



Harvest Against Hunger Gleaning Coordinator

Placement: Skagit County Community Action Agency, Mt Vernon, WA

Title: AmeriCorps*VISTA Gleaning Coordinator

Status: Stipend Volunteer Position

Commitment: 12 months, 40 hrs per week beginning November 14, 2011
Member may not hold additional jobs

Stipend: \$10,296 Living allowance (\$858 per month);
plus \$5,350 Education Award and Benefits

Application:

- 1) Complete online AmeriCorps*VISTA application at: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/recruit/registration.do>
- 2) Send resume & cover letter to: benjamin@firstharvest.org
- 3) Visit the [HAH Apply Page](#) for more info
- 4) Strong candidates will be contacted for interviews

Due Date: September 4, 2011 (Applications will be reviewed as received)

Background: Work with Skagit County Community Action Agency and their Harvest for Hope produce recovery program to collect unharvested fruits and vegetables for hunger relief organizations. This project is entering its second full year as a sponsored AmeriCorps*VISTA program and is galvanizing community support among local food banks, volunteer groups and a diverse mix of farmers and growers. Help build program capacity and strengthen by further recruiting and retaining project partners to help fight insecurity in the Skagit Valley.

As a project of Rotary First Harvest, the Harvest Against Hunger gleaning program creates a much needed way to enlist small to medium-sized farm operations in existing hunger relief efforts in local communities throughout Washington. For 28 years, RFH has focused on connecting and collaborating between different groups (farmers, truckers, food banks and others) to gather food that would otherwise go to waste.

Main Partners:

Skagit County Community Action Agency
Rotary First Harvest

This position is offered through the AmeriCorps*VISTA program, details are outlined on the [AmeriCorps website](http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista.asp). <http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista.asp>

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Work in collaboration with host site supervisor at Skagit County Community Action Agency and the Harvest Against Hunger program director, and local community groups to grow volunteer and grower base and expand program participation in Harvest For Hope. Continue to coordinate the Victory Gardens program. Specific responsibilities might include:

Volunteer Recruitment:

- Develop recruitment plan and recruit volunteers.
- Meet with community leaders and organizations to raise awareness of program.
- Represent produce recovery programs at community events.

Grower Outreach:

- Follow up with existing farm contacts to coordinate potential gleaning events.
- Contact new local growers and agricultural organizations to participate in program.
- Explain liability issues and public safety and health requirements.

Program Coordination:

- Train and engage volunteers on ongoing basis.
- Coordinate logistics of gleaning project to accommodate growers and volunteers.
- Conduct gleaning events.
- Recognize donors and volunteers and strategize for participant retention.
- Document procedures, networking, volunteer hours and gleaning results.
- Work with and expand upon collaborative community/organizational relationships.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Knowledge and/or experience with the nonprofit community.
- Background working with civic and/or volunteer organizations.
- Highly organized and self-directed.
- Strong interpersonal skills and public speaking ability.
- Ability to work independently, but in collaboration with several other groups.
- Ability to juggle many different projects and prioritize as needed.
- Commitment to diversity, innovation and community-building.
- Ability to work weekends and occasional evenings (with time off in exchange).
- Ability to work in an office and outdoor agricultural environment and in hot or cold conditions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident.
- At least 18 years of age.
- Ability to commit to working 12 months beginning in November 2011.
- Computer competency, especially using Excel.
- College degree, or High School Diploma (or equivalent).
- **Requires the use of a personal vehicle with mileage reimbursement at standard rate.**

STIPEND & BENEFITS:

- A living allowance of \$10,296 distributed in equal installments twice monthly.
- Basic health insurance (VISTA member only, no dependents).
- Loan forbearance for federal student loans.
- A \$5,350 educational award upon completion of your service term (or \$1,200 cash stipend).
- Childcare assistance (available for those who qualify).
- Experience in project management, marketing, and leadership.
- Exposure to dozens of nonprofits and community partners.