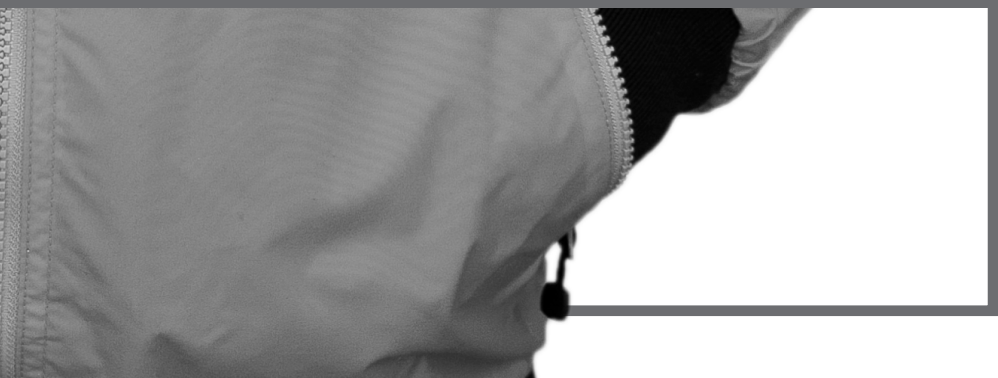




**VOICES OF CITY YEAR
NEW HAMPSHIRE
2021-22 MEMBERS**



City Year works to advance educational equity in our nation's systemically under-resourced schools to create responsive learning environments where all students can build on their strengths and fully engage in their learning. At City Year, we know that every child has the potential to succeed, and that when students thrive, we all benefit. Systemic failings have contributed to inequitable access to educational opportunities, disadvantaging students of color and students growing up in low-income households in particular.

City Year helps students and schools succeed by delivering holistic support to students, classrooms and the whole school, while also preparing the next generation of diverse leaders to make positive change. Our teams of AmeriCorps members come from all walks of life to serve full time in schools as student success coaches—tutors, mentors and role models who are uniquely positioned in classrooms to connect with and support students throughout the school day. They build strong, positive relationships with students and provide research-based academic and socio-emotional support, offering a critical capacity to educators and schools to help students progress in their development, and allowing for more personalized learning and engagement. In partnership with teachers and schools, City Year helps students have access to the resources and relationships they need to set and reach their goals and grow in skills critical to success in school and beyond.

City Year New Hampshire is in our 22nd year of service in the Granite State, serving full-time in partnership with teachers and schools in the Manchester School District. Founded in 1988, City Year partners with 300+ public schools in 29 cities across the United States. Drawing from our 30-years of experience in human and youth development, we are committed to supporting the development of both our students and our AmeriCorps members.



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THE BAKERSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEAM

SERVICE LEADERS

Alaya Williams
Andrew Morin

TEAM MEMBERS

Adam Shurtleff
Hannah Booth
Kate Christie
Rachel Berets



ALAYA

WILLIAMS

Detroit, MI | 24
She/Her/Hers
Bakersville Elementary School
Service Leader

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I BELIEVE
IN THE POWER OF YOUNG
PEOPLE.”**

My name is Alaya Williams of Detroit, Michigan. I am a first-generation college graduate. In 2019, I graduated from the illustrious Historically Black University (HBCU) Fisk University, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology with a minor in African American studies.

I have had many career opportunities since my graduation in 2019, but City Year has been by far the most challenging and the most rewarding. I dedicated my first City Year to my grandmother who instilled in me importance of being of service and this City Year I'll do the same with the addition of all the kids in my life who have inspired me to do better as I'm paving a clearer path for them to walk on. I decided to serve another year because I believe in the work that City Year does in the community and I take pride in being a positive force in the lives of young people knowing that I have such a strong backing made up of a large village of others with a shared mission.

Outside of City Year I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I love to create, whether it be writing, freestyling an acapella arrangement of my favorite songs on a voice app or painting a canvas with many colors and shapes. When I'm not serving with City Year, spending time with family and friends, or creating something, you may find me laying on a comfy couch or bed catching up on my stories via Hulu or Netflix, and getting tons of inspiration from my favorite Youtubers! If I'm not there, catch me at your nearest mall window shopping!



ANDREW

MORIN

Manchester, NH | 25
He/Him/His
Bakersville Elementary School
Service Leader

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I BELIEVE
IN THE POWER OF OUR
STUDENTS AND THE BETTER
WORLD WE CAN BUILD
TOGETHER.”**

My name is Andrew Morin, and I was born and raised right here in Manchester, New Hampshire! I was a student of the Manchester School District and continued my education at the University of New Hampshire where I majored in biology. After graduating from college in 2018, I served at City Year New Hampshire in a fourth grade classroom at Northwest Elementary School.

My first year of service had a profound impact on me, an impact that became clearer to me in the time after my service. Now, I have decided to pursue a career in education. Before this however, I wanted to come back to City Year for a second year to continue serving the students and families of Manchester.

I chose to serve with City Year because I am passionate about fighting for the justice and equity of all. Public education is essential in furthering this justice and equity. As a graduate of the Manchester School District, I am hoping to use my knowledge and privilege to give back to my home community and to serve the incredible students and families of Manchester.



