

The Archive

News & Updates from AmeriCorps St. Louis



AmeriCorps

See the Need, Meet the Need



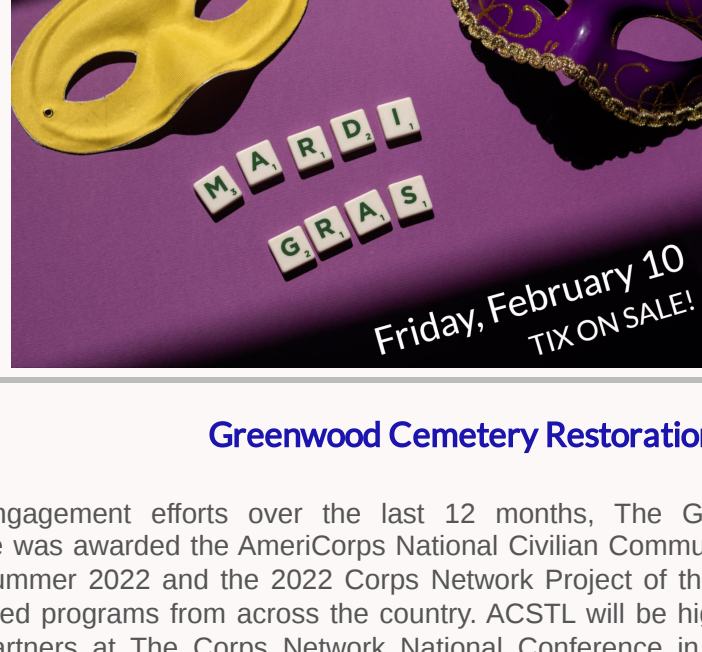
In this issue, we have your invite to Mardi Gras Trivia, upcoming events, Florida team deployment update, shelter activation recap for December and new ways to get involved!

Mardi Gras Trivia Night Returns Friday, February 10th

We're happy to announce that Mardi Gras Trivia will take place on Friday, February 10th at 7:30pm at our location in Soulard. We welcome our **Alumni and Friends** for a fun filled evening together! New this year: we will have raffle items and the winning team will have the opportunity to name one of our new vehicles! Appetizers and beverages included with your entry.

Tickets are just \$20 for an individual and \$100 for a team of 4-5. All of the proceeds benefit our organization. **Limited tickets available! Get them before they're gone!**

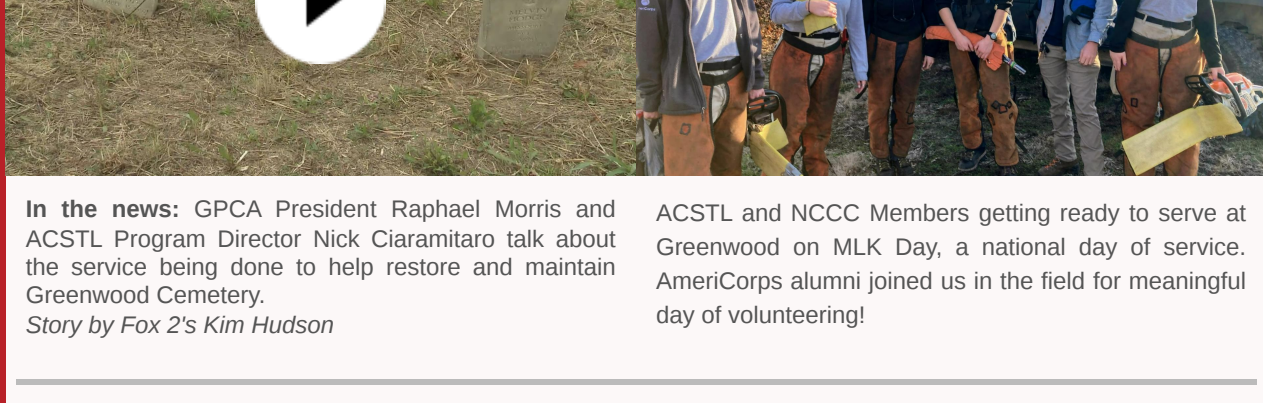
MARDI GRAS TRIVIA TICKETS



Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Initiative Update

Through project engagement efforts over the last 12 months, The Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Initiative was awarded the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps - Sponsor of the Round for Summer 2022 and the 2022 Corps Network Project of the Year selected from over 140 Corps-based programs from across the country. ACSTL will be highlighting this project and participating partners at The Corps Network National Conference in Washington D.C. in March 2023.

