



AN AMERICORPS STORY



AmeriCorps VISTA in 2006 with the Department of Public Health and Human Service's Prevention Resource Center

Served with the **North Central Montana Retired & Senior Volunteer Program** under the North Central Area Agency on Aging in Great Falls

AmeriCorps VISTA Leader in 2007 in Helena

Currently the **VISTA Program Manager** with the Prevention Resource Center

Abby decided to dedicate a year of service to her hometown by becoming an AmeriCorps VISTA. She was placed with the North Central Montana Retired & Senior Volunteer Program to support public safety programs such as Neighborhood Watch and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Abby focused on volunteer recruitment and retention and helped to improve their internal management systems. She also increased community awareness by organizing a successful and award-winning National Night Out event that brought together community members, the Great Falls Police Department, and local businesses to promote and celebrate the Neighborhood Watch Program. During her second term as a VISTA leader, Abby recruited and supported other AmeriCorps members, planned trainings, and organized all member gatherings and service projects. Since 2009, she has been employed with Department of Health and Human Services as their VISTA Program Manager.

"My service as an AmeriCorps VISTA gave me the opportunity to serve my hometown and give back to a community that had given me so much during my formative years. As a local, I was able to use my knowledge of the community to build stronger relationships with community members and organizations which created greater buy-in resulting in sustainable solutions to community problems." –Abby Zent

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