

ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report is a comprehensive summary of the commission's activities throughout the preceding year. Annual reports are intended to give constituents and the North Carolina community information about the commission's activities and performance. In this report there is information about our AmeriCorps programs, funding and grants, the Governor's page program, the Governor's Volunteer Service award, disaster preparedness, disaster response, and much more.



VOLUNTEERNC

Created in 1994, the N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service promotes service and volunteering to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement in North Carolina. The Commission oversees the state AmeriCorps programs, disaster volunteers and donations, the Governor's Page Program, the Governor's Volunteer Awards and promotes volunteer initiatives. The work of the commission staff is supported by a 17 member Commission that meets quarterly.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2022 was an incredible year for the NC Commission on Volunteerism Community Service, also known as VolunteerNC. I am honored to serve as the Executive Director of VolunteerNC, as we continue to grow and thrive with

our AmeriCorps Programs, disaster response and recovery work, Governor's Page Program, and the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. Our programs, commissioners, staff, and partners continue to touch the lives of North Carolinians every day in the areas of education, climate resilience, ending homelessness and abuse, promoting health, enhancing volunteer efforts, providing nonprofit and disaster trainings, engaging youth, and much more.

We are pleased to present our annual report, which includes summaries of our work and highlights an incredible year of service. I am excited to continue working to achieve our mission of 'promoting service and volunteering to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement in North Carolina.'

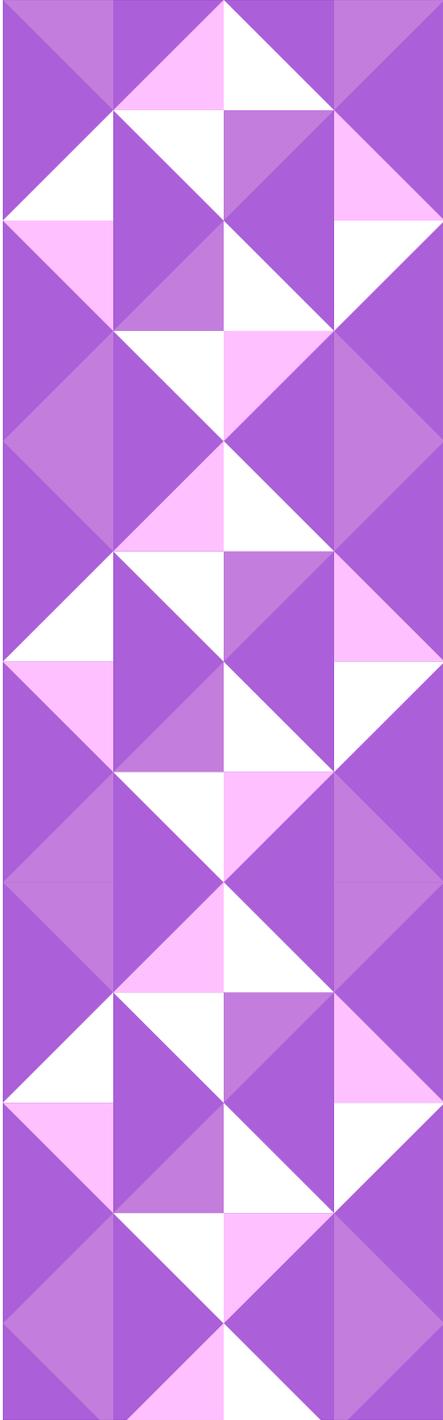
We look forward to another great year in service.

