

CAC AmeriCorps Service Symposium 2021



AmeriCorps



VISTA Members



Madi Allen

- Site: Kickstand
- From Birmingham, AL
- Madi planned the grand opening of Kickstand's second location in East Knoxville. Thanks to her hard work, kids received books and bikes at the event and the transition to a new location went smoothly.

Sarita Baxter

- Site: Lakeway CASA
- From Whitesburg, TN
- Sarita has worked tirelessly to get her site's paperwork and data collection up to date. She updated the system now in use that tracks clients digitally, so staff have better access to updated information.
- Sarita also created a tracking system for clients, so her site can send out birthday cards.





MaryBeth Burst

- Site: Centro Hispano
- From Washington, D.C.
- MaryBeth supported the launch of Centro Hispano's Children's Program. Through this she developed curriculums, supported teachers, helped with grant writing, and assisted with an emotional health survey.
- She also streamlined their data tracking through Apricot to collect better numbers on students' attendance.

Angela Calderon

- Site: Beardsley Farm
- From Los Angeles, CA
- Despite the pandemic, Angela made connections through a partnership with Maynard School and was invited to attend the Mechanicsville Association Meetings. Through this, she was asked to talk about her role on the farm for a video with hopes to inspire Black youth to become interested in the agricultural field.





Emily Carson

- Site: Bridge Refugee Services
- From Lakeland, FL
- Emily audited and improved the volunteer orientation and training process by making the training accessible online. She deployed volunteers who installed internet in homes to increase accessibility to online school, brought clients to health appointments, delivered essential items and fresh produce, taught ESL classes, participated in garden cleanups, and supported many holiday themed events.

Katie Catron

- Site: Knoxville Office of Neighborhoods
- From Cumberland Gap, TN
- Katie built and implemented a wellness initiative called WellKnox. She gathered feedback from the neighbors and officially launch the pilot program in 2021.





Nick Chang

- Site: Mobile Meals
- From Washington, D.C.
- At the start of his year, Nick transitioned a normally in-person fundraising event called Power of the Purse to a completely virtual setting. Through this, the event raised over \$15,000.
- Throughout his year, Nick also coordinated volunteers to pack meal boxes that fed hundreds in the community every week.

Colleen Dietz

- Site: UTK Office of Sustainability
- From Cincinnati, OH
- Colleen has coordinated the opening of the permanent location of The Free Store which provides students with clothing, furniture, and décor for free. She created the operations, outreach, and social media plans to get it running effectively and accessibly.





Leah Fontaine

- Site: CAC AmeriCorps
- From Byhalia, MS
- Leah provided support and advice to a 20 person VISTA Corps while cataloging their data and stories for grant purposes
- She also supported the Mentorship Pilot Program and created a Small Grants Program that will give members the opportunity to pursue independent projects.

Amber Heeke

- Site UT Sustainability
- From Knoxville, TN
- Amber managed the distribution of over 700 reusable menstrual cups that provided an accessible and environmentally friendly product to UTK students.
- She also held several SNAP events to encourage student use of the program.





Jes Herbert

- Site: Mobile Meals
- From Tuscaloosa, AL
- Jes supported the Laptop Distribution program by doing inventory, distributing the laptops, and tracking the clients who have them. She also supported the commodities packing throughout her year and the implementation of Bloomerang to cut back on client duplication in their tracking system.

Rachel Incorvati

- Site: Positively Living
- From Knoxville, TN
- Rachel got Positively Living's Instagram follower count to over 1400! This brings the message of harm reduction to a larger portion of the community.
- Rachel also focused on making their social media content accessible with image descriptions and her color choices.



