# **2003 ANNUAL REPORT**

I WILL GET THINGS DONE FOR AMERICA— TO MAKE OUR PEOPLE SAFER, SMARTER, AND HEALTHIER.

> I WILL BRING Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with Apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I WILL CARRY THIS COMMITMENT WITH ME THIS YEAR AND BEYOND.

I AM AN AmeriCorps Member, and I will get things done. **11** 

- AmeriCorps Pledge





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## Who We Are

ServeMinnesota creates a corps of motivated volunteers who help energize communities, serve human needs and strengthen Minnesota. We offer opportunities for people to serve their country right here at home.

### Our Vision

That all Minnesotans will engage in service that strengthens the well-being of both self and community. By creating meaningful opportunities for all people to serve their communities, ServeMinnesota supports the growth of community service and volunteerism in Minnesota, paving the way for significantly stronger and healthier communities.





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# Message to the Community

Dear Friends,

Minnesota is a better place today because of the work of ServeMinnesota. This report will show you why.

ServeMinnesota meets human need by calling on ordinary citizens to step forward to help children learn to read, to mentor an adolescent, to build affordable housing, and much more. The dramatic impact of service highlighted in this report is possible because individual Minnesotans answer this call to service by giving a year of their lives to make Minnesota better. The opportunity to serve provides individuals with an avenue to shape a positive future for themselves and others. Putting on a military uniform is one way to serve our country. Domestic service is another way to have an important impact on our nation's future.

At a time of cut backs in governmental service, ServeMinnesota offers some answers to preserve what is best about Minnesota. ServeMinnesota is becoming a model of the type of governmental reform we believe Minnesota needs as our state strives to stretch state dollars to meet everincreasing need. Our efforts include the following:

(1) Successfully obtaining legislative support to convert from a state agency into an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

(2) Initiating development efforts that invite the private sector to partner with state and local efforts. These efforts increase Minnesota's capacity to secure federal resources for the expansion of AmeriCorps and other forms of community volunteering.

(3) Launching a statewide initiative designed to improve the literacy skills of Minnesota's children by matching the people power of ServeMinnesota with the need for more reading tutors.

ServeMinnesota will continue to create opportunities for meaningful involvement to any individual or organization that wants to play a part in strengthening a culture of citizenship, service and personal responsibility in Minnesota. In the words of an AmeriCorps Member, "AmeriCorps service forces you to confront apathy and find it has no place in your life!" Among the results reported to you in this publication, perhaps the spirit exemplified in that quote is the most important result of all!

Audrey Suker Executive Director Pamela Harris Board Chair

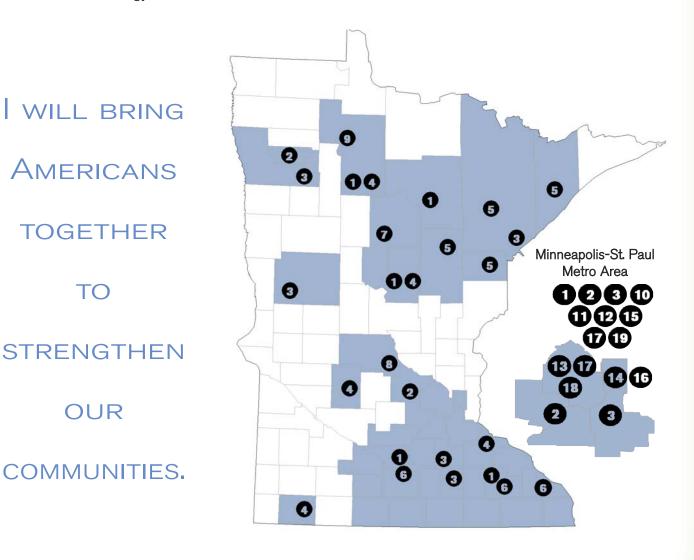


# AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

At a time when all Minnesotans are needed to solve our most challenging problems, ServeMinnesota is mobilizing thousands of volunteers in service. In 2003, we funded 19 AmeriCorps programs involving 682 AMERICORPS

682 AmeriCorps Members and serving 39 counties. AmeriCorps Members are individuals who are willing to devote a year or two of their lives to service to make Minnesota better. Members come from all walks of life ranging from recent high school and college graduates 682 AmeriCorps Members served 766,139 hours At a value of \$13,146,945.

to retired seniors. Members are on the front lines providing direct service to communities teaching children to read, building affordable housing, supporting seniors and people with disabilities to live independently, delivering after-school activities, and conserving the environment. Members also recruit volunteers and build organizational capacity enabling community-based organizations to achieve results not otherwise possible. AmeriCorps combines the energy and commitment of Minnesotans to address our most critical needs.