Taunton, MA | 22
He/Him/His
Bakersville Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I BELIEVE
ALL CHILDREN DESERVE TO
DISCOVER THEIR PASSIONS
AND LET THEM FUEL THE
REST OF THEIR LIVES.”**

ADAM SHURTLEFF

My name is Adam Shurtleff, and I am from Taunton, Massachusetts, but moved to Indiana with my family three years ago. I graduated from Indiana University in the spring of 2021 and earned a bachelor's degree in English literature. I have loved serving in mentorship roles since high school where I volunteered as an afterschool Spanish teacher for second graders. I also led poetry workshops during my undergrad years and loved watching my peers grow through their passions. These experiences paved the way to my new chapter at City Year because they reminded me how important it is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage with what they love.

Growing up, my favorite school subject was always English. I looked forward to days where my classmates and I would read stories aloud, act out Shakespeare's plays, and discover and analyze new books like we were detectives looking for clues. Today, in my free time, I love hiking, climbing, and finding a good spot to set up a hammock and read. I also love to write and listen to new music.

I'm looking forward to serving! I hope to help at least one child discover a new and favorite way of interacting with their world, and I can't wait to learn from my students every day.



HANNAH

BOOTH

Pierre, SD | 22
She/Her/Hers
Bakersville Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE YOUNG
PEOPLE DESERVE TO
FEEL LIKE THEY CAN DO
ANYTHING THEY SET THEIR
MINDS TO.”**

My name is Hannah Booth, and I was born and raised in Pierre, South Dakota. I went on to attend college at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion where I graduated with honors and received a Bachelor of Arts in political science and criminal justice. As I started my senior year of college, I was unsure about what I wanted to do after graduation. When I took a course last fall about juvenile justice, it unlocked my passion for young people. I was fortunate enough to have teachers and professors throughout my life that helped me realize my passion for learning through their passion for teaching and learning with students. This is why when I heard about City Year and its values, I was immediately interested in serving. I chose to serve in Manchester because I wanted to experience the east coast in a familiar community. New Hampshire has so far been very welcoming and I am excited to explore the area more. After City Year, I plan to go back to school in hopes of becoming a college professor.

In my free time, I enjoy rollerblading, painting, and going on walks. Recently I have begun reading more, so I am looking for book recommendations! I enjoy music of all kinds, but I am especially interested in alternative, rock, and folk artists.



KATE

CHRISTIE

Hamden, CT | 22
She/They
Bakersville Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE EVERYONE
DESERVES TO BE VALIDATED
IN THEIR THOUGHTS,
FEELINGS, AND DIVERSE
ARRAY OF EXPERIENCES.”**

My name is Kate Christie, and I grew up in Connecticut, but moved to New York four years ago to attend Syracuse University. There, I studied citizenship and civic engagement, as well as political philosophy. I was also on our ski racing team. By my fourth and final year at Syracuse, I knew that I wanted to move to New Hampshire to serve with City Year. And that was because I'd more fully realized my interest in pursuing a career in education!

Growing up in school and at camp, I was always shy, but not through any fault of my camp counselors or teachers. They hadn't needed to discourage me from speaking—from agreeing, from disagreeing, from questioning—because I'd been discouraging myself. I feared saying and feeling the “wrong” things. Because of my personal experience growing up shy, it was never difficult to notice when shy campers joined my cabin, and I began to wonder whether they feared saying and feeling the “wrong” thing as well. So, in the same way that I did for my campers these past three summers, I hope to create opportunities this year for my students to comfortably express themselves. I'm looking forward to opportunities for us to learn with and learn more about each other!

Outside of serving, I'm super interested in skiing, hiking, and kayaking. That being said, I can't wait to experience Fall and Winter here. And since the beginning of last year, I've been trying to read more, so please feel free to send book recommendations my way.



RACHEL

BERETS

Belmont, MA | 22
She/Her/Hers
Bakersville Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I BELIEVE
THAT EACH CHILD IS
VALUABLE, CAPABLE, AND
HAS THE WILL TO LEARN.”**

My name is Rachel, and I am a recent college graduate from Belmont, Massachusetts. This past year I graduated from Wellesley College with a degree in English language and literature. At Wellesley, I played on the soccer team and worked as a “Writing Tutor” in the Learning and Teaching Center on campus. In this role, I helped edit and proofread papers, but my favorite part of the job was meeting and learning about my talented and passionate classmates.

Before Wellesley, I attended Belmont Public Schools from Kindergarten to 12th Grade, moving from Winn Brook Elementary School to Chenery Middle School to Belmont High School. In high school I played soccer and ran track. Over the years I admired, respected, and loved many of my teachers and coaches, but often felt too shy and unremarkable to connect with them individually. In the future, I’d like to be a middle school or high school English teacher and I’m serving with City Year to strengthen my ability to connect with students and to learn from my partner teacher.

During my free time, I like to read and cook. (Tell me your favorite recipes!) I like music, I love clothes and I wish I knew how to sing or sew.

THE HENRY WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEAM

SERVICE LEADER

Claire Fortier

TEAM MEMBERS

Becca Spaulding
Cooper Thompson
Jay Rose Martinez
Joe Hille
Morg Loomis



CLAIRE

FORTIER

Pittsburgh, PA | 23
She/Her/Hers
Henry Wilson Elementary School
Service Leader

**“I SERVE TO CREATE AN
ENVIRONMENT WHERE ALL
STUDENTS CAN LEARN AND
HAVE FUN.”**

My name is Claire Fortier and I am from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I graduated from Oberlin College in 2020 with a major in psychology, a minor in English, and a concentration in education. In the future, I hope to get my master's in education and become an elementary teacher.

This is my second year with City Year! I originally came to City Year because I have loved working with children ever since I was a camp counselor in high school and I wanted to build my skills as an educator. I chose to serve for a second year in Manchester because I fell in love with my students and Wilson Elementary School. Last year, I served in a 4th grade classroom at Wilson and despite the challenges of the year, I really enjoyed getting to help my students grow and learn. They taught me so much in return and I am excited to have another opportunity to support students this year.