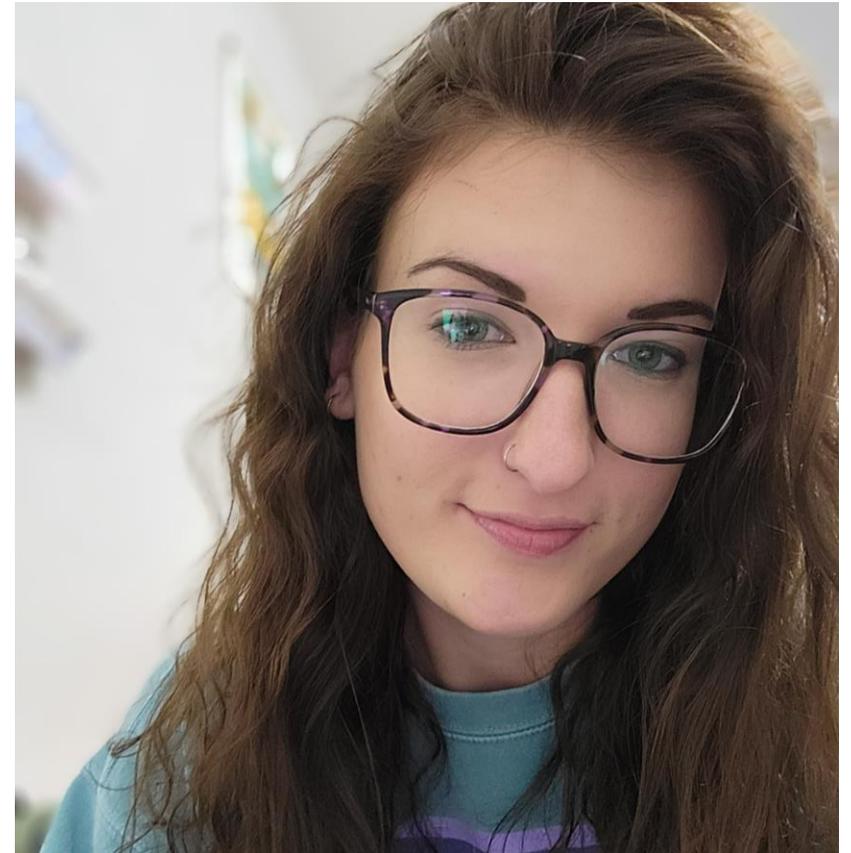


Becca Malloy

- Site: Centro Hispano
- From Salisbury, NC
- Becca supported the Latino Awards, an annual fundraiser that had to be moved online last fall. She designed the site, advertisements, email invites, and thank you bags, then leveraged Facebook to advertise the event through her own network and others she found locally. Centro was able hit their goal and raise over \$20,000 through this event.

Madi Nelski

- Site: UT FUTURE
- From Spring Hill, FL
- Madi created partnerships with the local high schools to increase recognition of the FUTURE Program in the community. For this, she distributed wellness kits which doubled the number of applications to their program.





Cassia Owen

- Site: Nourish Knoxville
- Waynesville, NC
- Cassia support the Nourish Kids Club where she got to create activities, partner with companies, and interact with the kids who visited the market.
- At one market, she partnered with Kalamata's Kitchen who provided each kid with a book and a basil plant to take home.

Ben Poland

- Site: Centro Hispano
- From Verona, Kentucky
- Ben coordinated volunteers for the Adult ESL classes and checked in on the lessons regularly to make sure they were going well. Through this he got to see the students progress throughout the year.





Tiffany Portacio

- Site: Centro Hispano
- From Miami, FL
- Tiffany supported college preparedness for local high schoolers and their families through monthly events, partnerships with local colleges, and grant proposals.
- Through the college partnerships, Tiffany coordinated campus tours given in Spanish to increase accessibility for families.

Michael Sears

- Site: United Way
- From Seattle, WA
- Michael implemented a tracking database for House Knox that helps his team track client engagement, successful client housing, property partners, and available property leads. He is also working on a catalogue of the affordable housing options in Knoxville to better serve their clients and protect those resources.





Alicia Wheeler

- Site: UT Culinary
- From Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Alicia was instrumental in the research and grant writing process at her site this year. She supported the efforts to start a canning program and the Food 4 All program. Thanks to her support, the Food 4 All program that was once housed in one department is now supported by several. This changed and united the food recovery efforts on campus which will serve more students as awareness increases.

Garrett Woods

- Site: Love Kitchen
- From Cleveland, TN
- Garrett is finishing his second year of service and in those two years has helped raise almost \$250,000 for Love Kitchen. He also implemented a volunteer system which has retained enough volunteers to supplement any shortage they faced this year.



State/National Members



Phillip Abegg

- Site: Knox County Stormwater
- From: Pittsburg, PA
- Phil helped move Earth Day to a virtual event and included a screening of Hidden Rivers.

Carlie Antes

- Site: Keep Knoxville Beautiful
- From Carlisle, PA
- Carlie has coordinated lots of volunteers so far and coordinates Go Green Box packaging and delivery (more than 300 per month).





Otha Armond

- Site: Ijams Nature Center
- From Washington, D.C.
- Otha has pulled countless pounds of trash and debris from the TN River and has helped repair and improve infrastructure at Ijams and along the TN River.

