

June 30, 2021

AmeriCorps



Community Cares

# COMMUNITY CARES

TCAC AmeriCorps Newsletter -- July

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## “As We Go On...”

We remember all the times we had together. As our lives change, come whatever.. We will still be friends forever.” We all have had the most drastic life changing experience from last year up until now (and beyond). AmeriCorps members experienced the detriments of 2020, came out on top starting 2021, and are ready to take the world by storm in 2022. These participants truly know the meaning of “as we go on.” Community Cares AmeriCorps members have persevered through adversity, just as the AmeriCorps pledge states. Experience from the last service year will compare to no other year prior, nor after. We all have

had to adapt, and roll with every punch 2020 threw at us, no matter if that “punch” was a papercut or a tsunami.

Despite all challenges, they still got out there, served, and delivered. Some provided teleservices for those who couldn't go out to see beneficiaries face-to-face. Members were able to discuss changes in mental health with training that was sent from AmeriCorps staff, and provide up-to-date COVID-19 information to those who couldn't get it elsewhere. We've continued on, no matter what. We helped American citizens continue living independently, and helped youth cope with virtual learning.

Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.

**Hal Borland**



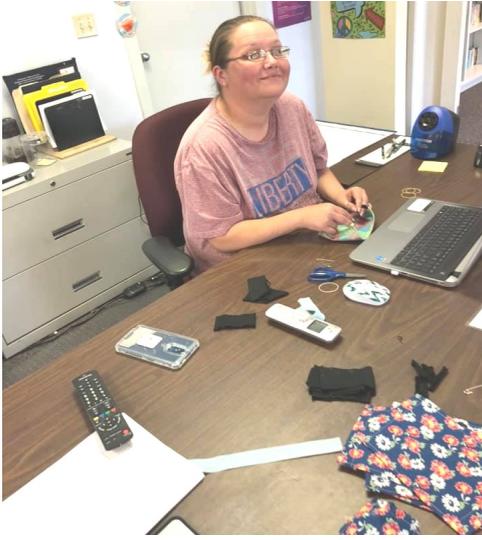
## Facts about the Fourth of July you may not have ever known!

- Would you believe the first “4th of July” celebration on July 4th, 1776 was.. fairly quiet (as far as fireworks go)? John Adams wrote a letter to his wife predicting an annual Fourth of July celebration, and he specifically stated the tradition: Fireworks. He wrote the holiday would be celebrated, “with illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward, forevermore.” July 4th, 1777 fireworks illuminated the sky.
- The Declaration of Independence was not signed July 4th, 1776 as one might think... It was signed by all 56 signers by August 2nd, 1776
- George Washington liked to celebrate the holiday with a multitude of rum, so much so... he ordered double rations of rum for his soldiers still fighting in the Revolutionary War.
- What's the MOST American dessert? APPLE PIE. It's become a tradition of Americans to serve apple pie for desert on the Fourth of July because of the colonists who first came to America. They found it easy to make with the bountiful supply of apples for the filling and the recipes from Dutch immigrants to make a flakey crust.



“The Spirit of 1776” by artist Archibald MacNeal Willard

# SERVICE MATTERS



Featured here are three members that are driven to make and **BE** the change. Jammie, Lakie, and Liz. These AmeriCorps members are walking out of their final terms of service. Jammie Smith, (pictured left) consecutively served four terms with Community Cares AmeriCorps at Morristown Housing Authority. In this picture, Jammie has fabric and elastic to help make masks for the Morristown Housing Authority Residents. Not only did Jammie make masks, she has assisted children with their virtual in-school learning,

and afterschool tutoring. She has also served elders with commodities and warm meals, as well as teaching them how to navigate to websites on the internet with the computers in the computer lab. Featured (from left to right) Lakie Hensley and Liz Roller. They each provided wellness checks to the elderly and disabled residents of Johnson City Housing Community. They both made life-long lasting friendships with residents they cared for. Lakie stated once she began to serve in AmeriCorps, "Your stereotypes change, when you're surrounded by people, their stories, and their paths of life.. It made my own insecurities and thoughts change. It's not us (members) making the change, it's the people." AmeriCorps has not only changed the lives of those served, but it also changes the lives of those serving.



A big **THANK YOU** for your dedication and service in AmeriCorps from TCAC AmeriCorps Staff and all Community Cares AmeriCorps members for serving the Johnson City and Morristown areas.



Pictured from left to right — La'Trece Willis- AmeriCorps Member, Becca Grubb- AmeriCorps Director, Hayley Davis – AmeriCorps Coordinator, Shaquawana Wester - Youth Program Coordinator & AmeriCorps Alumni.

