

NorthState Rural Assets Project
AmeriCorps Quarterly Newsletter



Success Story

I spent my AmeriCorps year with a contract through the county to work as a skill builder for the Wraparound Program. In Wraparound the family defines success in their vision statement. The Wraparound program's goal is to keep the children out of group home placement. I see success in the eyes of the children and the smiles on their faces. The skill builder role is very important because it is the one that is a peer advocate for the child. I was able to use my public relation skills to get kids involved with support from the community. My biggest community support from the Wrap Program has been that with Plus One Mentors who has been able to get youth free access to the YMCA to work out and go swimming. Plus One has also provided tickets to Water Works Park and Turtle Bay. Troy Hawkins work with the Redding Park and Recreation has provided art lessons free of charge to your in our program. Joyce from the Clothing Exchange has provided clothes for kids in our program to reinforce their self-esteem and a venue for them to sell their arts and crafts. Mary Foches is on the board at the River Front Playhouse and has been able to get free tickets for youth to experience a live play. Beyond the Icing encouraged our youth in their cooking skills by providing the opportunity to volunteer in their bakery as an internship. Jim Dahl from the Red Cross provided the opportunity for our youth in the program to help fundraise for the Red Cross. The youth in Our Program raised \$125 at a Car Wash for the Red Cross Fire Victims.

These organizations have empowered the youth in our program to see that the Community Values Youth is a priority Asset for Shasta County. The AmeriCorps emphasis on the 40 developmental Assets was very helpful in helping me develop a tool to motivate the youth that I have worked with. I came up with a Bingo Card where there are 8 target areas: Support, Empowerment, Boundaries & Expectations, Constructive Use of Time, Commitment to Learning, Positive Values, Social Competencies and Positive Identity. Our first bingo winner was successful and received a gift card to Starbucks by pursuing his educational goals by studying for the CAHSEE exit exam and DMV driver's exam. He made up units in school by doing research projects so he was able to graduate. He is an active member in CYC. He is improving his organizational skills and keeping track of his own appointments. He has support and people he can share his feelings with. He is also enrolled to go to Shasta College next year and is on his way to complete his second bingo. Our second bingo winner received passes to Water Works park for her volunteer efforts for the Red Cross with the car wash and making pillow buddies for the kids who were fire victims, going to YMCA boot camp, sharing with her brother, reading and keeping appointments in her planner. She now has decided to join the ROTC because of her experience with community service and is on her way to serve in many new ways.

I was glad to provide a lot of fun activities for youth to be involved in and have personally gained a lot of tools in working with foster youth through this program. I feel that this experience will help me to further my professional career.

Teagan Teslow
 Skill Builder




**A Project of the Child Abuse
 Prevention Coordinating Council
 of Shasta County**



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This grant funded project is administered by



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Highlights AmeriCorps Orientation Week
August 18-25 2008

Having failed retirement, I began to look for part-time volunteer work. Becoming an Asset Coach with AmeriCorps fulfilled the goals I was seeking. Once I was recruited, the training began.

We all met at Tuttle Bay-The Sundial Bridge on Monday August 18, 2008 for the North State Rural Assets Project AmeriCorps 2008/2009 Program Launch! A short time of fellowship and getting acquainted preceded the swearing in ceremony which included a group pledge and picture taking. Then we were off to Anderson City Hall Community Center for our first training.

AmeriCorps Basics - We began with a welcome and introductions. AmeriCorps program overview was presented and explained. Sgt. Bruce Bonner of the Redding Police Department explained sexual harassment. He was an eloquent speaker and answered all our questions. Although these topics were important, they were taught in a simple and sincere demeanor. We were given breaks and opportunities to win small gifts at the gift table which was well stocked. Snacks were available for those who wanted them.

Tuesday, August 19, 2008 - We started training with Mandated Child Abuse Reporting and then progressed to the 40 Developmental Assets where we learned there are (1) External Assets which included: Support, Empowerment, Boundaries & Expectations, and Constructive Use of Time. (2) Internal Assets: Commitment to Learning, Positive Values, Social Competencies, and Positive Identity. We also received a chart showing the power of the assets. I found this training interesting and valuable not only personally, but as a tool to be used professionally as well.

Wednesday, August 20, 2008 - Today's training was intensive CPR and First Aid Mrs. Colleen Nelson was our presenter. She used humor and personal stories to teach us the latest CPR and First Aid techniques and provided us with a manual which will help us in the work field. Even though it was the longest most intense training it was broken up by chances to win with our raffle tickets (earned by good/extra help) behavior. This introduced an element of fun into the day. All of our trainings were interesting and educational led by professionals who were personable.

Thursday, August 21, 2008 - Asset Coaches Only

We had our NSRAP evaluation and paraprofessional exam on this day.

Friday 22, 2008 - Asset Coaches Only

Professionalism & Classroom Management - This topic was the most fun as our speaker used humor in her presentation. She taught proper dress, behavior and attitude in the work place. She reminded us of the importance of manners and humility. Developing healthy relationships, always putting the safety of the children first, confidentiality, punctuality, and behaving in a professional manner were her highlights.

