



MSUCORPS



Martin Luther King Service Day at MSU! Story from Amanda Hensley and Marla Saylor



For the Martin Luther King Day of Service, we decided to focus our attention on the disadvantaged

students from our school. On Monday, January 21st, we went on home visits to 25 of the disadvantaged students' homes. We put together a parent guide Vocabulary Kit for the parents that explained ways they can help their children get prepared for the CATS Testing. We explained to them that student achievement improves when a parent becomes more involved in their child's education. This vocabulary kit will give parents ideas for activities they can do at home with their children, like making flashcards, playing word games, and writing short stories. This kit states that students who know the vocabulary for the content they are studying will understand more of what they read, will be more successful in school, and will score better on state tests. We also told the parents to make sure their home is a

good learning environment for their kids. They can do that by reading to their children, letting their children see them reading, and establish family reading times. We also gave the parents a school magnet that included important phone numbers and email addresses.

On this day of service, we hoped to reach out to the disadvantaged students in our school. We also wanted to connect with the parents and convey information to them so they can help prepare their children for the CATS Testing. We both feel that we did meet our goal that day. We believe we made a positive impact on some of the students' lives and that they will absolutely benefit from the handout we gave the parents. We evaluated our day of service by the number of homes we were able to visit and the amount of positive feedback we received from the parents. It was definitely a successful day of service!

Martin Luther King Service Day at MSU! Story from Tiffany Sartin

On Martin Luther King Day I worked with my local community with the younger generation. We made flash cards that had facts on them about Martin Luther King and his accomplishments. While I worked with the kids they were very eager to do this and wanted to know more about him. I really enjoyed doing this. I know that it was a fun learning experience for the kids. I also

asked the kids who they thought he was before and after we read the article. Sadly some had no idea who he was. However, after we did the activity they knew he was an amazing man who accomplished many things for his people. I really enjoyed doing this and watching my students learn about MLK day!

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MLK Jr. Service Day

Story By: Heather Simpson

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day I was not able to volunteer because of my other employment, so a few weeks later on February 13th at the First Baptist Church I put forth my service for a Valentine's Dinner.

I arrived at the church about three hours before the dinner was scheduled to begin to help with decorations and setting up the tables. I'm not much of a craftsman in the kitchen so I stuck with what I knew best, setting and arranging tables. I work for a fine dining restaurant so I have a lot to input on table settings, flower arrangements and a comfortable way of seating over a hundred people. When all the preparations were done it was the job of the youth group and I to distribute the

food. Being a server already it came second nature and we successfully served about sixty couples.

They followed the dinner with music and a short service which everyone seem to enjoy. After the entire program was over clean-up then began, which is always the hardest and most tiring part of any dinner. We put away the decorations, tables, and cleaned up after a hundred people. The fundraiser benefited the youth group of the church and they seemed very pleased that I helped them out during one of the busiest functions of their year. I hadn't done much volunteering until Americorps, but it felt really good to see so many people so appreciative of my services for the evening.

"Now, he wants to make it through school, he wants to make it through life."

MLK Jr. Service Day

Story By: Sharon Williams, Keri Shannon, Rebecca Craft, Cassie Cox, and Mandi Mulvaney



We had a wonderful morning at Windsor Care Nursing Home in Mt. Sterling on Monday, January 21, 2008. The RSVP volunteers and

MSUCorps members did an outstanding job in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We had 30 residents join us in the activity room where we discussed Dr. King's life, and his vision. We had several residents to share with us some stories they recall from Dr. King's era. Some of their stories were very touching. 10 MSUCorps members along with 5 RSVP volunteers joined in this special event. After we shared stories, we sang several songs with the residents before we escorted them to the dining room for their lunch.

In the month of January the four of us from Catlettsburg Elementary worked together to engage in an act of community service for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In the past, to us, that day never seemed to be anything extraordinary, but this year it was different. We worked together



with some other MSUCorps members as well as Sharon from RSVP and volunteered out time at a senior center retirement home in Mount Sterling, KY.