#### ServeMinnesota

## **GRANT AWARDS**

The following list includes organizations that received grants to operate AmeriCorps programs, the grant amount, the number of AmeriCorps Members who served, and the communities where they served.

### Statewide

- MN Conservation Corps (Education Award Only) MN Department of Natural Resources \$51,800 - 59 Members Bemidji, Brainerd, Grand Rapids, New Ulm, Rochester, St. Paul
- 2. MN SERVE Carver-Scott Education Cooperative \$754,499 - 53 Members Chaska, Minneapolis, Monticello, Oklee, St. Paul
- 3. Promise Fellows
   Faribault School District
   \$210,000 10 Members
   Bloomington, Duluth, Faribault, Fergus Falls,
   Fosston, Minneapolis, Northfield, Owatonna,
   Rosemount, Roseville, Saint Paul
- 4. YouthQuake Worthington School District \$308,000 - 36 Members Bemidji, Brainerd, Red Wing, Willmar, Worthington

### GREATER MINNESOTA

- AmeriCorps~Northeastern Minnesota McGregor School District \$361,900 - 38 Members Aitkin, Barnum, Carlton, Cloquet, Cromwell, Esko, Floodwood, Fond du Lac Band, Hill City, McGregor, Mille Lacs Band, Moose Lake, Proctor, Silver Bay
- 6. AmeriCorps~Southern Minnesota Southern MN Initiative Foundation \$800,800 - 57 Members Mankato, Rochester, Winona
- 7. Making a Difference Cass Lake-Bena School District \$354,200 - 25 Members Cass Lake

- 8. Mentors on the Move St. Cloud Area School District \$169,400 - 22 Members St. Cloud
- 9. Partners In Service to America Red Lake Tribal Council \$390,000 - 29 Members Red Lake

## Minneapolis-St. Paul Metro Area

- 10. AmeriCorps Building Community Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity \$353,493 - 23 Members
- 11. Admission Possible \$215,600 - 44 Members
- 12. AmeriCorps Get Ready!Minnesota Higher Education Services Office \$377,495 - 19 Members
- City of Lakes AmeriCorps Minneapolis School District \$368,516 - 25 Members
- 14. Future ForceAmherst H. Wilder Foundation\$321,275 28 Members
- 15. Hmong Minnesota Pacific Association \$308,000 - 25 Members
- Multicultural Communities in Action Neighborhood House \$308,000 - 20 Members
- 17. People Helping PeopleLao Parents & Teachers Association of MN \$184,138 - 9 Members
- Pillsbury United Communities
   \$508,200 39 Members
- 19. Teacher Corps (Education Award Only) Minnesota Literacy Council \$110,426 - 89 Members

## INVESTING IN ACADEMIC SUCCESS

45% of St. Paul and 49% of Minneapolis 3rd graders did not score a proficient rating on the 2003 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment reading exam.

15% of Minnesota children changed schools at least once last year.

Nearly 10% of Minnesota children speak a language other than English at home.

40% of Minnesota children aged 10-12 are home alone while their parents work compared to 24% nationally. All kids need academic support, caring adults in their lives, and safe places to grow and thrive. For Minnesota children who face the effects of poverty, hunger,

"THEY POINT YOU OUT TO OTHER PEOPLE AND SAY 'THAT'S MY TUTOR."

"You see the kids' eyes light up, it matters."

- Teacher Corps Members

lack of healthcare, and unstable housing these fundamental resources are often not readily available. To meet the critical needs of children and youth, ServeMinnesota invests its resources in high-needs communities and funds AmeriCorps programs that meet the academic and developmental needs of our young people.