ACSTL is continuing the efforts at Greenwood Cemetery, in collaboration with Greenwood Cemetery Preservation Association, to complete the overall ecosystem restoration involving invasive species removal, non-synthetic herbicide application, tree thinning, native tree planting, bench and sign installation, infrastructure improvements for accessibility and recreation, and potentially trailways through the 32 acre green space. For the next three months, AmeriCorps NCCC - Sun 1 from the Southwest Region, will join these restoration efforts.



In the news: GPCA President Raphael Morris and ACSTL Program Director Nick Ciaramitaro talk about the service being done to help restore and maintain Greenwood Cemetery.
Story by Fox 2's Kim Hudson

ACSTL and NCCC Members getting ready to serve at Greenwood on MLK Day, a national day of service. AmeriCorps alumni joined us in the field for meaningful day of volunteering!

Emergency Winter Warming Shelter Activation in December

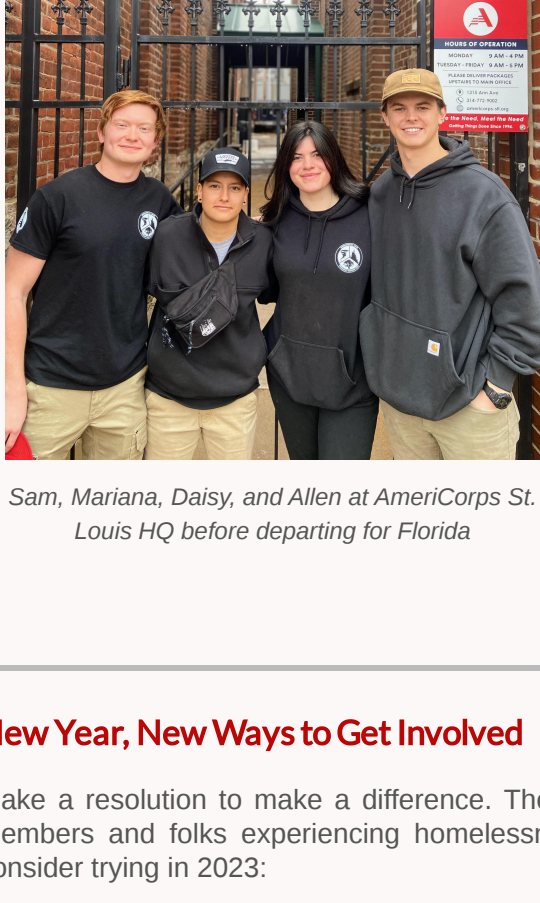
Though it's been an unseasonably warm winter here in St. Louis, the city saw an extreme cold snap in late December. We braved sub zero temperatures and windchills as low as -30 degrees! For our unhoused neighbors, this was a scary, life-threatening situation. Thanks to our emergency warming shelter staff and dedicated network of volunteers, we opened our shelter for 3 consecutive nights, and were even able to stay open during the day, as temperatures were still in the single digits. Because of them, and all of the monetary and in-kind support we received, we were able to provide 90+ shelter beds over the 3 day activation. This is life saving work, thank you to all who made this possible!



If you would like to volunteer at our shelter, please check our opportunity listing here for instructions about how to sign up

ACSTL Shelter Coordinator Zippy Lee (right) with volunteers at the warming shelter.

Florida Hurricane Ian Deployment Round 2



Sam, Mariana, Daisy, and Allen at AmeriCorps St. Louis HQ before departing for Florida

In October, AmeriCorps St. Louis deployed a team of four under a Federal Operations Support (FOS) Mission Assignment in response to Hurricane Ian (DR-4673-FL). The team was tasked with providing support to the FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VALs). ACSTL Members were responsible for cross-referencing various unmet needs lists from partnering agencies and Crisis Cleanup, as well as assisting the A-DRT Operations Section with identifying high-priority cases in need of direct services from A-DRT strike teams. The team also provided administrative support to VOAD and LTRG meetings and created resource guides and maps for FEMA and other partners. Members were also able to assist with mucking/gutting and debris removal at an affected property in Lee County.

This month, we have deployed another team of 4 to continue these operations. Lead by Team Lead Allen Lambert, the team will serve for the next month, based at the FEMA (JFO) near Orlando, FL. Thank you Allen, Daisy, Sam, and Mariana for your service!

New Year, New Ways to Get Involved

Make a resolution to make a difference. There are many ways to support our National Service Members and folks experiencing homelessness in our community. Here are a few options to consider trying in 2023:

Provide lunch for our Tuesday Shelter Services

On Tuesdays from 8am-1pm, our facility is welcoming to all of our unhoused neighbors. We provide breakfast, lunch and outreach services like medical, mental health and housing assistance. If you're a cook and like to make casserole-type dishes, make an extra one for our unhoused friends! Drop off the meals during business hours and we can freeze the dish if necessary. Call us at 314-772-9002 to schedule a drop off!

