



**SANTA MARIA**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES™**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**02/28/2020**

## **Santa Maria Community Services Project Advance Celebrates AmeriCorps Week**

*Annual AmeriCorps Week recognizes AmeriCorps members and alumni for their service*

Cincinnati, OH – Next week Project Advance will join hundreds of volunteers across Ohio to celebrate AmeriCorps Week (March 8-14) and the valuable contributions of the AmeriCorps members who pledged to “get things done” in their communities.

“We are proud to be part of AmeriCorps and grateful for the AmeriCorps members who are getting things done for Ohio,” said Hunter Lang, Director of Santa Maria’s Project Advance AmeriCorps program. “AmeriCorps members have made a significant impact on Ohio’s ability to meet so many local needs in education, employment, health and housing, and AmeriCorps Week is a perfect opportunity to recognize their great work,” Lang said.

AmeriCorps Week also honors the contributions and support of local organizations that make AmeriCorps programs possible. In Cincinnati, AmeriCorps members are serving in the community by providing direct service to individuals in need of housing, education, health and employment assistance at local community service and non-profit agencies.

Last year, more than 900 AmeriCorps members served at nearly 500 schools, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations across Ohio dedicating more than 1.2 million hours of service. These members were awarded more than \$4.2 million in education awards to use toward continued education or student loan repayment.

Current AmeriCorps member, Rose Hamzy, said, “My time with AmeriCorps allowed me to gain perspective into the social services field through hands on work, observation, and training. I consider myself very lucky to have been given the opportunity to work with an agency I've grown to love within my own community. Seeing students achieve their educational goals is such an exciting feeling, and I'm so glad AmeriCorps has allowed me to serve directly in the classroom. I'll always be thankful for my experience with AmeriCorps. “

These members have played a critical role in the recovery of local communities. They also tutor and mentor young people, connect veterans to jobs, care for seniors, reduce crime, fight the opioid epidemic, and meet other critical needs.

A [growing body of research](#) shows that service has an effect on more than just the communities served, but also on the members themselves. AmeriCorps alumni credit their year of service for developing leadership skills that bridges divides, solves problems and opens doors to opportunities that advance

their careers and education. In addition, research shows that alumni gain skills and are exposed to experiences that communities and employers find valuable.

Former AmeriCorps member and current Santa Maria employee, Taylor Rodgers, said, “My past AmeriCorps experience has greatly impacted my life as a professional at Santa Maria. It allowed me to focus on the purpose and importance of service. As a former AmeriCorps Ohio College Guide, I was able to help CPS students become aware of their options and plan for their futures after High School. That opportunity translated well to my role here at Santa Maria, as I still help youth plan for their futures and reach goals. Thanks to AmeriCorps, I was able to jump-start my professional career with great experiences, skills, and confidence.”

AmeriCorps programming is administered locally by ServeOhio, the state’s Commission on Service and Volunteerism. To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit [ServeOhio.org/AmeriCorps](https://www.serveohio.org/AmeriCorps). To apply to Santa Maria’s AmeriCorps program, go to [santamaria-cincy.org/ameri-corps-program/](https://santamaria-cincy.org/ameri-corps-program/).

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### **About ServeOhio**

*ServeOhio is the state’s Commission on Service and Volunteerism created to empower local communities to mobilize AmeriCorps members and volunteer resources for the purpose of building a stronger Ohio. ServeOhio increases the effective utilization of AmeriCorps members and community volunteers working to address the state’s frontline issues in education, health and economic opportunity. Interested participants may learn more about ServeOhio at [www.serveohio.org](https://www.serveohio.org), or on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*

### **About AmeriCorps**

*AmeriCorps is a national service program administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages more than 80,000 Americans in intensive service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads volunteer initiatives for the nation. For more information, visit [NationalService.gov](https://www.nationalservice.gov).*

### **About Santa Maria Community Services**

*Santa Maria Community Services is an independent, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Cincinnati Ohio’s Price Hill community. Santa Maria is a catalyst and advocate for Greater Price Hill families to attain their educational, financial, and health goals. The agency provides more than 4,000 individuals with the educational tools and resources to build strong families, promote healthy residents, and foster neighborhood revitalization. Santa Maria’s vision is for Price Hill to be a vibrant, thriving, and self-sustaining community. For more information, please visit <https://www.santamaria-cincy.org/>.*