### TUTORING

267 children in Head Start and kindergarten and 4,846 1st-12th grade students received literacy and academic tutoring. AmeriCorps Members and community volunteers provided one-on-one and small group tutoring to foster academic progress and close the achievement gap.



## America's Promise to Youth

Ten AmeriCorps Promise Fellows mobilized 1,944 volunteers providing 9,732 hours of service in 10 communities to deliver America's Five Promises to young people:

- An ongoing relationship with a caring adult.

- Safe places and structured educational activities during non-school hours.

- A healthy start from birth to age 18.

- Marketable skills through effective education.

- Opportunities to give back to their communities through service.

AmeriCorps Members and volunteers together expanded mentoring, service learning, recreational and enrichment opportunities to promote healthy youth development.

### Mentoring

AmeriCorps programs matched 4,509 children and youth with caring adult mentors to support school success, personal development, and healthy decision-making. Children and youth who participate in mentoring are less likely to use drugs, skip school or be involved in criminal activity.

### Service Learning

1,823 children and youth participated in service learning activities developed and coordinated by AmeriCorps Members. Service learning provides opportunities for young people to contribute to their communities and to develop citizenship skills.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

#### Dear Mr. J,

Thank you for playing with me. I like it when you help me with my math. School is fun when you are around.

Thank you for helping me out when I need it. You explain things to me. I like it when you read with me. You play with me like a father.

YOUR FRIEND,

- MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY STUDENT

## MINNESOTA TEACHER CORPS



Since 1990, Antwan Flowers has worked for the St. Paul Schools and currently works as a homeschool liasion at Bruce Vento Elementary. Antwan also volunteers at Bruce Vento's Extended Day Program assisting K-3 students to improve their literacy skills. His participation in Teacher Corps also inspired him to create a literacy tutoring program at the Salvation Army.

Antwan joined Teacher Corps to support his goal of becoming a licensed teacher. "Teacher Corps will help me to pursue my almost impossible dreams in education," he says. After completing his Associate's Degree at Inver Hills Community College, Antwan plans to enroll at Augsburg College to earn his Bachelor's Degree.

According to Antwan, Teacher Corps has expanded his knowledge about elementary students and has provided the opportunity to become more active in St. Paul's Eastside Community.

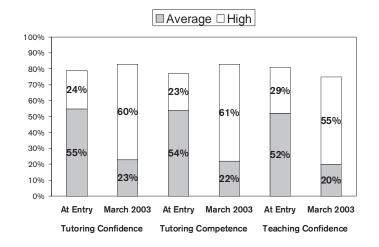
"THE JOY YOU RECEIVE SEEING A CHILD IMPROVE IS LIKE AN IMMEDIATE RUSH. IT BRINGS AN teaching assistants INSTANT SMILE TO MY FACE."

- ANTWAN FLOWERS, AMERICORPS MEMBER

In its first year, 89 educational and served as AmeriCorps Members in 56

schools and 53 literacy tutoring sites in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Working to close the achievement gap, Members tutored nearly 400 K-3 children not reading at grade level. Children were also engaged in service learning experiences to develop their citizenship skills and to provide them with opportunities to contribute to their neighborhoods.

An evaluation commissioned by ServeMinnesota and conducted by Rainbow Research, Inc. demonstrated that Teacher Corps had significant impacts on the at-risk children being tutored, as well as the Members themselves. Over 94% of Members felt that as a literacy volunteer they were making a difference in the lives of the students they tutored. Teacher Corps participation also increased Members' confidence and competence in their tutoring and teaching abilities.



With a commitment to helping children learn and professional aspirations of becoming licensed teachers, Members improved children's reading ability while moving towards their professional goals.

#### ServeMinnesota

# EARLY LITERACY CORPS

IN 2003, 57% OF ENTERING MINNESOTA KINDERGARTNERS LACKED PROFICIENCY IN LANGUAGE AND LITERACY SKILL NECESSARY FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS.

In the spring of 2003, the Minnesota Legislature charged ServeMinnesota with the development of an AmeriCorps program that would enhance the early literacy skills of pre-school children.

