

AmeriCorps Week is March 7-13. AmeriCorps engage 270,000 Americans each year in sustained, results-driven service through AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs. These dedicated citizens help communities impacted by COVID-19, ensure students stay on track to graduate, combat hunger and homelessness, respond to natural disasters, fight the opioid epidemic, help seniors live independently, support veterans and military families, and much more.

Please join Center for Community Action in thanking all AmeriCorps volunteers, especially AmeriCorps Seniors serving in RSVP of Blair and Huntingdon Counties.



AmeriCorps Seniors serving at RSVP shared their thoughts about why they give their time and energy to help in their communities.



Jill Smeltzer (l) serving at Meals on Wheels of Huntingdon: “I can help others who can’t cook for themselves. And I have fun working and socializing with the other volunteers.”



Bob Dewese (r) serving at Blair Senior Services, Inc. and Contact Altoona: “I volunteer because I enjoy it and it helps other people. I recently began serving at Contact Altoona and find that making calls to clients to remind them to take their medications really benefits them and gives them a chance to talk to someone.”

Pat Gildea (l) serving at Garvey Manor: “I look forward to doing something each day and there is always a need for help. Right now, I am a telephone buddy making calls to Garvey residents to help keep them connected. But I think I benefit the most because I gain new friends and learn new things.”



Joni Garber (r) serving at Penn Highlands Huntingdon: “Since I retired, I have been volunteering and love it. We are servants of God who calls us to be His shepherds. There is no better feeling then helping others.”

Gini Anslinger (l) serving at Altoona Food Bank: “I started volunteering through a club in high school and felt satisfaction in helping people. So, I kept volunteering at different places and ended up helping the past 14 years at the food bank which is a much-needed service for people in our area.”



Frank Challan (r) serving at Meals on Wheels of Huntingdon: “I have been helping for 17 years at Meals on Wheels. I started when my wife Jean (who has served 20 years) called me and said they were short-handed and asked me to help. I enjoy cooking and providing the service of getting food ready for others. We all work as a team to provide this wonderful service.”

Patti Isenberg (l) serving at Center for Community Action: “Volunteering gives life purpose. It’s giving and receiving...care, love, friendships. I’ve learned so much from volunteering and hope I’ve given as much as I’ve received.”



Paulette Davis (r) serving at Blair Senior Services, Inc. and United Way of Blair County: “After I retired, I could have easily turned into a hermit. I felt that signing up to be a VITA (*Volunteer Income Tax Assistance*) volunteer would help to keep me active mentally and socially. I can honestly say after 8 years of volunteering it really was a good decision. The satisfaction of helping your community is immeasurable.”

John Hoover (l) serving at Contact Altoona: “I volunteer because I believe in the need for what I’m volunteering for. To be the voice that connects with others to be their contact support.”



Nellie Wright (r) serving at Fort Roberdeau: “I have had a lifelong love of history that was encouraged by my father who was a history buff and our family vacations that were to places of historical significance. I think it is important to share American history, especially with young people who can see it come to life at Fort Roberdeau.”

Linda Smith (l) serving at Huntingdon County Register and Recorder Office: “Having worked in law offices most of my 50 years of employment, volunteering to work for Jinny Cooper would not only get me back into the legal environment, but also to help accomplish a worthwhile goal (*preparing historic records for digitization.*) And Jinny is such a kind and caring individual.”