In my free time, I enjoy baking, playing the piano, and crafting. I also love hiking and exploring New Hampshire.



BECCA

SPAULDING

New Boston, NH | 22
She/Her/Hers
Henry Wilson Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

"I SERVE BECAUSE EVERYONE DESERVES THE KIND OF QUALITY EDUCATION AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SO IMPORTANT TO HELP KIDS FULFILL THEIR POTENTIAL. I WANT TO DO MY PART TO HELP TO CREATE AND SUSTAIN THAT ENVIRONMENT FOR KIDS IN MANCHESTER, A CITY I HAVE BEGUN TO CALL HOME."

I'm Becca Spaulding, and I grew up in New Boston and Goffstown but have been living in Manchester for the past year. I recently graduated from Saint Anselm College with a degree in psychology, and minors in music and gender studies. I love research, and my goal after City Year is to pursue a Ph.D. in either community or applied social psychology. I decided to take a year or two off from school to solidify my plans for graduate school before I commit, and I chose to serve with City Year to give back to my community in a meaningful and fulfilling way while I do.

I love music, and my voice is my instrument of choice. I have spent a lot of time in college and high school participating in various vocal ensembles as well as performing solo. In my free time, I like to read, play the Sims, watch a good show, listen to or write music, and sometimes knit on a loom (eventually I'll learn how to use the needles!). I also love trying new foods from around the world and traveling to new places.



COOPER

THOMPSON

Westminster, CO | 23
He/Him/His
Henry Wilson Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

“I SERVE BECAUSE EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THEIR WILDEST DREAMS.”

My name is Cooper Thompson, and I am from Westminster, Colorado, which is about a half-hour away from Denver, Colorado. I went to school at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where I studied political science and philosophy. I became interested in serving with City Year after hearing about its commitment to serving and ensuring that every student can reach their full potential. In addition, I intend to pursue a career in teaching in the future, and City Year seemed like the perfect fit and opportunity.

My experience with school throughout my life was full of good memories and fun times because of the teachers and other adult role models I had growing up. Getting the opportunity to support someone else in that same way inspires me to serve to the best of my abilities. This year, I hope to help the students I serve to get the most out of their school year, academically and otherwise.

Outside of service, you can find me skiing, playing video games, or watching all sorts of media like movies, Youtube, and TV.



**JAY ROSE
MARTINEZ**

Azusa, CA | 23
She/Her/Hers
Henry Wilson Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I WANT
TO GIVE CHILDREN AN
OPPORTUNITY TO BE SEEN,
HEARD, AND UNDERSTOOD
BY THEIR COMMUNITY.”**

My name is Jay, and I am a strong, compassionate, and adventurous individual seeking enlightenment and harmony for the communities surrounding me.

As I was nearing the end of my undergraduate career and searching for my next chapter in life, an amazing opportunity presented itself to me. From the welcoming community to the continuous overflow of support, City Year has been nothing short of amazing so far! In my service this year, I hope to be the person I could have looked up to when I was younger—someone who is confident, eccentric, and always ready to help others. I am fortunate enough to come from a strong, caring family that has been heavily involved in the community for many years, whether it be by opening up a youth boxing center or creating non-profits that provide scholarships for students continuing their journey in education. I wish to continue to provide that support to those around me and am currently in the search for a graduate school that's the best fit for me as I look to pursue a career in marriage and family therapy.

My passions include my family, traveling, and cooking. I love to immerse myself in different cultures through travel and food. I am always looking for the next adventure!



Stow, MA | 23
He/Him/His
Henry Wilson Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE ALL IT TAKES
IS ONE PERSON GIVING ONE
MOMENT OF THEIR TIME TO
MAKE AN IMPACT THAT COULD
LAST A LIFETIME.”**

JOE HILLE

My name is Joe Hille. I’m from Stow, Massachusetts, a small town filled with apple orchards, golf courses, and small airports. I got into arts, especially photography and creative writing while I was in high school and so I decided to go to Sarah Lawrence College where I studied photography, filmmaking, journalism, and nonfiction writing. The more I experimented with different artistic mediums and disciplines, the more I became aware of how each interest informed and elevated the work I produced in other fields. My love for teaching grew as I began to recognize how much it would mean to me to be able to help others learn, as I did, that it is okay to go down what may seem like diverging paths and to trust in oneself.

When the pandemic hit, I made the decision to teach English as a second language (ESL) in a Spanish-speaking country. I wanted to do this for the experience, to benefit my language skills, and as an entryway into teaching. After earning my TEFL certification, however, it became clear that international travel would not be opening up anytime soon, so I shelved those plans for another time in my life. Eventually, I came to the decision that I would pursue a master’s in art and art education. After gaining admission to Columbia Teachers’ College, I was thrilled but had not received enough financial aid to attend that year. This is when I looked at City Year.

While what initially drew me to City Year was the financial boost it would give me, it also solved my persistent feelings of imposter syndrome which were telling me that I couldn’t be a real teacher unless I understood what it was like to teach at the public school level. I am thrilled to have the chance to be a part of a public school classroom and to learn from the environment, the students, and the teachers. I am a—and I believe all people are—lifelong learner(s), and I look forward to understanding what impact I can really make and how best to consistently make that positive impact.



