SERVICE DID NOT STOP—IT JUST LOOKED DIFFERENT

In ordinary times during the spring months, our AmeriCorps members would be supporting their partner teachers with standardized testing, hosting enrichment clubs' final projects in after-school programs and preparing students to combat summer learning slide. However, we recognized the importance of adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A top priority has been to care for our AmeriCorps members, staff and students. We have ensured that through a mix of virtual training, professional development, and school service, AmeriCorps members can safely accumulate their program hours remotely and continue to receive their stipend, health & childcare benefits, continued educational loan deferral and Segel education award. We offered increased supports, benefits and flexibility, as well as ways to stay connected to one another, their teams and the City Year community.

Several members of our Team & Program Sponsor community also provided the Corps with invaluable professional development sessions spanning topics from “Hiring Tips & Tricks During Quarantine” to “Building Wealth and Debt Prevention”. Thank you to these partners for ensuring the Corps has had meaningful learning while away from serving their students directly!

Click here to watch a video from our Executive Director Darryl Bundrige.
SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORT

Although the district switched to virtual instruction for the remainder of the school year, AmeriCorps members were able to provide valuable support to teachers, parents and students through the following initiatives:

1. Phone calls home to parents/guardians and students to encourage virtual attendance
2. Collaboration with teachers to craft virtual academic activities
3. Recording encouraging and fun videos for students to share on CYP’s social media platforms
4. Virtually monitoring student questions for teachers to address
5. Hosting virtual “Homework Zones” to help students build community and complete assignments

MEASURING IMPACT

| 661 | Students receiving Attendance Coaching |
| 1,044 | Students receiving Social-Emotional Learning Mentorship |
| 1,169 | Students receiving Literacy Academic Interventions |
| 1,089 | Students receiving Math Academic Interventions |
| 326 | Events or initiatives led by AmeriCorps members |
| 935 | Students enrolled in city year after-school programming |

*Data reflects entire 2019 - 2020 service year

**City Year only provides Attendance Coaching to 6th - 10th grade students

STARFISH STORY

I was extremely happy to start at City Year to serve for something bigger than myself, but little did I know my starfish student would help me find my purpose. Kimberly is my starfish student because she showed me how to always be myself no matter what. I worked with Kim in my first period English class and she was on my academic focus list. The first time I had a conversation with Kim, she opened up to me when it came to her learning styles. She told me she did not have confidence in herself and needed someone to always be there to push her. I did not look at it like a struggle, but a chance to help her see her full potential, because that is something I prided myself on.

Every time my team and I would do power greeting Kim would always walk in screaming, “Good Morning, Ms. Dextina,” and it would set the attitude of the day. I purposefully chose to always do my observations with her because I wanted her to see her growth, and it was amazing. There was not a day where Kim did not come down for our lunch dates to play Uno and catch up on work, it would never fail every time she left our office she would say, “Too.da.loo!” Kim has been thriving in virtual learning and completely using her resources when it came to asking for help. I am so proud of the young woman she is becoming and her realization that she does not need anyone to use as a crutch. I am happy that I got to know her and see her growth, and cannot wait to see her many accomplishments!

Dextina Nebo, First Year AmeriCorps member serving at Kensington Health Sciences Academy
TEAM AND PROGRAM SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT
Over the past six months, Team Sponsors and Program Sponsors have actively supported City Year AmeriCorps members, students, and the greater community in several creative ways. The following in-person engagement activities were held in the first several months of 2020.

TEAM SPONSOR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:
Mentor Lunch - Each year, lawyers from Faegre Drinker are paired with AmeriCorps members serving at Thurgood Marshall to develop mentor/mentee relationships. On January 17th, mentors and mentees had lunch to begin building supportive relationships.

“Twelve Angry Men” Case Study - Duane Morris enhanced the Kensington Health Sciences Academy’s winter Literacy Initiative by providing 500 copies of the book Twelve Angry Men to every student and teacher to read together during the month of January. 11 lawyers and staff from Duane Morris met with students on January 31st to discuss their career paths and attended various advisory classes to discuss the novel.

PROGRAM SPONSOR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
Airport Terminal Tour - American Airlines welcomed 20 students from Southwark School and the entire City Year team serving at Southwark School to Terminal A for a tour of the airport. Students were checked in as if they were taking a flight, went through security, spoke with the control tower staff, saw the maintenance hangar and had an opportunity to sit in the cockpit of an American Airlines A23 while asking Pilot Tim Airey questions. One student left the field trip stating, “I’m going to work here one day.”

Student STEM Activity - Deloitte Consulting Practitioners visited two Penn Treaty School classrooms on March 6th to lead students through a hands-on crane-building activity. Students were able to collaborate on small teams to make the tallest, and most stable, crane.

Art Sale & Chowdown for Charity - Thanks to the creativity of our partnership with Willis Towers Watson, the company was able to raise over $20,000 for City Year Philadelphia. They did so through an employee art sale, a wing-eating contest called “Chowdown for Charity” and the commitment as Program Sponsor for Sullivan Elementary School. They supported CYP with over $80,000 and hours of employee volunteers!

EY Connect Day - Roughly 30 EY employees volunteered at their office for EY Connect Day in October, where members of the EY sponsored Blaine Team and the City Year Civic Engagement Team led the group through various projects. The canvas murals, DIY Bananagram sets and various de-escalation resources all benefited the students who attend Blaine.
CITY YEAR'S NEW RESEARCH STUDY

A new national study on nearly 40,000 students receiving support from City Year AmeriCorps members found a significant relationship between student social-emotional skills support and academic outcomes!

READ MORE

LEADING THROUGH A PANDEMIC

In a three-part blog series, our Executive Director candidly discusses what it’s been like leading through a pandemic, the tough decisions he’s faced, and the emotions it brings up when reflecting on the impact to students, corps, and staff.

READ MORE

STATEMENT BY CITY YEAR ON THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

We join with the voices that are demanding justice and we stand with members of our community who are personally impacted by this continued violence, including the young people we support in schools across the country who experience the traumatic

READ MORE

Media Hub:

Making gains in social-emotional skills is like gaining an entire year of achievement growth in math or English.