

June  
2016

# VISTA Insider

The Illinois Affordable Housing Support Project Newsletter  
Supported by Housing Action Illinois

## SAVE THE DATE!

- June 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: CSH Summit
- June 9<sup>th</sup>: Translating VISTA Service on Your Resume Webinar.
- June 13<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for July 30<sup>th</sup> Start Date
- June 19<sup>th</sup>: Father's Day
- June 21<sup>st</sup>: Nations Service Career Fair
- June 27<sup>th</sup>: First Day of Service For the June 2016-2017 VISTA Cohort
- June 27<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for August 15<sup>th</sup> Start Date
- June 30<sup>th</sup> Monthly Report due

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## Looking forward in June

### A Letter from the Editor

June marks the beginning of service for the first members of the 2016/2017 IAHSP VISTA Cohort. The first month or two are crucial building blocks for the rest of your year. You'll no doubt learn things at your orientation, but here are a few tips to get you started:

- Be sure you know what your VAD means and how it fits with your organization's mission. Talk through the work plan during your first week.
- Get to know the staff at your organization. Not only will they be indispensable connections during the next year, knowing your coworkers early just helps make the year fun!
- Read up on the history of your organization and neighborhood. You'll probably get lots of reading material during your on-site orientation anyway, but you'll be more prepared if you do research ahead of time.
- Have questions or issues? Contact your VISTA Leader! VISTA Leaders Robert and Willie are always willing to lend an ear or help find a resource. It's our job and we love it. So reach out to us for any reason at all!

We hope the transition into your year of service goes as smoothly as possible.

*Robert McDonald*

## Updates and Reminders

**CSH 2016 Summit:** Samantha Michaels, VISTA at CSH, will be presenting at CSH's 2016 Summit, a three-day learning event about supportive housing. She will present on the importance of tenant empowerment and the Speak Up IL tenant advocacy training series she's been developing/leading. She'll also be coordinating micro-learning videos; this involves recording experts in tenant leadership as they talk about why tenant empowerment is important.

**National Service Career Fair:** Learn about the [Employers of National Service](#) initiative and how it can help you find a job. Get your resume ready and come network with employers and fellow national service participants! Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/zmsf9sb>

**Translating your VISTA Service to Your Resume Webinar:** Whether you are just starting out or you are finishing your term next month, don't miss out on this webinar: <http://bit.ly/1PBeByW>

**Interested in becoming an IAHSP Member:** If you or somebody you know is interested in joining the IAHSP team, be sure to keep an open eye out in March for available opportunities! You can email [vista@housingactionil.org](mailto:vista@housingactionil.org) for more information.

# HOLLA! VISTA MEMBER SHOUT-OUTS for May 2016

**Alfreda Baran**, VISTA at Mercy Housing Lakefront, coordinated two hiring events for residents in the South Loop and Uptown.

**Amanda Diiulis**, VISTA at Kenneth Young Center, worked with staff and volunteers to implement a new Run/Walk event that brought in over \$12,000 in donations.

**Jay Cook**, VISTA at HOPE Fair Housing Center, helped raise \$3,085 for his organization through donor outreach for the DuPage

Human Race.

**Rachel Contos**, VISTA at Alliance To End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County, hosted an On The Table session on May 10<sup>th</sup>, as part of a Chicago Community Trust initiative.

**Matthew Wrobel**, VISTA at Northwest Side Housing Center, has been working with NWSHC organizers to help increase their knowledge of social media in an effort to reach youth and increase community engagement.



Have you noticed our VISTAs doing any really cool work they should be recognized for? Is there a project you are really excited about that we didn't mention? Send us an email at [vista@housingactionil.org](mailto:vista@housingactionil.org) and we'll be sure to include it next issue!

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## June Birthdays!

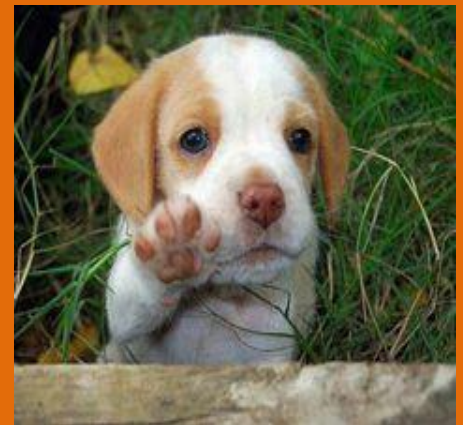
**6/12: Carrie Simpson, South Suburban Housing Center**

# Fresh Starts and Farewells

## Who's leaving us?

### **Dasia Skinner, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless**

Dasia has been a dedicated VISTA member with our project, and with CCH, for the past two years. During her years of service, Dasia worked to train parents and students how to advocate for themselves, teach fellow community members about their educational rights, and work to change the way school administrators respond to the community's requests for assistance. We thank Dasia for all her work and wish her success in the future.



## Who's Joining Us?

**Angela Arroya, Latin United Community Housing Association (LUCHA)**

**Jayne Robinson, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless**

**Edward Luna, Center For Changing Lives**

**Taylor Schulhof, Northwest Compass**



There shall be  
eternal  
summer in the  
grateful heart.

**-Celia  
Thaxter**

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## **Looking Forward to Next Month?**

- Got any tips for new members? We'll feature them in the next issue!
- Get to know another IAHSP VISTA member better and volunteer for the VISTA-To-VISTA interview section!
- Submit an idea for a thought piece or creative work to be featured in the newsletter!

### ***About Us...***

Illinois Affordable Housing Support Project is an AmeriCorps VISTA team made up of nineteen member organizations throughout the state of Illinois, including: Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County, Center For Changing Lives Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Chicago Rehab Network, Claretian Associates, Corporation for Supportive Housing, HOPE Fair Housing, Kenneth Young Center, Lawyers Committee For Better Housing, Latin United Community Housing Association, Mercy Housing Lakefront, Mid Central Community Action, Northwest Side Housing Center, Northwest Compass, Respond Now, South Suburban Housing Center, Spanish Coalition for Housing, Chicago Lawyers's Committee, Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), Housing Action Illinois.