



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AmeriCorps Kicks Off a New Service Year in Virginia**

**Staunton, Va. (Oct. 10, 2013)** - On Friday, October 11, AmeriCorps members will kick off a new service year at the 2013 AmeriCorps Statewide Launch Event. This event will welcome more than 300 members throughout the Commonwealth for a half-day session celebrating service and participating in a community service project. The kickoff will be held at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel & Conference Center, 24 S. Market Street, Staunton, Virginia at 11:00 am.

AmeriCorps members will not only pledge their commitment to serve, they will also attend workshops, listen to expert speakers and engage in team building activities. Workshop sessions will be held on leadership development, personal finance, public engagement, and disability awareness.

In addition to the day's events, a fellow member will be recognized with the prestigious [Robert E. Wone Award](#) for Exemplary Service. The award will be presented by a Board Member with the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism.

"The Statewide Launch is going to be a great event – combining the high energy of an incredible Corps with great workshops and an awesome service project," said Fran Inge, Director, with the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service, at Virginia Department of Social Services

(VDSS). “Our office collaborated with AmeriCorps Virginia and the Red Cross to collect items from across the state and assemble them in care packages for the ‘Support Our Troops’ service project. This was a great way to launch our collective energy and passion to make a difference!”

Tammie Mobley and Xavier Munoz, AmeriCorps Members, have been selected to speak during the plenary about their recent participation in the President’s Task Force to Expand National Service as a strategy to support national priorities to strengthen service and volunteerism. The individuals selected for the task force include representatives of cabinet agencies and public and private sectors. The Task Force held its first meeting in September, and seventeen national service participants, including Ms. Mobley and Mr. Munoz, served as aids to the members of the task force and shared their service experiences.

The morning plenary will conclude with the AmeriCorps members reciting the AmeriCorps pledge.

*To learn more about the AmeriCorps program in Virginia and how to get involved, visit [www.vaservice.org](http://www.vaservice.org).*

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