

OSMRE/VISTA

Quarter Three Summary: April 1 - June 30, 2016



STAY COMMITTEE - OSMRE/VISTA Lou Murrey serves on the steering committee for the Stay Project, a regional network of young people working together to create, advocate for and participate in safe, sustainable, engaging and inclusive communities throughout Appalachia and beyond.

42 OSMRE/VISTAs

\$169,548 Grant Funding Developed

\$22,164 In-Kind Resources Developed

213 Volunteers Recruited

2,499 Youth Served in an Educational Setting

79 New Organizational Partnerships Developed

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Volunteers in Service to America (OSMRE/VISTA) initiative supports nonprofits who serve communities impacted by legacy mining.

Rachel Lennon - Appalachian RC&D Council - Johnson City, TN

The recent flooding in West Virginia motivated ARC&D to form a donation campaign in northeast Tennessee and southwest Virginia. Within two days of the disaster they were able to establish five donation drop off sites for supplies like food, paper products, and cleaning supplies. ARC&D representatives were interviewed by a local news station and the Johnson City Press. On June 29th, Rachel received a call from a medical supply company in Portland, Oregon. The company donated 4,000 pairs of heavy duty rubber gloves to disaster relief in West Virginia. Rachel and another volunteer delivered the donations to a relief station on July 2. Rachel wrote, "The West Virginia Flood Relief Donation Drive brought our regional community together. We have had an outpouring of support. One of our community members is originally from West Virginia and has been very grateful for our efforts in helping her friends and family. She had not heard of our organization until this disaster, but will continue to support us in the future."

In addition to the flood relief work, Rachel wrote two grants which ARC&D was awarded this quarter. The organization hosted a Quilt Turning Event and organized another for July. Through these events, Rachel focused on continued development of the National Quilt Trail Gathering. Recently, a decision was made to open the Gathering to the general public to more effectively engage the local community. This fits well with another goal of the National Quilt Trail Gathering: increasing support and information sharing to strengthen social networking systems and accessibility to best practices.



OSMRE/VISTA Rachel Lennon

Lou Murrey - Appalachian Voices (Energy Savings Appalachia) - Knoxville, TN

The state of Tennessee is working with electric cooperatives to assist in applying for funding from USDA to develop a tariff-based weatherization program. Energy Savings Appalachia works across the state, but is focusing its OSMRE/VISTA project on reaching people in eastern Tennessee. The weatherization projects will fit homes with energy efficiency upgrades and create jobs.

OSMRE/VISTA, Lou Murrey, has been working with Appalachian Voices, a nonprofit in east Tennessee to educate community members about the benefits of energy efficiency and the available state funding. As members of electric cooperatives, citizens are part owners and have the power to decide if their cooperative participates in the energy efficiency program. Lou has been reaching out to people through tabling, community events, and workshops to identify people who have high electric bills and might be interested in the program. She is working specifically in two cooperative territories that cover coal impacted communities: Powell Valley Electric Cooperative (PVEC) which covers Claiborne County and Plateau Electric Cooperative which covers Morgan and Scott Counties.

Shannon Cramer - Southwest Colorado Council of Governments - Durango, CO



OSMRE/VISTA Shannon Cramer

Shannon attended the Colorado Association for Recycling's Summit this quarter, which impressed upon her the importance of recycling for Colorado citizens and inspired her increased focus on SWCCOG's regional recycling program. This quarter SWCCOG was awarded a **\$34,199 grant** from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for an adult education program focused on recycling.

Shannon played a major role in writing and submitting this grant in Quarter 2. This funding will allow SWCCOG to create a regional recycling website and printable materials to be used by both public and private haulers to educate citizens on proper recycling practices, filling a gap by regional waste stakeholders. Shannon's term ends in August, but this project will be carried through to implementation by the incoming OSMRE/VISTA.

Contact:

Amy Showalter
Program Director
304-533-3626
ashowalter@conservationlegacy.org

*Connecting passionate people through national service
to preserve environments and strengthen communities.*

gobridgenet.org

