Vision & Mission

Volunteer NH envisions our state as a place where people volunteer together to build strong and connected communities.

We bring our vision to life by engaging those communities to solve local challenges through volunteerism.

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“New Hampshire really is a state where we believe in giving of our time in one way or another. You’ve got to find that expertise that you have or that passion that you have, and do something for your community….it’s being a volunteer, spending time at the Food Bank or getting out of your comfort zone and giving blood to the Red Cross. Whatever it is, it’s got to be something, because we really are a state of service.”

Governor Chris Sununu

Volunteer Manager of the Year Award presentation, May 2022

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Cover Photos:  
(from left to right)

Volunteer NH hosts World Affairs Council visitors from the Middle East; 2022 Spirit of NH Awards; City Year members
Dear Friends,

2022 gave us so much to celebrate: seeing each other in person again, getting the hang of hybrid events, and – as always – volunteering together to solve local challenges.

We were thrilled to offer our Governor’s Conference on Volunteerism virtually – and totally free – for the third year. With “The Power of Collaboration” as our focus, we explored all of the ways that we are stronger when we work together. We were also happy to expand our Spirit of NH Awards from the primarily virtual space of the past two years to a hybrid event. It was energizing to have volunteer awardees all together to celebrate and recognize their efforts.

Speaking of working together, we are continually inspired by the way that AmeriCorps members of all ages and experiences unite through service. In 2022, more than 180 members served in projects focused on developing the skills and confidence of youth; keeping our state and national parks open for those who want to experience our state’s natural beauty; supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and more. Each member could tell a story about the lives changed through service – and our communities feel their effect every day.

Of special note this year, we are happy to welcome the NH Volunteer Engagement Network (NHVEN) into our community! The group offers a regular time for volunteer managers and nonprofit staff to collaborate throughout the year. While New Hampshire is our home, we were given the great opportunity to connect with nonprofit and government agency staff from around the world through a program of the World Affairs Council. We learned so much in such a short amount of time – it was truly inspirational to see that no matter where you are, there are always people willing to help.

While we never know what the future holds, we are always excited to move forward, to learn more, do more, connect more, and further our mission throughout the Granite State.

Thank you for your efforts, your contributions, and the things you do every day – great and small – to better your communities.

In Service,

Gretchen Stallings, Executive Director

Steve Epstein, Board Chair

**What We Do**

- **Promote** volunteerism throughout NH
- **Support** local service programs
- **Train** volunteers, volunteer managers, and volunteer champions
- **Recognize** outstanding volunteer contributions
- **Partner** with organizations to train volunteers and connect them with resources
Get Connected

One of the most common reasons for not volunteering is that people simply don’t know where to go. To provide a solution, we offer Get Connected, our online volunteer opportunity platform.

Nonprofits use Get Connected to attract, manage, and report on volunteer activities in their organizations. Volunteers use Get Connected to find nearby opportunities that fit their interests and schedules.

In 2022

17,482 individuals were registered as volunteers, including 1,216 new users.

848 nonprofit organizations were registered users, including 58 new organization profiles.

442 active volunteer opportunities were available, including 60 new opportunities.

Volunteer Resource Center

Launched in 2021 on the Volunteer NH website, the Volunteer Resource Center is a one-stop-shop for helpful materials. Browse a variety of pre-recorded video content from the Governor’s Conference on Volunteerism, as well as tools, templates, and best practices designed to benefit anyone engaged in volunteerism.

Volunteer Managers can find information on designing effective and accessible opportunities, recruitment and screening, onboarding and training, support and feedback, tracking and communicating impact, volunteer recognition, and more.

Business Professionals can learn how to increase the impact of their company’s social responsibility initiatives, recognize and address and discrimination, track and communicate volunteer impact, and more.

Individual Volunteers can develop skills to increase their impact, communicate effectively, assess what they bring to an organization as a volunteer, and more.
Notable 2022 Happenings

In partnership with the World Affairs Council’s International Visitor Leadership Program, Volunteer NH hosted a meeting with 19 nonprofit and government employees from 10 countries, including Egypt, Morocco, Israel, and Saudi Arabia to share how we work to promote volunteerism, help nonprofits build capacity, and train volunteers to better provide services.