The four of us prepared for this day a week prior, and felt that the information that we were bringing to those we were serving would make our service day a success. Becky and Mandi worked to-



gether and created brochures, and Cassie and I (Keri) worked together to create crossword puzzles and word searches. Little did we know, what we were bringing to these senior citizens was not what

would make our day successful.

When the day arrived to travel to Mount Sterling, our hopes were high that we would share new and interesting information with the others. We presented our information and handed out our brochures and puzzles.

Needless to say, the success of our day was not that we "taught" the seniors something, but that we gave them the opportunity to share memories and teach US. We all now realize that you don't always have to lecture to teach someone, but rather engage in conversation so that everyone learns.





MLK Jr. Service Day

Story By: Melinda Hickman, Ashley Kinder, Tom Perry, Vickie Jones, and Stephanie Mathews.



On January 21st, 2008, we MSU Corps members and our Director Sherrie Bennett, headed to Morehead State University in Morehead, KY to volunteer for a march and a musical tribute to honor the late Martin Luther King Jr sponsored by the MSU Multicultural Student Service Center. We met at the Bell Tower to help pass out candles and song sheets to the crowds of people that gathered for the march and fellowship that followed. We witnessed a speech which was very inspiring



and refreshing to us. We then lit candles and started the march off and headed to the church of our destination. There we re inspired even more so with the beautiful harmony music and song and very encouraging words and promises from several guest speakers, all of which was very enthusiastic about the message they were delivering. Afterwards we helped serve refreshments to all involved. Each of us in this group felt an honor and privilege to be a part of this recognition to honor a man who is noted in history for "His Dream" that he shared with all.



MLK Jr. Service Day Mary Williamson

Mary Williamson, Morehead State University AmeriCorps member and Tina McGlone, Family Resource Success member along with Christa Little, coordinator of The Family Center sponsored a community service project on Monday, January 21, 2008. Tina's children, Lawessa, Carlan, and Haleigh helped with the project.

The service project was held at the Golden Living Center in Vanceburg. A short Martin Luther King, Jr. video was viewed and a MLK story was shared. 22 patients came to the gathering. Each patient received refreshments and a box of tissues.

"This is my second year as an AmeriCorps member and I will miss it terribly when it ends. Being a member has given me the opportunity to work with children and with the community."



Biography of Jereilyn Grant

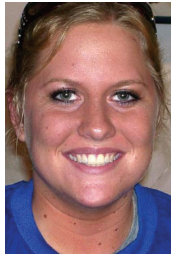
On the morning of September 3, 1981, I, Jereilyn Grant, was born. My mother was in her upstairs bedroom when she started having contractions. By the time the midwife had arrived, I was born with a head full of jet black hair. The place of my birth was the Philippines but I moved to the United States at the age of six. I grew up in Brunswick, Georgia and graduated from Glynn Academy with honors. I was actively involved in many clubs and organizations during high school. I was student body president, treasurer for Future Business Leaders of America, Secretary of Beta Club, and also served on the yearbook committee. From there, I went on to college at Georgia Southern in Statesboro. At first, I wanted to major in computer science but that did not last long. I changed majors several times and finally decided on Business Administration. While in college, I worked at Hallmark, earning my way through and supporting myself. It was hard doing both and I had to make the decision of continuing college or working full time. My employer had offered me the position of assistant manager, which I accepted and withdrew from college. I was going to try

to save up money and later continue with my college education. While in Statesboro, I met my future husband. We got married September 10, 2005 and moved to Ashland, Kentucky. My husband had accepted a position with the Department of Homeland Security which is one of the reasons we moved to Kentucky. The other reason is because he was born in Kentucky and his family lived in the area. As for me, I was informed of a position with AmeriCorps and decided to give it a try. I worked in the Fairview schools and fell in love with the kids. Working with children sparked a passion within me that I decided to change my major to elementary education. I enrolled at Ashland Community College to pursue my goal. This is my second year as an AmeriCorps member and will miss it terribly when it ends. Being a member has given me the opportunity to work with children and with the community. Knowing that I can make a difference in the lives of children has inspired me to continue with my work and my goals. I was blessed with a beautiful and healthy baby girl, Zoe Ellene, who was born on February 16, 2008. She has given me more determination to reach my goals. I want the very best for her and hope that she will get the best education so she may have a wonderful life for her future family as well. There is nothing more wonderful than seeing the smile on children's faces, knowing that I have reached out and touched their lives in a positive and rewarding way.