Volunteer at an upcoming event

Looking for a flexible way to give back? Help us staff a table at an upcoming event and represent AmeriCorps St. Louis. We need volunteers to join us at these upcoming events! Learn more about volunteer opportunities by contacting Outreach Manager, Jane Kersch - jane@americorps-stl.org.

- [Mardi Gras Beverage Booth Fundraiser - Saturday, February 18](#)
- [Gateway Outdoor Expo - Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1](#)
- [St. Louis Earth Day Festival - Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23](#)

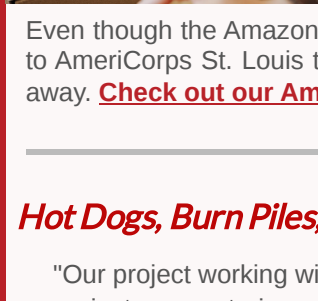
Become a Monthly Donor

Take the next step in supporting AmeriCorps St. Louis. Just \$10 a month can help folks in need by providing a meal, housing support, and wraparound services. Additionally, your gift supports our Members as they tackle environmental projects like trail restoration and invasive plant removals. Helping people and helping the world. [Click HERE to donate](#) or contact Development Manager, Tim Elwell at tim@americorps-stl.org for more information.

Looking for a different way to get involved? Let's chat about other ways your family, business, church, or civic group can make a difference! Give Tim a call at 314-772-9002.

SUPPORT ACSTL IN 2023

AmazonSmile Donations Going Away



Unfortunately, it was announced that AmazonSmile will be closing on February 20th. This feature allowed Amazon customers to designate a portion of their purchases to go towards a favorite charity like AmeriCorps St. Louis (Partnership For Youth, Inc). We greatly appreciate all of our donors that supported us through this channel! It made a difference for our small nonprofit. Thank you.

Even though the AmazonSmile donations will no longer be an option, you can still shop and donate items to AmeriCorps St. Louis through our Amazon Wish List. We're happy to say that this feature is not going away. [Check out our Amazon Wish List HERE](#) and support with a click of the button!

Hot Dogs, Burn Piles, and Friends: A Great Story by Avalon Patnode Stewart

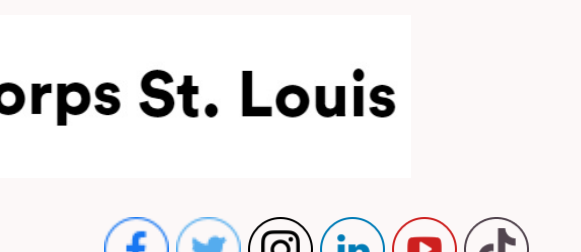
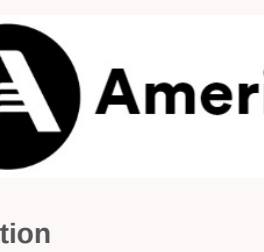
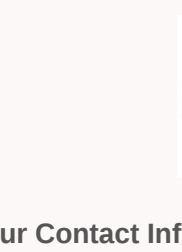
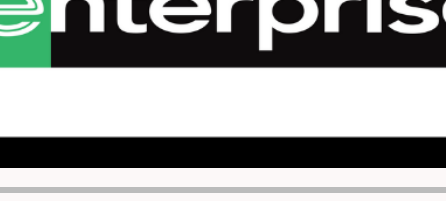
"Our project working with Tracey and MDC was one of the most eventful projects I have been on. The project was restoring a glade by cutting small woodies and creating burn piles as well as felling snags along a fire unit. Every day we would drive out to the project site on Tracey's UTV which was wonderful and terrifying all at the same time. Tracey brought us hot dogs and s'mores to cook for lunch on the burn piles one of the days. After working we'd come back to our housing and spend the rest of the evening laughing. I haven't laughed that hard in a long time. On our last night we made gingerbread houses and had a little party where we made balloon hats and played games and listened to music. I got to know my teammates a lot better on those ten days and I am grateful to have such wonderful people to be going on these adventures with. *This corps is an utter joy to be a part of.*"

Pictured below: Nic Chavez, Grant Young, Sam Unnerstall, Ally Erickson, Avalon Patnode Stewart, and Emily Ray with MDC Ozarks contacts at Spring Creek Gap Conservation Area.



THANK YOU PARTNERS!

We'd like to give a shoutout to our 2022 Impact Partners who committed time and resources to improving the community with us this past year!



AmeriCorps St. Louis

Our Contact Information

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