

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: Community Engagement VISTA

Sponsoring Organization: The Bridge at Green Street

Project Name: AmeriCorps VISTAs in the Piedmont

Project Number:

Project Period: 08/09/2021—08/08/2022

Site Name: The Bridge at Green Street

Focus Area(s)

UWP will complete this for you.

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Project:

The project will reduce homelessness in Spartanburg and reduce the abuse and trafficking of women associated with homelessness. The project will increase the capacity of The Bridge at Green Street to offer shelter, assistance, and case management to women in homelessness through the development of a tiny house community and appropriate associated recovery program.

Objective of the Assignment (DATES: 08/09/2021—08/08/2022)

Describe Objective: The VISTA member will complete and implement a site plan and architectural design plans for individual tiny houses specifically for the Northside and for a target population of homeless single women, using volunteers and construction professionals.

Member Activities:

1. Collaborate and coordinate with Adam Flynn from McMillan Pazdan Smith to finalize designs for the Community House.
2. Create and strengthen partnerships with construction agencies who are willing to provide contracting services pro-bono or at low cost.
3. Cultivate relationships with team leaders and volunteers over construction projects.
4. Develop a volunteer team and create a schedule for on-going maintenance.

Objective of the Assignment (DATES: 08/09/2021—08/08/2022)

Describe Objective: The VISTA member will work with the leadership at the Bridge at Green Street to develop an approach to recovery from homelessness to implement with the residents of the tiny house village.

Member Activities:

1. Develop relationships with existing community agencies to strengthen partnerships and foster collaboration.

2. Develop a referral system with partner agencies for services available to future residents.
3. Form customizable program strategies that will aid future residents in substance abuse recovery and treatment for mental illness.
4. Evaluate programming and suggest changes based on needs and assessments of future residents.

Objective of the Assignment (DATES: 08/09/2021—08/08/2022)

Describe Objective: The VISTA member will work to develop wide-spread community, volunteer, and financial support for the tiny house village and the recovery program.

Member Activities:

1. Build upon existing community engagement in order to deepen relationships within city leadership.
2. Create partnerships with area churches, local businesses, schools and civic organizations to provide volunteer, mentor and community service opportunities.
3. Research and apply for available grants.
4. Develop an online giving page to promote sponsorship and financial support.
5. Facilitate monthly volunteer trainings.

Objective of the Assignment (DATES: 08/09/2021—08/08/2022)

Describe Objective: The VISTA member will develop a sustainable vegetable garden, using community volunteers and BridgeWay residents, as a resource to teach gardening, responsibility, and good nutrition to women transitioning out of homelessness.

Member Activities:

1. Coordinate with a volunteer leader with gardening knowledge and experience.
2. Recruit volunteers to serve as helpers and mentors.
3. Research available grant money to fund initial costs.
4. Develop appropriate training for mentors.

Objective of the Assignment (08/09/2021-08/08/2022)

VISTAs will spend 10% of their service participating in a supplemental project designed to foster collaboration and problem-solving for (a) community-wide issue(s). The VISTA team will gather one half-day each week to share different perspectives and experiences gained through their work on-site and work together on (a) project(s).