ServeMinnesota embraced the challenge, leveraging federal and state dollars to cultivate an innovative partnership with the Minnesota Head Start Association, St. Croix River Education District, and the Minnesota Literacy Council. The Early Literacy Corps links the people power of AmeriCorps with a research-based program design developed under the guidance of early literacy experts.

In September 2003, this powerful collaboration deployed AmeriCorps Members in urban and rural Head Start classrooms in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area and Central Minnesota. Head Start enrolls low-income children who often face educational barriers associated with poverty. Many are also English language learners. Members received intensive training on early literacy skill development and ongoing instructional coaching. This approach resulted in individualized instruction for preschoolers that fosters early literacy skills critical to school success and reading proficiency.



WILL GET THINGS DONE FOR AMERICA-TO MAKF OUR PEOPLE SAFER. SMARTER, AND HEALTHIER.

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

MINNESOTA HAS ONE OF THE LEAST AFFORDABLE HOUSING MARKETS IN THE NATION.

From 1991 to 2003, THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS FAMILIES MORE THAN TRIPLED.

39% OF ALL PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ARE CHILDREN.

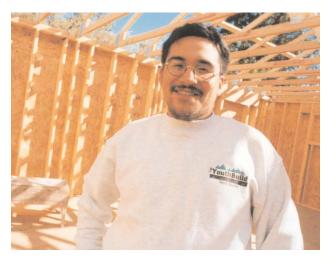
### INVESTING IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

AmeriCorps Members working alongside 23,346 community volunteers built 151 new housing units and completed 1,299 housing renovation and repair projects. Service activities resulted in new affordable housing and preserved existing housing for low-income families in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area and the communities of Bemidji and Black Duck.

### FOSTERING THE STABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

1,325 people received assistance from AmeriCorps Members to support their self-sufficiency and independence. Meeting a variety of needs, Members provided service ranging from bringing seniors healthy meals to helping recent immigrants and refugees prepare for citizenship. Fifty-eight families participated in parenting skills development and 241 adults participated in GED or basic skills education classes. An additional 2,855 people benefited from information and referrals to community resources, job training, and other social services linking them to critical support and opportunities.





## Mobilizing Volunteers

Building upon Minnesota's tradition of service and civic engagement, AmeriCorps Members rallied the time, talent and skills of diverse people as community volunteers. Members recruited 30,200 volunteers who provided an additional 228,000 service hours at a value of \$3.9 million dollars.

## CAPACITY BUILDING OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

AmeriCorps programs partnered with schools, community-based and faith-based organizations, and other local groups to improve their capacity to deliver and expand high-quality services, serve more clients, and meet more community needs through their use of AmeriCorps Members and volunteers.

### MY BACK YARD BY SEE YANG

IN 1991, NINE-YEAR-OLD SEE YANG AND HER FAMILY CAME TO AMERICA FROM LAOS. THEY ARE NOW PROUD OWNERS OF A TWIN CITIES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME BUILT WITH THE HELP OF AMERICORPS.

My back yard is like a giant card. My back yard is full of trees. My back yard has flowers and bees. My back yard is full of joy and brightness. My back yard is full of grass and friendliness.

My back yard is filled with air But there's a giant bear!

My back yard will soon be filled with Kung FU objects And I can pick one subject.

My back yard is always day So we can play! My back yard - when it's night the stars Come to take me to the angel's guitars.

My back yard - when it's dawn I'll go looking for my barn. My back yard will be dark soon So I can fly to reach the midnight moon.

My back yard - when it's summer I drink tea While I swim in the sea. My back yard - when it's cool We go swimming in our pool. My back yard. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

# CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

### Preserving Our Forests and Wetlands

Last year, AmeriCorps Members:

- Planted 141,968 trees in wilderness and park lands;
- Restored or conserved 2,430 feet of rivers and river banks;
- Developed or maintained 845 miles of trails and roads in public parks; and,
- Restored or preserved10,707 acres of habitat and recreational lands.

