denver, CO
- Honolulu, HI
- Jacksonville, MS
- Las Vegas, NV
- Los Angeles, CA
- New Orleans, LA
- Salt Lake City, UT
- San Antonio, TX
- St. Louis, MO
- Tucson, AZ
- Twin Cities, MN
- Washington, DC

New Jersey Youth of Phillipsburg members working on a NPS-sponsored HOPE Crew project at Gateway NRA.
Service Year Exchange

A year of national service can be enriching and educational. In March 2015, The Corps Network collaborated with the Service Year Alliance (a partnership between the Aspen Institute’s Franklin Project, ServiceNation and the National Conference on Citizenship [NCoC]) to launch a pilot program to help Corpsmembers earn college credit for skills and learning gained during their term of service.

The Service Year Exchange (SYx) is an online platform where national service organizations, AmeriCorps members and funders can connect, share experiences, post jobs and opportunities and test new ideas. Through SYx, 26 Corpsmembers and alumni from eight different Corps of The Corps Network to work with instructors from the LearningCounts Portal – a product of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) – to create portfolios that captured what they learned through their service experience. The portfolios were then submitted to colleges for assessment, allowing Corpsmembers to earn up to six college credits in time for the Fall 2015 semester.

As a result of the success of this pilot, a second pilot project will take place in 2016. The goal of these pilots is to develop a system through which AmeriCorps members have the opportunity to earn college credit for their service.

8 Corps that participated in pilot:
- Civicorps (Oakland, CA)
- Civic Works (Baltimore, MD)
- Green City Force (Brooklyn, NY)
- Heart of Oregon Corps (Bend, OR)
- Kupu Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps (Honolulu, HI)
- Maine Conservation Corps (Augusta, ME)
- Mile High Youth Corps (Denver, CO)
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (Steamboat Springs, CO)

SEED Initiative with HUD and DOE

In 2015, the Clinton Global Initiative announced a new initiative called SEED (STEM, Energy, Economic Development): Coalitions for Community Growth. The goal of SEED is to connect federal agencies with programs – such as Service and Conservation Corps – to raise awareness about energy consumption and increase opportunities for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education and career training for public housing residents across the country. The goal is for public housing communities to decrease energy consumption and for residents to have the skills for in-demand energy-related careers.

The Corps Network is a partner of the SEED initiative, providing guidance to other partners, including the Energy Department (DOE) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in the implementation of the initiative’s three pillars.

1. Energy Literacy:
   Through online and in-person outreach, educate public housing residents about measures they can take to reduce energy consumption. Potential opportunity for Corps: Multiple Corps, particularly in urban areas, have created curricula to train Corpsmembers to provide basic energy education through door-to-door outreach, public events, school presentations and other means.

2. STEM Education
   Prepare a new generation of leaders in the STEM fields by linking youth and young adults living in public housing to STEM education. Potential opportunity for Corps: Education is a key component of Corps programming. Many Corps offer a supportive, alternative educational environment geared towards helping Corpsmembers earn a high school-level credential and transition to post-secondary opportunities.

3. Job-Driven Skills Training
   Link together STEM training programs tailored to the needs of local employers, creating a career pathway for public housing residents. Potential opportunity for Corps: Many Corps offer trainings and certifications to help prepare Corpsmembers for careers in fields including: energy auditing; solar panel installation; home weatherization; air sealing; green construction, etc.
White House Community Leaders Briefing

On Thursday, June 18, 2015, The Corps Network hosted a Community Leaders Briefing at the White House. The White House created this briefing series to bring together senior government officials with grassroots leaders from nonprofits, schools, environmental groups and other organizations across the country to discuss how they address some of America’s greatest challenges.

During The Corps Network’s Community Leaders Briefing, the discussion centered on President Obama’s Task Force on Expanding National Service and how service programs like Corps can provide positive life experiences for diverse youth and address education and job training issues faced by America’s young people.

To start the briefing, four former Corpsmembers shared how participation in national service impacted their lives. Aisha Dorn of Civic Works (Baltimore, MD) discussed how the Corps helped her develop the skills to start her own environmental remediation company; Kenesha Jackson, a
young mother who served in Greater Miami Service Corps (Miami, FL), shared how the Corps helped her reimagine her future and enroll in college; Katherine Martinez of Curlew Job Corps (Curlew, WA) explained how the Corps helped her gain confidence, develop leadership skills, and learn tangible job skills; and Ray Santos of American YouthWorks (Austin, TX) talked about how the Corps helped transform him from a court-involved youth into a mentor for at-risk young people.