"I realized that I didn't have a 'job', I had an opportunity to help a child learn, make a child smile or be a friend to a child who didn't have anyone else."

Biography by Amanda Hensley



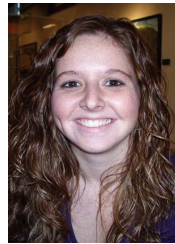
My name is Amanda Hensley, I am 23 years old, and I have lived in Paintsville, Kentucky all my life. I was born at Kings Daughters Medical Center in Ashland, Kentucky on September 12, 1984.

I have a twin sister and two step-brothers. I graduated from Paintsville High School on May 2002, and I graduated with a bachelor's degree from Morehead State University on July 2007. I will be starting a masters program at Morehead State University in the summer of 2008 to get my teaching degree. I am a very happy, outgoing person with a lot of great friends and family members that

would do anything for me. I have been dating my boyfriend for 9 years, ever since I was a sophomore in high school. We do plan on getting married and starting a family very soon. I wanted to wait until I got out of college and got a good job. I have a dog named trigger, who is a big 130 pound golden retriever. I love sports, outdoor activities, and spending time with my friends and family. I also enjoy helping children and being a positive role model for them.

I am privileged to have a rewarding job, great boyfriend, and loving friends and family that support me. In the future I hope to have a family of my own, a successful career, and stay involved in my community.

Biography of Amanda Mulvaney



I am 20 years old. I have a beautiful daughter and I am currently living with my mother and stepfather. I could go into great detail about myself, but I would like to focus on what brought me to the AmeriCorps Program.

In November of 2007, I was seeking a new "job" with better hours and more motivation than the one I already had. With the help of friends and family, I was told that at the near - by Elementary School they were seeking a new AmeriCorps Member. I quickly applied and was accepted as the new member. Not fully understanding what the AmeriCorps Program actually was, I was eager to learn.

After getting into the swing of things and

helping with the after school program, I realized that I didn't have a "job". I had an opportunity to help a child learn, make a child smile, or be a friend to a child who didn't have anyone else. The AmeriCorps Program has broadened my perspective on the world and every day life. Although my childhood growing up was incredible, some of the choices and mistakes I've made along the way to becoming an AmeriCorps Member, help me relate and understand what the kids (that I work with) go through every single day. I am very honored and proud to be an AmeriCorps Member at this time in my life.



Biography by Ashley Kinder



My name is Ashley Nicole Kinder (Robinson *before I was married*). I was born in Maysville, Kentucky on October 6, 1982. I was the only girl born in the hospital for about three days so my mother says I came home spoiled from the nurses all holding me. My parents are

Larry and Paula Robinson. I have one older sister, Kimberly, who is now married to Kevin and has a beautiful baby boy named Keenan. I also have a younger brother named Travis. In July of 2007, I married a wonderful man named Gary Kinder. We built a new house in Fleming County, Kentucky. Living somewhere

else besides Mason County (where I have lived most of my life) is a little different, especially living thirty minutes away from Wal-Mart.

I began the AmeriCorps program in August 2007. I love working with the children on a daily basis. I believe this volunteer position will help me get my foot in the door for when I graduate with my *degree* in Elementary Education.



