



**HandsOn Greater Phoenix AmeriCorps VISTA**  
**Mallory Debus, Community Programs Manager**  
 5151 N 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
 Phoenix, AZ 85015  
 (602) 973-2212 x 242  
[mallory@handsonphoenix.org](mailto:mallory@handsonphoenix.org)

# HandsOn Greater Phoenix, AmeriCorps VISTA

# 2015-2016

## Phoenix, Arizona

### PROGRAM FAST FACTS

**Congressional District(s): 7**  
**State Legislative District(s): 24**  
**Service Area by County: Maricopa County**  
**Community Volunteers: 1,283**  
**Volunteer Hours Served: 5,349**  
**Value of Volunteer Hours: \$120,459.48**  
 \*[2013 Independent Sector Rate](#) for the Value of a Volunteer  
 Hour in Arizona is \$22.52

### Community Need

For more than 20 years, HandsOn Greater Phoenix has been supporting nonprofits, schools, neighborhoods, and government entities by recruiting, training and placing volunteers where they are needed most throughout Maricopa County. Through our work with hundreds of organizations across multiple issue areas, we have gained a unique insight into the pressing needs of our community. We operate under the belief that by successfully leveraging volunteers to meet the demand for social services, we can improve the lives of many Arizonans living in poverty, a state in which 18.6% of residents live in poverty, 8.9% live in extreme poverty and 27% of children live in poverty (Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity, 2015).

### National Priority Area and Program Performance Goals

As HandsOn Greater Phoenix partners with a variety of nonprofits and government agencies addressing a range of issues, our program operates in all CNCS Focus Areas, with a special emphasis on Economic Opportunity, Education, Healthy Futures, and Veterans/Military Families.

### Program Activities

HandsOn AmeriCorps VISTA members dedicate a year of their lives to serve full-time in nonprofits and government agencies. During their terms of service, VISTAs build the capacity of organizations established to alleviate poverty by developing sustainable programs in fundraising, volunteer coordination, and project management. AmeriCorps VISTA members receive a poverty-level stipend to better understand the lives of the clients they serve.

The HandsOn VISTA program supports nineteen VISTA members serving in the role of volunteer or program coordinators at multiple sites and in doing so, hopes to infuse volunteer management competency into the community. Members enable our community service partners to build lasting infrastructure by creating the processes and tools needed to effectively access and utilize valuable volunteer resources. At the same time, they create more opportunities for community members to engage in meaningful service to under-resourced areas. Members also improve their capacity for leading their communities during and beyond their terms of service by developing their knowledge, skills, and abilities related to volunteer mobilization and civic engagement through training and professional development. In addition, HandsOn Greater Phoenix manages a team of approximately 30 VISTA Summer Associates. These members are individuals ages 18-24 who commit to serve full-time for 8 weeks over the summer months. Our VISTA Summer Associates prevent summer learning loss by facilitating educational programming for children and youth who attend Title I Schools.

### Program Impact

Over the course of HandsOn Greater Phoenix's history managing national service programs, we have successfully engaged more than 300 AmeriCorps members and more than 90 VISTA members in service to meet critical community needs, and we have developed both the infrastructure and the community partnerships to continue to support our successful program moving forward. Since 2009, our VISTA team members have collectively engaged more than 6,000 community volunteers in support of crucial programs that directly support and bring low-income individuals out of poverty. According to our most recent host site survey, more than 90% of host sites were satisfied that they were able to increase their ability to serve more low-income clients, or provide additional services, as a result of hosting a HandsOn VISTA member.

# HandsOn Greater Phoenix AmeriCorps VISTA

## Mission

HandsOn Greater Phoenix is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that empowers people to become engaged, take action and create positive change in their communities.

## Vision

We envision a day in which all people realize their power to make a difference and are actively engaged in their communities.

## History

HandsOn Greater Phoenix has been participating in National Service programming since 1999 and has managed America's Promise Fellows, AmeriCorps National Direct, Experience Corps, and VISTA programs. Because the nature of our work supports multiple issue or priority areas, we have always thought it appropriate that our VISTA programming should be built on the same premise. For that reason, when we initially came into the AZ State VISTA portfolio in 2010, the State Director at the time, proposed that HandsOn become an "intermediary project" for Maricopa County. The idea was that other smaller organizations that only wanted one or two members could work through our organization versus applying separately to the State office. This model has been able to streamline resources for all involved. We have been successfully serving in that capacity since 2010, serving multitudes of service organizations focused on four priority areas that might not have otherwise been able to take advantage of the VISTA resource.

## Partnerships

HandsOn Network, Points of Light  
Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix, City of Phoenix, Epilepsy Foundation, Maricopa Integrated Health System, Native American Connections

## Member Spotlight Stories

In 2015, HandsOn AmeriCorps VISTA alumni Ashley Abbey, Kira Anderson, and Lani Horiuchi were recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). Each year, NACo presents these awards for innovative county programming across 21 categories. All three VISTA members served with Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) and were specifically recognized for their work on the program entitled "Health Literacy and Education Using Technology for People Living with HIV/AIDS." Abbey, Anderson, and Horiuchi were responsible for bringing this crucial training to 357 participants over the course of 30 dual session classes. To read more about the program and the NACo Achievement Award, [click here](#).

Today, HandsOn VISTA member Tayler Bockstruck continues their efforts at MIHS. Bockstruck, who began his term of service in August 2015, recently had the unique opportunity to visit with CNCS Chief of Staff Asim Mishra to discuss his work helping formerly incarcerated individuals gain access to health care. You can read more about Bockstruck's service term [here](#).

