

# DOI VISTA: National Park Service

Quarter 4: July 1—September 30, 2017



NPS DOI VISTA VINCENT NGUYEN SERVING WITH SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK HELPED ORGANIZE A GIRL SCOUT TRAIL MAINTENANCE EVENT ON PUBLIC LANDS DAY AT RANCHO DE LAS CABRAS

**20** DOI VISTAs

**10,009** Hours of Community Volunteer Hours

**5705** Community Residents Attending Events

**170** Youth Participating in Food or Gardening Programs

The United States Department of the Interior Volunteers in Service to America (DOI VISTA) initiative supports underserved communities in using public lands for employment opportunities, health, and education.

## Valerie Goldner—Jefferson National Parks Association—St. Louis, MO

In her first month of service NPS DOI VISTA Valerie Goldner hosted the Great Mississippi River Cleanup event with Living Lands and Waters. She also developed a Lewis and Clark interactive board game to help educate 140 5th grade students at Water Festival 2017 at Lewis and Clark Community College. In addition, she assisted at Canoemobile, a partnership program with Wilderness Inquiry, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife, and Audubon Center at Riverlands, during which 357 students were able to paddle on the backwaters of the Mississippi River and learn about the natural resources and history of the area.

Volunteers cleaning up the Mississippi River in front of the Gateway Arch at the Great Mississippi River Cleanup.



## Daniel “Dan” Everton—Blackstone River Valley NHP: New Bedford Whaling Project—New Bedford, MA

The first month of NPS DOI VISTA Dan Everton’s service has involved setting up an artist’s residence and a MakerSpace, an innovation hub for the community’s “makers” which includes work and exhibition areas. He and a panel of staff went through artist applications and have filled three of the four spots for the residence. He also helped organize and host both a soft opening and grand opening of the MakerSpace, where 150 people turned out to see Iva Brito a local artist and spoken word performer. Dan has been attending the park’s long-standing program called Whales, Tales, and Sails, an early childhood story and craft time hosted by a local child entertainer, which has recently moved over to the MakerSpace. Attending this event allows Dan to interact with the public, answer questions about the Park, and show off the MakerSpace. Dan and the South Coast LGBTQ Network are also organizing an upcoming screening of the Netflix documentary on Marcia P. Johnson, in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance in November. Dan’s supervisor noted the importance of his “fresh perspective on [the] park and [it’s] potential programming provided us with additional ideas and hard work that we would not have had otherwise.”

## Abner Rodriguez—Groundwork Lawrence—Lawrence, MA

NPS DOI VISTA Abner Rodriguez helped organize and prepare for the 550 volunteers who came together for the Spicket River Cleanup during his first month of service. He also engaged with the Green Team and high risk youth on the Costello Farm through a partnership with SPARK Academy, a local middle school. The Green Team offers part-time, paid positions to 50 Lawrence High School students each year to learn and lead local environmental and community initiatives. Another of his successes has been facilitating the Health Incentives Programs (HIP), which allows people to spend their SNAP dollars on farm-fresh fruits and vegetables at participating HIP retailers and have the amount of their purchase instantly added back to their EBT card.



NPS DOI VISTA Abner Rodriguez contributing to end of the year work at Costello Urban Farm in Lawrence, MA. The Groundwork Lawrence team has occupied this open space in the city of Lawrence and has turned it into a functioning vegetable farm.

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