



National Service and Education: Teach For America Celebrates Ten Years of Service in Nashville

With the school year wrapping up, and the celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week, this time of year is ideal for recognizing the contributions AmeriCorps makes in education.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) allocates more than half of its federal appropriation to education initiatives. Approximately 90,000 AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers serve in nearly 12,000 public and charter schools each year to bolster educational outcomes for at-risk youth. Studies have found AmeriCorps and Senior Corps initiatives improve school readiness, increase reading and math achievement, improve school attendance and behavior, and increase access to college and careers.

In Tennessee, Volunteer Tennessee is proud to support many AmeriCorps programs that are making amazing achievements in schools across the state. This month we are highlighting the achievements of Teach For America (TFA) Nashville, who recently celebrated their ten year anniversary and expanded to become Teach for America Nashville-Chattanooga.

Teach For America began their partnership with the Nashville community in 2009 through the leadership of Mayor Dean and a group of local philanthropists who came together to bring more high-performing teachers to the city. Ever since they have been proving that all children can achieve their dreams and that when diverse, dynamic people come together, incredible things can happen. What began with just 30 alumni has grown into a local network today of more than 1,000 leaders.

- In 2016-2017 13 of the top 15 schools in Nashville were led by TFA alumni.
- It is estimated that one in four students in Nashville are taught or led by a TFA teacher or school leader.
- 87% of TFA alumni in Nashville continue to work in education or roles impacting low-income communities.

**10 YEARS STRONG
IN NASHVILLE** Celebrated.
Connected.
Charged-Up.



TFA-Nashville-Chattanooga impact data

From increasing academic success across entire schools to improving policies across the entire state of Tennessee, the Nashville region Teach For America has led the way. This year they began the journey of expanding into Chattanooga, and it is exciting to see what their increased impact in Tennessee will be over the next decade.



Alum Stories:

“Founding and leading Valor Voyager Academy has confirmed what is possible for student achievement when a community holds a high bar of excellence for students and loves and supports them. At Voyager, we’ve been able to achieve top 1% in academic growth and top 5% in academic achievement in the state over the past three years and our economically disadvantaged scholars outperform their higher income peers scholars across Tennessee.”

-Sarah Giblin, TFA Alum ‘05

Founding Principal, Valor | Voyager Academy

“This is hard work, and like those who came before us, we must work to build a sense of unity and community. No one person has the answer to educational equity, but each of us holds a piece of the puzzle and when we work together, a solution begins to take shape. If we want to improve education, then we need to figure out new and innovative ways to partner with students, families, and communities.”

-Chris George, TFA Alum ‘10

Assistant Principal, Jere Baxter Middle Prep, MNPS

“I joined TFA because I’m a problem-solver and want to find solutions; TFA provides the resources and network to do so. My goal is to ensure my students can advocate for themselves and have a love for learning. In the future, I plan to become a principal or found a school.”

-Rikkia McGill, TFA Alum ‘17

First Grade Teacher, Purpose Preparatory Academy, MNPS



Photo courtesy of TFA-Nashville-
Chattanooga

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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, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads volunteer and civic engagement programs for the nation.