

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FAMILIES IN TRANSITION VISTA PROGRAM ANNOUNCES
HOST SITES FOR 2011-2012 TERM**

Service program selects 30 sites across state to receive new VISTA volunteers

MANCHESTER, NH – Families in Transition (FIT), program sponsor of the Families in Transition VISTA Program, has selected 30 host sites from the Upper Valley to the Seacoast to host a professional VISTA volunteer for 2011-2012. VISTA volunteers will be recruited by the chosen sites from across the country to serve in New Hampshire beginning in August 2011.

AmeriCorps*VISTA, a program of the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS), comprises a nationwide network of volunteers who commit to serve full-time for at least one year at nonprofit, faith-based, and government project sponsor sites working to fight poverty throughout the United States. VISTAs work to build capacity at agencies that serve their communities in the areas of education, veterans' services, economic opportunity, health, and disaster relief and prevention.

In 2011, Families in Transition VISTA Program has chosen the following sites to host VISTAs (by city):

Bedford

The CareGivers, Inc.

Concord

Early Learning NH

Fellowship Housing Opportunities, Inc.

New American Africans

NH Department of Education

Women's Fund of New Hampshire

Enfield

Upper Valley Humane Society

Gilsum

ACCESS

Groveton

Groveton Regional Economic Action Team

Keene

Keene Public Library

Laconia

Prescott Farm

Manchester

ABI Innovation Hub

Child and Family Services of NH

Child Health Services

CASA of New Hampshire

Manchester, cont'd

Elmwood Gardens Neighborhood Learning Center

Families in Transition

Manchester Continuum of Care

Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester

More than Wheels

YWCA New Hampshire

The Way Home

Nashua

Harbor Homes, Inc.

Partnership for Successful Living

Welcoming Light, Inc.

Portsmouth

Arts in Reach

United Way of the Greater Seacoast

Rochester

Rochester Child Care Center

Winchester

ACCESS

Wolfboro

Global Awareness Local Action

The new VISTA volunteers will perform a diverse range of duties throughout New Hampshire. The VISTA at the NH Department of Education, for example, will work to develop resources and support systems within and between schools for homeless and migrant youth. At Arts in Reach in Portsmouth, a VISTA volunteer will strengthen the agency's donor database, develop fundraising initiatives, and complete grant applications. A VISTA at the Upper Valley Humane Society in Enfield is charged with researching, developing, and implementing a comprehensive disaster plan for the state of New Hampshire.

“We are thrilled to partner with these thirty fantastic agencies that work to alleviate poverty across the state of New Hampshire,” said FIT VISTA Program Manager Pamela Punskey. “As we begin the next step of recruiting and selecting VISTAs from a talented and diverse pool of applicants, it's really exciting to see how we can bring dedicated volunteers together with agencies who will benefit from their service and increase their capacity to create change in our state.”

The Families in Transition VISTA Program is sponsored by Families in Transition (FIT). FIT is a nonprofit organization that provides safe, affordable housing and comprehensive social services to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, enabling them to gain self-sufficiency and respect. FIT also owns and operates two thrift stores in Manchester and Concord, NH which serve as an economic engine to help pay for services they provide. For more information about FIT, FIT VISTA Program, and the stores visit www.fitnh.org or call 603-641-9441.

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