

April 1, 2021



# COMMUNITY CARES

TCAC AmeriCorps Newsletter — April

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## Making an Impact with a sense of Community

As defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary, community simply means, "a unified body of individuals." In our current world, how do we navigate to find a sense of community?

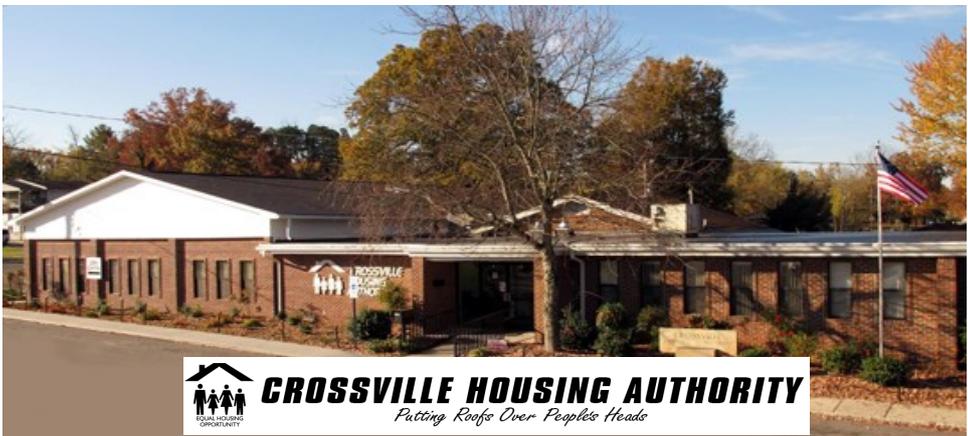
For so many, members bridge the gap between isolation and community. AmeriCorps members provide a diverse range of services for the individuals they serve. Community Cares AmeriCorps members have the ability to dive into any situation and make the best of it, learn from it, and serve with their fullest potential. These members see a need, and seek action to take care of that need. To anyone on the outside looking in, they just see a person

helping another, however what they don't know is how this service is providing an immediate change to that individuals life. During AmeriCorps week, the TCAC AmeriCorps Team was able to see the impact these members have, and the lives they are changing for the better.

Families that might go unnoticed or hungry, because they don't know about the resources that are available to help them... They now have food, and are provided with direct services from a Community Cares AmeriCorps member. Because that member took the initiative to make sure those individuals were cared for. Members are making waves to continue making their communities smarter, safer, and healthier.

No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.

Robin Williams



Crossville Housing Authority—Winner of National Service Recognition Day  
\*Pictured above, Crossville Housing Authority's main office building.

## National Service Recognition Day (NSRD) — Winner!!

TCAC AmeriCorps team set out to find the perfect candidate for NSRD. We were able to narrow it down to two potential sites Western Heights Baptist Center in Knoxville, TN and Crossville Housing Authority in Crossville, TN. It was a close poll, but Crossville won by a landslide.

Becky Davis, CHA Resident Coordinator and Site Supervisor to AmeriCorps members at CHA

had nothing but great things to say about her past and present members and their services to Crossville Housing Authority and Cumberland County. "CHA has hosted AmeriCorps members for more than 10 years and their motto of "Getting Things Done" has been instrumental in helping the residents of Cumberland County." Members have served within CHA's programs by providing services year-round for all ages. During the school year, children are transported from school, to the Gateway Education Building, and then home. While the children are in attendance at Gateway they're given a snack, provided with homework help, and arts and crafts.



Pictured Sheila R. (right) assisting a student with a project during their afterschool program.

The summers at CHA are similar to the school year, but more time is spent with the children. Young kids to teenagers are able to participate in activities like bowling, swimming, museum trips, and so

much more. CHA even provides a summer camp to give them a fun productive day outside, rather than one indoors. Elderly individuals in the Crossville community are able to age in place due to members being their to provide them with wellness checks, light housekeeping, running errands, helping with meal preparation and delivering commodities.



Pictured Cindy S. (right) assisting an elderly resident with her morning coffee.

# SERVICE MATTERS

## AmeriCorps Week: What's your Why?

We have seen what members are doing to keep their communities thriving during the pandemic and beyond. They're "getting things done" and teaching others how they can join in and get things done too. On one of our many stops during AmeriCorps week, in Cookeville we saw the devastation from the tornados, a year later, and how a community can band together and rebuild to become stronger. We have also seen a change in children with after school programs that aren't completely virtual. They're so thankful to get out from behind the computer screen. This is why service matters. This is our WHY.

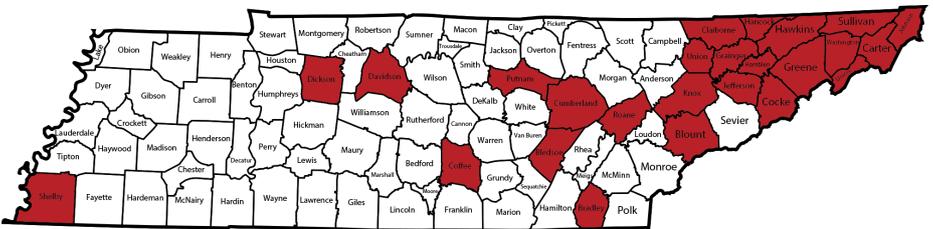
AmeriCorps members take their pledge and lead with it everyday in their service. To all of them, their service is second nature, because it is within their hearts to be who they are and take care of individuals that need it. The impact these members have on the people they serve is astonishing. They're changing lives one child and one elder at a time. The pictures below are a small snippet of what these members do on a daily basis and show a window into where they serve.



**We aim to SERVE!**



## Tennessee Counties served by TCAC Community Cares AmeriCorps Members!



### What does AmeriCorps service mean to you?

please respond to this question by email to  
 "americorps@tcac1.org"  
 for your story to be featured here.



Community Cares

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 6th**

National Service Recognition Day!

On National Service Recognition Day, thousands of local and national leaders take time to honor AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers by participating in recognition events, issuing official proclamations, and taking to social media in a nationwide show of appreciation.

Mayors and city leaders, county officials, and Tribal leaders across the country are using national service more and more to solve problems in their communities. On Recognition Day, these local elected officials thank national service members for making their communities stronger.

Upcoming **April** Birthdays!—



**Cynthia S.**

will be celebrating a birthday on the **April 7th!** She serves at Crossville Housing Authority.

## JUST FOR FUN —

"Everybody's doing it, SEA-DOO!" A lot of older generations, may remember the catchy Sea-Doo commercials from the 90s donning this catchy phrase in song, "Everybody's doing it!" This phrase still holds meaning aside from Sea-Doo's.. Is everybody doing it? Are you on the app that has captivated entire generations with interesting, entertaining, educational and sometimes scary videos? Since September 2018, TikTok usage among US adults has increased exponentially (doubling) by reaching 14.3 million in just six months. In less than 18 months, the number of US adult TikTok users grew 5.5 times. There have been quite a few videos posted to TikTok that involve someone playing on or watching videos through a Virtual Reality (VR) headset. Is this the future of all gaming? These VR headsets are so submersible, so much so you can purchase different accessories to enhance your Virtual Reality experience. Need to walk in the game, but may struggle with walking in place, you can now buy a VR treadmill to keep up with movements in-game!

Will you check out **TikTok** or **VR**?



## Does your Service Site Need Donations?

TCAC Depot is here to help! Our Depot staff and Depot Director, Missy Ayers, strive to serve their community and assist others through good will. Please contact Missy by email at [missy@tcac1.org](mailto:missy@tcac1.org) or by phone call with the Depot phone number (423) 586-9982

