



### Recent Celebrations & Events at PSP

Summer is a time to picnic, vacation, and take it easy, but that doesn't stop the VISTA and RSVP programs at the Public & School Partnership from making strides in service member development and community impact. June saw some great successes and celebrations from our PSP team. Sound Beginnings hosted their 2016 "SuperHEARo" Summer Camp on June 9 & 10, and they saw nearly 130 children and parents attend the two-day camp. Activities were offered that helped children experiencing hearing loss and their families build self-esteem, better understand hearing loss and family-support strategies, and connect with other children and families. Our VISTA and Summer Associate team - Megan Williams, Jason Jensen, Rocio Curdy, and Wynter Holtman - helped train and coordinate volunteers. Thanks to the Sound Beginnings team for offering this incredible learning opportunity to children and their families!



Members of the PSP team were also able to attend the Utah Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (UMTSS) Conference in

Layton last month. VISTA Members Jaclyn LeBlond, Melissa Yardley, and Tonia Day, with support from Angela Wood, Megan Williams, and Jason Jensen, presented posters regarding research from programs they are involved with at their VISTA sites. PSP office intern Michael Wheatley, with support from PSP VISTA Leader Shonna Ferree, presented a poster on community-wide poverty research. PSP VISTA members with the Title VII program, Cameron Brewer and Jessica Westover, gave a session presentation on best practices when working with Native students and families supported by 2015-2016 school year data they obtained from their work with three school districts. All presenters received high

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 20-21: Summer Associate Site Visits**
- **July 22: PSP Summer Social & Potluck @ Merlin Olsen, 12pm-2pm**
- **July 25: Taylor's Birthday & Day Off**
- **July 28: PSP Annual Recognition Banquet**
- **August 1-4: New Member PSO**
- **August 3: July VISTA Reporting Due Online**
- **August 2-4: Exit Interviews for Graduating VISTAs**

praise for their efforts and were invited to present next year.

PSP Director, Rikki Wheatley-Boxx, and PSP VISTA Leader, Shonna Ferree, recently returned from the Points of Light National Conference on Volunteering & Service in Detroit, where they gave a session presentation on best practices for implementing a National Service program-collaboration model similar to the Cache Valley National Service Alliance ([www.cvnsa.org](http://www.cvnsa.org)). Although this is not the first Points of Light Conference our PSP team has attended, it does mark the first time our PSP team has been offered the opportunity to give a session presentation at the internationally-recognized conference, where almost 3,000 people attended!

To round out a successful month for PSP, Cache Makers 4-H, a 2016 PSP Summer Associate site, kicked off its first "Diversity Camp" thanks to the coordination efforts of Sara Armbrust and the Galaxy Club at Logan High School. The camp is being held at Willow Park every weekday from 9am-12pm through July 29. Camp activities include: cooking, sports & exercise, computer programming, art, sewing, and robotics. Contact Cache Makers at 435-915-6253 for more information on how to get involved!

## VISTA Member/Summer Associate Recognition



**Andrew Erickson,**  
**CCESL Summer Associate**  
*The Above & Beyond Award*

When Andrew Erickson was interviewed for the Summer Associate position with USU's

CCESL Department, he was asked two things: are you a self-starter and can you build things? Andrew confidently replied "yes" to both questions, and has since shown an unmatched ability to manage his own time, come up with creative projects and processes, ask questions, ask for help, take a vision and turn it into a reality, and of course, "build things." Andrew has taken on a primary coordinator role of the USU SNAC food pantry - including pickup, organization, and drop off of the food items – and the building of the Utah Conservation Corps' new community garden. Andrew has gone above and beyond during his summer service!

## RSVP Is Making Huge Strides

Retired and Senior Volunteers and community organizations are showing great support for the new focus of the USU-hosted RSVP grant: education and Meals on Wheels. June marked the third month of the grant, and volunteers were able to begin volunteering on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Rod Pack and Krista Gurko have been busy recruiting volunteers and holding meetings with potential schools and community partners where volunteers can serve. Currently, RSVP has 35 volunteers enrolled and has had discussions with over 10 stations. Bridgerland Literacy is the program's first official station, where volunteers can help fellow community members learn to read. The Logan Senior Center and Logan Library have generously offered monthly meeting space for easy community access for current and interested RSVP volunteers. Email [rsvpcacherich@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpcacherich@gmail.com) to enroll as a volunteer or as a station where volunteers can serve.

## What's a "Giving Room?"

The Giving Room at Mountain Crest High School is a brand-new program with the goal of ending food insecurity for students and providing

them with basic hygiene and clothing needs. PSP VISTA members Dawna Webb, Amanda Johnston, Cameron Brewer, Jessica Westover, Jennie Hymas, Melissa Yardley, Shayley Warner, Jason Jensen and Jenni Allred, who currently serve at six different sites – Mountain Crest, Title VII, Cedar Ridge, Box Elder Middle School, Sound Beginnings, and the PSP Office - have worked countless hours this summer to brainstorm ideas, contact potential sponsors and partners, prep the Giving Room's physical space, and inform community members of the new program. Mountain Crest VISTA members Dawna Webb and Jason Jensen will lead the program during the school year, with the support of Mountain Crest administration and staff. The Giving Room will open its doors to Mountain Crest High School students at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year!

## Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the Logan Family Center

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Logan Family Center's service to the community, and what better way to celebrate than with a series of fun events for the community to enjoy? The center will host three events from August-September, including: a Family Fair complete with games, food, music, and free admission; a free Open House so community members can check out the new location just next door to the current location at 50 S 400 E; and the Tables of Content benefit dinner where participating community members can interact with well-known local authors. Check out the event dates below:

- **Family Fair** – Saturday, August 27 from 4-7pm @ the Logan Family Center (50 S 400 E)
- **Open House** – Monday, August 29 through Friday, September 2 @ new location (red brick house next to the current location)
- **Tables of Content** – Saturday, September 10 from 6-7:30pm @ USU Alumni House

Call the Logan Family Center at 435-755-5171 for more information on the anniversary event series or for more information on their FREE year-round resources!