MORG

LOOMIS

Pembroke, NH | 18
She/Her/Hers
Henry Wilson Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

“I SERVE BECAUSE I BELIEVE EVERY STUDENT DESERVES A CHANCE TO UNLOCK THEIR POTENTIAL, PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS, EXPLORE THEIR INTERESTS, AND FORGE THEIR OWN PATHWAY TO ACHIEVING THEIR BIGGEST DREAMS.”

My name is Morgan Loomis and I am from Pembroke, NH. I went to school in the Pembroke district (K-12th grade) as well as the Concord Regional Technical Center (11th-12th grade) where I gained two years of experience and 16 college credits in childhood education. Next August, I will be attending Bennington College where I will study music and educational policies and reform. I am currently in the process of completing an independent study on the communities and outcomes of the public school system and how we as future educators can rebuild the infrastructure of these educational systems.

I chose to serve with City Year because I believe everyone deserves a chance to learn and grow and reach their fullest potential. I know firsthand the importance of support and social and emotional learning within schools and I hope to nurture and grow this type of safe, loving, and educational environment within the community I serve every day.

Outside of my interest in education, I love hanging out with my friends and my dogs, going on hikes and exploring outside, and playing my piano and violin! I love music, specifically instrumental and songwriting, and hope to have my own studio someday!

THE NORTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEAM

SERVICE LEADER

Elinor Bragaw

TEAM MEMBERS

Fynn Stauber
Isabella Atencio
Jess Nardoza
Martha Ball
Thomas Luong



ELINOR

BRAGAW

Crozet, VA | 24
She/Her/Hers
Northwest Elementary School
Service Leader

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I AM AN
EDUCATOR AT HEART AND
WANT TO HELP STUDENTS
BUILD THE TOOLS TO BE
THEIR BEST SELVES.”**

My name is Elinor Bragaw, and I am excited to be serving another year with City Year New Hampshire. I am from Crozet, Virginia, a little town between Charlottesville and the Blue Ridge mountains. I lived in the same house all my life with my parents and three younger siblings up until I moved away to college in Washington, D.C.

College was a rollercoaster. I took time off in the middle, worked as a camp counselor out in California, applied to transfer to other schools, and changed my major a few times, but I made it to the other side and graduated from American University in December 2019 with a degree in art history and a minor in political science. I absolutely love the overlap between art and culture and policy, and I am thankful to be finished after four years and change! As I considered my next steps after college, I chose to serve with City Year, and my experience last year taught me that I am an educator. My eyes were opened to the realities of the public education system and I believe it is a calling to dedicate my time towards helping children have the best shot they can. I am excited to experience a more in-person school year before committing to graduate school and the teaching certification process!

In my free time, I love being creative and simply letting the day take me where it wishes, whether that be on a hike or to a used bookstore or curled up with a cup of tea away from the rain. I like music, audiobooks, new journals, and setting timers so I don't watch too many TikToks!



Bedford, NH | 18
He/She
Northwest Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I BELIEVE
EVERY CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO A
RICH AND FULFILLING ACADEMIC
CAREER, WITH THE SUPPORT AND
GUIDANCE THEY NEED TO GROW.”**

FYNN

STAUBER

My name is Fynn, and I am excited to be serving with City Year New Hampshire this year! I grew up in Bedford, New Hampshire, so I'm very familiar with the Manchester area! I have not gone to college yet, but plan to enroll at Keene State, majoring in education and minoring in psychology and studio arts. I planned to take a gap year before starting college and learned about the opportunity to serve with City Year from my school counselor. Through this service year, I hope to gain classroom experience and learn more about whether I want to go into education as a career. Growing up around Manchester specifically made me want to give back to this community, and City Year allows me to do just that while supporting my aspirations to be an educator! I'm very excited to support students, bring a new perspective to the classroom, and help ensure no student falls through the cracks.

Other than that, I absolutely love to draw and create art, and also love my two dogs, Daisy and Sidney, who are both yellow labs. They are very silly and love hugs. I also enjoy listening to a wide variety of music and watching documentaries, but my favorite media series is Lupin III! I can't wait to get to know all of the students and families I will be working with!



ISABELLA

ATENCIO

Santa Cruz, CA | 22
She/They
Northwest Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE TO BE A ROLE
MODEL TO VALIDATE AND
EMPOWER MY STUDENTS
BECAUSE THEY ARE THE
FUTURE.”**

My name is Isabella Atencio! I graduated from the University of California Santa Cruz with a degree in literature, so I really enjoy reading and writing, but I love to share and discuss my thoughts and feelings with others the most! I've lived in a variety of different places throughout my life such as California, Minnesota, Michigan, and British Columbia, Canada, but I consider Santa Cruz to be my hometown because that's the place I found my people and myself.

I chose to serve with City Year because while I'm still not exactly sure what I want to do in the future, I do know that young people are the future and education is one of the most powerful tools we have to shape and guide the world to come! Growing up, I wish I had someone who could have validated my big feelings (because I'm an empath) and shown me an alternative life path. Now as a queer role model, I hope to help empower kids to accept themselves and show how being your authentic self gives you the power to make change in your life.

Some fun facts about me: I have a rock collection and keep some of my most special rocks in a rainbow crochet pouch that I wear as a necklace. I love being outside in big meadows, forests, beaches, and in my backyard where I can sing, dance, yell, meditate, draw and spend time with friends and family. I also love being at home where I can just exist and watch shows! I also have a little brother, Nico, who's in 8th grade and one of my favorite people. We have a lot of fun playing Fortnite together, even if he and his friends are much better than me. Our favorite shows to watch are Ninjago, Avatar, and Legend of Korra!



