



We are Now the "Public & School Partnership"

As you may have heard, we are changing our name to "Public & School Partnership"! PSP's newly formed advisory board met Tuesday, March 29 and unanimously voted in favor of the name change. In the past, "Public School Partnership" has raised many questions about whether PSP only works with public schools. Our VISTA Members, supervisors, and partners know that our organization serves many different types of entities including schools and public/community sites. The advisory board felt that this new name would more accurately reflect the scope of PSP's work in the community. Our website URL will not change for the time being, so keep visiting www.publicschoolpartnership.com! Also stay tuned for more information about our new acquisition of the Cache & Rich Counties' Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 7 & 8:** March Site Visits
- **April 4-8:** Box Elder District Spring Break
- **April 13:** Optional Monthly Training: *Incorporating VISTA Service into your Resume* @ the PSP Office or via Adobe Connect webinar, 12-1pm
- **April 14:** VISTA Campus Webinar: *Managing Student Loans*, 12-1:30pm
- **April 16:** Gracie's Birthday
- **April 18:** Optional Allies Training @ the University Inn & Conference Center, 5-8pm
- **April 26:** Krista's Birthday
- **April 27:** VISTA Campus Webinar: *Project Sustainability Approaches & Strategies*, 12-1:30pm
- **April 30:** Gift of Hearing Event @ USU's Fieldhouse, 8:30am-1:30pm
- **May 4:** Stories from Service Webinar: *Living Allowance*, 12-1:30pm
- **May 5:** Corrie's Birthday
- **May 5 & 6:** April Site Visits

Site Highlights

Box Elder Middle School

College and Career Readiness Week at Box Elder ended on a high note with a school-wide Life Skills Conference on March 11. VISTA Member Shayley Warner and the school's counselors invited dozens of volunteers to present to students on a variety of topics including potential career options, stress management, interpersonal conflict resolution, goal setting, nutrition, and exercise. Volunteer presenters, including VISTA Member Jasmine Despain and VISTA Leader Shonna Ferree, joined local professionals eager to share their knowledge and expertise. Some career fields represented during the conference were robotics, satellite technology, zoology, dentistry, pharmacy, teaching, emergency services, fitness instruction, social work, and National Service. Encouraging students to start thinking about life after graduation early helps ensure their success!

Mountain Crest High School

VISTA Members Dawna Webb and Amanda Johnston, along with career center counselor and VISTA alumna Beverly Pickup, welcomed/invited over 30 local businesses to host a table at Mountain Crest's Career Fair March 8 & 9. Students had the opportunity to talk with the visiting professionals and ask them questions about their jobs and education. Among the organizations represented were several USU departments, Bridgerland Applied Technology College, the US Marines, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Uinta Academy, Catalyst Residential Treatment Center, the Herald Journal, Bridgerland Animal Hospital, Family Eye Care Optometry, and others. Allowing students face time with these professionals allows them to make informed decisions about what professional path to pursue after graduation and gives them an opportunity to explore options they might not have otherwise known existed.

Site Highlights (Continued)

Sky View High School

Administration at Sky View High School understands that sometimes high-school age students need help making good decisions, and have taken proactive measures to help guide students who may be especially at-risk. The Cache County Youth Court program based at Sky View and coordinated by VISTA Member Rebecca Miller gets students thinking about the consequences of their decisions and offers them a chance to make a positive change in their behavior in order to avoid legal intervention. At-risk students from local high schools are recommended to the Youth Court program, where they go through proceedings and mentorship by peers who have more seniority in the program. Youth Court also involves parents in their student's journey, so that they can make the most of this learning experience.

VISTA Member Recognition



Amanda Johnston,
Mountain Crest High School
Good Role Model Award
VISTA Member Amanda

Johnston really cares about the students in her school success programs at Mountain Crest High School. Amanda uses her background in behavioral teaching and sociology to train staff on teaching life skills to students. She has even been known to check in with students who have transferred to other high schools. With the help of fellow VISTA Member Dawna Webb, Amanda reached out to numerous businesses in Cache Valley to ask them to participate in Mountain Crest's two-day Career Fair event in March. Over 30 businesses sent representatives to host tables and to speak with students about what they do in their profession. Thanks to Amanda's efforts, Mountain Crest students have access to the resources and skills they need to make educated decisions about their futures. Keep it up Amanda!



