

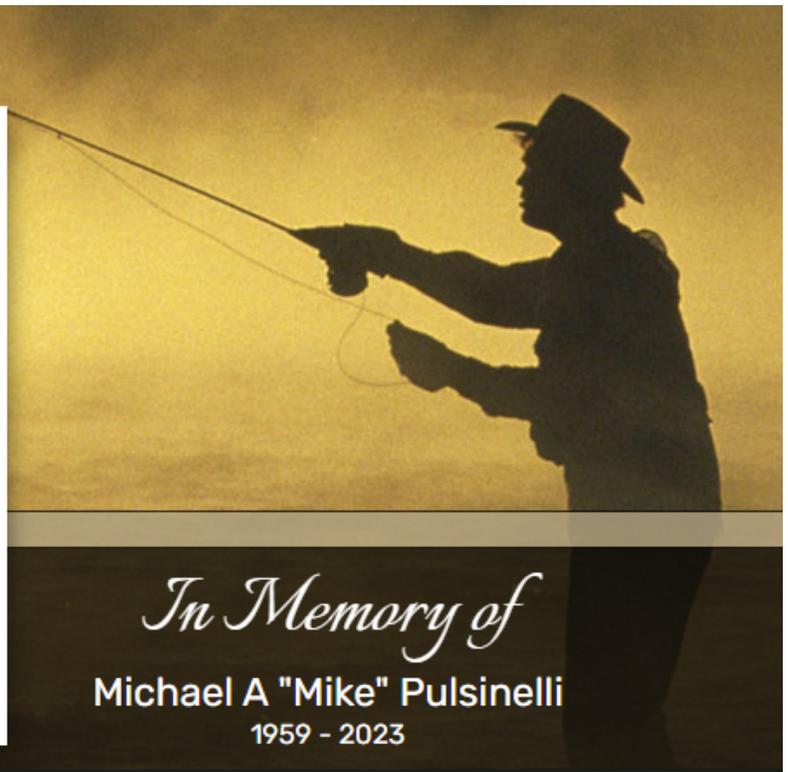


AmeriCorps New Jersey Bulletin

September / October 2023



This issue of the New Jersey AmeriCorps Bulletin is dedicated to the memory of our Board Chairman, Mike Pulsinelli.



In Memory of

Michael A "Mike" Pulsinelli

1959 - 2023

The New Jersey State Commission and our AmeriCorps partners mourn the loss of our dedicated Chairman, Mike Pulsinelli. Mike was the Chairman of the New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service for over ten years. He was a great proponent of public service and volunteerism and worked to strengthen and expand the mission of the Commission Board. Mike supported the Commission by attending every AmeriCorps and Volunteerism event, and was always two hours early!

Mike grew up in Washington, NJ and was a graduate of Warren Hills High School Class of 1977. In 1980 Mike began his career as an Apprentice with Local 581 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). He completed a four year apprenticeship and performed on numerous jobs as journeyman, foreman and shop steward.

Mike also served on the IBEW Local Union 581 Executive Board. In 1993 Local 102, 367 and 581 merged and Mike served on the Pension and Annuity Fund as Trustee for 10 years and continued to be an active participant on the Committee as a Business Agent. Mike also served on the Joint Apprentice and Training Committee for 10 years and was still active. He was the head of the Safety Committee for Local 102 and a certified OSHA 5600 Trainer, 40 Hour Hazardous Waste, United States Department of Labor National Mine Health & Safety Trainer, and a representative for New Jersey State Safety Council Expo. Mike truly loved his job and union labor.

Above all he loved his family and friends. He adored his children and grandchildren and treasured every moment spent with them. He has touched many lives and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



30th Anniversary Kickoff

Thursday, Sept. 21, 4 p.m. ET

*AmeriCorps is not a moment.
It's a movement.*

AmeriCorps.gov/AmeriCorps30 | [#AmeriCorps30](https://twitter.com/AmeriCorps30)

AmeriCorps State and National hosted a virtual 30th Anniversary kickoff

The Nation-wide community of AmeriCorps members, volunteers, alumni, grantees, sponsors, and the national service community were invited to join the 30th Anniversary kickoff!

AmeriCorps has provided results-driven service for over three decades. More than 1.25 million members and hundreds of thousands of AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have pledged to get things done for America. AmeriCorps has answered the call to help after tragedies such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic. AmeriCorps has turned moments of impact into a national service movement.

All were welcome to this milestone showcase, to celebrate our accomplishments, and to hear from national service champions across the nation.

9 - 11 DAY OF SERVICE EVENTS



On the 22nd Anniversary of the tragic 9/11 attacks, we pause to reflect, honor, and remember the lives that were lost on that fateful day. Our AmeriCorps members, in collaboration with the Town of Phillipsburg once again came together to commemorate this solemn occasion on Monday, September 11th, 2023. We invite you to join us in paying tribute to the heroes and victims of 9/11 by sponsoring American Flags that was placed at Shappell Park. Each \$1.00 donation you make will sponsor one flag, symbolizing unity, resilience, and our unwavering support for the Phillipsburg Fire Department. Through your generosity, we can help them continue their vital work of serving and protecting our beloved community.





Every year, on the solemn anniversary of September 11th, our dedicated AmeriCorps members at New Jersey Community Development Corporation (left), honor the memory of those lost and the heroism of the first responders by conducting a Day of Service cleanup initiative across Paterson.