Chester, NH | 22
She/Her/Hers
Northwest Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I BELIEVE
THAT ALL STUDENTS
DESERVE A SPACE WHERE
THEY FEEL WELCOMED AND
EXCITED TO LEARN.”**

JESS

NARDOZZA

My name is Jess Nardozza, and I am from Chester, New Hampshire. In May, I graduated from Wheaton College in Massachusetts, where I majored in psychology and minored in Hispanic studies and women's and gender studies. During my junior year of college, I had the opportunity to work with a group of fourth graders from China who came to the US to participate in an English immersion program. I had an incredible time working on homework, playing games, singing songs, and doing art projects with them, and I knew that I wanted to continue down the path of education. I joined City Year because it was a program that I instantly felt passionate about. Through this service year, I'm excited to have the opportunity to continue exploring education as a career while also helping to create a safe and welcoming school environment for all students to have the opportunity to reach their full potentials. I am so excited to engage with students and see what I can learn from them!

In my spare time, I like to read and play with my dog. I also enjoy sports. I am a big Boston Red Sox fan and I played softball in college and would love to continue my softball career as a coach one day.



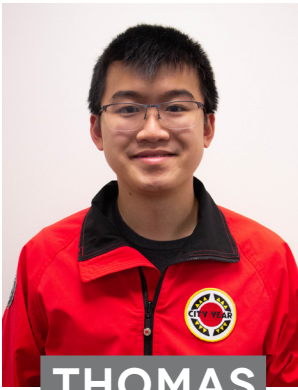
Athens, WV | 22
She/Her/Hers
Northwest Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

“I SERVE BECAUSE EDUCATION IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT, WHOSE PROTECTION IS PARAMOUNT TO CREATING A MORE EQUITABLE WORLD FOR US ALL.”

MARTHA BALL

My name is Martha Ball, and I am from Athens, West Virginia. I recently graduated from West Virginia University (WVU) with two bachelor's degrees in political science and international studies, as well as a minor in geography. My journey to City Year began in the fall of 2019 when I had the privilege to study abroad in France, where I studied European human rights protection and discovered a true passion for the topic. Beginning in the summer of 2020, I interned at the WVU Center for Resilient Communities where I worked with faculty and community activists in a setting that allowed our shared idealism to flourish. These two transformative experiences instilled in me a passion for researching, understanding, and advocating for the protection of every person's human rights in an environment that encourages idealism. That is why I chose to participate in a service year here in Manchester. Education is a fundamental human right, and it is so important to me to understand how education inequities are experienced here in the U.S., how to fight against them, and to be a part of an organization doing this valuable work, especially in a city with a large refugee community. Following my service year, I will be attending law school, where I hope to specialize in international human rights law, and eventually, work to provide legal protection and pathways to resettlement and citizenship for global refugees.

In my spare time, I love to read books, especially classics and literary fiction. I love to eat good food, particularly Thai and Indian food that I don't have to cook for myself. I also love to travel: I have visited 12 countries, and have plans to visit many more!



**THOMAS
LUONG**

Honolulu, HI | 21
He/Him/His
Northwest Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

“I SERVE BECAUSE I UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION, AS I AM A FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE GRADUATE IN MY FAMILY, AND HOPE TO FOSTER POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR OTHERS.”

My name is Thomas Luong, and I am from Honolulu, Hawaii. I recently graduated from Denison University in Ohio with a major in financial economics and a minor in computer science. My time in college was the first time that I had stayed in mainland United States for an extended amount of time. At Denison, I also worked as a tutor for 3 and a half years where I enjoyed working alongside others and helping them understand the material in new and creative ways. When one of my roommates in college applied to City Year, I followed suit. I am a first-generation college graduate and my parents always instilled in me the importance of education. Through serving with City Year I hope to help foster learning environments where all students can succeed. After this year of service, I may continue my education and pursue a master's degree in economics.

In my free time, I enjoy reading light novels, playing tennis, and playing Magic with my friends. Interestingly, I was named after Thomas the cat from Tom and Jerry so you know I will never give up!

THE PARKER-VARNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEAM

SERVICE LEADER

Michael Wells

TEAM MEMBERS

Amy Hoover
Ava Karp
Jacob Chreky
Maggi Reedel
Rosa Valente



MICHAEL

WELLS

Clayton, NY | 23
He/Him/His
Parker-Varney Elementary School
Service Leader

"I SERVE IN ORDER TO SHOW MY STUDENTS THAT EVEN THOUGH WE ALL COME FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND CULTURES THE BEST WAY FORWARD IS TOGETHER."

My name is Michael Wells, and I'm originally from a small rural town in New York called Clayton. In 2016, I moved to Saint Paul, Minnesota for college where I studied political science and philosophy. During college, I met a lot of people with all sorts of different interests ranging from astronomy and chemistry to musical theory and education reform. This experience was important to me because it expanded my perspective on what the world was like, how we as people could change it, and why the pursuit of change is necessary even if it's uncomfortable. Those viewpoints matched well with the vision of City Year, which led me to come and serve with the organization.

Growing up, I had a really good education and was lucky to have great teachers that cared to push me to be the best version of myself. After graduating from college, I decided to serve with City Year in order to give back to the next generation of our country and be that person who pushes students to be the best that they can be! I came into my first year of service in the classroom without any formal educational/teaching experience of my own. However, the students I worked with showed me that while that is necessary, oftentimes the most important thing you need to have is just a willingness to be there and encourage them as they become secure in who they are. I decided to return for a second year because I felt like the work that I started in my first year wasn't finished and I look forward to continuing to be there for my students.