Cassie Austin

- Site: UTK Office of Sustainability
- From Durham, NC
- Cassie built relationships with students in the internship program by coordinating service and recognition days to engage them throughout the year and provide learning opportunities for them.





Kaitlyn Bocik

- Site: Great Smokey National Park
- From Knoxville, TN
- Kaitlyn helped run the GIS helpdesk and collected, processed, and edited data to make and improve maps for the GSMNP.

Fiona Bolte-Bradhurst

- Site: Great Smokey Mountains National Park – Cades Cove
- From Kansas City, MO
- Fiona developed educational and informative bulletins, posters, signage, and other resources for Park visitors and volunteers.





Abby Branstetter

- Site: Ijams Nature Center
- From Kalamazoo, MI
- Abby is building a curriculum for the Ijams home school program and is developing a roving naturalist initiative.

Abbie Broersma

- Site: Oak Ridge Stormwater
- From Cadillac, MI
- Abbie has hosted virtual Wise Water Wednesday programs, contributed social media content, and helped maintain the rain garden in Jackson Square. She also planted ~180 plants during a stream bank remediation project.





Bryan Clayborne

- Site: Big Brothers Big Sisters
- From Suffolk, VA
- Bryan supported mentor/mentee matches and led outings with an environmental focus for mentors and mentees to get together.

Karalee Corbeil

- Site: Knox County Stormwater
- From Waynesville, NC
- Karalee helped make TN Tree Day a success, where over 500 trees were distributed at her site.





Michelle De Franco

- Site: Keep Blount Beautiful
- From Nutley, NJ
- Michelle coordinated clean-up events and contributed to social media, increasing the engagement of Blount County residents.

Riley Douglas

- Site: Knoxville Community Development Corporation
- From Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Riley is helping to create partnerships with a variety of local nonprofits to keep KCDC communities clean, bring gardening opportunities to residents, and provide various resources to residents.





Alex Elantri

- Site: Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- From Sharon, MA
- Alex assisted the trails team with trail improvement and maintenance with special consideration given to natural resource protection.

Kacey Ellis

- Site: Tennessee Valley Authority
- From Norco, CA
- Kacey maintained Loyston Trail, a nearly 18-mile stretch used by hikers, mountain bikers, and runners every week.





Megan Finan

- Site: Knoxville Waste and Resource Management
- From Brentwood, TN
- Megan contributed to the Waste & Resource Management website and social media to educate the public on best practices and recycling dos and don'ts.

Connie Flachs

- Site: Beardsley Community Farm
- From South Hadley, MA
- Connie coordinated 100s of volunteers and harvested countless pounds of produce for community use. She also filmed and edited videos for the Beardsley Bookworms and 2Gen series on YouTube.





Becca Foster

- Site: Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- From Pequannock, NJ
- Becca led education lessons virtually and in person. She also contributed to social media through video editing and graphic design, becoming the first AmeriCorps member to become a web author for the Park.

Katharine Gilbert

- Site: Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- From Bryn Mawr, PA
- Katherine treated 100s of hemlock trees over the course of the year for the hemlock woolly adelgid. She applied various control measures and monitored hemlocks in remote areas of the Park.





Briana Gladhill

- Site: Keep Knoxville Beautiful
- From Los Angeles, CA
- Brianna coordinated community clean-ups that contributed 1000s of treated acres and engaged 100s of volunteers.

Chris Gontarski

- Site: US Forest Service
- From Hamden, CT
- Chris contributed to a large scale bridge replacement project and played a key role in overseeing aspects of the project.





Ali Goodman

- Site: Ijams Nature Center
- From Knoxville, TN
- Ali assisted with a new partnership with KnoxWorx and took a lead role in piloting a series of pop-up programs to engage Ijams visitors.

Cady Greenslit

- Site: Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- From Greenbay, WI
- Cady completed trainings for prescribed burns, search and rescue, pesticide application, chainsaw safety, and other pertinent skills used during her service.





Rachel Heckle

- Site: Knoxville Waste and Resource Management
- From Nashville, TN
- Rachel helped revamp Knoxville Waste & Resource Management website to make it easier for residents to find answers to their questions. She also updated signage and messaging for recycling drop-off centers to simplify use for Knoxville residents.

Kiera Johns

- Site: City of Knoxville Urban Forestry
- From Mishawaka, IN
- Kiera wrote the Urban Tree Canopy Report for the city and planted countless trees around town.