Thank you,

S. Briles Johnson

S. Briles Johnson

Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



It's been my honor to serve as the Chair of the Commission this past year. Our Commissioners come from all over North Carolina, and they all share a passion for public service. North Carolina has a remarkable culture of

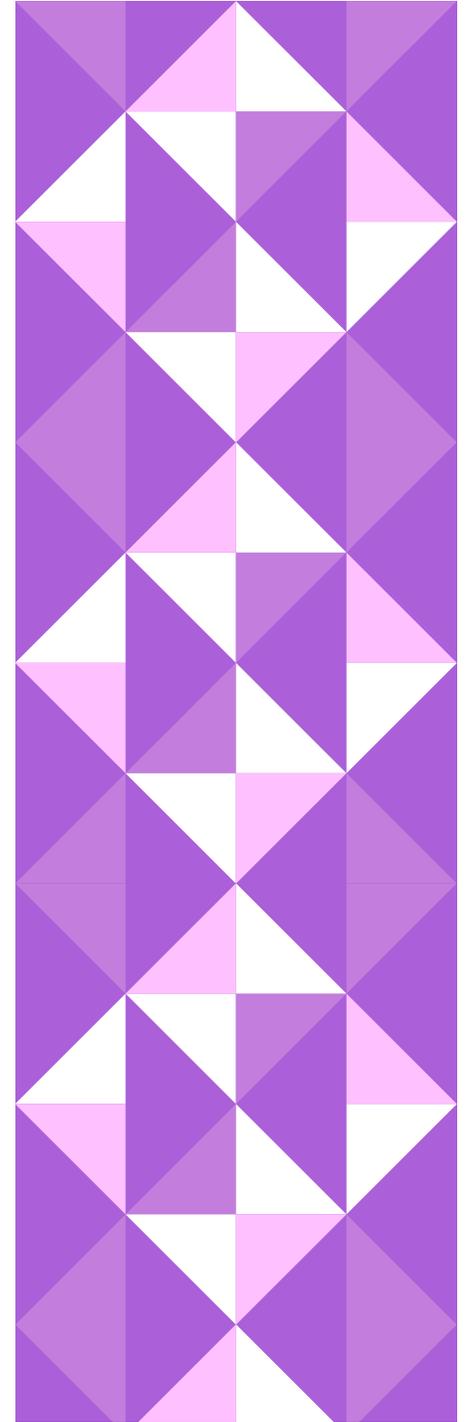
service. It's evident in the hundreds of AmeriCorps Members who serve our state every year, mentoring young people, guiding youth toward their college dreams, supporting public health, and much more. When disaster strikes our coast, our citizens turn out to help, and the VolunteerNC staff are there to help coordinate it. We see the passion for public service in the eyes of the youth in the Governor's Page Program. And I especially see our state's commitment to service when we present the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards each year. It's humbling to see the compassion and time committed by our award winners. I'm grateful for all in North Carolina who serve. I'm especially thankful for the staff of VolunteerNC, and our Executive Director, Briles Johnson, for all they do to lead our state in service. May we continue to serve this great state together!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Blosser".

Rev. Dr. Joseph Blosser

Commission Chair



STATE SERVICE PLAN (SSP)

VolunteerNC develops a three-year State Service Plan aimed at utilizing service and volunteerism as a solution to the most pressing needs facing North Carolina. This plan reflects the strategy of the Commission with regard to the coordination of national service and volunteer service activities across the state. Our 2022-2024 State Service Plan has 4 priority areas:



National Service



Older Adults



Disaster



Volunteerism

SSP PROGRESS

VolunteerNC has already taken steps to complete the State Service Plan. Below are a few of the actions in the plan as well as the ways we have worked to address them.

State Service Plan Action

What We Did



Conduct outreach to encourage youth service programs and highlight the benefits of youth service.

We provided Volunteer Generation Fund grants to organizations promoting youth service programs, and conducted outreach for youth service programs.



Sponsor and support training for volunteer center staff and volunteers.

We produced new lunch and learns, and surveyed partners to see what training topics would be most beneficial.



Work with Emergency Management, VOAD, Human Services, Businesses, Nonprofits, and FEMA to manage logistics and solve unmet needs

We met at the Emergency Operations center during the State of Emergency, and supported the implementation of a new donations management platform.