Avoca, PA | 22
She/Her/Hers
Parker-Varney Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

“I SERVE TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON STUDENTS’ LIVES AND TO HELP THEM UNCOVER THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND WORK TOWARDS THEIR PASSIONS. I SERVE TO PAY IT FORWARD AS OTHERS HAVE DONE BEFORE ME.”

AMY

HOOVER

My name is Amy Hoover, and I am so excited to be serving with City Year New Hampshire this year. I am from the small town of Avoca, PA right outside of Scranton (yes, like The Office). Staying in Pennsylvania for college, I went to Lehigh University in the city of Bethlehem where I earned a bachelor of arts in psychology with a minor in business. I went in with so much confidence that I was going to be an accountant... obviously, that’s not the case! I absolutely love interacting with and helping others, so it was no surprise when I switched my major. After City Year, I want to become a Licensed Professional Counselor but if I have learned anything from my past, it’s that I can never make up my mind, so we’ll see what happens!

As a first-generation student, I was fortunate enough to have a multitude of resources available to me throughout my life to help me get to college and eventually graduate. I was in an Upward Bound program in high school where I had mentors that truly helped me see all of my worth and potential. I come to City Year wanting to be able to do the same for others.

During my free time, you can usually find me hanging out with my pets or friends, listening to music, shopping, or doing outdoor activities. I’m also trying to get into podcasts, so any recommendations would be much appreciated!



West Hartford, CT | 22
She/Her/Hers
Parker-Varney Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

“I SERVE BECAUSE I WANT TO ENSURE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GIVEN AN EDUCATION THAT MAKES THEM FEEL SAFE, EMPOWERED, INCLUDED, AND KNOWLEDGEABLE.”

AVA

KARP

My name is Ava Karp, and I am from West Hartford, CT. Last May, I earned my bachelor's degree in psychology from Mount Holyoke College, which is an HWC (historically women's college) in western Massachusetts. I came across City Year through my school's career resources, and I chose to serve because I wanted to revisit the classroom from a new perspective and with a newfound appreciation for learning. I was inspired by my fellow psychology majors to observe human behavior in young people, particularly young students. I also wanted to take a step back from higher academia and remind myself of the importance of primary education for child development. My goal is to encourage my students' excitement for learning and to foster an environment where all students can view the classroom as a safe space. I also hope to find meaningful connections with my school team, partner teacher, fellow corps members and staff, and my students. Lastly, I hope to mentor my students and provide them with long-term skills that will serve them well (pun intended) both in and out of the classroom, especially because I am hoping to learn from them just as they will from me.

I intend to use this experience to sharpen my leadership skills that will help me in the long term for my career, relationships, and all other aspects of my life. In my spare time, I like to be active. I have played four different sports throughout my life: soccer, field hockey, track, and rugby. Each sport was fun in its own way, but rugby was my favorite! I hope to use physical activity as a way to make learning more engaging.



JACOB

CHREKY

Pittsburgh, PA | 23
He/Him/His
Parker-Varney Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

“I SERVE IN THE HOPES OF HELPING KIDS EMPOWER THEMSELVES TO RECOGNIZE THAT THEY CAN SUCCEED REGARDLESS OF THE CHALLENGES THEY WILL FACE.”

My name is Jacob Chreky, and I come from the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I recently graduated from Denison University with a degree in economics with a financial concentration and a minor in psychology with a behavior concentration. I think helping empower our younger generation with the resources to be successful/find their identity in their society is the most important action anyone can take, and that is one of the main reasons I serve. My parents also came from very different countries, and as immigrants, made a successful life for themselves within the United States. This enabled me to have educational resources that not everyone has and I want to use the skills and abilities that I gained through my education to help others succeed as well. As a multilingual citizen <<Parlez-vous francais?>> I know how difficult it can be when you may be learning in one language and speaking another one at home, so I'm looking forward to serving in the Manchester School District where many students are multilingual. I believe that everyone has the right to an education, and anything I can do to help children gain that chance of success is an action worth taking!

In my spare time, you can find me on a fencing strip or playing board games with my friends. I've been fencing for around 10 or so years, through college and beforehand, and I've been playing board games since before I left primary school!



MAGGI

REEDER

Abington, PA | 22
She/They
Parker-Varney Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

“I SERVE BECAUSE EQUITABLE EDUCATION IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS CREATING NECESSARY DIVERSITY, BELONGING, INCLUSION, AND EQUITY IN OUR SOCIETIES.”

My name is Maggi Reedel, and I was born in Abington, Pennsylvania, which is a town outside of Philadelphia. I went to college at Susquehanna University and majored in anthropology with minors in gender studies, philosophy, and environmental studies. Essentially, I studied people and why they are the way they are!

As a first-generation college student, I wasn't too sure what I wanted to do after graduating, as I didn't have anyone in my family who had taken the same path I had. I decided to do a year of service, and City Year fit exactly what I was looking for: on-the-ground experience working with communities to create tangible change. Better yet, City Year revolves around public education, which is a huge passion of mine. Ultimately, I serve with City Year because equitable education is the first step towards creating necessary diversity, belonging, inclusion, and equity in our societies.

I am very creative and love crafting of any sort, but recently I've been doing a lot of crochet. I also love hiking, boating, camping, and anything else outdoors. My friends and I play a lot of games together, including virtual games like JackBox as well as board games and RPGs. Feel free to talk to me about any of the above, in addition to animals, books, music, or television.