### RESPONDING TO DISASTERS

The Minnesota Conservation Corps responded to 25 natural disaster emergencies benefiting 25,000 people. Spring 2003 brought increased fire danger to Minnesota. Sixteen Members, trained as fire fighters, responded to more than a dozen fires with less than a day's notice. These crews provided critical people power in support of government forestry offices in Bagley, Black Duck, Guthrie, Bemidji, Littlefork, Tower, Park Rapids, Detroit Lakes, and Wannaska. Along with AmeriCorps Members from other states, three Members were also deployed in support of the Columbia Shuttle debris recovery in Texas.



## **AMERICORPS ALUMNI PROFILE**

"IF I COULD DO IT OVER AGAIN, I WOULD STAY WITH AMERICORPS ANOTHER TWO YEARS!" JULIE TREBTOSKE

Four years ago, Julie Trebtoske was teaching preschool when she heard that ServeMinnesota was recruiting people with disabilities for AmeriCorps. "It sounded like great experience, and I thought I could use the education benefit to help pay off my student loans or go on to graduate school," said Julie, 31, a 1998 graduate of Augsburg College with an elementary education degree. Julie joined the City of Lakes AmeriCorps program, which delivers in-school tutoring and after-school activities to low-income, at-risk children and youth in the Minneapolis school district.

Jenny Lind Elementary School in North Minneapolis became Julie's AmeriCorps work site. Working first with 4th graders and later in a 1st grade class,



Julie tutored young readers, helped students with homework, and assisted with classroom activities. During the summer, she led science-related activities at a day camp for girls sponsored by the Minneapolis YWCA. "These were such valuable experiences for me. I learned a lot about teaching and it reinforced that I was on the right career path," she said. "I just love kids, and they love me. Plus, I made so many good friends and good connections." On another level, Julie credits AmeriCorps with helping her develop greater self-confidence. "It forced me to step out of my

comfort zone, and helped me realize all I could accomplish." Since leaving AmeriCorps in 2002, Julie has been teaching at a Twin Cities day treatment center for elementary children with emotional issues. She's also returned to Augsburg to earn a special education license, and eventually a Master's Degree in education, to achieve her long-term career goal of teaching special education.

Julie uses her disability as a teaching opportunity with children. "If I can be a good role model and set a good example, it helps kids get over their fears of someone with a disability. It's a great lesson for them to spend time with someone in wheelchair. I think they can come to realize, 'If Julie can overcome her disability, maybe I can overcome my own problems."

AmeriCorps has been a pivotal experience for Julie. "If I could do it over again, I would have stayed with AmeriCorps another two years. I loved being part of it."

## I WILL CARRY THIS COMMITMENT WITH ME THIS YEAR AND BEYOND.

#### ServeMinnesota

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE, **CHANGING LIVES**

## AMERICORPS MEMBER PROFILE

AmeriCorps programs involve people with diverse abilities, skills, education, and backgrounds.

	Gender	Female Male	68% 32%	
	Race/Ethnicity	Caucasian Black/African-American American-Indian Asian-American/Pacific Islander Hispanic Unknown	58% 18% 8% 8% 4% 4%	
I AM AN	Age	18-24 25-34 35+	58% 26% 16%	
AmeriCorps	Education	Some college College graduate High school graduate	27% 26% 16%	
Member,		Less than high school completed Associate degree (AA) Some graduate school	14% 5% 5% 3%	
AND I WILL		Technical school/Apprenticeship Graduate degree GED	2% 2%	
GET THINGS	<b>PROMOTING INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS</b> Recognized as a national leader in the inclusion of individuals with			

DONE.

Recognized as a national leader in the inclusion of individuals with disabilities, ServeMinnesota strives to increase access to AmeriCorps service opportunities. Last year, more than half of ServeMinnesota's AmeriCorps programs involved individuals with disabilities - an increase of 81%. ServeMinnesota provided \$21,000 in accommodations allowing 21 Members to serve.

## INVESTING IN MINNESOTA'S WORKFORCE

Last year, 518 AmeriCorps Members earned \$2,447,550 in federal Education Awards upon completing service. These federal scholarships helped alumni to attend college, receive vocational training, or repay student loans. For many alumni, an Education Award provides access to education that had previously been unattainable.

## CREATING LEADERS

Every day AmeriCorps Members make Minnesota's communities stronger, healthier, and safer. Members receive extensive training to deliver effective service activities and to develop their personal and professional skills. Last year, 682 Members received more than 108,126 hours of service readiness and leadership development training. Not only do Members learn to be role models and leaders while they serve, but more importantly for the rest of their lives.