NJDEP Watershed Ambassadors (right) spent this 9/11 National Day of Service attending a cleanup. Thank you to our ambassadors and AmeriCorps for honoring the sacrifices of those we lost and those whose lives were forever changed. With our combined efforts we were able to remove about 16 bags of trash from Palmyra Cove Nature Park!



St. Paul's
Community
Development
Corporation's
Back to School
Backpack Drive



In recognition of the 22nd anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11, SPCDC*AmeriCorps members (above and below) came together to commemorate this solemn day through acts of service. Members continued their efforts to support hundreds of Paterson and Passaic County students by packing newly donated book bags with all of the essential supplies necessary for a successful start to the school year.





September 26

**Rutgers University,
Camden Campus
Coat Drive**

**Site Supervisor, Kim
McGuinness organized in
collaboration with our other
site supervisor, Brad
McCartney, and involved 75
families receiving winter coats
and backpacks**



United Advocacy Group

October 14

Team HopeLoft and United Advocacy Group's AmeriCorps team, rolling up their sleeves and preparing the Community Promise Academy space in Salem's historic First Baptist Church!



The New Jersey AmeriCorps Commission Staff Offered Multiple Trainings



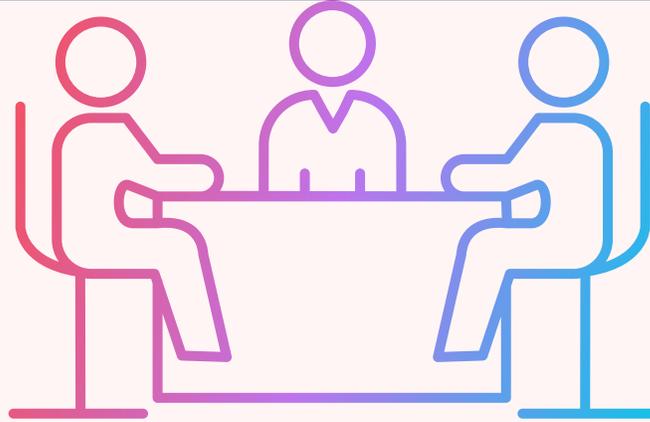
Our Staff at the State Commission was very busy in September and October. We offered multiple in-person trainings for our Program Directors, program Support staff and members.

We started off in September, to kick off the new program year, with a training for all Program Directors. We call this training “Starting Stronger”. This was a follow up event to the “Starting Strong” that was offered in August. We dove deeper into topics related to running a successful AmeriCorps Program.

The topics included “Building Resilient Communities”, by Kayann Foster, Certified ACES Trainer, “Data Quality and Collection Methods” by our partners at Montclair State University, “The Process and Outreach for Medicaid Renewal” by Carol Grant, Department of Human Services.

Our staff rounded out the day with trainings on best practices for Program Directors”, AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions, as well as the many AmeriCorps Regulations and FAQ.

Regional Site Supervisor Trainings



Thank you to Vanessa McCall Hutton, Training and Compliance Officer for planning and executing training for our program's Site Supervisors throughout New Jersey.

Vanessa travelled to North, Central and South New Jersey to facilitate these trainings.

Most of our AmeriCorps programs operate multiple service sites, where members serve, and each of these sites must have a supervisor to guide the members in completing their service requirements.

Site supervisors need to be made aware of AmeriCorps regulations, member time keeping, and the AmeriCorps prohibited activities, so that all New Jersey programs remain in compliance with the Federal Regulations.

Trainings were offered at the following locations:

October 11th

New Jersey Community Development Corporation Teen Center - Paterson

October 17th

The College of NJ – Ewing

October 25th

Rutgers Camden School of Nursing - Camden

New Jersey AmeriCorps Launches into a New Program Year!



The New Jersey State Commission held the annual “AmeriCorps Launch” Celebration on October 20th. AmeriCorps members were officially sworn in and enjoyed a day filled with information about their service and fun activities.



The day began with opening remarks and the member swearing-in by Lt. Governor Taheshea Way, followed by a talk about “Where We Have Been and Where We are Going” by Mark Valli, CEO, NOWESCAP. Kayann Foster shared her knowledge of recognizing and addressing adverse childhood experiences while still building resilient communities.

Members heard advice and encouragement in a panel discussion by AmeriCorps Alums :

- Michael Gowdy
- Yamillet Gomez
- Charles Ambio
- Torriah Egbeyemi.

Breakout sessions were created so that members could choose between various training topics. Program Director, Christina Wolfe offered advice on managing student debt and budgeting, Bob Van -Fossen spoke about how the NJ Department of Environmental Protection manages environmental disasters, and Carol Grant

made members aware of the need to re-enroll in Medicaid and how to do so.

Finally, while the NJ AmeriCorps Commission held a Board meeting in another space, new AmeriCorps members played a game of AmeriCorps Trivia and won prizes!

A special thank you to Training and Compliance Officer, Vanessa McCall-Hutton for all her work in setting up all the trainings we have provided this fall!



COMING SOON



YEARS of

AmeriCorps



Attention AmeriCorps Members
Virtual Office Hours with the New Jersey State
Commission

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 from 1:00 to
3:00. Drop in at any time.

We welcome questions, comments, suggestions
from all of New Jersey's AmeriCorps Members.

Our NJ Commission team will be available
online to respond to any topic.