



## WELCOME SPRING!

Join us as we celebrate the changing of the seasons. We are excited to share all that has been accomplished thus far in 2025. We are looking forward to the many changes, opportunities and impacts our agency will be making this spring and summer.



### AmeriCorps Awareness Week

Keystone SMILES was very honored to recognize all of their AmeriCorps members who are serving within our organization. Pictured are our local AmeriCorps members serving in Knox Preschool, Weed and Seed and House of Trades. We want to thank ALL of our members for everything already accomplished and what is yet to come.

A special highlight for this year's recognition during AmeriCorps Week were 7 AmeriCorps members who are serving their fourth and final term of service.

- Brienna Canter-Weed & Seed
- Bryan Miller-House of Trades
- Dianna Newby-Zion Education Center
- Erika Kelly-Shaler School District
- Jeffrey Schneider-Girard Area School District
- John Daza Valencia-House of Trades
- Noah Osborne-Iroquois School District

Thank you for your dedication and your service.



# Keystone SMILES AmeriCorps House of Trades

The House of Trades members have been very busy with various community service projects. We would like to share some of the projects they have been using their newly acquired or improved trade skills.



**Mercer County**

The House of Trades has partnered with Zion Education Center to remodel a house purchased by Zion Education Center to establish a new infant center, Gigi's House, identified as a need for families in the Farrell area.



**Clarion County**

The House of Trades recently completed a wheelchair ramp for a Vietnam Veteran who lives in Knox. The team constructed the ramp in their shop and assembled the end product at the couple's home. This will enable the couple to be able to leave their home with less effort.





## Food Bank - Venango/Clarion County

Every other month the House of Trades partners with Chapel on the Hill in Emlenton to help pack and distribute meals to families in need in the community. This month the food distribution served 173 people in 83 different families.

18 volunteers, staff and AmeriCorps members help to make this a successful event.



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## School Based AmeriCorps Members



"I've learned that sometimes the most important part of tutoring isn't just teaching skills, but also showing a child that they can accomplish things they once thought were impossible."

-Allen Clark  
Girard Area School District



"Over the second quarter, the Fairview Middle School Refocus Room saw dozens of students popping in to prepare for and take exams, complete homework assignments, catch up on classwork, and, on Friday afternoons, enjoy some quality time with therapy dogs. Miss Lewis spent over a combined 240 hours serving directly with students."

-Jasmine Lewis  
Fairview School District

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# Keystone SMILES Nonprofit

## Knox PKC and Private Preschool

Keystone SMILES PreK Counts and Private Preschool have 2 classrooms in which 32 children attend.

This month the children, staff and AmeriCorps members were able to take a field trip to Jones' Party Magic in Cranberry, PA, where they were able to jump and bounce on all of the inflatables in the facility. After being inside all winter this was a fun way to get out some extra energy.



## Sharpsville Gardens, Mercer County

Sharpsville Gardens Pre-K Counts has 1 classroom with 15 children. Keystone SMILES partnered with Mercer County Housing Authority 20 years ago to develop this program. The facility's programs are implemented with 3 staff along with 3 AmeriCorps members who also provide mentoring or STEM.

## Weed & Seed, Venango County

Keystone SMILES staff and AmeriCorps members offer an afterschool program to youth in two different neighborhoods in Oil City. The youth come to the churches and receive an afterschool snack and hot dinner. Homework help and STEM lessons are also provided.

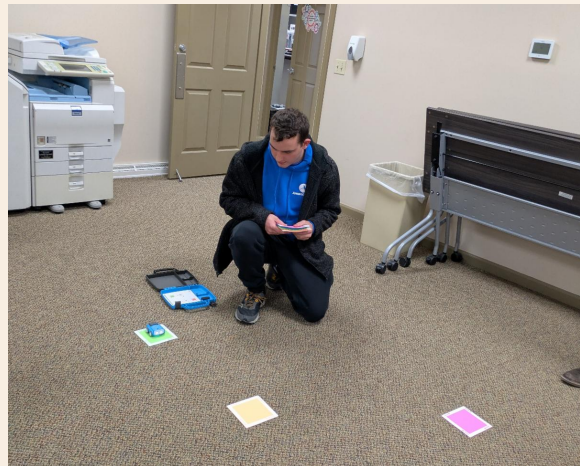






## STEM Training Presented by Riverview I U 6- Clarion County

AmeriCorps members from Knox PreK, Sharpsville Gardens PKC, and Weed & Seed recently participated in a STEM training provided by Riverview Intermediate Unit 6. This was a day spent learning different ways of teaching STEM to the students. Keystone SMILES education programs have been provided access to their STEM lending library. Participants were able to experiment with the different STEM learning modules from the library and then take them back to their sites to use with the children for academic support. It was a very informative and interactive learning day.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Agriculture Safety Days, Clarion & Venango Counties

Keystone SMILES will be hosting it's 18th annual Progressive Agriculture Safety Days. In Clarion County the date is Thursday, May 8th and in Venango County the date will be Wednesday, May 21st. Second graders in Clarion, Forest, and Venango Counties will come to learn not only about farm safety but also how agriculture plays a huge role in their everyday lives. Plans and preparations are underway for this year's events.



**Keystone SMILES would like to thank the businesses, service organizations, and individuals who have donated and/or have committed to volunteer this year!**

## Keystone SMILES CLC Summer AmeriCorps Recruitment

Summer AmeriCorps recruitment and interviews have begun! If you or a friend would like to learn more about AmeriCorps or would like to apply go to our website [www.keystonesmiles.org](http://www.keystonesmiles.org) or find us on [Indeed](#), [Zip Recruiter](#) or [Glassdoor](#).

We are looking forward to an exciting summer of service. Current nonprofits and school districts include the following locations:

- Boys and Girls Club Along the Allegheny, [Venango County](#)
- United Way of Venango, [Venango County](#)
- Mercer County Summer and Meal Programs, [Mercer County](#)
- Keystone SMILES Summer and Meal Programs, [Clarion County](#)
- Oil City Summer and Meal Programs, [Weed & Seed, Venango County](#)
- Zion Education Center, [Mercer County](#)
- Regional Science Consortium located at the Thomas Ridge Environmental Center, [Erie County](#)
- Iroquois School District, Erie, [Erie County](#)
- Scenic Rivers YMCA, Camp Coffman, [Clarion and Venango Counties](#)

**2025 SUMMER RECRUITING! • APPLY TODAY!**

**UP TO \$5,796 /SUMMER**

- 40 Hours per Week • 14 Weeks • \$5,625 **Start Date: May 16th**
- 40 Hours per Week • 10 Weeks • \$4,112 **Start Dates: June 3rd/10th**

**UP TO \$1,956 FOR EDUCATION**

450 Hour Education Award: \$1,956 • 300 Hour Education Award: \$1,565

### SERVICE DUTIES AS A KEYSTONE SMILES AMERICORPS SUMMER MEMBER:

Serve your country by supporting local communities, non-profits, or schools. Members may tutor and provide academic support for children's summer activities in Clarion, Venango, Mercer, or Erie Counties, or join the House of Trades Program in Venango and Clarion Counties. Applicants must be 17 or older and pass required clearances before starting service.



[www.keystonesmiles.org](http://www.keystonesmiles.org)  
• 814.797.2127



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Keystone SMILES CLC is an Equal Opportunity Employer (This ad is for AmeriCorps Service Membership, not employment at Keystone SMILES)(Service Making an Impact through Learning Experience with Students)



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