

Newsletter



AmeriCorps

Editor's Note

Fall is fully here in Minnesota! The temperature has dropped, the leaves are falling, and pumpkin flavors are ubiquitous. Time to put on a sweater!

- The coming of fall is a reminder of endings and last month we said goodbye to Cat Holl, a VISTA of two years. Read more about that in the "Comings and Goings" section on the second page. While you are there, take a look at open VISTA positions with MAVA and our partner organizations. Also, MAVA is hiring for a staff position.
- Last month, the White House and AmeriCorps started a new initiative. More can be found out about that below this section.
- MAVA is hosting the Strengthening Service Breakfast on 10/27. Learn more under "MAVA Happenings"
- VISTA Lunches continue to take place every other Wednesday. Some adjustments are in the works, so keep an eye out for news about that.
- Some of the VISTAs were able to meet up at Bauhaus on 9/30. Pictures from the event are under "MAVA Happenings"
- As always, find the VISTA/Supervisor and Staff Highlights on the second page.
- To find previous volumes of the Newsletter, visit https://mavanetwork.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=286912&module_id=469993
- Jonathan Grinde



MAVA Happenings

The Strengthening Service Breakfast is coming up this month on October 27th at Mt. Zion in Saint Paul.

Other events this month with MAVA:

- 10/5 | District Council Meeting
- 10/10 | Volunteer Voice Committee Meeting
- 10/10 | Voices of Service
- 10/25 | Interrupting Racism in Mostly White Communities
- 10/26 | Getting the Most YOUR MAVA Membership

VISTAs meet up at Bauhaus Brewery in Northeast Minneapolis:

On September 30, four MAVA VISTAs met at Bauhaus for a farewell to summer. It was perfect fall day with good conversation, drinks, and camaraderie. In attendance were Amelia, Tim, Julie, and Jonathan.



United We Serve

From americorps.gov:
 "President Biden calls upon Americans to unite through national service and volunteerism during the United We Stand Summit to counter the corrosive effects of hate-fueled violence on our democracy and public safety and put forward a shared vision for a more united America."

Through national service and volunteerism, Americans are afforded new ways to engage with their communities and foster a sense of constructive action, civic participation, and belonging. Sign up to learn about new opportunities to serve and opportunities to become an AmeriCorps partner."

In a separate event AmeriCorps CEO Michael D. Smith made comments about their commitment to bring in more AmeriCorps members and create more equitable service opportunities. That initiative is called United we Serve. Learn more about this at serve.gov.



Image Sources:
<https://www.americorps.gov/sites/default/files/styles/large/public/image/biden-quote-united-we-serve-v2.png?itok=5ZSC9P9S>
<https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/image/michael-d-smith.jpg>



Comings and Goings

We bid farewell to Cat Holl, whose two years of service ended on September 26. She was featured in the second volume of this newsletter, from June 2022. Thank you for your service, Cat!

It is also nearing the time where we must say adieu to Amelia Blair-Smith (YWCA) and Chance Chapman (CAPI USA). They will both complete their service at the end of October.

We have open VISTA positions with Great River Children's Museum, Second Harvest Heartland, Anoka Tech, CAPI USA, and here at MAVA! Check them out here:

https://www.mavanetwork.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=286912&module_id=470468



[mavanetwork.org](https://www.mavanetwork.org)

Staff/Board Highlight



Introducing to the MAVA VISTA Community, Josh Windham, the Chair of the MAVA Board of Directors. Here he is pictured with former chair Haley Nelson. Below is his bio:

Josh Windham is the Associate Director of Alumni Relations at Metro State University in St. Paul, MN. Prior to working at Metro State University, Josh served as the Volunteer Services Manager at the Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities for 7 years, where he managed over 4,300 annual volunteers to serve individuals experiencing homelessness. He is passionate about bringing people in the community to a deeper understanding of how they can make a difference through acts of service.

Josh is passionate about promoting volunteerism to address the needs of our community. He believes that through volunteering our time, we can begin to understand who our neighbors are and in turn, we get to see the world around us differently. When we give our time to serving others, we can be a part of the solutions that we advocate for.

In his spare time Josh enjoys running the many trails in the Twin Cities, trying out new local restaurants and volunteering his time as board chair at MAVA. In addition, Josh is a member of the Housing Advocates Volunteer Engagement Network (HAVEN) group, focusing on addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the field of volunteer engagement. Josh lives in Minneapolis with his wife Naomi and two children, Lucia (9) and Everett (6).

Josh earned a BA in Youth Development from North Central University and an MA in Global & Contextual Studies from Bethel University.

VISTA/Supervisor Highlight



Name: Brianna Gruenberg
Site: Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity

Fun Facts: I have a fear of jumping off things, but I have been paragliding in Switzerland! I lived in Florence, Italy for 4 months!

Favorite Place: Being at the lake on warm summer days!

Media: The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, Maid on Netflix.

Money no object: Travel across the US and other countries and help build Habitat for Humanity houses for families in need.

Fully Paid Trip: Back to Italy!



Tim, pictured with Jonathan (MAVA VISTA), tabling for Minnesota Tool Library at the Minnesota State Fair in the Eco Experience building.

Name: Tim Francis
Site: Hennepin Healthcare

Fun Facts: 1. I'm the youngest of 5 boys. Our sister was born 10 years after me. 2. I taught technical theater at a university in Texas for 31 years.

Favorite Place: The Grand Canyon

Media: The Planet Money Podcast

Money no object: Work towards equitable, affordable housing.

Fully Paid Trip: Europe.

Fill out the "highlight" form here:
<https://forms.gle/xqQAp5WjcNMAiSBH7>