



Tennessee AmeriCorps Programs Set Students Up for Success

National Service programs play a critical role in strengthening schools across the country. Senior Corps and AmeriCorps members serve in almost 12,000 schools, including 1 out of every 4 low-performing schools and 1 out of every 10 charter schools. More than 44,000 AmeriCorps members and nearly 45,000 Senior Corps volunteers provide in-school and after-school support to at-risk youth.

Here in Tennessee, six teacher corps/teacher residency AmeriCorps programs operate in three of the state's major metro areas, serving daily with students in classrooms. Four additional AmeriCorps programs focus on tutoring, mentoring, and providing in-school and after-school support for students. In honor of the back-to-school season, we've highlighted just a couple of the many AmeriCorps programs in Tennessee that keep kids on track, in school, and prepared to meet their goals.

[Emerald Youth Foundation's T.E.A.M. AmeriCorps](#) members serve urban young people by leading structured afterschool and summer day camp activities focused on academic, enrichment, leadership, health activities, and mentoring.

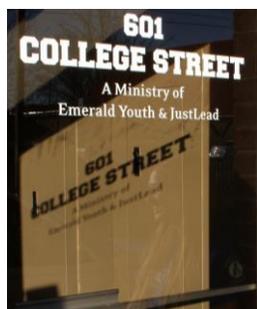
Meet Laura Bean-Allen, Emerald Youth Foundation 2016-2017 AmeriCorps member:

"In the spring of 2016, Emerald Youth Foundation started College Street, a learning center where urban high school students and young adults could receive academic assistance. When I began serving with Emerald Youth Foundation as an AmeriCorps member in August 2016, I immediately saw the potential that a place like College Street could have. I found it exciting to get in on a program that was just beginning - to be able to dream, plan, and prepare for the future of College Street.

We started off the school year by simply offering a place where students could study after school and receive one-on-one tutoring through the help of volunteers. The College Street building also offers Wi-Fi access and computers for those who may not have either at home. Across the 2016 – 2017 year, we served over 25 students. We had several students on the verge of failing their classes, but through close contact with teachers and with the students, every student was able to pass their grade.



Photos courtesy of Emerald Youth Foundation



As Emerald Youth has continued to grow and as I am now on staff with Emerald Youth as College Street's College and Career Counselor, we are striving to offer even more services to the students. In the fall of 2017, we will provide over 40 different workshops to help students reach their academic, post-secondary, and career goals. These workshops will be led by experts in the field - from non-profit managers to college professors to community professionals. The topics of the workshops range from financial literacy to mock interview sessions to study skills.



From the beginning of my time at College Street, I have asked the students to simply spend some time thinking about their goals and I would do everything in my power to help them reach them. I hope that every student who walks into College Street, walks out one step closer to reaching their dreams.”

[City Year Memphis](#) works to bridge the gap in high-poverty communities between the support that students actually need and what their schools are designed and resourced to provide. In doing so, the program aims to increase graduation rates and change the lives of their students. During the 2017-2018 program year, City Year Memphis AmeriCorps members will be responsible for providing whole school services to approximately 1,500 students and individualized services to 420 students in five Memphis public schools. City Year Memphis AmeriCorps members strive to help every child reach their potential and to #makebetterhappen.

"I serve to foster opportunity for young people where they may not have seen it before. I serve because sometimes a mentor/role model can be just what a student needs. I serve to help students realize they have a voice and that it matters. I serve because I know that young people are our future, and if no one is encouraging them to unlock their full potential, how can they be expected to do so? I serve because if not me then who? I serve because in a world of no's, I want to be their one yes." – **“Why I Serve” statement from Venique Mickens, City Year Memphis Senior AmeriCorps Member**



Photos courtesy of City Year Memphis

[Volunteer Tennessee](#) and the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) are proud to support national service programs that make a difference for Tennessee students. Join the conversation about national service and education on social media by using #EdSuccess.

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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 a program of the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS), a federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President’s national call to service initiative, United We Serve. As part of their continued efforts to engage the public with national service, CNCS has released their [2017 Public Engagement, Outreach, and Education Plan](#). As part of this plan, the agency has designated monthly themes throughout the year, centered on CNCS focus areas. August’s theme focuses on Education.