



One
Year.



One
Community.



One
Direction.

AmeriCorps

When much of Jasper and Newton counties were still reeling from the EF-5 tornado that ground its way through one third of Joplin and nearly all of Duquesne, AmeriCorps was getting ready to go help.

Within two hours of the 5:41 p.m. tornado, the AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team was mobilized and in the process of packing their disaster-response gear. By 9:30 that evening, AmeriCorps members were on their way to Joplin. The teams arrived in Joplin around 2:30 a.m. and immediately started preparing to receive the thousands of volunteers expected that morning as well as establishing a call center for missing persons.

Soon after the tornado struck, volunteers began pouring into the region. A volunteer staging area was established by AmeriCorps at Missouri Southern State University to coordinate the masses who came to help. By Memorial Day, nearly a week after the tornado, AmeriCorps



registered close to 10,000 volunteers. Hundreds of other volunteers went directly into the debris field to lend aid.

One year later, AmeriCorps is still an active volunteer group in Joplin and Duquesne. Under the coordination of AmeriCorps St. Louis, about 350 national service members from seven states have served more than 76,000 hours in Joplin, Duquesne, Jasper and Newton counties on various recovery projects including:

- ◆ Setting up and managing a Volunteer Reception Center at the Missouri Southern State University campus in Joplin
- ◆ Supporting the Missouri Highway Patrol and the Joplin Police Department with missing person inquiries
- ◆ Coordinating donations in conjunction with the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
- ◆ Operating donation and distribution warehouses
- ◆ Recruiting, facilitating and engaging tens of thousands of volunteers in a myriad of service opportunities
- ◆ Completing **more than 2,940 requests** for homeowner assistance in the past year.
- ◆ Serving the City of Joplin by creating databases to track volunteer registrations and hours to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency's required local cost-share match
- ◆ Supporting the Missouri Humane Society
- ◆ Removing volumes of debris, including damaged trees and stumps
- ◆ Assisting with residential demolitions

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AmeriCorps (cont)



- ◆ Building a recreational trail at FEMA's community housing sites
- ◆ **Planting more than 800** new, donated trees for homeowners
- ◆ Coordinating volunteers to assist with **planting more than 200 trees** at city parks
- ◆ Assisting with administrative recovery tasks.
- ◆ **Helping more than 150 Joplin** homeowners and renters in moving from temporary living situations to more permanent housing

AmeriCorps is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). For the Joplin-area tornado, FEMA has provided more than **\$341,000** in funding to CNCS for assistance from AmeriCorps to support local and state authorities.

AmeriCorps St. Louis has added the Joplin area to its "Joining Hands in the Heartland" campaign, designed to provide appliances to persons or families who were impacted by natural disasters, such as tornadoes, floods and ice storms. Interested persons can donate money outright or hold their own fundraising efforts to purchase much-needed appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers and/or water heaters.

AmeriCorps St. Louis is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that builds community by addressing critical unmet needs in the areas of urban education, disaster relief, environmental conservation, and volunteer mobilization.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), a federal agency, provides strong support, expertise, and trained and dedicated volunteers to help communities to prepare for, mitigate, respond, and recover from natural and man-made disasters. From forest fires and floods, to hurricanes and tornadoes, to terror attacks and oil spills, participants in CNCS programs have provided critical support to millions of Americans affected by disasters since 1994. Reflecting the agency's growing expertise and commitment in disaster services, CNCS has joined with FEMA to launch FEMA Corps, a new 1,600 member unit within AmeriCorps NCCC whose members will be devoted solely to disaster response, and recovery efforts. FEMA Corps will strengthen the nation's disaster response capabilities, expand opportunities for young people, and save taxpayer dollars.