*To see the complete State Service Plan, visit our website at [nc.gov/volunteer](https://www.nc.gov/volunteer)



SERVICE INITIATIVES

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The Governor's School Supply Drive ran from August 1 to August 31, 2022. VolunteerNC joined State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) and Communities In Schools of North Carolina to collect and deliver the school supplies. In 2022, VolunteerNC helped coordinate volunteers for around 60 counties and 73 school districts, ensuring that all students had the supplies needed to succeed.



STATE EMPLOYEES' COMBINED CAMPAIGN (SECC)



VolunteerNC heads the State Employees' Combined Campaign committee for the Office of the Governor. SECC is an annual workplace giving campaign for state employees. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage state employees to invest in the critical needs of their communities. The Executive Director serves as the chair of the SECC committee and several staff members serve on the committee.

LUNCH AND LEARNS

In 2022 we continued our Lunch and Learn series. This series is an important tool we provide in collaboration with community partners such as The Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center and the Office of Strategic Partnerships.



To see the 2022 Lunch and Learn series head to [youtube.com/@volunteernc5675/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@volunteernc5675/videos)



FUNDING AND GRANTS

VolunteerNC receives funding from the AmeriCorps agency to support AmeriCorps NC programs and provide capacity-building services to local nonprofits. In 2022, we received more than \$6.5 million in funding that was matched by significant financial support from local communities and partners. We facilitate two grants -- AmeriCorps program grants, and Volunteer Generation Fund grants.



AMERICORPS PROGRAM GRANTS



AmeriCorps NC programs help to meet our state's most critical needs. Programs compete on a state and national level for AmeriCorps grant funding. For the 2021-2022 program year, AmeriCorps North Carolina programs were awarded \$6,530,725 in funding.

VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND GRANTS

Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grants are used to develop and support community-based entities to recruit, manage, and support volunteers.

VolunteerNC distributed \$321,028 in VGF grants for the 2021-2022 year.



2022 AMERICORPS NC PROGRAMS

AmeriCorps NC programs meet the critical and unique needs of North Carolinians. Between the 2021 - 2022 and 2022 - 2023 program years, we funded and supported 22 programs. Our programs provided a variety of services in areas such as environmental protection, education, and public health.



THE PROGRAMS



THE NUMBERS



2022 AMERICORPS NC EVENTS

START UP TRAINING



VolunteerNC welcomed staff from twenty-one AmeriCorps NC programs, including 5 new programs, to Raleigh for a two day Start Up Training. This training is held each year to ensure program staff have the tools necessary for a successful year. Presentations were led by VolunteerNC staff, consultants, and AmeriCorps NC program directors.

2022 - 2023 AMERICORPS MEMBER LAUNCH

In October, the 2022 AmeriCorps Member Launch returned to an in-person format in Greensboro, North Carolina. Over 200 AmeriCorps NC members attended sessions on workplace communication, budgeting, leadership, and volunteer management. Members also heard remarks from Sonali Nijhawan and Caroline Ledlie from the AmeriCorps agency.

Sonali Nijhawan, AmeriCorps State and National director awarded the President's Volunteer Service Awards to seven volunteers who served thousands of hours in multiple organizations. President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement honorees were: Ghaisha Yahaya-Mohamed, Leonard Ronk, and Mike Sweeney. The President's Volunteer Service Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards were bestowed upon: Ann Lassiter, Barbara Thomas, Jimmy Bender, and Tina Falker.



2022 AMERICORPS NC VGF SUBGRANTEES



The Volunteer Generation Fund grant is funded by the AmeriCorps agency. VGF grants support efforts that expand the capacity of volunteer organizations to recruit, manage, support and retain individuals to serve in high quality volunteer positions. Subgrantees applied for the grant in 7 different program areas: training, service enterprise initiative, corporate engagement, volunteer expo, youth engagement, COVID-19, and disaster response.