NH Volunteer Engagement Network

When the New Hampshire Association for Volunteer Administrators (NHAVA) dissolved its nonprofit status in late 2021, Volunteer NH took on the previous members as a taskforce. Recently renamed to the NH Volunteer Engagement Network (NH VEN), this group is a support system and resource-sharing opportunity for those managing volunteers in New Hampshire. The NH VEN meets quarterly and members have free access to an online platform for ongoing communication.

AmeriCorps PSA

Volunteer NH recorded a public service announcement highlighting AmeriCorps service as an opportunity for people from any background, at any stage of life.

The PSA was recorded and aired by ConcordTV, Concord’s public access television station.
May 2022 marked the third year that Volunteer NH hosted the annual Governor’s Conference on Volunteerism virtually.

This event is a professional development opportunity designed specifically for volunteers and volunteer managers. The conference also commonly draws participants and presenters from nonprofits, businesses, and the National Service sector.

**Keynote Address**

*Can the Beloved Community Exist in the “Live Free or Die State?*

James McKim  
Managing Partner  
Organizational Ignition

Sessions were offered on a wide variety of topics, including:

- The Transformative Power of Engaging Volunteers with Lived Experience
- Aligning Volunteer Goals with Programmatic Outcomes
- Effectively Measuring and Communicating Impact to Funding Sources

All sessions were recorded and made available on our Volunteer Resource Center.

19 live and pre-recorded sessions offered over three days

290+ individuals attended the conference

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Loving it! Great way to recharge my mindset for volunteering.

*I learned great tips about training and showing volunteers appreciation every step of the way.*

*The information, resources, and templates were great.*

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-- Attendees of the 2022 Governor’s Conference on Volunteerism
Volunteer NH has hosted the Spirit of NH Awards as an annual celebration of volunteerism since 2003. This event recognizes those who go above and beyond the call to serve throughout the Granite State, putting a spotlight on the otherwise unsung heroes among us in celebration with families, friends, and the greater community.

In 2022, after two years of hosting the event virtually, we welcomed back a live audience for a night at the Bank of NH Stage in Concord.

For more information on all awardees, to view the Outstanding awardee videos, and to view the full video of the 2022 Spirit of NH Awards, visit our website.

A special thank you to Concord TV for donating their services. Concord TV is a nonprofit organization that provides public access to educational programming, local government meetings, and community events.

The People’s Choice Award winner in 2022, selected by the general public, was Marie Hickey, volunteer with Rockingham VNA and Hospice.

When I think of Volunteer NH and its Spirit of NH Award winners, I am filled with gratitude and hope. I am reminded of the power that a single act of kindness can have on an individual and, when combined, how far these acts can ripple throughout the Granite State.

US Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Aaron Joy, founder of the Uplift Foundation and student at Philips Exeter Academy, was the 2022 Spirit of NH Award Recipient.

The Uplift Foundation is an educational service that has reached 400 students in NH and beyond. While the program is free, all donations made by families go directly back into New Hampshire communities. Aaron has donated nearly $9,000 between multiple Manchester public schools and Overcomers, a Concord-based organization serving refugees and immigrants. Aaron, a high school student himself, is not only devoted to education, but also to supporting New Americans in the Granite State. This year, he coordinated efforts to formally recognize World Refugee Day in the city of Manchester and organized a celebration centering refugees in the Manchester community at the YWCA. Aaron is diligent in his efforts to provide quality educational opportunities to youth and in his commitment to the cause of immigrants and refugees in NH.
National Service in New Hampshire

National Service programs are essential to supporting critical needs in New Hampshire. As the state’s designated State Service Commission, Volunteer NH promotes volunteer service and stewards the National Service funds provided by AmeriCorps. More specifically, we administer AmeriCorps State program grants and partner with other National Service programs, including AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and AmeriCorps Seniors. These programs place service members statewide to support our citizen and community needs.

Since 1994, AmeriCorps members have served approximately 10 million hours in New Hampshire, and earned education awards totaling more than $26.1 million.

2,200 +

AmeriCorps members & AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve each year across more than 300 service locations in New Hampshire.

Serve, Learn, Earn

Serve. Visit our comprehensive database of AmeriCorps opportunities in New Hampshire by visiting our new Serve, Learn, Earn website! View our database and filter by location, duration, or cause to find a position that’s right for you.

