Nominee- Emily Hunt with the Iowa Department of Public Health AmeriCorps Mentoring Program, under the category of most significant enhancement to an existing program. The nominator is Ashley Leistikow, ashley@iowabigs.org, whom has been Emily’s direct Supervisor throughout the majority of her service time.

As an AmeriCorps Enrollment Specialist, Emily worked closely with me on the Enrollment of Volunteers and Children into our program. Emily excelled in her position and was given the responsibility to handle all child inquiries. This required Emily to divide all inquiries between the Enrollment Staff. Emily created a system that allowed us to track where each child was in the process and ensured that they were followed up with.

As a result of Emily going above and beyond, she is in charge of checking files for all of the Enrollment Staff to ensure that they are in compliance this saves the Program Director an immense amount of time by decreasing the amount of errors for the final review. Emily has an incredible amount of passion and dedication. She is the only AmeriCorps member we have had that was able to have a few matches on her caseload to support. Emily communicates with these matches consistently to guarantee child safety and relationship growth. This requires a lot of attention to detail and strict deadlines. Emily regularly meets those deadlines and if able, will help others.

Emily is a constant pleasure to have in our office. She has helped to plan countless match activities for our Matches in the community. Emily has worked hard during the activities to make sure they are diverse enough for all of our Matches to enjoy themselves.

Emily now can completely train any new staff in any area of Enrollment and Big Brothers Big Sisters Mission and Vison. There are countless ways that Emily makes a difference in our agency every day. There are the little things like how she always manages to be smiling no matter how much work she has left to do. The way she makes all volunteer’s and families feel completely comfortable during the interview process and following up with them during the waiting period. Emily has the ability to get quality work done under the amount of time she is given and has great feedback on every volunteer or child that she works with.

The best description of Emily came from our National office when they called and she happened to answer. They said, “Emily makes everyone smile when she answers the phone and she’s like sunshine.”