THE SUBGRANTEES



THE NUMBERS



 **10,585**
Volunteers Recruited

 **43,306**
Hours Volunteered

 **45**
Unique counties served



DISASTER

VolunteerNC is the state's lead agency for unsolicited donations and volunteers during disaster response and recovery. We work closely with NC Emergency Management (NCEM), NC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NCVOAD) and other entities to distribute resources to affected communities. We facilitate disaster-related trainings and presentations to improve preparedness among our community partners. We also support NCEM CERT by promoting their Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT). In 2022, we welcomed a new staff member in the role of Disaster Services Manager, Luz Sanabria-Reyes.



The commission's disaster initiatives in 2022 included the development of a disaster playbook, attendance at disaster conferences, participation in Hurricane Preparedness Expos in Duplin, Columbus, New Hanover, Pender, and Pitt Counties. In addition, we supported the implementation of the NeedsList platform (a virtual tool for donations and volunteer management), conducted CERT training for AmeriCorps programs, responded at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) during Hurricane Ian, and supported emergency efforts in Florida. The Commission continues to partner with the North Carolina Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (NC VOAD), and the active Long-term recovery groups.



GOVERNOR'S PAGE PROGRAM

The North Carolina Governor's Page Program gives high school students from all over North Carolina the opportunity to come to Raleigh for a week of hands-on participation in their state government. Pages meet with leaders in state government, tour historic sites, create a policy proposal, and plan a service project. In 2022, the program returned to an in-person format for the first time since 2020. The commission welcomed a new Governor's Page Coordinator, Erinn Foote, in 2022.



GOVERNOR'S PAGE RECEPTION

On November 17th, the Governor's page program held the first ever Governor's page reception. Pages from all program years were invited, as well as program speakers from various departments. The event was an outstanding opportunity to network. Governor Cooper, First Lady Cooper, Executive Director Briles Johnson, and program coordinator Erinn Foote provided remarks. North Carolina State Senator Sarah Crawford was honored as the alumni speaker for the event. The program celebrated the dedication of all Governor's pages – past and present.



SPECIAL PAGE WEEKS

Special page weeks are weeks reserved for groups. The purpose of a special page week is to ensure that the Governor's page program represents North Carolina's diverse communities. In 2022, we facilitated three different special page weeks: Tarheel ChalleNGe, SaySO, and American Indian Future Leaders week.

TARHEEL CHALLENGE: SEPT 12-15



The Tarheel ChalleNGe is the North Carolina chapter of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, which offers values, life skills and personal development to "at-risk" youth. The cadets met with Secretary of the Department of Public Safety, Eddie Buffaloe.

STRONG ABLE YOUTH SPEAKING OUT (SAYSO) : OCT 3-6

SaySO is a statewide organization of youth who at some point in their lives have been in the substitute care system (foster care, mental health placements, etc.). SaySO pages created a proposal for the Department of Health and Human Services about improvements to the Substitute care system, and witnessed Governor Cooper sign a Foster Youth Voice Month proclamation.



AMERICAN INDIAN FUTURE LEADERS PAGE WEEK: NOV 14-17



Through a partnership with the Commission on Indian Affairs, Native American students served as pages. They met with Native leaders in State Government, learned about the collaboration between state government and tribal communities, and attended a reception in which Governor Cooper read his American Indian Heritage Month proclamation.

GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

VolunteerNC's new Vounteerism Manager, Daphné Moore, oversees the process for the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. There are two awards, the Governor's Volunteer Service Award, and the Governor's Medallion Award, the highest honor for community service in North Carolina.

The Governor's Volunteer Service award is to honor the true spirit of volunteerism by recognizing individuals, groups, and businesses that make a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service. Any person, group, or entity from the public, non-profit, or private sector may be nominated for an award.



The Governor's Medallion Award is to recognize the top 20-25 volunteers in the state. Medallion recipients are nominated at the county level by the county award coordinator. Only one Medallion nomination is permitted per county. A statewide panel reviews and evaluates these nominations to select award recipients.