Learn. View institutions of higher education that provide benefits such as a Segal Education Award match or discounted tuition.

Earn. Search among local employers that provide special precedence or other considerations to job applicants.
AmeriCorps State

AmeriCorps programs use National Service to address a wide range of critical community needs. In New Hampshire, our current programs focus on education, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity, and/or healthy futures. All AmeriCorps members in these programs serve for a period of 3 to 12 months and receive a Segal Education Award to pay off qualified student loans or expenses upon successful completion of their service term. AmeriCorps State programs see service as a solution to local and national challenges, and create powerful member experiences that often result in lifelong civic engagement.

Healthy Futures

Granite State Service Corps

Granite State Service Corps (GSSC), a program of Goodwill Industries of Northern New England, places AmeriCorps members serve at-risk students who have been impacted by the foster care system. GSSC members mentor youth, provide parenting classes, and support foster youth aging out of foster care in schools, after school programs, and family resource centers throughout New Hampshire.

NH Community Health Corps

AmeriCorps members with Epilepsy Foundation New England serve 10.5 months in a full-time capacity as part of the NH Community Health Corps.

New Hampshire Community Health Corps members serve children, youth, families, and adults affected by epilepsy through health education and support at sites across NH, with a goal of improving their health knowledge and their socio-emotional wellness.

31 at-risk youth increased in stability and well-being

2,516 individuals reported increased health knowledge

“...all the help and support I needed so now I would like to provide that aid to others in similar situations.”
Lakes Region Conservation Corps

The Lakes Region Conservation Corps (LRCC) members conduct conservation work on trails, waterways, public lands, and other natural areas in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. Members remove invasive species, maintain trail networks, educate the public on local and regional conservation initiatives, spearhead reports on conservation efforts, and lead volunteer crews.

Student Conservation Association (SCA)

Each January the New Hampshire SCA AmeriCorps program welcomes members to Bear Brook State Park who each serve as a Conservation Steward or Interpretive Ranger.

SCA members travel across New Hampshire to provide environmental education programming to residents and visitors, and complete conservation service projects that improve and protect the state's cultural, recreational, and natural resources.

Environmental Stewardship

2,112 individuals increased their knowledge of environmental stewardship practices

62 acres of public land improved
City Year New Hampshire

City Year members serve in Manchester public school supporting students by focusing on the ABCs — attendance, behavior, and course performance. In addition to their in-school service, members coordinate service projects and workshops for corporate and school partners.

Manchester Excels

Manchester Excels (formerly Teach for Impact) members spend a full year serving underserved populations alongside practicing educators in greater Manchester schools. At the end of their service, members will also have earned their Masters of Education degree at Southern New Hampshire University.

Economic Opportunity

AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program (AVAP)

AVAP members are placed at crisis centers, police departments, prosecutor offices, the New Hampshire Department of Corrections, the New Hampshire Attorney General’s office, child advocacy centers, and on college and university campuses to offer support and information (including financial literacy education) to victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking.

168 students received tutoring in English/Language Arts and/or math

217 students showed improved academic performance

332 survivors of domestic/sexual assault and/or stalking received financial literacy services
Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF)
The Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) supports organizations to boost the impact of volunteers on critical community needs. Volunteer NH utilizes this federal, AmeriCorps funding to support volunteerism statewide through grants and training opportunities.

11 nonprofit cohort participants

$291,000 in federal VGF awards subgranted

6,800+ volunteers managed

231,300+ volunteer hours served

9 nonprofit mini-grant recipients

$28,413 in local VGF awards

2,900+ volunteers managed

VGF Mini-Grants
Volunteer NH awarded VGF Mini-Grants for the first time in 2022. Funding for these grants was intentionally restricted to remove many of the barriers keeping organizations from accessing larger federal grants.

2022 Mini-Grant Recipients

◊ Catholic Charities New Hampshire
◊ Cornerstone VNA
◊ Families in Transition
◊ FIRST New Hampshire Robotics
◊ Lebanon Opera House
◊ Makers Mill
◊ Newmarket Community Church
◊ Partnership for Public Health
◊ Racial Unity Team
2021-2022 VGF Cohort

Volunteer NH’s second-annual VGF Cohort concluded in the fall of 2022. Funding was awarded to the following organizations with ideas for projects that: expand volunteering, strengthen the capacity of volunteer connector organizations to recruit and retain skill-based volunteers, or develop strategies to use volunteers to solve problems. In addition to funding, this grant program includes access to training opportunities and ongoing staff support.

