



## **#MadeInAmeriCorps in Tennessee: 2019 AmeriCorps Week Profiles**

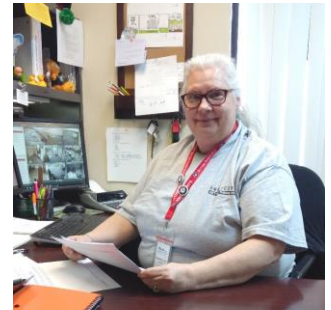
Each March, the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS) leads AmeriCorps Week, a celebration of all things AmeriCorps – from the programs and organizations that, to the members who have pledged to “Get Things Done” since the program’s inception in 1994. As part of AmeriCorps Week 2019 (March 10-16), Volunteer Tennessee focused on how AmeriCorps has transformed lives and communities by highlighting service stories from just a few of those serving in Tennessee that were #MadeInAmeriCorps.

- **Marihelen Ballard - AmeriCorps Member with Appalachia CARES AmeriCorps**

Marihelen is a 2nd-year AmeriCorps member at Appalachian Outreach, the same organization she received home repair assistance from several years ago. Marihelen had this to say about her service:

“You may come in and spend a few days, work hard, sweat, and then go home. You may think about the homeowners and the work you did for a little while and you may even wonder if you made a difference. Let me assure you: yes, you made a difference and the seed has been planted.”

Read more about her [story of coming full circle here](#).



*Photo courtesy of Appalachia CARES AmeriCorps*

- **Randall Eaker - AmeriCorps Member with CAC AmeriCorps**

Randall Eaker serves through the Tennessee Valley Authority. On his motivation for serving as an AmeriCorps member he says:

“I wanted to gain an appreciation and understanding of what it means to work through service, connect with the community, and connect to the greater good. I ultimately want a meaningful career and saw AmeriCorps as a way to explore what that could mean in terms of environmental service. “



*Photo courtesy of CAC AmeriCorps*

Go behind the scenes with Randall in this member spotlight from this [Member Spotlight from CAC AmeriCorps](#).



- **Will Southard - Hands On Nashville AmeriCorps Member**

Will Southard serves as an Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Richland Creek Watershed Alliance. On what drew him to serve with AmeriCorps he says:



*Photo courtesy of Hands On Nashville*

“I’d heard of AmeriCorps before, but it wasn’t until my final year of school that I talked to a friend who had spent a year with AmeriCorps teaching in inner city schools in New York. The structure of her program – one year, focused on community service and capacity building – really appealed to me, so I started looking for similar positions with an environmental focus.”

Hear more from Will in this [AmeriCorps Members Spotlight from Hands On Nashville](#).

- **Jonathan Brown – AmeriCorps Member with Project Inspire Teacher Residency**



*Photo courtesy of Project Inspire*

Jonathan Brown began serving in Chattanooga with Project Inspire just days after graduating from Sewanee: The University of the South. Now, as a member serving in one of Chattanooga’s lowest performing elementary schools, Jonathan spends his days working with children and learning to teach. About what drew him to service he says:

“When I was thinking about what I wanted to do after my undergraduate degree I was looking for a program that would allow me to have an impact while being impacted myself. When I began to sit down and look at my options, I saw that there was a huge need for me as a black man in Chattanooga due to the lack of men of color in elementary schools, and the push for an equitable education.”

- **Alicia – AmeriCorps Member with Relay New Teacher Pathway**

Alicia Wells serves through with Relay Graduate School of Education's New Teacher Pathway program in Memphis. When asked about her motivation for serving in AmeriCorps she said:



*All photos courtesy of Relay New Teacher Pathway*

“I find inner peace in doing for others. I always think about how every summer my grandmother made me, my siblings, cousins, and other neighborhood children pick up trash from the side of the road in her neighborhood. When I would ask and complain “why do we have to do this?”, she would say, “The good Lord did not put us here on this-here earth just to serve self, find yourself some peace child!” I didn’t know what that meant until I got much older.”

Read more about Alicia [through this Member Spotlight from Relay](#).

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[Volunteer Tennessee](#) is a 25 member bipartisan board appointed by the Governor to encourage volunteerism and community service. Volunteer Tennessee pursues its mission through administration of AmeriCorps grants, training and collaborations and coalitions with public and private organizations interested in volunteerism and service. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

AmeriCorps is a program of the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS), a federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads volunteer and civic engagement programs for the nation.