



September 2009

Iowa Human & Civil Rights VISTA Project

A Project of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission

Featured Event: Book Drive

Molly Pim, coordinator of Statewide Service Projects, co-organized a children's book drive as part of the 9/11 Day of Remembrance and Service. Partnering with other service organizations, Molly placed donation boxes throughout the city of Des Moines for people to drop off new or gently used books.



The hundreds of books then went to schools, shelters, and refugee resettlement programs. The next statewide service project will be the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in January. For more information about how to organize a book drive or to participate in the MLK Day of Service, please contact Molly at Molly.Pim@iowa.gov.

Assistance Requested

In October, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission will be completing its six month progress report for the Iowa Human & Civil Rights VISTA Project. During the first week of October, every VISTA site will receive a form asking about the programs, successes, stories, obstacles, and statistics for that site. Please start gathering any photos, publications, press releases, or website links that you would like highlighted in the progress report. Our VISTA project is currently one of 24 finalists for a national award on innovations in government. Let's celebrate the wonderful projects that all the VISTAs do throughout the state and continue to find ways to end discrimination and poverty, protect people's human and civil rights, and promote diversity.

Happy Birthday!

- Jordan Homer: September 2
- Shylo Bundy: September 8
- Austin Granzow: September 20
- Carolina Manjarrez: October 1
- Crystal Schrader: October 3
- Nick Yannias: October 9
- Geof Fischer: October 13



We Welcome Our Newest Members

- Abi Cahak: Dubuque Human Rights Commission
- Teramie Hill: Sioux City Human Rights Commission
- Josh Kriz: Ames Community Conversations on Diversity
- Sarah Marfisi: Council Bluffs Civil Rights Commission
- Heather Roberts: Davenport Human Rights Commission
- Jay Walton: Commission on Native American Affairs
- Teresa Wasko: Waterloo Commission on Human Rights

Upcoming Events

October 1: Commissioner Training and League Meeting

The commissioner training will take place from 10:00—2:00 at Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino in Altoona, right outside of Des Moines. Lunch will be provided. The quarterly League meeting will follow from 2:00—3:30. The League of Iowa Human Rights Agencies is an informal network of all the state and local human and civil rights commissions. Agenda topics will include the election of officers (non-VISTA members), learning about the restructuring and legislative bills of the Iowa Department of Human Rights, and a roundtable discussion about events, issues, and concerns of the local commissions.

October 19: Iowa Mosaic Diversity Conference

The conference will take place at Iowa State University in Ames. This is a statewide conference devoted to diversity issues in Iowa. Registration is \$100. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission will not be covering the cost of the registration fee. If VISTA members would like to attend, they need to talk with their local sites to see if there is funding available. For more information about the conference, please visit <http://www.iowamosaic.org/>.

October 29-30: Grant Writing Training

The Iowa Human & Civil Rights VISTA Project is offering a two-day grant writing training at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Reimbursement will be provided for mileage, food, and lodging. The training will run from 8:30—5:00 each day with a couple hours of homework on the 29th. Participants will receive an information packet closer to the training. We thank Nick Stuber for his assistance in arranging the event. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Crystal at crystal.schrader@iowa.gov.