



AmeriCorps Continues to Provide Essential Services

The COVID-19 outbreak has made serving others more challenging, but national service always finds a way to get things done. AmeriCorps members in Tennessee are providing essential services in these times of great need. Volunteer Tennessee is proud to highlight some of the ways that AmeriCorps members are continuing to serve.

[Appalachia CARES](#) AmeriCorps members serve more than 50 Tennessee counties in partnership with community organizations across the state. Their AmeriCorps members are adapting their service to provide meals, share educational activities and improve natural environments. Below are just a couple of examples.

[Morristown Hamblen Central Services, Inc.](#) is taking extra precautions in the food pantry and limiting counseling to over the phone appointments to help clients with emergency services like paying rent and utilities. Read more about how Executive Director and Appalachia CARES AmeriCorps Alum, Ashley Hux and their AmeriCorps members are serving the community in The Citizen Tribune piece [“Central Services Food Pantry serves 1,900 people”](#).



AmeriCorps members serving at [Rural Resources](#) in Greeneville had to find new ways to implement their Farm and Food Information Center programs and services. For several years, they've partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank to facilitate "produce drops" which are usually big community events but were redesigned to get food to neighbors who need it. They are also cooking and delivering food to households of teens who are enrolled in their Farm and Food Teen Training Program, who normally would have been cooking the food for their families in classes.



[Appalachian Regional Coalition on Homelessness](#) (ARCH) AmeriCorps member Kathy Covington has made a huge impact at [Bristol Faith in Action](#) during their altered hours of service. Kathy helped to interview clients, assess their needs and work through the voucher process on their behalf. She also made food and cleaning bags for the clients and distributed them through a newly altered distribution process. The organization also provides case management services and Kathy made helpful follow-up phone calls to clients for various reasons, as well as calls to verify community resources.

In Memphis, [BRIDGES USA, Inc](#) AmeriCorps members collaborated with BRIDGES staff and youth to host a Virtual Youth Action Summit: Responding to COVID-19. Youth from all over the region were invited to join to get connected, get educated, and get busy making a difference from a safe distance. A Youth and Community Resource Guide was also created by Bridge Builders CHANGE and the Shelby County Youth Council in collaboration with the AmeriCorps Members and BRIDGES staff, [which is available here](#).





Whether shifting to working from home, stepping into new roles, or continuing to provide critical direct services, [CAC AmeriCorps](#) members in Knoxville continue to do so much for the community.

Mary Woody, a VISTA member with CAC Mobile Meals, has been directing more of her time to the distribution logistics of meal preparation, packaging, and delivery to area seniors. Currently, Mobile Meals is “providing five meals, delivered once a week, to approximately 1,955 individuals. These individuals are existing clients and individuals targeted as high-risk by the City of Knoxville and Knox County. ... [We have] been forced to adapt to an almost daily-changing landscape of how and who it serves. Despite this, they have succeeded in maintaining and even expanding their level of food distribution and client care.

[Check out their “Essential Service” blog post](#) for more ways their members are serving during COVID-19.

[City Year Memphis](#) AmeriCorps members would usually be found in schools around Memphis, mentoring and supporting students. They are continuing to do just that, but now through phone calls. “Phone calls last two to three hours depending on the family,” City Year member Jakayla Hickson said. “I personally love it because I still get to connect with the families. We have a saying, service doesn’t stop.”

[Check out the WMCA Action News 5 story about their efforts](#), as well as the great need for volunteers and the opportunities available through [Volunteer Odyssey](#).

[Emerald Youth Foundation](#) (EYF) has been delivering food, medicine, and basic needs to those in need in Knoxville. For one service initiative they partnered with Vine Middle School and Green Magnet School to provide space to prepare and distribute the Weekend Backpack Program, and EYF AmeriCorps members were there to support.



[Teach For America Nashville-Chattanooga](#) continues to work towards providing access to an excellent education for all students by supporting their teachers in creating innovative ways to reach students.

“Lesson planning has also shifted, requiring me to reflect more deeply on how to support families: what technology do my students have? What do they need to be successful without our physical collaborative learning environment? How can I create meaningful tasks and provide feedback without overwhelming families? While times remain challenging, Orchard Knob Middle School has resilient students, families and teachers. We continue to grow and navigate this unprecedented shift in learning together.”-Abigail Klett, TFA Chattanooga AmeriCorps Member

Read more about TFA Nashville-Chattanooga’s current efforts [in their most recent classroom update](#).

Thank you to all the Tennessee AmeriCorps members who are getting things done!



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[Volunteer Tennessee](#) is a 25 member bipartisan board appointed by the Governor to encourage volunteerism and community service. Volunteer Tennessee pursues its mission through administration of AmeriCorps grants, training and collaborations and coalitions with public and private organizations interested in volunteerism and service. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs and leads the nation's volunteering and service efforts. For more information, visit [NationalService.gov](#).