Goal: Hire a Community Engagement Coordinator to expand and manage volunteer and volunteer-led programs.

Goal: Recruit, train, and manage a new volunteer team of adults and teens who are involved in AIR’s art-based programs.

Goal: Expand the number of volunteers engaged in environmental stewardship and food assistance.

Goal: Create and deliver 1) Boys & Girls Club policies and practices training for new volunteers; and 2) volunteer management training for site directors.

Goal: Improve volunteer recognition practices, plan and execute service days, and create long-term partnerships with other local nonprofits.

Goal: Increase retention rates for first-time volunteers, increase volunteer satisfaction, and increase overall volunteer numbers for sustainability.

Goal: Develop comprehensive and interactive online training for volunteer advocates, interns, and AmeriCorps members.

Goal: Bolster the resident councils that were established in 2020-2021 in Laconia, Meredith, and Wolfeboro, and establish a new resident council in Ashland.

Goal: Conduct outreach, recruitment, technical and interpersonal skills training, and ongoing technical assistance for volunteers.

Goal: Attract, train, and manage a volunteer workforce capable of providing effective service to the community.

Goal: Recruit new volunteers, train skilled volunteer leaders, and execute a volunteer appreciation program in order to increase the quantity of food grown and gleaned.

FRIENDS FOREVER INTERNATIONAL
World Peace...Grown Locally.

Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains
Serving New Hampshire and Vermont

MRWC
Merrimack River Watershed Council

Bicycle Collective

Willing Hands
2023-2025 State Service Plan

The AmeriCorps federal agency requires every State Service Commission to design and develop a three year State Service Plan. The purpose of the plan is to create a set of priorities that the State Service Commission will use when deciding how to allocate National Service resources. Additionally, the State Service Plan is intended to establish goals and strategies that directly respond to the identified priorities. AmeriCorps mandates that the priority areas be identified with public participation to guarantee that they are truly reflective of the critical needs of the state.

360 survey responses

38 focus group participants

Survey Demographics

Responses came from all 10 NH counties.

Respondents ranged in age from 18-55+.

72% of all respondents have noticed community needs or issues that have been made worse or more urgent during or due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

52% of all respondents are affiliated with an organization or community group that serves a population affected by any of the AmeriCorps focus areas or the additional priority areas noted in the survey.

47% of all respondents volunteer their time.

46% of the above respondents manage volunteers in their role at work.

38% are current employees of a nonprofit organization.

When asked to rank the AmeriCorps focus areas by importance, survey respondents indicated Economic Opportunity, Education, and Healthy Futures as their top three.

Within those focus areas, respondents chose:

- Affordable Housing (Economic Opportunity)
- Access to Mental Health Resources (Healthy Futures)
- Food Security (Economic Opportunity)

as their most critical priority areas.

In the coming three years, Volunteer NH will research and engage existing AmeriCorps programs and volunteer initiatives to inform the development of strategies around the above focus areas and priority areas for New Hampshire, as well as develop and/or support existing AmeriCorps programming and volunteer service opportunities as appropriate.

To read the full 2023-2025 State Service Plan, visit our website, VolunteerNH.org, or scan this QR code.
2022 Financials

Revenue by Type

- AmeriCorps: 73.5%
- CSG: 8.3%
- CIF: 4.7%
- VGF: 11.1%
- Pass-Through: 1.4%
- Event Income: 0.2%
- Fundraising: 0.7%
- Other: 1%

CIF: Commission Investment Fund
CSG: Commission Support Grant

Expenses by Category

- Program Activities: 83%
- Salaries & Fringe: 14%
- Supplies: 0%
- Travel: 0%
- Consultant Services: 1%
- Special Support Services: 1%
- Other Support Services: 1%
Thank You to Our Sponsors

Volunteer NH would not be where it is today without the dedicated support of its business and nonprofit partners. It is because of the commitment from our partners that we can work every day to further service and volunteerism throughout New Hampshire. To all of our supporters and partners, THANK YOU!

Trailblazers

Community Builders

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