## DEVELOPING CITIZENS

To develop the engaged citizens that Minnesota increasingly needs, all AmeriCorps Members participate in civic engagement training to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be actively engaged in their communities. They learn how to develop community service projects, to run effective community meetings, to be involved in public decision-making, and to organize neighborhoods to solve local problems. AmeriCorps Members develop an ethic of service that helps them to become lifelong contributors to their communities.

## Angela Kieffer 2003 National Promise Fellow of the Year



ServeMinnesota was proud to receive national recognition for one of its program's exceptional AmeriCorps Members. Angela Kieffer received the 2003 Outstanding Promise Fellow Award for her service with the Minnesota Promise Fellows program. Before serving with AmeriCorps, Angela served for two years with the Peace Corps in West Africa. As an AmeriCorps Member, Angela was placed with Minnesota Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. This statewide student organization promotes leadership development and

addresses important personal, family, work and societal issues through vocational family and consumer sciences education. Angela worked to integrate America's Five Promises - a caring adult, safe after-school places, a healthy start, marketable skills, and opportunities to serve - into FCCLA's work and to increase community resources in support of healthy youth development.

# COMMUNITY-BASED LEARN & SERVE AMERICA

## Children's Home Society and Family Services

As a participating CEELS organization, Children's Home Society and Family Services has learned how to involve young people in service learning that advances their mission and enhances their services.

At their Whittier Neighborhood Early Learning Center site, service learning has been a huge success. Middle school students give of their time and unique talent working with preschool children. Whether it's sharing a book or sharing a meal, these students nurture children as older role models and begin to realize their own potential.

CEELS helped Children's Home Society and Family Services create ways for young people to contribute as concerned citizens.

## Communities Engaged in Enhancing Learning through Service (CEELS)

Engaging children and youth in service learning is an essential strategy for developing Minnesota's future leaders and volunteers. ServeMinnesota awarded Community-Based Learn and Serve America grants to increase the capacity of nonprofits and schools to engage youth in service learning. Service learning enables children and youth

to gain academic and social skills, to develop civic engagement skills, and to experience how service makes a difference in their community.

- Serving 139,634 hours of service in 298 community organizations, 7,267 young people addressed the needs of 20,416 individuals.
- Volunteering alongside children and youth, 2,275 adults contributed an additional 79,697 hours of service.

WE NEED TO INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY IN OUR WORK. WE CAN NO LONGER DO IT ALL BY OURSELVES THE NEEDS ARE TOO GREAT THE PROBLEMS ARE TOO BIG AND TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS WE NEED INVOLVED CITIZENS.

Judie Russell, Children's Home Society and Family Services

- More than 400 young people took on leadership roles ranging from facilitating training to serving on nonprofit boards.
- Intensive training was provided to 300 organizations and 200 schools about implementing service learning projects.



### Statement of Financial Position For the Year Ended August 31, 2003

#### <u>ASSETS</u>

Current Assets:	
Cash	\$ 38,227
Grants Receivable	887,225
Accounts Receivable	7,847
Pledges Receivable	3,270
Prepaid Expense	 2,311
Total Current Assets	 938,880
Long-term Assets:	
Furniture and Equipment - Net	16,467
Security Deposit	 3,798
Total Long-term Assets	 20,265
TOTAL ASSETS	959,145

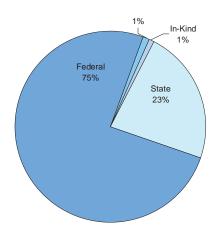
#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<u>Current Liabilities:</u>	
Accounts Payable	23,105
Grants Payable	 864,149
Total Current Liabilities	887,254
Net Assets - Unrestricted	 71,891
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 959,145

