



AmeriCorps VISTA at Our House

Our House has had 22 full-time and summer VISTAs in our first three years as a VISTA site. We have VISTA positions available in all of Our House's programs. Because of the experience and training they received, past members have easily found jobs in nonprofit management upon departure from their VISTA positions at Our House. Our summer VISTAs enjoyed their time at Our House so much that many of them continued to volunteer regularly after their service ended.

In 2010, Our House received the award for Outstanding AmeriCorps VISTA project, awarded annually to one VISTA service site in Arkansas.



www.americorps.gov

For information about AmeriCorps VISTA positions at Our House, please contact Our House's VISTA Leader.

vistaleader@ourhouseshelter.org
501-374-7383 ext. 229

To participate in other volunteer opportunities at Our House, e-mail volunteer@ourhouseshelter.org



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Being a full-time VISTA at Our House has meant fulfillment and friendship in the workplace like I've never had before. Even though I don't serve residents directly, I watch people pull themselves out of poverty daily. The staff here doesn't need pep talks or reminders about their mission; they live and breathe hard work each day. I have no doubt that my VISTA year at Our House has given me the skills and connections I need to make a serious, positive impact in my community. I feel as if I'm FINALLY prepared to start a real, life-long career!

Ganelle Grimm
Our House VISTA
Resource Development Assistant

For the first couple of weeks, [some kids] wadded everything they made and threw it away. One of the last weeks of the summer, one of the kids who had always wadded up everything was painting. After she put the finishing touches on it, she showed it to me, and, as always, I told her that I liked it. For the first time the whole summer, she looked up at me with a sparkle in her eyes and a happy grin and said, "me, too."

Darlene Seal
Our House Summer VISTA
Youth Team Creativity Coordinator

I could have gotten a job this summer making two to three times the money and only working half as hard, but the experience that I received at Our House was priceless. Summers always feel like they're gone before you know it, and ... it's satisfying to know I was as productive as I could have been.

Josh Rowland
Our House Summer VISTA
Shelter & Family Housing Program Assistant



Full-Time VISTA

VISTAs serve for one year and may renew for up to three years. Past VISTAs at Our House have had positions in volunteer relations, youth programs, and community engagement.

Full-time VISTAs receive a living allowance and health coverage during their service year. VISTAs may also qualify for child care and a relocation allowance. After completing the year, VISTAs receive their choice of a stipend or an education award and qualify for non-competitive eligibility for federal jobs.

Summer VISTA

Summer Associates serve 8 to 10 weeks of the summer, and unlike full-time VISTAs, may provide direct service in addition to indirect service. Past summer VISTAs at Our House have served in our Shelter, Administrative Office, Family House, and Learning Center, as well as our on-site summer camp, My Picture Perfect Summer.

Summer VISTAs receive a living allowance during their time of service and an education award at the end of the summer.

Our House

Our House provides the working homeless—families and individuals—with safe, clean, affordable housing; food; free child care; education; and job training in order that they may return to independence and lead productive lives.

Our House is not only a shelter. Our House is a complete program that includes the shelter, family housing, job training opportunities, an adult learning center, permanent housing assistance, youth programs for all ages, and a summer camp for school-age kids.



AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Since 1965, more than 170,000 VISTA members have served at nonprofit organizations to strengthen communities. VISTAs provide indirect service, creating or expanding programs that bring individuals and communities out of poverty. VISTAs are committed to full-time volunteer service. This means that VISTA members do not have employment for pay during their service time, so that they may give full-time volunteer service.

VISTA benefits all who join. Recent graduates gain the kind of real-world experience not found in a typical entry-level job. Experienced adults apply their skills and knowledge to serious social problems and discover previously untapped strengths.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you'd like to volunteer at Our House but are not able to commit to a year or a summer, we would still love your help! Our programs have plenty of opportunities for individuals and small or large groups. For our current volunteer needs, e-mail volunteer@ourhouseshelter.org or see our website.