We were all tired at the end of this day, but felt extremely enriched by the weeks training. I personally feel blessed to be a part of this exceptional organization. Thank you for the opportunity to serve my Country in this manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Root, Asset Coach
AmeriCorps



Parent Partner: Success Story

On Friday September 12, at about 5 P.M. I was picking my children up from school when I heard about an apartment fire near Enterprise High School. I drove by the scene on my way home and it turned out to be a complex that one of my clients lived in. My client is a 19 year old Hispanic female. She lives in the apartment with her 14 month old daughter and her boyfriend. I called my client to see if she was ok. My client was in distress. She had run barefooted with her daughter to her aunt's house 3 blocks away and had no idea if her apartment was damaged in the fire or not. She was told that even if her apartment did not burn she may not be able to stay there due to the smoke. She would have no place to stay and no transportation to a hotel. Her boyfriend was at work at the time and unable to assist her.

My brother works at the Fire department so I called him to see if he could get any additional information that I could relay to her. He told me that the fire was under control at that point and that I should take my client back to her apartment so that she could meet with fire officials and the Red Cross. I met my client at her aunt's house where she left the baby so we could go to her apartment. We had to park at the High School and walk to the apartments. Upon reaching the scene we spoke with police and fire personnel and learned that her apartment was not one of the 6 that were completely destroyed, but since her apartment was so close it had to be checked for smoke before she could return. We were then instructed to walk to the other side of the complex where she could meet with Red Cross.

Walking past the complex we could see that the 6 apartments that were burned were a complete loss. The roof was gone and everything inside was burned. Haven Humane was also there removing animals that had been in the apartments and fire crews were still putting out the last of the smoldering ruins.

Once we reached Red Cross they informed her that she would be able to stay in her apartment but asked if she could translate for 3 Hispanic men that had lost everything in the fire and would be receiving Red Cross services. She agreed and we went to her apartment so that it was quieter and they could all talk. My client asked me to stay with her, as she was not comfortable being alone in her apartment with 3 men she did not know.

There were now 9 adults squeezed into a tiny 1 bed room apartment. Red Cross completed a majority of the paper work needed to get the men a hotel room, clothes, food and vouchers for furniture from Salvation Army. None of the men drove and their only ride to the hotel was leaving soon so Red Cross asked if my client could go with them to the hotel to finish the process. She agreed and I drove her to Motel 6 where she spent another 30 minutes translating the final details.

Once everything was completed I took my client back to her aunt's house where her boyfriend met her and they were able to return home. I met with my client Monday morning and she was still amazed at how close she had come to losing her home. She also decided to invest in renters insurance just in case anything like this was ever to happen again.

This tragic event was a great way to see how the community works together. We got to witness fire fighters doing everything they could to salvage what was left of 6 family's homes. Police were there directing traffic and making sure everyone was safe. The property management company was there with a list of all of the tenants, and Red Cross was there assuring people that they would have a place to stay, food and clothes. There were even some tenants that filled up water bottles and passed them out to everyone at the scene. I was very proud of my client for going the extra step and making sure that her neighbors were able to understand everything that was going on. I was glad that I was able to help ease my client's anxiety and help guide her through the fear of the chance she lost her home.

Naomi Pursell
Parent Partner



Members serving as Parent Partners provide parenting support, mentoring, & linkages to other needed community resources.

Ways to Show Kids you Care

- ...laugh at their jokes
- ...Read aloud together
- ...Listen to their stories
- ...Be relaxed
- ...Catch them doing something right
- ...Ask for their opinion
- ...Praise more; criticize less
- ...Be consistent
- ...Tell them what you expect of them
- ...Be available
- ... Inspire their creativity
- ...Support them

Meeting the Needs of Our Communities

The NorthState Rural Assets Project serves children and families in Shasta, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties. Members serve to reduce high risk behavior in youth and to strengthen families with young children. Part-time members serving as **Asset Coaches** provide support to after school programs; in addition to developing and implementing small group activities based on the 40 Developmental Assets. Full-time Members serving as **Parent Partners** provide parenting support, mentoring, and linkages to other needed community resources.

For more information about the **40 Developmental Assets** check out: www.search-institute.org

Upcoming Trainings:

September 26th: Safety
October 3rd: Professionalism, Boundaries and Confidentiality
October 4th: Ropes Course—Canceled!
November 6th: Behavior Guidance (Shasta Only)
November 14th: Behavior Guidance (Trinity & Siskiyou)
November 21st: Brain Development

NSRAP AC Members are Awesome!

The following Members were recognized at our Second graduation

Perfect Attendance:

Sub Committee Members:

Tabitha Gomez

Second Year Members:

April Bertain

Lori Westlake

Cindi Dorn

Cynthia Dykstra

High School Special Recognition:

Alan Rich

Special Heart of Service:

April Carlton

Delores Padilla

Maggie Hall

Laura Meyer

Romulus Ongaco

Providing Service as Parent Partner and Team Lead for NSRAP:

April Bertain



A Special Thank You!

A special thank you to Walmart for the donation of \$150 in gift cards. We were able to use those cards to purchase a large number of raffle prizes that were won by members during our week long orientation.