## Revenue

FINANCIAL

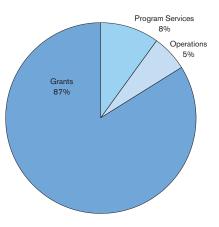
STATEMENT



### Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended August 31, 2003

Support and Revenue: Governmental Grants Contributions In-kind Contributions Interest Income Other	\$ Unrestricted 6,358,310 44,970 79,181 3,044 715
Total Support and Revenue	6,486,220
Expense:	
Program Services;	
AmeriCorps	4,033,406
Youth Works	1,397,160
Program Support	184,318
Training	121,861
Disability	103,093
Promise Fellows	128,573
Education Award Only Program	51,800
Learn and Serve	 79,291
Total Program Services	6,099,502
Support Services:	
Management and General	314,315
Fundraising	 22,888
Total Support Services	 337,203
Total Expense	6,436,705
Change in Net Assets	49,515
Net Assets - Beginning of Year - Unrestricted	 22,376
Net Assets - End of Year - Unrestricted	\$ 71,891

Expenses



## THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

ServeMinnesota gratefully acknowledges the following businesses, corporations, foundations, individuals, and government grants that supported our programs with financial contributions or donated goods and services.

### Businesses, Corporations and Foundations

3M Foundation General Mills Foundation Himle Horner, Inc. Rider Bennett, LLP Weber Shandwick

### INDIVIDUALS

Daniel Capouch Cy Carpenter Bonnie Esposito Pamela Harris Thomas Horner David Nasby Laura Offerdahl Mary Sheehan Kathleen Vellenga Corrie Wold

### GOVERNMENT

Corporation for National and Community Service Minnesota Youth Works

## STAFF

Audrey Suker, Executive Director Janet Johnson, Program Officer, Disabilities Molly Moilanen, Program Officer Jerad Rasmussen, Controller Ann Richter, Business Manager Becky Wochnick, Program Officer

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SERVEMINNESOTA

### Q: WHAT IS SERVEMINNESOTA?

A: ServeMinnesota was created in 1994 to give individuals a chance to serve their country by volunteering in their communities. ServeMinnesota gives every citizen the chance to help solve our state's biggest challenges in education, the environment, public safety, human needs, and homeland security.

### Q: Where does ServeMinnesota get its funding?

A: ServeMinnesota's funding comes from three sources: Federal dollars through the Corporation for National and Community Service, state dollars through the Minnesota Department of Education's Youth Works appropriation, and private dollars from corporations, foundations and individuals.

### Q: WHAT IS THE WORK OF SERVEMINNESOTA?

A: In our most recent fiscal year, ServeMinnesota supported the work of 682 AmeriCorps volunteers working in 19 programs in 39 counties throughout Minnesota. ServeMinnesota invests in community service and volunteerism in many ways, including:

FUNDING: ServeMinnesota provides grants to eligible organizations, providing the means for them to expand and enhance their capacity to meet critical needs through service-based initiatives.

TRAINING: ServeMinnesota provides training and technical assistance to grantees to ensure quality programs and outcomes.

PARTNERSHIPS: ServeMinnesota creates innovative partnerships to leverage investments and increase the value and impact of state agencies, communities and faith based organizations.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT: ServeMinnesota helps diverse Minnesotans grow their talents and their commitment to citizen service. AmeriCorps Members also receive a federal AmeriCorps Scholarship they can use to further their own education or to pay back student loans.

#### Q: How do organizations apply for grants from ServeMinnesota?

A: ServeMinnesota issues Requests for Proposals - most often in late fall. Organizations are encouraged to check our website (www.serveminnesota.org) for instructions and timelines.

### Q: How do people who want to volunteer enroll in ServeMinnesota?

A: Individuals who want to enroll in an AmeriCorps program can apply on-line at www.americorps.org or by directly contacting an individual AmeriCorps program. Contact information for all Minnesota programs is on the ServeMinnesota website (www.serveminnesota.org).

### Q: WHO OVERSEES SERVEMINNESOTA?

A: Oversight for ServeMinnesota is provided by a volunteer board of directors appointed by the governor of Minnesota. ServeMinnesota is also required to comply with administrative standards developed by the Corporation for National and Community Service.



431 SOUTH 7TH STREET SUITE 2540 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55415

(612) 333-7740 (612) 333-7758 Fax www.serveminnesota.org

This report is based upon work supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service. For additional information please <u>contact (612) 333-7740</u> or visit our website at www.serveminnesota.org