Megan Williams,
Sound Beginnings Preschool
Outstanding Outcomes Award
VISTA Member Megan Williams

Megan Williams has been hard at work making phone calls and writing letters to request donations to prepare for Sound Beginning's Gift of Hearing event on April 30. She and fellow VISTA Member, Jason Jensen, have been planning this annual event for months in advance in an effort to make this the most successful year yet. All of Megan's dedication has paid off; in March alone she and her volunteer team collected \$21,537 in cash and in-kind donations! Some of the largest contributors include Hammond & Mortensen Dental, Baldwin Family Dental, Fish Haven Vacation Rentals, and Get Air Management. The donations gathered for the Gift of Hearing event will be used as prizes in a silent raffle and to feed those registered for the 5K run. We are very proud of Megan and can't wait to see her efforts in action this month. Awesome job!



Ciara Marshall,
PSP AmeriCorps Work-Study
Ciara is wrapping up her
AmeriCorps term with PSP in early
May. Ciara began her journey in
National Service as a Summer

Associate in PSP's Office in the summer of 2014; afterward, she enrolled in a full-term VISTA position at Cache High. After completing her VISTA service in August 2015, she stayed at the PSP as an AmeriCorps work-study in partnership with Todd Milovich's Education Outreach program. During her service, Ciara became very interested and skilled in technical communication, which led her to switch academic focus. She has recently accepted a position in Clemson University's Professional Communication Master's program which will start in August, 2016. Ciara thanks her service with PSP for helping her get into graduate school - "I really enjoyed my service, and I honestly don't think I could have gotten into grad school without it." Although we are sad to see her go, we are very proud of Ciara. PSP will continue to benefit from her work for years to come. We will miss you!

The Public & School Partnership (PSP) is an educational nonprofit organization based at Utah State University in Cache Valley, UT. The PSP accomplishes its mission to eliminate poverty through improving education by building partnerships between schools, parents, and the surrounding community in Northeastern Utah.

Gift of Hearing Event



This annual event is hosted by one of our partner sites, Sound Beginnings Preschool, an educational center where pre-

kindergarten children experiencing hearing loss learn the skills they need to succeed academically. The event is held to raise money to help families purchase their children's hearing aids and to promote awareness about pediatric hearing loss. The April 30 event will kick off with a 5K race at 9:30 am and from 10-1pm there will be a children's carnival. At 11:30 am the Gift of Hearing Walk will begin, during which children with hearing loss will lead their families and community members on a lap around USU's Fieldhouse track. Along this walk there will be displayed posters about hearing loss, allowing participants to learn more about how hearing loss affects children. After the walk there will be a luncheon sponsored by several local businesses. The event will conclude with a silent raffle of donated prizes. Last year the Gift of Hearing event raised a little over \$12,000; this year the goal is to raise \$25,000. For more information or to register for the race, visit: www.soundbeginnings.usu.edu.

New Pre-Service Orientation Blend Courses



A large part of preparing for a year of service as a VISTA Member has always been Pre-Service Orientation (PSO). The Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS), AmeriCorps VISTA's parent organization, has designed a new, five-week PSO Blend program for incoming VISTA Members to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for National Service. The PSO Blend instructs new Members to conduct a needs assessment, familiarize themselves with their sites, introduce themselves to site staff, and helps them to better understand poverty in the U.S. and in the specific community where they will

serve during the next year. We hope to be able to use the valuable information in PSO Blend courses in future PSP trainings.

Mayors' & County Officials' Day of Recognition for National Service



Our 2016 Mayors' & County Officials' Recognition ceremony proved to be an inspiring event for our nearly 75 attendees! Held at the Historic Cache County Courthouse, the event publicly recognized our community's finest volunteers hand-picked by local National Service Members. Logan City Mayor, Craig Petersen, gave a keynote speech outlining the important role played by volunteers in Cache Valley, followed by kind words from Richmond Mayor Mike Hall and Cache County Council Chair Greg Merrill. River Heights Mayor James Brackner also attended in a show of support. National Service Members each gave a brief overview of their nominated volunteers' accomplishments and personally thanked them for their service with a certificate from the Lt. Governor's Office. Among the honored volunteers was Kayelene Draper, who graciously accepted an award on behalf of her late husband, Bruce Draper. We are very thankful for all of the time and effort invested by each of our dedicated volunteers across the valley. This event was a way to express our gratitude for them and show them the how just how much they are appreciated by the community. Without the hard work of our volunteers, many of our projects wouldn't be possible! For more pictures of the event captured by Jesse Walker Photography, you can visit our website or Facebook page.