

# RISE AmeriCorps Member Testimonials



"I gained a lot of perspective on who I am, who I desire to be, and changes I would like to make. I am more aware of my professional skills and I have amazing co-workers and fellow members—I have learned from them and their varied backgrounds."

—Jennie, DIAL/SELF

"AmeriCorps has given me a greater sense of social responsibility. For the first time I've had strong feelings of community involvement that I find myself obliged to continue participating as well as serving my community. I've had the opportunity to see the teens and pre-teens I serve grow in positive ways and have seen this change in myself as well. My AmeriCorps service has left me optimistic, empowered, focused, and driven."

--Jared, The Brick House



"This is the perfect position for someone interested in education. You are given a good amount of responsibilities and room to grow while still being supported."

—Corey, Amherst Middle School

"RISE gave me an opportunity to explore my interest in social justice education. I gained experience inspiring creativity and learning through art, and I built skills by coordinating events and leading workshops... AmeriCorps is a great opportunity to become connected with community and inspire young folks!"

-- Allison, Youth Action Coalition



More information and RISE application available at  
[www.dialself.org/ameriCorps](http://www.dialself.org/ameriCorps).

RISE is funded in part by the Massachusetts Service Alliance,  
the State Commission on Community Service. [www.mass-service.org](http://www.mass-service.org)

"My past year with AmeriCorps has truly affected my entire outlook and involvement regarding community, as well as my view on the impact that one can have on society as a whole. Learning the values, ethics, and the composition of a community is central to being a contributing citizen...It is so rewarding to know that I can contribute to my community in a positive way."

--Jen,  
*Greenfield Recreation Department and Youth Commission*



"A young woman in one of my groups, who is a natural leader, liked and respected by her peers, was telling the story of how she almost got into a fight. 'But instead,' she said, 'I took the girl to mediation, only we didn't go to the mediators. It was just us, and we talked things out and realized that it was all just a misunderstanding.' It was amazing to look around and see how intently the other girls were listening to this story, and absorbing the idea that they themselves could create alternatives to violence."

--Meg, *Community Coalition for Teens*



"[The Youth Legislative Forum] this year was amazing—both the lead up to the event and the event itself. Meeting with teens in local schools was a great way to get everyone started in a dialogue about civic engagement, and when the forum itself rolled around, the teens were so enthusiastic and involved that I left the event walking on air!"

—Caitlin,  
*Valley Human Services*

"Since joining RISE, I've gained more confidence in my abilities to make a difference and create opportunities for positive youth development at my site."

—Edwin, *The Brick House*