The TCAC AmeriCorps staff were on a mission during AmeriCorps Week 2021 to serve alongside some of these amazing members. AmeriCorps staff had the pleasure of assisting these women on one of their weekly "bread runs." We gave away bread and pastries donated by local bake shops, grocery stores, and Panera Bread.

# SERVICE MATTERS CONT.

More from AmeriCorps Week & NSRD—



<Crossville Housing Authority—Members on National Service Recognition Day (from L to R): Sheila Ryba, Cindy Simmons & Becca Grubb



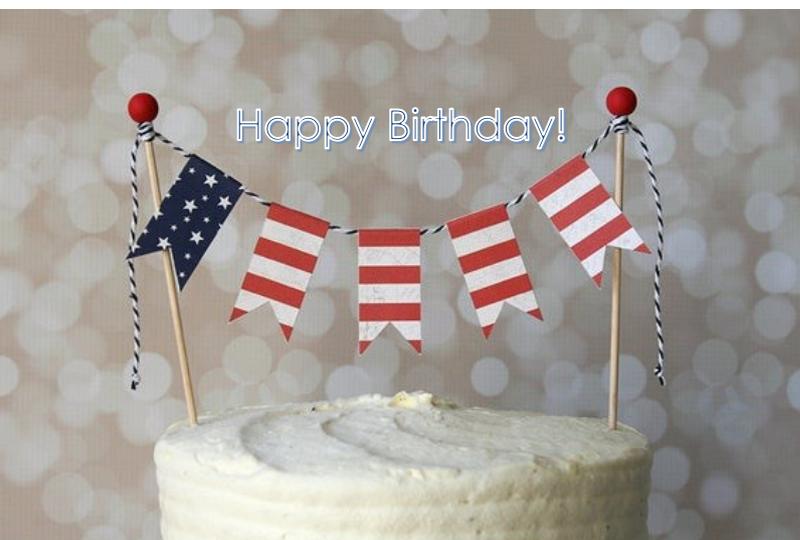
^ Western Heights Baptist Center—During their afterschool youth enrichment program.



^ Newport Housing Authority — Denise standing outside of the Boutique and looking to see what books have been placed in the Neighborhood Book Exchange box.

(From L to R standing) Allison Wilder-Site Supervisor, Shannon Washam-Director, Javarius Harris-AmeriCorps Member, Bethany Braden-AmeriCorps Member

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Upcoming **July** Birthdays!—

**Bethany B.**

will be celebrating a birthday on the **28th!** She serves at Western Heights Baptist Center

### August

Time to hop back on track! TCAC AmeriCorps staff will be conducting Member and Supervisor Orientation starting **Monday, August 16th** through **Wednesday, August 18th** we will be kicking off our 2021-2022 program year with **virtual** member orientation and site supervisor training. This is **MANDATORY** for all participants and supervising staff to attend on their specific dates.

More details will come via email for re-enrolling members, site supervisors and anyone joining for the first time.

# Happy Independence Day Everyone!

## JUST FOR FUN —

Now go watch America's Movie! Many friends and family members gather together on the Fourth of July/Independence Day to eat barbeque and launch fireworks! Some, can't go without watching the famous "Independence Day" movie (Almost like watching "A Christmas Story" on Christmas Day). Independence Day was released in theatres July 3rd, 1996 to an unknowing crowd what would happen in the film.. This action packed thriller encompasses fear and patriotism in not only the United States but the entire world. For those who haven't seen it.. soldiers have to fight for life as we know it as well as our independence back from an unknown race. Prior to the largest fight in this fictional American history a speech is given... This speech has always been such a "get up and go do it!" The chills that come from it!! Please read some of our "American History" from this speech. "Independence Day" or watch the video by clicking the link below the picture of President Whitmore.



Pictured— Bill Pullman as President Thomas J. Whitmore in the 1996 Independence Day film. — Click the link [https://youtu.be/9t1IK\\_9apWs](https://youtu.be/9t1IK_9apWs) to watch the speech.

"Good morning. In less than an hour, aircraft from here will join others from around the world. And you will be launching the largest aerial battle in this history of mankind.

Mankind -- that word should have new meaning for all of us today.

We can't be consumed by our petty differences anymore.

We will be united in our common interests.

Perhaps its fate that today is the 4th of July, and you will once again be fighting for our freedom, not from tyranny, oppression, or persecution -- but from annihilation.

We're fighting for our right to live, to exist.

And should we win the day, the 4th of July will no longer be known as an American holiday, but as the day when the world declared in one voice:

"We will not go quietly into the night!

We will not vanish without a fight!

We're going to live on!

We're going to survive!"

**Today, we celebrate our Independence Day!**



**TCAC Depot** will be closed for inventory starting 7/01 until 7/02 and will be closed 7/05 in observance of Independence Day.

**TCAC Offices** will be closed Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day.