Rocky Point, NY | 22
She/Her/Hers
Parker-Varney Elementary School
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE TO EMPOWER
YOUNG PEOPLE TO
ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES
AND REACH THEIR HIGHEST
POTENTIAL.”**

ROSA VALENTE

My name is Rosa, and I am 22 years old. I am originally from a small, suburban town called Rocky Point in Long Island, NY, but I have lived in New Hampshire for the last four years. I received a bachelor's in creative writing and English and two minors in communications and psychology from Southern New Hampshire University. I realized late in my college career that I had a real passion for connecting with people and that while I loved reading and writing, pursuing psychology would be a better fit for my values, strengths, and interests.

My late realization left me with little time to choose a direction, so I decided to give back in a meaningful way while figuring out what I wanted my focus to be. I chose to serve with City Year New Hampshire because I have come to truly love the Manchester community, and I want to empower young people to advocate for themselves and reach their highest potential. Children are our future, and when provided with equitable access to the resources and support they need for emotional, social, and academic development, they hold all the power to change the world for the better.

In my free time, I love to watch movies, practice doing make-up, cook, bake, and spend time with those important to me. I also have a strong passion for music. I grew up singing in choirs, took guitar lessons for seven years, and used to play shows around Long Island throughout high school. While I don't play as much anymore, I still love singing and listening to music in my free time, and am always looking for new recommendations.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AT PARKSIDE TEAM

SERVICE LEADERS

Abbey Watson
Kailey Johnson
Kelsi Leanne Bucknam

TEAM MEMBERS

Allison Moody
Dan Beck
Max Tanner
Risa Shutz
Stevie Freeborn



Kalamazoo, MI | 25
She/Her/Hers
The Middle School at Parkside
Service Leader

“I SERVE TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR WELL-BEING AND TO SHOW THEM THAT THEY ARE DESERVING OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND SUPPORT.”

ABBEY WATSON

My name is Abbey Watson, and I am from Kalamazoo, Michigan. I attended school in Michigan and graduated with my Master's of Social Work degree. Exploring the vast opportunities social work has to offer has led me to develop a deep passion for working within the education system. After studying in El Salvador and Guatemala, I realized that I wanted to explore educational systems outside of my experiences within public school districts in Michigan. I was introduced to City Year at a job fair and recognized that the organization would give me the opportunity to do that.

During my first year of service, I fell in love with the Manchester community and decided to return to serve another year. I credit this to the amazing students and teachers I served alongside. The relationships I built and the energy, passion, empathy, and laughter shared by the students made me realize that I did not want my time in Manchester to be over so quickly. As I take on a new year, I am looking forward to learning and growing within the Manchester community and building strong relationships with students and school staff.

In my free time, I like to read, spend time in nature, and indulge my Marvel obsession.



KAILEY

JOHNSON

Londonderry, NH | 23
She/Her/Hers
The Middle School at Parkside
Service Leader

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I REALIZE
THE IMPACT A GOOD
EDUCATION AND A STRONG
SUPPORT SYSTEM HAS ON A
STUDENT’S FUTURE.”**

My name is Kailey Johnson, and I grew up in Londonderry, New Hampshire. I graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2020 where I majored in psychology and justice studies and spent a semester completing an internship through The Washington Center. During college, I was also involved with the Kappa Delta sorority where we supported the philanthropies Prevent Child Abuse America and the Girl Scouts of America. The work of these organizations inspired me to advocate for children to have happy and healthy childhoods. All children should be given the opportunities to grow and become the best versions of themselves. This belief led me to join City Year after graduation. I was inspired by City Year’s model of supporting kids through tutoring, and building communities within their schools. I chose to serve in Manchester because it gave me the opportunity to learn and grow in a community that had been next door to me my whole life, but that I had never known much about.

I decided to return for another year because I truly believe in the impact we have on our students and the community. Serving with City Year has allowed me to grow in ways I never knew I could, and has inspired me to be a leader. Because of City Year, I plan on going back to school to get my master’s in school counseling, where I can serve as a support system to students. I am truly grateful for all City Year has given me and I’m looking forward to seeing what the 2021-2022 year brings!



Somersworth, NH | 25
She/They
The Middle School at Parkside
Service Leader

"I SERVE BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL AND EDUCATION MUST BE AN OPEN DOOR TO THAT CHANGE TO TRULY ALLOW STUDENTS TO HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES."

KELSI LEANNE BUCKNAM

My name is Kelsi Bucknam! I am from Somersworth, New Hampshire but was born in Boston before I became a New Hampshire at a young age. After high school, I studied psychology at Plymouth State University with minors in pre-law and theater. In my junior year of college, I had the opportunity to study abroad and expand my education at the University of Winchester. Now I am currently studying for my master's in forensic psychology. My education has allowed me to meet many different people and experience various cultures as I navigated unfamiliar places on my own.

Education continues to be one of the most important values I hold close to me. I believe that all students should have the opportunity to thrive and learn in a safe environment where they can make safe risks and ask questions whenever possible. I strive for social justice for all and to celebrate the diversity and cultures around me, and education is a vital component of that goal. I believe children are our future leaders and that they should have opportunities I didn't have growing up.

Service has always been a huge part of my life but aside from that I also enjoy things like traveling, music (Taylor Swift), theater, playing board games, and hanging out with my friends and family. I am so excited to serve for a third year at City Year!



Alma, AR | 22
She/Her/Hers
The Middle School at Parkside
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I BELIEVE
THAT ALL CHILDREN
DESERVE TO FEEL
INCLUDED.”**

ALLISON MOODY

My name is Allison Moody, and I am from Alma, Arkansas. I just graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in psychology with a concentration in cognitive psychology. Following graduation, I was not sure what I wanted to do, but I knew two things; one, I was interested in how education and psychology relate, and two, I wanted to see how I could use my knowledge and experience to serve others. I went to a virtual career fair at my college where I met with recruiters from City Year. Once I learned what City Year does for so many communities across the United States, I was proud to align myself with their mission.