Building Better
Lives



Biography by Braun Ream



My life began in the snowy winter chill of late 1982. During the holiday season, my parents held one another close for warmth, comfort and strength. Nine months later, I entered the world a screaming nine pound bundle of noise via Mercy Medical Center in Canton, OH. Yes, I was a fatty. This was a theme that

continued in my life until high school. I was a cute, pudgy baby that grew into an overweight child with huge glasses, nasty hair and crooked teeth. It's pretty incredible that I have turned into such a good-looking, up-standing citizen. My family consists of Bob, an electrician and Beth, a teacher. They have four kids altogether: Brandon, 30, Beau, 26, myself, 24 and Bethany, 22. Because of our large family, we did not always have excessive amounts of money. What we lacked in money we made up for in comedy. My older brothers were constantly teasing me and my sister. Another thing that was important in our family was church. There was never a question as to whether or not we went to church on Sunday's; it was as much a part of life as school. My closest friends in elementary school were from church and I spent many a nights at the preacher's house with his son who was a year older than me.

During middle school, I kind of wandered. I was kind of in a shell and very awkward. It wasn't until high school that I really came into my own. I was very involved in several activities including four different bands, three choirs, National Honors Society, Tri-M Musical Honors Society, Student Council, Academic Top Ten, and the list goes on and on. Yes, I was a big

dork but I had fun. After I broke up with a girlfriend my freshman year, a close friend and I had a discussion about dating. She said she was not going to date unless it was someone she was going to marry. As silly as I thought the idea was, I eventually adopted it as my own dating philosophy. After some short lived romances in college at Kentucky Christian University, I finally found my true love. It was all roses at first. The very first time we hung out, she told her roommate that she never wanted to see me again. I have that effect on people. A few weeks later, we both auditioned for and made a traveling vocal ministry which spent the summer going to different summer camps and the school year at different churches on the weekends. The circumstances forced to get to know one another very quickly. We were essentially together for three solid months, exposing every emotion and mood at one time or another. However, we waited until after she graduated in 2006 to get married. Today we both live happily in Ashland, KY where she is a second grade teacher and I am a Youth and Music minister at Beech St Christian Church. For the time being, we are happy with our church family and our cat Summer. We are planning to have children, God-willing, in the near future. We are unsure of how long we will continue to live in this area seeing that her family, even though we met in Grayson, lives about thirty minutes away from mine in Ohio. It will mostly depend on our jobs and where they do or don't take us. We believe that it is in God's hands and when it is time, it will be revealed to us.

"I was helping out with the students, and became attached to some of them.."

Biography by Cassie Cox



Hello, My name is Cassie Cox. I am 18 years old and just recently graduated from Boyd County High School in 2007. For as long as I could remember I have always wanted to become a teacher when I got older, that was all I did when I was younger was played school with any of my

friends, and believe it or not... I was always... The teacher. My mother has worked for the school system for about 10 to 11 years now, she works right next to my high school so at the end of the day when the bell rang for dismissal I would head straight to Cannonsburg Elm. and help any of the teachers that needed my help. Well a few months went by, and then came graduation. I had no plans after I graduated, I figured I would try and enroll for some classes at ACTC or something like that but I didn't have the money for it so I would have had to get a job.

My mother is friends with the site director at one of the schools that was providing money for the MSUCorps and she mentioned my name to them, went in for an interview, which I thought went

well. So I got a phone call saying they would like to offer me the job. I was so excited to hear that.

I was helping out with the students, and became attached to some of them... if not all. I work at a Middle School and an Elementary School, which both so far are exciting jobs. Which field of education is leaning more towards one then the other. When I first realized I wanted to become a teacher like I said I was younger, which made me want to work with the younger kids, but now that I am getting older and have had a chance to work with both, it is leaning towards becoming a Middle Schools Teacher. Just because I feel like I can handle them better, they are more able to speak to me and actually tell me what they want, and what I could do to become a better teacher. Since I have been in this program it seems that I have matured a lot more, I am more responsible with my actions what I should and what I shouldn't do. But the only problem is, is that I have had some struggles trying to get everything finished and turned in on time, it seems that I never make the deadline. I know that eventually I will catch on and be the best that I can be, but for now I just have to keep working hard at it.



