

# Happy Thanksgiving!



Keystone SMILES CLC would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays. The first AmeriCorps quarter has come to a close and we would like to share some highlights from the AmeriCorps members "Great Stories" and statistics. There are currently **25 full time** school based members (served **9878** hours), **38 Youth Corps** (served **5349** hours) and **23 community based** members (served **6499** hours). Total hours served for the first quarter were **21,727!** A total of **2,003** children have been impacted by Keystone SMILES AmeriCorps service. We are very thankful those serving as members for the 24-25 program year thus far. and all that you do!



"I serve a student who was home schooled last year...when he started school he barely knew how to write his name or knew his letters...he amazes me everyday with how much he wants to learn. He tells me everyday Miss Venus thank you for teaching me."  
-Venus Comerico Crawford SD



"One of the students I am with on a daily basis is selectively mute...she now always greets me with a smile & wave, as well as occasionally having the confidence to say 'Hi Miss Charlie!' She's also gained the confidence to engage more with her fellow students, whether it be for work or play. It warms my heart helping her grow as a person in terms of her personality & confidence."  
-Charlyt Lundell Iroquois SD



"Being a part of AmeriCorps has been one of the best decisions I could have made. Being with the kids everyday and just hoping to make one of my kid's day better is the best part of my day...Making sure kids have a healthy learning environment is so important and being a part of that has truly helped me be a better person in general."  
-Madelyn Neely Youth member at Punxsutawney SD



"In my second grade classroom, one student stands out to me...this student showed signs of being far behind in math which caused me to work with her a ton.....When I call her back to my table (she was) greeted with the biggest smile on my face and she knows what that means. She comes around to my table and gives me the biggest hug. In that moment, she is so happy and excited which makes me feel so special that I help contribute to her education. Even though she might not realize how much of an impact she made on me, I know she will always have a small part in my heart."  
-Quinn O'Lone Youth member at General McLane SD



"I was introduced to one on one learning time with the children this term. I was working with a specific child on writing their name. Every time I would show the child we were practicing writing our names, the child would not want to participate. Once we got through the whole name, they had a huge smile on their face. We were both so excited and I gave them a big high five, then the child wanted to do it again. So we kept practicing together, each time they did it, the smiles grew. That moment showed me I was more than just a helper in the classroom, I was able to teach the children and show them how to grow."  
-Frankie Leadbetter Knox PreK



"Among the bright colors and busy little bodies was a spirited five year old...We (became) partners in imagination, each of us teaching the other the value of patience, creativity and love. In each story, we built a bridge of understanding and trust, showing her that her struggles were real and so too was her strength. And so, in a world that can often feel chaotic and overwhelming..she found her voice."  
-Jere Edwards Zion Education Center



Keystone SMILES Community Learning Center is a nonprofit dedicated to learning and service. Keystone SMILES is a recipient of an AmeriCorps program awarded by PennSERVE and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Utilizing these resources has provided schools and nonprofits in 8 counties the "People Power" to Get Things Done for 30 years. Thanks to all those who support our nonprofit.



## House of Trades

During the first quarter the House of Trades team supported or completed several projects which included: Veteran roofing project, Edenburg Presbyterian Church Foodbank, Autumn Leaf Festival Food Stock, Franklin Fire Restoration in collaboration with Mustard Seed Ministries project, garage roof replacement in Oil City, Halloween event in Oil City and helped move furniture for a senior citizen. An estimated **976 hours** and **500 beneficiaries** have been served as reported for Quarter #1.





### Keystone SMILES Preschool

The Preschool children in Miss Tracy's class completed their study of communities by visiting Judge Heeter's courtroom. During this visit 2 police officers were present in the courtroom escorting the Grinch in handcuffs. He had to come before the judge to answer for his crime of stealing Christmas decorations! The Judge consulted with the children to see if the Grinch should go to jail or be given a second chance. All agreed that he deserved a chance to do better, so he was sentenced to community service. What a fun way for the children to learn about our judicial system.



### Food Bank Services for Families

Every other month the House of Trades team partners with Chapel on the Hill in Emlenton to help pack and distribute food from the local food bank.

In November 105 families were given meals; 15 volunteers assisted along with 8 House of Trades members and 2 staff.



### November Senior Brunch

We would like to thank our Preschool AmeriCorps members for once again making a delicious breakfast for the Senior in our community. The Preschool in Andy's class sang a few songs and they also made pictures and passed them out to everyone who was in attendance.





## AmeriCorps House of Trades Light Up Night Support

Staff and AmeriCorps members have been very busy planning for Light Up Night in Knox. Activities are being refurbished and sorted, flyers distributed to families, a float for Santa is being built along with a jail for the Grinch, trees have been distributed to local businesses to decorate and Main Street park has been decorated. Many hours of planning and preparation are going into this community event. Keystone SMILES is always happy to collaborate with Knox Borough, Public Service Organizations, and business owners to make this a very exciting event for the families in the Knox community. A special newsletter highlighting the event will be forthcoming.



Keystone SMILES Community Learning Center | 525 Main Street, PO Box 352, Knox, PA 16232

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