I chose to serve with City Year New Hampshire because I want to make a difference in the lives of students and the community. As a member, I hope to uplift student's voices. Coming from someone who was always a quiet, introverted student, I want all students to be able to grow and learn in an environment where they feel safe and included. After City Year, I hope to get my master's in school psychology and become a school counselor.

In my free time, I like to go outside as much as possible by hiking, swimming, and kayaking. I am very excited to experience some of the hiking and kayaking that New Hampshire has to offer. I also enjoy reading, watching movies, and playing with my 3-year-old German Shepherd.



Chicago, IL | 22
He/Him/His
The Middle School at Parkside
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE I WANT TO
MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN
THE WORLD.”**

DAN BECK

My name is Dan Beck, and I am from Chicago, Illinois, and have lived there my entire life. I am currently a student at Parkland College, in Champaign, Illinois where I am majoring in secondary education with a focus on history. I chose to take a gap year, move to New Hampshire and serve with City Year as an opportunity to gain some classroom experience and learn more about what it would be like to be a teacher. Through this year of service, I hope to make a difference in this community in any way I can.

In addition, I adore seafood and the outdoors, so I am extremely excited to be living in Manchester this coming year. Outside of service, some of my main hobbies are reading and exercise. My two favorite sports are football and basketball, and I love the fantasy genre when I read.



Bow, NH | 19
He/Him/His
The Middle School at Parkside
AmeriCorps Member

“I SERVE BECAUSE GIVING BACK TO THOSE WHO DIDN’T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES I HAD IS IMPORTANT. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THE MOST THEY CAN AND BE A SUPPORTING ROLE IN THEIR LIVES.”

TANNER

My name is Max Woodland Tanner, and I am from Bow, New Hampshire. I went to school through the Bow school district and then went to the University of New Hampshire for a year studying political science. After my first year, I left to explore other options and decided to join City Year because it was an amazing opportunity for me to grow as an individual, as well as a way to give back to the community. I had heard of City Year through two of my siblings who had previously served, enjoyed their experience, and recommended it to me. I have had many support systems throughout my life and am grateful for how much that has helped me. I want to be able to provide others with the same opportunities I was given, and play a supporting role for others.

I am an Eagle Scout and an avid outdoors person. I love to bike, hike, and explore the nature that surrounds us, and was lucky to grow up in New Hampshire where the woods and nature are so accessible. I love to cook and bake, and hope to be able to do it more frequently and explore that passion. I also love any form of art, from poetry and literature to anime and acting. I really enjoy exploring new things and diving into new interests fervently and am always eager to hear about any interests others have and explore that with them!



RISA

SHUTZ

Redmond, WA | 22
She/Her/Hers
The Middle School at Parkside
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE TO MAKE
EDUCATION MORE
ACCESSIBLE.”**

My name is Risa Shutz, and I am so excited to be serving at City Year New Hampshire! I grew up right outside of Seattle in Redmond, Washington. I recently graduated from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon where I earned my degree in exercise and health science. While at Willamette, I ran on the cross country and track and field team, studied abroad in Scotland, and worked in the admissions office as a tour guide.

I chose City Year New Hampshire because I wanted to dedicate a year to service and experience something completely different from where I grew up. I struggled academically throughout elementary, middle school, high school, and I want to help students realize their potential. Through this service year, I also hope to figure out if I want to go into education and become a teacher or if I want to go back to school to get my master's in public health. I am really excited to be in the classroom and can't wait to get to know the students!

My interests outside of serving include running, hiking, swimming, knitting, anything outdoors, my cat, and hanging out with friends!



STEVIE

FREEBORN

Oakland Park, FL | 22
She/They
The Middle School at Parkside
AmeriCorps Member

**“I SERVE BECAUSE
KNOWLEDGE IS INTRINSIC
TO POSITIVE AND
SUSTAINABLE CHANGE.”**

My name is Stevie Freeborn and I am from Oakland Park, Florida. I am excited to serve this year (and winter!) with City Year New Hampshire. I am a proud graduate of Florida State University where I majored in theater and gender studies. As a first-generation college student, I had no framework for what post-compulsory education was supposed to look like. Without any expectations or obligations, I had the opportunity to focus on subjects that I was passionate about. Media literacy and ethical representation were at the core of my studies. I hope to use my degree during my year of service to uplift the importance of children telling their own stories as well as to help shape a generation of conscientious media consumers. I believe that all children deserve to see themselves in the shows they watch and books they read. If they do not, they should have the means to create their own representation.

I am a self-proclaimed nerd. I love all things science fiction and fantasy, but my true love is well-made superhero stories. Someone with amazing abilities choosing to help ordinary people with no expectation of praise is an idea that we can all strive towards. Despite my gluten intolerance, I am a huge fan of pizza and pasta. I have tried every alternative to flour crust on the market and have strong opinions about the best one.

OUR 2021-22 AMERICORPS MEMBERS IN NUMBERS

28% of our AmeriCorps members are from New Hampshire.

56% have moved from outside of New England to serve in Manchester, NH.

25% are serving with City Year for a second year.

22 is the average age of our AmeriCorps members.

16 states are represented within our 2021-22 Corps.



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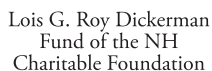
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