***To see the complete list of Governor's Volunteer Service Award winners, and the Governor's Medallion winners, visit our website at [nc.gov/volunteer](https://www.nc.gov/volunteer)**

2022 VIRTUAL CEREMONY

For 2022 the Governor's Volunteer Service Award ceremony was held virtually on April 20th. The ceremony included remarks from Executive Director Briles Johnson, Governor Cooper, Commission Chair Dr. Blosser, and The Honorable Yvonne Kinston. ABC11's Tim Pulliam introduced the 22 recipient's of the 2022 Governor's Medallion Award for volunteer service, and a short video describing each recipients service was played.



2022 GOVERNOR'S MEDALLION RECIPIENTS

The recipients of the 2022 Governor's Medallion for Volunteer Service served their communities in a range of roles and a variety of organizations. Recipients battled food insecurity, made meaningful art for their communities, tutored people in need, contributed to disaster/emergency recovery, and so much more.

Beaufort County

Alvin Powell

Bertie County

Ronald D. Wesson

Brunswick County

Cynthia Carver

Burke County

Roslyn O'Hearn

Cleveland County

Glen Lashbrook

Cumberland County

Stacey Buckner

Durham County

Vic & Anne Moore

Forsyth County

Ella-Brooke Morgan

Franklin County

Donathan Muldrow

Guilford County

Gart Evans

Halifax County

Sarah Keys Evans

Public Art Project Committee



Harnett County

Project Not Forgotten, Inc.

Hoke County

Betty Perkins

Hyde County

Ivey Belch

Iredell County

Dr. Lucy Preyer

Jones County

The Filling Station

Food Pantry volunteers

Lincoln County

Reverend John Duncan

Mecklenburg County

Alexandria Anaya Brown

Orange County

Martha Funsten

Wake County

Sonali Ratnasinghe

Watauga County

Joan Hearn

Wayne County

Bronwyn Atzenhofer-Hinson



VOLUNTEERNC STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BRILES JOHNSON



DEPUTY DIRECTOR
MEGAN TRAWICK

AMERICORPS
FINANCIAL DIRECTOR
JOSEPH D'SOUZA



GOVERNOR'S
PAGE PROGRAM
COORDINATOR
ERINN FOOTE

AMERICORPS
GRANT OFFICER
JOSE TRUEBA



VOLUNTEERISM MANAGER
DAPHNÉ MOORE

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
DONNA ATKINSON



POLICY AND DISASTER
RELIEF COORDINATOR
GARRETT PEARCE

AMERICORPS COMPLIANCE
AND SUPPORT SPECIALIST
COLLEEN GARRETT



AMERICORPS
PROGRAM OFFICER
SUSAN DEAN

AMERICORPS PROGRAM OFFICER
& TRAINING COORDINATOR
WHITNEY COMPASSI



DISASTER SERVICES MANAGER
LUZ SANABRIA-REYES



COMMISSIONERS



COMMISSION CHAIR
DR. JOSEPH BLOSSER



COMMISSIONER
AMBER SMITH



COMMISSIONER
HON. TIM RADFORD



COMMISSIONER
HON. YVONNE KINSTON



COMMISSIONER
REV. PAUL LANGSTON



COMMISSIONER
CAROLINE LEDLIE



COMMISSIONER
BRANDON HEFFINGER



COMMISSIONER
ELLEN WHITLOCK

COMMISSIONER
SHINICA THOMAS



COMMISSIONER
NATALIA BOTELLA



COMMISSIONER
TRAVIS BROADHURST



COMMISSIONER
MARY ANN LERAY



COMMISSIONER
TAMMY COBB



COMMISSIONER
ANGELO WILLIAMS



COMMISSIONER
KATHLEEN EVANS



COMMISSIONER
CRAIG REED



Volunteer



GOVERNOR COOPER ON VOLUNTEERISM



“When we work together, we build a stronger state for all. I am grateful for all the volunteers across our state and encourage North Carolinians to spend time volunteering. Whether you’re donating to a local food bank, assisting with disaster recovery, giving blood or helping seniors, there are many ways to help out your community.”

Governor Roy Cooper



