



THE PSP JOTTER



The Public School Partnership's Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2016

HAPPY FEBRUARY!

Welcoming New Faces

As we begin the month of February we'd like to welcome two new VISTA Members to the Public School Partnership: Tonia Dattage who will be serving the Children' Land Alliance Supporting Schools (CLASS) Jenni Allred who will be working with the Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning (CCESL). We'd also like to congratulate VISTA Member Jon Wilkey and his wife on the birth of their baby boy, Hudson!

SITE HIGHLIGHTS

Look at What Our VISTAs Have Been Up To

Sky View High School

Last month Sky View staff focused their efforts on suicide prevention and anti-bullying education with the help of VISTA Members Jaclyn, Jon and Rebecca. During January the school upheld its tradition of hosting Yellow Ribbon Week, an event many schools take part in to teach their students the consequences of bullying and how to reach out to peers who may be at risk for self-injury. VISTA Members at the school also helped to facilitate *Stand for Courage*, a student organization at Sky View dedicated to suicide prevention and encouraging students to stand up for others being bullied. The *Stand for Courage* student team gave presentations to all of the school's 1600 students, visiting each classroom to address what can be done to help others who are struggling. The organization also created a program that recognizes students who stand up for another person or go out of their way to help someone in need.

Sound Beginnings Preschool

Earlier this year Sound Beginnings experienced budget cuts that affected transportation funding for its preschool students. VISTA Members Megan and Jason for creative and came up with a solution for an alternative plan that cut transportation spending by 40%, all while keeping it free for students. Not satisfied to stop there, our VISTAs also incorporated activities, games, books, and music into the van rides to and from the school to help students practice crucial reading and conversation skills they need to succeed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 3:** Jon's Birthday
- **February 4:** Angela's Birthday
- **February 4 & 5:** Site Visits
- **February 8:** Jaclyn's Birthday
- **February 15:** President's Day (Off)
- **February 17:** Monthly Training (Optional), 12-1pm & 5-6pm
- **February 24:** Jason's Birthday
- **March 3 & 4:** Site Visits
- **March 7-11:** AmeriCorps Week & USU's Spring Break
- **March 9:** Quarterly Training (Mandatory), 9am-5pm
- **March 10:** AmeriCorps Gathering
- **March 11:** Shonna's Birthday
- **March 11:** Life Skills Conference @ Box Elder Middle School
- **March 28-April 1:** Cache County & Logan school Districts' Spring Break
- **April 5:** Mayors Day @ the Historic Cache County Courthouse, 3-4:30pm

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VISTA MEMBER RECOGNITION

Thanking our VISTAS for all of their hard work

As part of our recognition program, each month we spotlight four of our AmeriCorps VISTA Members in a show of appreciation for their efforts and enthusiasm.



**Graciela Botello,
CCE Outreach**

Above & Beyond Award

Gracie in the Center for Civic Engagement & Education

Outreach office at USU has been busy putting the pieces in place for her new My Young Mother scholarship, a program that would provide tuition assistance and baby care supplies to a mother who is a senior in high school needing help getting started in college. Gracie coordinated a fundraising gala titled *Smile on Your Sister* that featured local food, live music, an art auction, and children's activities for attendees. She has also worked with the Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists and Bridgerland Applied Technology College to secure monetary donations or the scholarship fund that will be used for tuition and to offset childcare costs. As part of our MLK Day service project in January, Gracie helped to spread the word about the food and baby care supply drive to schools throughout the Cache County and Logan districts. As a result, over 3,000 baby care items were donated, all of which will be given the recipient of the My Young Mother scholarship. Applications for the scholarship have been distributed to local high schools and a beneficiary will be chosen for next academic year. This has been a huge undertaking for Gracie, but the end result is awesome!

If you think one of PSP's VISTA Members deserves special recognition, you can submit a nomination on our website at:
www.publicschoolpartnership.com



**Dawna Webb,
Mountain Crest
High School**

Perseverance Award

Dawna's positive attitude, realism, and optimism is

something we can all learn from when we are faced with adversity. Dawna is exceptionally good at recognizing when aspects of a program can be improved or a problem needs a more efficient solution, and is not hesitant to see these through until their completion. When presented with a challenge she always takes the time to sit down, consider the positives and negatives for each option, and decide on the best course of action. Dawna thinks very practically, but is also enthusiastic and proactive when it comes to problem solving and motivating people around her to consider alternate solutions. Keep up the great work Dawna!



**Melissa Yardley,
Cedar Ridge
Middle School**

Good Role Model Award

Melissa is a great asset at

Cedar Ridge. She has helped implement many programs and has done a great job running the school's New Student Group, a support program that helps students new to Cedar Ridge cope with the stress and anxiety that can take place when transitioning into a new school environment. She also planned the school's Mental Health Week and encouraged students to participate in the *Stand for Courage* student club by standing up, stepping in, and speaking out against bullying. She takes on many different responsibilities and is always willing to support students, making her an excellent role model for them. Thanks for setting such a great example Melissa!



**Jasmine Despain,
Bridger Elementary
School**

*Outstanding Outcomes
Award*

For January reporting Jasmine recorded over \$1,800 in in-kind donations! These donations came mostly from Cache Valley grocery stores and benefited several programs at Bridger. One of these programs is the Food Backpack program, which sends food home with students who may be struggling with hunger. Another program that benefited from the donations Jasmine collected was the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) Literacy Night, a social event where fathers of students can come to read to their children and sign up to volunteer in the school. Jasmine also recruited 8 new volunteers in January who have served a total of over 40 hours so far. Additionally she implemented 3 student services at Bridger last month! Great work, Jasmine!



Summer Associate Openings

Come Serve with the PSP!!

The Public School Partnership is pleased to announce that we have received funding for several Summer Associate positions for June-August. This year's main focuses for the program will be minimizing summer learning loss and supporting summer food security through meal programs, donation partnerships, and community/school gardens. Summer Associates are free for all sites whose application is accepted, and some sites may have the opportunity to hire more than one Summer Associate. If you are interested in having a Summer Associate at your site, please contact PSP administration for guidance on the application process. Interested sites should submit an application by our February 19 priority deadline in order to be considered for a Summer Associate placement. Summer Associates are a great way to ensure your site's needs are being met at a time when volunteers can be scarce.

Mayor & County Officials' Day Volunteer Nominations

Celebrating our Service in Our Community

Every year the PSP joins with the Cache Valley National Service Alliance to honor our community's most dedicated volunteers for *Mayor & County Officials' Day of Volunteer Recognition*. The event will be hosted at the Historic Cache County Courthouse on Tuesday April 5 from 3:00-4:30pm with Logan Mayor Craig Petersen speaking on the impact of volunteerism in Cache Valley. Nominated volunteers will be presented with the Lt. Governor's Volunteer Recognition Certificate, provided by UServeUtah and Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox. All PSP VISTA sites are required to nominate 2 volunteers for the event by February 24th. If you would like to independently nominate a volunteer please contact the PSP office for more details. We hope to see you there!