Most Impactful Member Service, Ariane Wright an AmeriCorps State Member Kansas, Harvesters – The Community Food Network.

Ariane Wright became an AmeriCorps Kansas Member in August 2017 and joined the team at Harvesters – The Community Food Network in the role of Community Engagement Specialist. In this service Ariane’s primary responsibilities are to concentrate on recruiting, educating, retaining and recognizing the number of community supporters (individuals, families, faith-based and service organizations, and corporations) whose donation of time will make it possible to increase the amount of perishable and non-perishable food available for distribution by our agency network. AmeriCorps Members also create and present age-appropriate service learning activities around the issue of hunger, food insecurity, and volunteerism for students, teachers, and families.

During her year of service Ariane has overhauled Youth Education at Harvesters. She has made a significant and long lasting impact on the engagement opportunities that we are able to offer at the Community. Ariane started by reviewing what was previously available and fully immersed herself in learning the curriculum. She spent time deliberately considering the curriculum and the audience. She then presented proposals for updates and improvements on the educational content and the measurements of success. I am incredibly impressed with the resources that she was able to pull together and her ability to adapt the engagements to the group size and age. The improvements really demonstrated Ariane’s ability to connect with and to advocate for those who are food insecure in our community. During her term of serving Ariane has capitalized on 18 opportunities to educate 331 first time volunteers.

Ariane has impressed me with her attention to detail not only within the various databases we utilize at the organization but in creating connections with the volunteers. She remembers names, details and personal antidotes about the volunteers that create a warm and welcoming environment. She planned and executed five different Volunteer Appreciation events in the month of April to recognize the incredible impact that volunteers have on the mission of Harvesters. Each of these events were customized to the volunteer group being recognized, from a pancake appreciation breakfast to an afternoon tea she never missed an opportunity to show her depth of knowledge and understanding of how to connect with our volunteers. Ariane has recruited 1,281 volunteers who have provided 2,936 hours of service.

Ariane is a team player. On MLK Day of Service another Member who was to lead the youth education piece was struggling and Ariane jumped right in. Not only was I impressed by her willingness to take over and ensure the experience for the volunteers was high quality; I was very impressed by how she supported the team member who was struggling – she was warm, full of grace and kindness.

Ariane accepts feedback. There have been a couple of times where she and other members of the department would see things differently. In these instances she is able to keep a calm and level headed, articulate her position and would seek common ground. I believe Ariane is an exemplary candidate for Most Impactful Member Service and I am thrilled to nominate her.

Amy Pinger

Community Engagement Manager

AmeriCorps Supervisor

[apinger@harvesters.org](mailto:apinger@harvesters.org)

785-861-7711