Biography of Christina McCall



My name is Christina McCall and I am an MSU Corps member serving in Boyd County at Summit Elementary. I have been an active volunteer at this school for the past 10 years and have found myself involved in many committees, activities, and events. I currently serve on the Parent Leadership Committee and hold the position of PTO Vice President. My volunteerism has contributed to the betterment of my site school where most of the students recognize me as a regular. I have tutored many of these kids in everything from reviewing math facts to phonics and reading to learning to expand expressive writing skills. I love to work with kids and know that I am giving them opportunities to expand their current knowledge. My life goal is to go back to school to pursue a teaching career for elementary school and a Masters degree in technology. Therefore, the opportunity to serve as an AmeriCorps member just "fit" for me.

I am a native of Ashland, Kentucky where I was raised by my mother, Musette Dobson-Stout, and stepfather, James Edward Stout. I have a younger brother who excelled in sports but struggled with academics. I gradu-

ated from Paul Blazer High School in 1992 in the Honor Society. I was very involved in school and thrived in English, math, science, and Spanish. I received scholarships to attend college; however, life just kind of happened and that opportunity was not utilized to its fullest potential. I did not complete college and have regretted it ever since.

I am celebrating a 10-year marriage to my husband, Shannon, and have three children – Daniel, age 13; Hannah, age 8, and Greydon, age 6. My daughter was born hearing-impaired and this changed my life by providing a renewed purpose for my teaching skills because of her need to be divulged in language. I taught myself Signed Exact English to communicate during her early years and she is now able to orally express herself.

I have been blessed with good fortune and even misfortune has hidden opportunity. My children are academically gifted and their futures are waiting for them. I was raised to believe you can be anything you want to be and no one can stand in the way of that except you. AmeriCorps has paved the way to jumpstart my career goals through the education award. I have been standing in the way for quite some time and now it is my chance to run toward my goals instead of just stand-

We're on the Web at

www.americorps.com

Biography of Danielle Curd



April 7th, 1984 started out just like any other day before it had. The sun rose over the beautiful rolling hills of Eastern Kentucky and began warming our small cozy town of Flatwoods. Spring was in the air and the smell of fresh flowers and shiny dew danced at the tip of the nose. Little did my family

know, this day would be much different than those that had preceded it.

At 8:25 p.m., a 7 lb. 12 ¹/_{in.} oz, 21 inch baby girl came screaming into the world. I was the first child born to Dan and Lisa Curd. Two years later, I was happy to begin sharing the attention with my sister, Candace Raye Curd. Shortly after I was born we moved to West Palm Beach, Florida, where we lived until I was five years old. I really have no memories of this time but I have lots of pictures and stories from my parents about our lives. Not long after moving home to Kentucky our world was turned upside down with the divorce of my parents. My mom, sister and I moved in with my grandparents, only to have another tragedy blind-side us again. Cancer claimed the life of my beloved grandmother in the spring of 1989. Although we were hit with some hard times, I had a very happy childhood filled with great memories. My sister and I attended Advance Elementary and had many close friends. During my first grade year, my

mom met and began dating a man named Tim Adams. My sister and I grew to adore the man who treated my mom and us like gold. When I was ten years old, my mom and Tim married and we moved in with him. They are still together today and no matter what the relation, he is our dad.

My middle school and high school years were all pretty average. I made very good grades and was a cheerleader every year. My sophomore year of high school I passed my driving test with flying colors and was behind the wheel of my first car. Senior year I was named captain of the cheerleading squad and led our team to wins in several competitions. As graduation neared, I began filling out scholarship form after form. I was eventually awarded three local scholarships and an academic scholarship from Morehead State University. I studied hard in college and earned a BA in elementary education in the spring of 2007.

Although unable to find a teaching job my first year out, I began volunteering at Fairview Elementary School through the AmeriCorps program, which has been more rewarding than I could ever imagine. I also met and have become engaged to a wonderful guy. We are planning to marry in the summer of 2008 and just recently bought and remodeled our first home. Although at times my life may seem hectic, it's mine and I wouldn't change a thing.

"My volunteerism has contributed to the betterment of my site school where most of the students recognize me as a regular."