Kaitlyn Klema

- Site: Knox County Stormwater and Soil Conservation District
- From Charlestown, NH
- Kaitlyn won the Business category of the Dogwood Arts Chalk (Your) Walk event with a depiction of Knox SCD's mission. She also helped plan and market various Stormwater events.

Naomi Lee

- Site: City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation
- From Nashville, TN
- Naomi provided programming for recreation centers to introduce participants to gardening basics and partnered with Beardsley Farm to strengthen this programming.





Liam Loftis

- Site: Keep Sevier Beautiful
- From South Lake Tahoe, CA
- Liam organized a coalition of local environmental groups in Sevier to strengthen their respective environmental causes and is connecting students to the KSB Recycling Committee to raise awareness about waste in schools in the hopes of getting student buy-in to bring about change.



Bridget Lynch

- Site: US Forest Service
- From Orland Park, IL
- Bridget hiked 100s of miles of trails with GIS equipment to create and improve maps. She also built a 14-step staircase out of rock on a steep section of trail.

Kathryn Maidlow

- Site: Great Smokey Mountains National Park – Sugarlands
- From Anderson, IN
- Kathryn interacted with and provided resources to countless Park visitors. She also created a butterfly interpretive program for a live monarch display to inform and engage visitors.



Rachel Manning

- Site: UTK Office of Sustainability
- From Johnson City, TN
- Rachel increased implementation of My Tiny Trash in buildings around campus to reduce waste and increase recycling and assisted with Zero Waste Gameday efforts.





Ashlee Mays

- Site: Beardsley Community Farms
- From Lima, OH
- Ashlee coordinated 100s of volunteers and harvested countless pounds of produce for community use. She also designed and illustrated the 2021 Beardsley calendar and a series of signs for Malcolm Martin Park.

Sean Melvin

- Site: Knox County Stormwater
- From Chattanooga, TN
- Sean helped coordinate the Knox Co Adopt a Stream program and assisted with a grant proposal, receiving more than \$3000+ for stream clean-up efforts.





Haley Michael-Lee

- Site: Water Quality Forum
- From Mt. Solon, VA
- Haley brought back the Rainy Day Brush Off after its several year hiatus, with great success.

Michaela Moulaison

- Site: Bridge Refugee Services
- From Salem, MA
- Michaela split her time between cultural orientation for new arrivals and Bridge's community gardens, effectively connecting clients to the garden spaces.





Kristen Pierce

- Site: Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- From Winston-Salem, NC
- Kristen treated 100s of hemlock trees over the course of the year for the hemlock woolly adelgid, applying various control measures, and monitored predatory beetles which were introduced to eat the woolly adelgid beetles.

Macey Pierce

- Site: UT Future
- From Powell, TN
- Macey created partnership with the UT Hearing and Speech Center which is a great resource for students in the FUTURE program.





Haley Ratliff

- Site: Discover Life in America
- From Klamath Falls, OR
- Haley was able to offer virtual lessons to students, allowing for environmental education in spite of the pandemic.

Sharath Rereddy

- Site: Knoxville Office of Sustainability
- From Herndon, VA
- Sharath successfully wrapped up the municipal Green House Gas inventory and took a lead role in analyzing energy data and calculating emissions at the department level for the city.





Zoe Scott

- Site: Bike Walk Knoxville
- From Huntsville, AL
- Zoe worked with Green Magnet Academy to develop their Safe Routes to School programming.

Wyler Svoboda

- Site: Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- From San Diego, CA
- Wyler completed his Red Card certification as well as trainings for search and rescue, pesticide application, chainsaw safety, and other pertinent skills needed for the position.





Cele Weakfall

- Site: Ijams Nature Center
- From Salisbury, NC
- Cele coordinated volunteers and helped oversee the Ijams Weed Warriors team in invasive plant removal, with a focus on building relationships to encourage repeat volunteerism.

Adam Weinzapfel

- Site: Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful
- From Jasper, IN
- Adam played a key role in two Grand Slam clean-ups, and constructed a Tennessee River Guide for the Adopt A River Mile program, which has seen significant growth over the past few months.





Taylor Williams

- Site: Sevier Solid Waste
- From Nashville, TN
- Taylor conducted a survey of over 300 area residents, published a monthly newsletter, managed social media for SSW, and led educational sessions for a local Boys & Girls Club.

Alyssa Yoho

- Site: UT Community Schools
- From Swansboro, NC
- Alyssa implemented new communications tools with teachers to encourage garden use, which the students loved.

