It with immense gratitude, appreciation and admiration that I salute you all in witnessing your innovation and flexibility as we've transitioned to full time tele-service in response to COVID-19. On behalf of The Alliance, we are honored by your continuation of service to the city of Houston while maintaining your own health and safety during such a challenging time. You are truly inspirations to us all. This month’s newsletter will highlight information from the Corporation for National Community Service. In addition, we (AmeriCorps staff) will be hosting a video conference call Friday, April 10th at 11:00 am using the Zoom platform to answer any questions or concerns you may have about your service term. This will also give us an opportunity to check in and see everyone! An invitation will be sent via email. Please plan to attend. In the mean time, continue to follow local, state, and federal safety guidance and prioritize time for self care!

Be Well,

W. KaNeesha Allen, AmeriCorps Programs Director

COVID-19 Frequently Asked AmeriCorps Questions (clickhere)

These FAQs do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. You should refer to CNCS’s statute and regulations for applicable requirements.
GOODBYE FAVOUR!

By Gislaine Williams
Community Relations Director, The Alliance; VISTA Supervisor

Over the past year, Favour [The Alliance Communications & Marketing VISTA] has made significant contributions to our community engagement and communications work. She was involved in the planning and implementation of all of our major events. She has boosted our internal and external communications work by sending out regular staff newsletters highlighting all the amazing work our staff is doing, sharing client success stories through our website and social media, developing engaging communications campaigns and graphics, and increasing our social media followers. Favour has been a great team member, always showing her commitment to supporting our work and empowering the community. We are going to miss her greatly and wish her the best as she decides on her next steps.”

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Why the secret to success is setting the right goals

- Learn more about how setting the right goals can mean the difference between success and failure

How to be a Great Leader, A Ted Talk Playlist

What makes us feel good about our work?

- What motivates us to work? Contrary to conventional wisdom, it isn’t just money. But it’s not exactly joy either.

FAVOUR’S MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PLANNING AND MARKETING:
World Refugee Day
Back to School
United We Dine
2nd & 3rd Refugee Mental Health and Wellness Conference

COMMUNICATIONS:
Boosted internal and external communications at The Alliance with:
- Newsletters
- Client stories
- Social media campaigns
- Increased social media engagement
- Doubled Instagram followers

10 WAYS TO SAFELY HELP YOUR COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

BELOW...
10 Ways To Safely Help Your Community During Covid-19

Americans are uniting to help each other during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Be sure to follow CDC guidelines for how to slow the spread of the disease, and consider these simple ways every American can help their neighbors, friends, and families.

1. Donate to Nonprofits
Cash donations are the best way to support the nonprofit of your choice. The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) has a list of organizations supporting COVID-19 response efforts. Guidestar and Great Nonprofits also have search engines to locate organizations that need help.

2. Donate or Volunteer Safely with Food Banks and Pantries
Donate to food banks and pantries to help them stock up or volunteer at a food bank that needs help packing and sorting food using safe practices. Visit Feeding America or Food Pantries to find an organization near you.

3. Deliver Meals and Groceries to Vulnerable Seniors
Help out someone you know or contact your local Meals on Wheels to learn ways to volunteer.

4. Help a School
Check with your area school system to see if they need volunteers to distribute food (or other items) to children and families in need.

5. Give Blood
Blood donations have decreased dramatically. Help fill the need by contacting your local Red Cross or other blood donation sites.

6. Become a Medical Volunteer
Trained medical volunteers can offer their services by registering with a National VOAD member. Medical professionals and others can help locally by joining the Medical Reserve Corps.

7. Donate Medical Supplies and Equipment
If you have medical supplies or equipment to donate, please email FEMA’s National Business Emergency Operations Center at nbeoc@fema.dhs.gov.

8. Stay in Touch
Check on your neighbors, friends, and family – especially those who are older or may be alone. A phone call, text, or a conversation through the door could brighten their day.

9. Serve in Your Community
Many states are identifying local volunteer opportunities; visit your State Service Commission’s website for details.

10. Volunteer from Home
Prefer to volunteer while staying at home? Check out AllForGood.org for service ideas. For more information on COVID-19, visit Coronavirus.gov, Centers for Disease Control, Government Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) USA.gov/coronavirus, and FEMA Coronavirus Rumor Control.
Things To Do In Houston

April 2020

**Virtual Tours and Streaming:**

*Tour 12 Famous Art Museums Virtually*

*15 Streamable Broadway Plays & Musicals*

*Concerts, Plays, Museums and Other Culture*

*Museums, Zoos and Theme Park Tours*

**Webinars and Workshops:**

*AmeriCAN: Pathway & Power of Immigrants*
Saturday 4/11 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

*Joon Bug Comic Book Workshop*
Saturdays in April 2:00-3:00 PM (ET)

*Coping with COVID: Financial Implications for Creative Individuals*
Tuesday 4/7 6:00-7:00 PM (ET)

**Ted Talks:**

*Navigating Coronavirus, A Collection for Ted Talks*

*The Importance of Self-Care, A Ted Talk Playlist*

*Talks to Help Manage Stress, A Ted Talk Playlist*

*Refugees, A Collection of Talks*

**Self Care and Health:**

*Meditation to Enhance Resilience and Calm the Mind*
Every Weekday from 12-12:30 PM EST

*Community Mindfulness Meditation Sessions with Brown Mindfulness Center, School of Public Health, Brown University*
Mondays from 5:30-6:30 PM (ET)

*BollyGroove Cardio, Free Online Bollywood Workout*
Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-6:45 PM

**14 Houston Gyms and Yoga Studios Offering Online Classes**

**Volunteering during COVID-19**

Stay up to date on ability to volunteer with Volunteer Houston

Volunteer Opportunities article:
Includes:
- The Beacon
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston
- Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center
- Houston Food Bank
- Houston Furniture Bank
- Kids' Meal
- Target Hunger Houston

Volunteer Opportunities article: