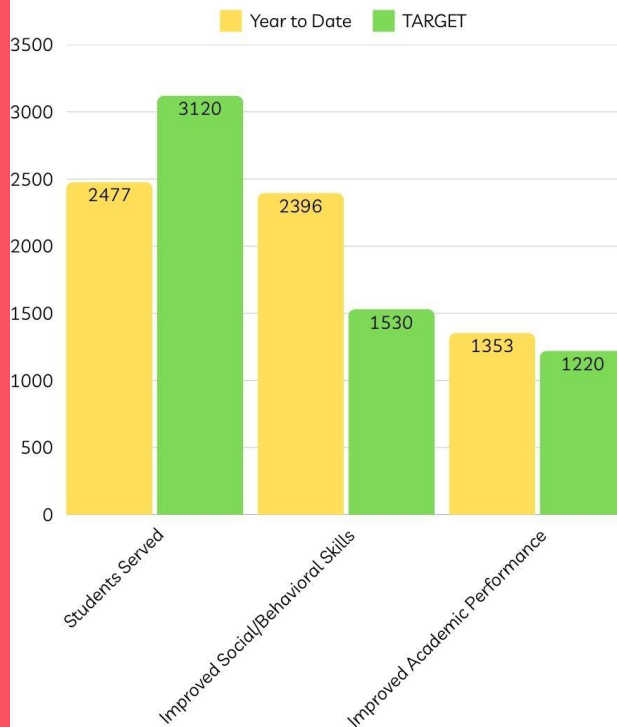




Keystone SMILES AmeriCorps members have completed the first half of the program year. Here a glimpse of some of the service our members have been providing thus far.



Quarter 1 & 2 Data Report

During the first 2 quarters 85 Keystone SMILES AmeriCorps members have served 2,477 students in Allegheny, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, and Venango Counties. Members have been involved assisting with many service projects throughout their communities especially with academic support. We are very pleased to see the improvement of the students our members are helping serve as mentors and tutors. Thank you for all that you do to help the children grow and develop. And also for the services you provide in your local communities. As depicted in these articles shared by AmeriCorps members through their service terms not only do they impact students but they also grow as individuals themselves.



Shaler School District- Allegheny County

"I am serving my fourth and final term with Keystone SMILES. I serve mostly Kindergarten and First grade students. At this halfway point in the year, I find myself looking back to assess the progress that the students have made. Every single student, in one way or another, has grown in their learning. Keystone SMILES AmeriCorps is an awesome program that provides the extra support that kids need. I am very grateful that I have been able to have this experience.

-Erika Kelley



General McLane School District- Erie County

"I work with a small group of first graders on penmanship and writing techniques. One little boy in my group was struggling a lot more than the rest. I began to see a huge improvements in the way he wrote and how neater his handwriting got after working with him. This helped me because I have made a forever impact on his life and the way he writes each and every day. Which, will also set him up for success in the future.

-Izabella Behnke AmeriCorps Youth



Fairview School District-Erie County

"With the end of my second quarter of service, I am leaving all the students I helped for the year's first half. I helped students in 10th grade Biology class for the first two quarters of the year and impacted many students I helped with their casework...

Overall, this term of service has been very impactful for me as I have learned the importance of treating each student with as much respect and understanding as possible and have seen tremendous amounts of improvement in many students I have helped."

-Benjamin Seyboldt AmeriCorps Youth



Keystone SMILES PreK-Clarion County

"Teaching STEM in the Keystone SMILES Preschool was something new to me. I wasn't too sure if it was something I wanted to do at first. With never teaching before in my life and not having any background in it, I still dove right into it....I was putting things I was passionate about into STEM lessons for the kids. I was able to impress myself and even the kids....I became excited to teach STEM and come up with fun learning activities for the kids to do. (I became) encouraged to keep with it and make a difference in the children's lives just by teaching STEM."

-Frankie Leadbetter



House of Trades-Mercer County Project

"As we prepared the space (for the new infant center in Farrell) all I could think about involved all the infants who were going to have a safe home to be loved and cared for so their mothers can work. I know for a lot of mothers trusting a facility with your baby is nerve wracking and many mothers don't have a choice but to go to work which means they have to kiss their babies goodbye and face the work day. I'm very excited about this project."

-Sarah Zayas



Northwestern School District- Erie County

"Our afterschool tutoring program has also created a sense of community among the students who attend. The students and I have created a space where each student feels values and included. This inclusivity has been seen by other teachers outside of tutoring during the normal school day. A student who was previously shy and kept to himself is now engaging and socializing with his tutoring peers in class."

All of the ten students who attended the after school tutoring program on a regular bases received at least a C or higher on the second quarter report card grades."

-Grace Howells



AmeriCorps Alum

We would like to Congratulate AmeriCorps Alum Malaiah Burns for graduating from welding school.

AmeriCorps paid off the offset costs to enable Malaiah to pay for her education. By graduating it gave her structure and a sense of belonging.

We wish you well on your future endeavors.

House of Trades Projects



CLARION FAMILY THERAPY PAINTING PROJECT

The House of Trades team along with AmeriCorps serving from other host sites came together to paint the new office and therapy spaces for Clarion Family Therapy. This project took place over 8 days with 6-10 members and 1-2 staff members each day. An estimated 336 hours were spent on this project. The beneficiaries of this project will be 1,900 clients and 21 staff of Clarion Family Therapy



GIGI'S HEAVENLY CARE- FARRELL, PA

The House of Trades team is currently collaborating with Zion Education Center to turn a house purchase by Zion into an infant and toddler center. This project thus far has consisted of cleaning everything out of the house, surveying existing gas and water lines, dealing with safety issues so they can safely work on the demolition of old water, gas and electric lines, painting and labeling the line in the basement for easy identification. Members are not only helping to complete this project to create a safe place for the infant and toddlers, but they are also learning very valuable trades that they can use in the future.

They would also like to thank all the other AmeriCorps members and staff who helped to get this project started during MLK.

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