The Corpsmembers shared their stories in front of top officials from the White House, the EPA and the Departments of Labor, Energy, Agriculture, and Housing and Urban Development. Administration officials who spoke at the briefing included Deputy Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity Roy L. Austin Jr.; Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director of Cabinet Affairs Michael Smith; and Deputy Director of the Council on Women and Girl’s Hallie Schneir.

**Great Outdoors Day of Service**

Following the White House Community Leaders Briefing, The Corps Network hosted the second annual Great Outdoors Day of Service in the Nation’s Capital on Friday, June 19, 2015. The event was part of Great Outdoors Month, a celebration of America’s public lands and waters and the many ways to enjoy them. The Corps Network Great Outdoors Day of Service is designed to raise awareness about the important role national service plays in protecting and enhancing our natural spaces.
The 2015 Day of Service brought together over 160 volunteers in Washington, DC to serve at several National Parks Service sites throughout the city. The day began with a launch event at the FDR Memorial on the National Mall. Speakers at the launch event included John Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service; Bill Basl, Director of AmeriCorps; Joe Meade, U.S. Forest Service National Recreation Director; and Tina Terrell, Job Corps Director for the U.S. Forest Service.

Following the launch, volunteers helped with maintenance projects on the National Mall; removed invasive English Ivy at Rocky Creek Park; removed invasive honeysuckle from Teddy Roosevelt Island; and helped with landscaping projects on Daingerfield Island. The volunteers included Corpsmembers and staff from 20 Corps, as well as staff from several Day of Service sponsors. The 2015 Day of Service was sponsored and supported by Guest Services, Delaware North, CB Richard Ellis, Old Town Trolley, Hyatt Fairfax at Fair Lakes, and American Recreation Coalition.

We hope to make the third annual Great Outdoors Day of Service bigger and better than ever!

2015 National Conference
Tackling America’s Greatest Challenges

The theme of the 2015 National Conference, Tackling America’s Greatest Challenges, reflected how Corps address a range of issues faced by communities across the country. Corps address environmental degradation by restoring and improving natural spaces; curtail youth unemployment by providing meaningful, hands-on job training; respond to the dropout crisis and growing opportunity gap by providing an alternative education pathway and access to postsecondary opportunities; and even help address climate change by improving community resiliency and raising awareness about the scientific realities of our time.

Speakers throughout the conference included U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; award-winning educator Clint Smith; Special Assistant to President Obama and Senior Director of Cabinet Affairs for the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative Michael Smith; Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs Karol Mason; Director of the National Park Service John Jarvis; Director of AmeriCorps Bill Basl; and Delaware North COO Jim Houser.

2015 Awardees

Corpsmember of the Year (pictured, L to R)
Mokhtar Mohammadi, Onondaga Earth Corps
Harris Cox, Civicorps
Graciela Billingsley, RMYC – CO
Jeremiah Ruiz, Urban Corps of San Diego County
Jasmine Romero, RMYC – NM

Projects of the Year
Beach Buddy Adventure
Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps
Energy Corps
California Conservation Corps
GURLS Corps! (Girls United in Resilience, Leadership and Service)
SEEDS

Legacy Achievement Award
Ann Cochrane
San Francisco Conservation Corps
Paul McLain-Lugowski
Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps
Delaware North

For years now, the National Park Service has been burdened with a large backlog of unmet maintenance needs. As a concessionaire of the National Park Service (NPS), Delaware North – a global hospitality and food service company – operates many attractions and structures at NPS sites across the country. In 2015, following the successful completion of the first HOPE Crew project (which occurred at a Delaware North property in Shenandoah National Park), Delaware North partnered with The Corps Network to create TradePath®: an initiative focused on engaging more Corpsmembers in addressing the backlog of maintenance and improvement projects at National Parks. Corpsmembers will develop valuable vocational skills in the construction trades and gain hands-on experience by helping complete NPS projects. We look forward to engaging our member Corps in the TradePath® initiative in 2016.

Youth Program Assistant with the National Park Service Northeast Region

The National Park Service (NPS) and The Corps Network have a mutually-beneficial partnership: cost evaluations show that NPS can save more than 50 percent on the cost of maintenance and improvement projects by engaging Corps as opposed to other outside contractors; Corps benefit from partnering with NPS by offering Corpsmembers the opportunity to serve in some of America’s most iconic natural spaces alongside land management agency employees who serve as teachers and mentors.

