



Celebrating AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers

Over 200,000 individuals 55 and older serve as AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers each year through three core programs.

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serving through Foster Grandparent programs provide one-on-one mentoring and academic support to children with special or exceptional needs. AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serving through Senior Companion programs provide supportive, individualized services to help older adults and adults maintain their dignity and independence, and AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers tutor and mentoring youth, respond to natural disasters, support veterans and their families, and meet other critical needs.

Last year, over 3,000 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers were making an impact serving at 350 service locations across Tennessee. In honor of May being Older Americans month, Volunteer Tennessee asked a few AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers the question, “Why do you serve?” Read on below to hear what inspired them to make a difference through service.

- **Ada McNeal, [Porter-Leath](#)-Memphis, TN**

“I serve as an AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent volunteer because I love being with the children and teaching them things a grandmother would teach their grandchildren. It's all about learning, together and from each other. Serving with the children also helps me to stay young and active.”



Photo Courtesy of Porter-Leath



Photo Courtesy of Clarksville/Montgomery County Community Action Agency

- **Sandra Powers, [Clarksville/Montgomery County Community Action Agency](#)-Clarksville, TN**

“I serve because I love children and wanted to make an impact in their lives. To see their little faces light up when they can write their name or tie their shoe is precious.”

Ms. Sandra Powers is going on her 15th year as a volunteer with the AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program.



- **Madeline Sanders, [Knox Seniors, The Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee Office on Aging](#) -Knoxville, TN**

” I serve because it gives me joy. My service not only helps others, but it gives them courage, and often I find myself to be the only source of support in their time of need. I have been volunteering as a Senior Companion for 24 years, and my service to others is what keeps me going.”

Ms. Madeline has been bridging the digital divide by teaching, learning, and practicing how to use a tablet with her client at the age of 87.



Photo Courtesy of Knox Seniors

Thank you to all the AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers for choosing to serve and make a difference here in Tennessee.

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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, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle the country’s most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture. Learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov](#).