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National Service Recognition Day

by Stu Fraser, Mayor of Telluride; Dan Jansen, Mayor of Mountain Village;
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Editor:

Service to others is a hallmark of the American character and central to how communities meet their challenges and, increasingly, the nation's mayors are turning to national service programs like AmeriCorps and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet community needs.

AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteers increase the impact of the organizations they serve, both through their direct service and "behind the scenes" efforts to help fight poverty in America. The AmeriCorps VISTA program offers members the opportunity to become engaged in community service, helping to build the organizational, administrative and financial capacity of organizations that fight illiteracy, improve health services, foster economic development, and otherwise assist low-income communities. AmeriCorps members demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service; a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors.

The AmeriCorps program also expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve. AmeriCorps participants serve in more than 70,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic and neighborhood organizations that are vital to our economic and social well-being. Here in our region, the Tri-County Health Network and Bright Futures for Children have hosted a total of three AmeriCorps VISTA members for the past year. Other VISTA members have volunteered in the past for EcoAction Partners, the Telluride Foundation, and the Uncompahgre Watershed Coalition.

This April 1, 2014 is the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service, where mayors nationwide are joining the National League of Cities and City of Service to recognize the national service volunteers and AmeriCorps VISTA members and their dedication and commitment to improving lives, and strengthening communities. To learn more about AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and other national service programs, visit NationalService.gov.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we, as mayors, do hereby proclaim April 1, 2014 as National Service Recognition Day, and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our community and thank those who serve and find ways to give back to their communities.

- Stu Fraser, Mayor of Telluride; Dan Jansen, Mayor of Mountain Village; Mike Kimball, Mayor of Sawpit; Kerry Welch, Mayor of Norwood

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