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Santa Maria Community Services Project Advance Celebrates AmeriCorps Week
Annual AmeriCorps Week recognizes AmeriCorps members and alumni for their service

Cincinnati, OH – Next week, Project Advance will join hundreds of volunteers across Ohio to celebrate AmeriCorps Week (March 7-13) and the valuable contributions of the AmeriCorps members who pledged to "get things done" in their communities.

"We are proud to be part of AmeriCorps and grateful for the AmeriCorps members who are getting things done for Ohio," said Hunter Lang, Director of Santa Maria's Project Advance AmeriCorps program. "AmeriCorps members have made a significant impact on Ohio's ability to meet so many local needs in education, employment, health and housing, and AmeriCorps Week is a perfect opportunity to recognize their great work," Lang said.

AmeriCorps Week also honors the contributions and support of local organizations that make AmeriCorps programs possible by hosting AmeriCorps members. In Cincinnati, AmeriCorps members are serving in the community by providing direct service to individuals in need of housing, education, health and employment assistance at local community service and non-profit agencies.

Last year, more than 900 AmeriCorps members served at nearly 500 schools, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations across Ohio dedicating more than 1.2 million hours of service. These members were awarded more than $4.2 million in education awards to use toward continued education or student loan repayment.

Mary Pickett

"I like that I serve in a community I live in," said Mary Pickett, two-term Santa Maria AmeriCorps Member. "I remember my first few months of service, I was sitting at the bus stop and a woman waiting for the bus with me started talking to me and in the midst of our conversation, she said how Santa Maria had helped her," Mary said. "It influenced me to want to do another term to see how Santa Maria impacts my community."

AmeriCorps members have played a critical role in the recovery of local communities. They also tutor and mentor young people, connect veterans to jobs, care for seniors, reduce crime, fight the opioid epidemic, and meet other critical needs.

A [growing body of research](#) shows that service has an effect on more than just the communities served, but also on the members themselves. AmeriCorps alumni credit their year of service for developing leadership skills that bridges divides, solves problems and opens doors to opportunities that advance their careers and education. In addition, research shows that alumni gain skills and are exposed to experiences that communities and employers find valuable.

AmeriCorps programming is administered locally by ServeOhio, the state's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit [ServeOhio.org/AmeriCorps](#). To apply to Santa Maria's AmeriCorps program, go to [santamaria-cincy.org/americorps-program/](#).

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About ServeOhio
ServeOhio is the state's Commission on Service and Volunteerism created to empower local communities to mobilize AmeriCorps members and volunteer resources for the purpose of building a stronger Ohio. ServeOhio increases the effective utilization of AmeriCorps members and community volunteers working to address the state's frontline issues in education, health and economic opportunity. Interested participants may learn more about ServeOhio at [www.serveohio.org](#), or on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About AmeriCorps
AmeriCorps, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture. Learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov](#).

About Santa Maria Community Services
Santa Maria Community Services is an independent, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Cincinnati Ohio's Price Hill community. Santa Maria is a catalyst and advocate for Greater Price Hill families to attain their educational, financial, and health goals. The agency provides more than 3,000 individuals with the educational tools and resources to build strong families, promote healthy residents, and foster neighborhood revitalization. Santa Maria's vision is for Price Hill to be a vibrant, thriving, and self-sustaining community. For more information, please visit [https://www.santamaria-cincy.org/](#).