



January 2010

Iowa Human & Civil Rights VISTA Project

A Project of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission

<http://www.iowavistaproject.webs.com>

Our VISTA Project Website

<http://iowavistaproject.webs.com/> is the place to learn about what everyone else is doing, about successful efforts in different communities, and members' contact information. If you have documents, pictures, or announcements that you would like added, please contact Crystal at crystal.schrader@iowa.gov. There is a discussion board section for VISTA members to use. The goal of the website is to serve as a platform for everyone to bounce ideas off of one another and get ideas on current and new projects. We have a wealth of knowledge among us. We now just need to start tapping into it through postings, conference calls, and emails.

Are You Working with Youth?

We will be holding a special conference call focusing on youth outreach from 1:00PM—2:00PM on Thursday, February 11, 2010. During the call, we encourage everyone (VISTA members and their supervisors) to share what successes, obstacles, and ideas they have in regard to reaching out to and engaging children and youth. If you have handouts, publications, links to share with the group, please send them to Crystal at crystal.schrader@iowa.gov so they can be posted on the VISTA website and sent out before the call. We will also discuss how we can better partner with one another in this area. Please RSVP to Crystal by noon on Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

Snapshot of Current VISTA Projects

Shawna Anderson (Iowa Civil Rights): ADA Celebration; fair housing and disability research; Toys for Tots campaign; grants; "Retaining Rights in a Recession" talks; youth workshops; websites, blog

Shylo Bundy (Cedar Rapids): posters and flyers; MLK Book Drive; grant; help with proposed ordinance changes; developing youth programming; developing presentations with handouts

Abi Cahak (Dubuque): Preparations for "Taste of the World" fundraiser ; MLK discussion groups; assisted with Christmas necessity and food baskets; received grant for \$2,300; Human Rights Day proclamation

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MLK Day of Service

Monday, January 18, 2010



If you haven't posted your MLK Day projects or events yet, please list them as soon as possible on www.volunteeriowa.org. We've got some exciting service projects taking place across the state. Within the Iowa Department of Human Rights, VISTA members are sponsoring a compassion drive benefitting new

Iowans and a food drive in targeted cities. In Waterloo, hundreds of adults will read to children and provide them with a free book to keep. Students across the state submitted essays on what it means to make a difference. VISTA members in Sioux City will judge the various art pieces entered into the MLK Art Contest.

Happy Birthday to You!

December Birthdays

Mikel Johnson: 4th

Sarah Marfisi: 20th

January Birthdays

Molly Pim: 7th

Anna McGlaun: 8th

February Birthdays

Jay Walton: 1st

Renae Hohensee: 20th



VISTA Member Conference Call

We will be holding our next VISTA Member conference call on Wednesday, January 27 at noon. Please RSVP by email to E.B. at Elizabeth.Debruin@iowa.gov. A location for the Des Moines area VISTA members will be announced later.

VISTA Supervisor Conference Call

We will be holding our next VISTA conference call for supervisors at noon on Wednesday, February 3, 2010. Please RSVP by email to Crystal by noon on February 3rd .

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Snapshot of Current VISTA Projects

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Amy Daniels (Juvenile Justice): newsletter; social networking sites; MLK event; working with State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council; websites; start-up of a small business for rural homeless youth

EB DeBruin (Iowa Civil Rights): websites; grant research; ADA events; marketing efforts; social media and widgets; Toys for Tots campaign; assistance on publications for MLK Day of Service

Jarrold Feld (Fort Dodge): Facebook page; website; MLK essay contest; research about possible 501(c)3 designation for diversity team; community garden; community assessment survey

Austin Granzow (Sioux City): Human Rights Day, MLK Art Contest, fair housing trainings, website and social networking sites

Teramie Hill (Sioux City): pro-bono lawyers program, Human Rights Day, Kwanzaa, fair housing training

Renaeh Hohensee (Sioux City): grant; public accommodation case testing; Human Rights Day; fair housing trainings; Kwanzaa; forum on racism and discrimination

Jordan Homer (Des Moines): "Retaining Rights in a Recession" talks; youth commission; fair housing training and outreach

Josh Kriz (Ames): finished and filed 501(c)3 form; strategic plan; youth community service program; homeless community garden; community conversations; neighborhood summit; fundraising

Kerry Lao (Immigration): immigration news; grant research; newsletter; websites; social networking sites; organizational records

Otumbra Madison (African Americans): youth ambassadors program; MLK food drive; research on African American statistics; blog

Carolina Manjarrez (Latino Affairs): statewide directory of services for Latinos; Census 2010 outreach; newsletter; website; conducting a compassion drive to gather items for refugees and immigrants

Sarah Marfisi: New Year's Eve Celebration, grants

Anna McGlaun (Iowa Civil Rights): ADA Celebration; youth commission; website; Toys for Tots

Susan Moore (Sioux City): MLK Art Project; grants; partnerships with local non-profits; planning public accommodation case testing; Universal Human Rights Day; Kwanzaa celebration; fair housing training

Matthew Mundell (Des Moines): "Retaining Rights in a Recession" talks; youth commission; fair housing trainings; city-wide accessibility/disability accommodations study; newsletter; website

Katie Petrak (Iowa Civil Rights): "Retaining Rights in a Recession" talks; coffee talks for Latino community; MLK Day of Service assistance; Toys for Tots campaign; ADA Celebration preparation; website and widgets

Molly Pim (Service Projects): MLK Day of Service

Mandie Pirog (Theater Program): brochures; evaluation forms; large and small grants; Native American workshops to students; planning workshops for Asian/Lunar New Year; in-kind donations

Ike Rayford (Sioux City): Human Rights Day; photos; Kwanzaa; NAACP meeting; disability nonprofit; grant partnerships; fair housing outreach and education; Native American march

Heather Roberts (Davenport): coffee talks focusing on African Americans and Native Americans; Human Rights Day event; newsletter; fair housing guide and comic book; community mural project; MLK programs; 20th Anniversary of ADA; research on Native American medicine wheel; PSA

Crystal Schrader (Iowa Civil Rights): office manuals; archives; websites; Facebook; grant research; VISTA reports; Toys for Tots campaign; overhaul of office phone system; partnership with deaf community; research on civil rights topics; lesson plans for PreK-12 students; refugee resettlement and acculturation research; blog

Aung See (Asians): invitation cards; PowerPoint presentation on refugee process; needs assessment for refugee community; website

Heather Stanley (Latino Affairs): updating websites; conducting a compassion drive to gather items for refugees and immigrants; assisting with annual conference of Women of Color Advisory Network

Nick Stuber (University of Iowa Center on Human Rights): Know Your Rights training; online newsletter; planning of lecture series; immigration law outreach program; MLK week celebrations; research the "state" of the disability community in Iowa; speakers bureau; website

Jay Walton (Native American): MLK Day of Service; brochure

Teresa Wasko (Waterloo): anti-bullying/racism service learning activity for middle school students; MLK reading service project; human rights award luncheon; websites

Nick Yannias (Aging): pilot project to provide education and outreach around the issue of dependent adult abuse; ADA Celebration

We encourage everyone to connect with your colleagues who are working on similar projects or who are doing something that would benefit your community too. Contact information of VISTA members can be found on the Iowa Human & Civil Rights VISTA Project website. Together we can end discrimination in Iowa.