



AN AMERICORPS STORY



AmeriCorps VISTA 2011-2012

with Montana Campus Compact's FoodCorps project

Served with **Flathead Valley Community College** in Kalispell

Currently serving as an **AmeriCorps member** with the new FoodCorps program at the Kalispell School District #5

Katie Wheeler

As an AmeriCorps VISTA member, Katie Wheeler worked with the Lower Valley Meat Processing and the Kalispell School District #5 to purchase fresh local beef patties for the school lunch program. Katie determined that the Lower Valley Meat Processing had the proper equipment and could meet the school district's price points. This deal saves the school district \$750 annually, while putting \$35,000 back into the local economy. School students also benefit by now being able to dine on local healthy grass-fed beef from Montana ranches in the Mission and Flathead Valley.

"I have never felt more a part of a community than I do in the Flathead Valley. I've only lived here for a year, but I so quickly became invested in my fellow community members and them in my service and me. I have only AmeriCorps to thank for getting me here." – Katie Wheeler