In 2015, to facilitate the relationship between Corps and the parks of NPS’ Northeast Region (which includes parks from Maine to Virginia), The Corps Network partnered with the Park Service to create a Youth Program Assistant position based out of NPS’ Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia, PA. The Youth Program Assistant is responsible for educating park employees about partnering with Corps, and for visiting Northeast Region NPS sites that could potentially host Corps (as well as parks that already do) to spread awareness, identify project opportunities and collect best practices. The Youth Program Assistant position has proven to be a great success and will continue throughout 2016.
**Snapshot - DOL/NAWB/TCN Publication**

The Corps Network partnered with the National Association of Workforce Boards and the Department of Labor to create the document *Snapshot: Youth Corps and Workforce Partnerships*. Developed through an interview process with local Workforce Development Boards and Corps across the country, this resource identifies promising practices for how Corps, Workforce Development Boards and American Job Centers can serve more young people by leveraging funding, co-enrolling, and co-locating services. By offering examples of successful local partnerships, Snapshot is designed to help workforce systems and Corps see each other as assets in a shared mission to improve the nation’s workforce development system and prepare the next generation for the labor market.

**The Corps Cooperative**

In 2015, The Corps Network partnered with The Corps Cooperative (The Corps Coop): a group purchasing organization that harnesses the purchasing power of The Corps Network’s 130+ member Corps to negotiate with companies that provide the products and services Corps use. The Corps Coop helps Corps buy what they need at the best possible price. In FY15, Corps collectively saved over $1 million by using Corps Coop services and vendors.

Some of The Corps Coop’s most popular vendors include:
- Conservation United, Inc. (an insurance and risk management company created specifically for conservation and service programs)
- Enterprise Rental and Fleet
- Sprint

**DOIFCU**

As of FY15, staff and Corpsmembers from member organizations of The Corps Network, as well as their immediate family members, have the option to bank with the Department of the Interior Federal Credit Union (DOIFCU). As part of their mission to not only offer the resources to help people manage their money, but also help them understand money management practices, DOIFCU now offers Corps a free financial literacy training program that is specifically designed for Corpsmembers.

DOIFCU offers this customizable training through an in-person lesson, and it has also developed the resources and notes to help Corps staff lead the training themselves. Based on the needs of their Corpsmembers, a Corps can choose which topics the training covers, but the main topics include “Banking 101,” “Credit 101,” “Budgeting,” and “Steps to Improve your Financial Management.” Corpsmembers leave the training with a solid understanding of management tools as well as the option to bank with the credit union.

Mario Mejia of DOI Federal Credit Union facilitating a financial literacy training with Green City Force in NYC.
21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act


- The Corps Network is working with the Senators’ offices to identify appropriate cosponsors of the 21CSC Act in the House, as well as additional cosponsors in the Senate.
- The Corps Network published a sign-on letter in support of the 21CSC Act. In a matter of weeks, more than 150 organizations joined the letter.

Public Lands Service Corps Act

- The Corps Network worked with key members of the House and Senate to reintroduce the PLSC Act (which was previously introduced in the House by Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Grijalva [D-AZ], and in the Senate by Senator Udall [D-NM]).
- The Corps Network worked to gain more cosponsors in both the House and Senate

National Park Service Centennial Act

- The draft bill released by President Obama included language from the PLSC Act that would extend the non-competitive hiring authority from 120 days to two years for Corpsmembers who have completed the requisite number of service hours with a Public Lands Corps.
- The President’s version also included language that would extend the age limit to serve in a Corps from 25 to 35, allowing Corps to serve more military veterans.
- The Corps Network provided testimony to the House Natural Resources Committee on behalf of a version of the bill introduced by Chairman Bishop (R-UT).
- The Corps Network provided testimony to the Senate Natural Resource Committee on behalf of the Centennial Act, specifically in support of the Public Lands Corps amendments.

As the voice of Service and Conservation Corps in the nation’s capital, The Corps Network supports the legislation that makes national service programs, like Corps, possible. In FY15, The Corps Network’s outreach efforts focused around the following issues and legislation:
Funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service

- Worked with the advocacy organization Voices for National Service to protect CNCS funding by contacting Members of Congress
- Provided testimony in support of protecting AmeriCorps funding to the Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) Appropriations subcommittee
- Sent advocacy letters to every member of the LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee and the full Appropriations Committee urging support of continued/increased AmeriCorps funding. Letters specifically highlighted the accomplishments of individual Corps in each Member’s state.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Eli the Elk Campaign

Created by an Act of Congress in 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is critical to the protection of America’s natural spaces. Supported not by taxpayers, but rather by royalties from oil and gas drilling companies, the LWCF program has provided funds to nearly every state and county in the country for the creation of parks, the protection of natural treasures and the expansion of outdoor recreational opportunities.

During the summer of 2015, with the threat that Congress would allow the LWCF to expire at the end of September, The Corps Network launched the Eli the Elk social media campaign to spread awareness about the need to sustain this vital conservation program.

Eli’s message is to “Conserve today for access tomorrow!” Without funding – like that provided by the LWCF – and without dedicated individuals – like those involved in the Corps movement – our public lands and waters would fall into disrepair, becoming inaccessible to future generations.

The Corps Network distributed laminated cutouts of Eli the Elk, encouraging people to take pictures with him in their favorite natural space and share it on social media. In less than one week, the Eli the Elk campaign reached over 5.5 million people through social media. Many notable conservation organizations – including the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club – helped share Eli’s message. Eli even had a Twitter chat with the U.S. Forest Service’s Woodsy the Owl character.

The Eli the Elk campaign was a fun and engaging way for people to learn about the important funding streams that protect our public lands and waters. Though the LWCF expired on September 30, 2015, it was ultimately reinstated by Congress less than two months later.

**Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash equivalents</td>
<td>$356,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash held for others</td>
<td>16,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>14,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contracts receivable</td>
<td>1,112,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses - Operating</td>
<td>24,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses - Conference</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
<td>1,539,245</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Security Deposit                                   | 49,854        |

**Property and Equipment**

| Furniture, fixtures and equipment                  | 63,140        |
| Lease improvement                                  | 10,074        |
| Accumulated depreciation                           | (26,980)      |
| Net property and equipment                         | 46,234        |

| Total Assets                                        | $1,635,333    |

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable &amp; accrued liabilities</td>
<td>695,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts held on behalf of others</td>
<td>16,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>72,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current liabilities</td>
<td>784,177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Noncurrent liabilities                              |             |
| Deferred lease incentives                           | 161,168      |
| Total Liabilities                                   | 945,354      |

**Net Assets**

| Unrestricted                                        | 654,960      |
| Board-designated                                    | 35,028       |
| Total Net Assets                                    | 689,988      |

| Total Liabilities and Net Assets                     | $1,635,333   |
## Statement of Activities - September 30, 2015

### Operating Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Revenue - HQ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Revenue</td>
<td>$1,735,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>396,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Conference Revenue</td>
<td>120,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance Commissions</td>
<td>94,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation Fee Revenue</td>
<td>47,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Revenue</td>
<td>42,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations &amp; In Kind Revenue</td>
<td>17,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertisement Revenue</td>
<td>2,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>1,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Earned</td>
<td>612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Core Revenue - HQ</strong></td>
<td>2,459,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Revenue - Passthrough</td>
<td>3,079,173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Operating Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,538,595</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expenses</td>
<td>1,372,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted Services</td>
<td>235,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent Expenses</td>
<td>216,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>107,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>124,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Expenses</td>
<td>120,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Core Expenses - HQ</strong></td>
<td>2,176,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subgrantee Expenses - Passthrough</td>
<td>3,335,467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,512,083</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Change In Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$26,511</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack speaks at The Corps Network’s 2015 National Conference

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Smokey the Bear join CEO of The Corps Network Mary Ellen Sprenkel and Eli the Elk
U.S. Secretary of the Interior Salley Jewell joins Civic Works for Baltimore launch of the Let’s Move! Outside campaign.

Corpsmembers from the ’15 Project of the Year Award-winning GURLS Corps! meet one of their Members of Congress, Dan Benishek (MI-R)

An OYSI Summer of Service member with Arizona Conservation Corps

Director of the National Park Service John Jarvis speaks at the kick-off event for the 2015 Great Outdoors Day of Service

A Corpsmember with Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast, one of the two new Corps created in FY15 through the GCRI

A Texas Conservation Corps member participates in a HOPE Crew project at African House, Melrose Plantation (LA)