

## **2009 – 2010 Volunteer Center VISTA Bios**

### Viviana Vallin, Boys and Girls Clubs of Las Vegas

Viviana Vallin grew up in San Fernando, California and moved to Las Vegas when she was 12. Viviana recently graduated from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA with a B.S. in Biology. She will attend veterinary school at the University of Pennsylvania in fall 2010. As the Volunteer Coordinator for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas, she is working to establish a volunteer management program. During her year of service, Viviana aims to recruit and maintain committed volunteers that will assist in carrying out the organization's mission to serve and empower the youth of Las Vegas. Her major tasks include putting together a volunteer management manual, creating meaningful and detailed volunteer job descriptions, establishing an orientation and training procedure for new volunteers, and setting up an evaluation system that will accurately describe the effectiveness of the volunteer management program.

### Natalie Minev, Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada

Natalie Minev is an AmeriCorps VISTA at the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada, a program of United Way of Southern Nevada. Her main responsibilities are establishing new partnerships with non-profit organizations in Southern Nevada to help build their capacity with volunteers. She also works on coordinating projects for national days of service. Natalie recently graduated with a B.A. in English and political science from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. She has lived in Las Vegas for most of her life and enjoys reading, playing the guitar, and spending time outdoors.

### Donielle Woods, United Labor Agency of Nevada

Donielle Woods is originally from Oakland, California. She briefly attended school in Alabama before moving to Las Vegas. Donielle graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas with an undergraduate degree in Anthropology. As a VISTA with ULAN, she is revising a booklet, "Help for Tough Times", and developing an internship program to help build organizational capacity. Her favorite food is sushi.

### Rebekah Hamby, American Red Cross, Southern Nevada Chapter

Rebekah Hamby is a native Nevadan and was born and raised in Southern Nevada. She graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas with a B.A. in English and with a minor in French. She served as an AmeriCorps State and National member in a part time position with the Boys and Girls Club of Las Vegas through homework help programs. Rebekah is currently working with sales and marketing with the American Red Cross, Southern Nevada chapter. She is updating the mailing list to provide a better marketing strategy for current clients as well as learning current market strategy so that she can bring more volunteers to help out the American Red Cross.

### Meagan Ho Ching, HELP of Southern Nevada

Meagan HoChing is from American Samoa but raised in Utah and is the middle child of 5 children. She lived in Boston, Massachusetts for a year before moving to Las Vegas, Nevada. After serving a year of AmeriCorps VISTA, Meagan plans to return to Boston for school, majoring in Liberal Arts. She loves sports, art, and spending time with family.

### Dana M. Smith, Three Square Food Bank

Dana Smith is an AmeriCorps VISTA serving with a United Way Partner agency, in the fight to feed America. Dana is a mother of three and an instructor of cosmetology. She is a compassionate people person on an eager pursuit of knowledge, fulfillment and fun during her year of service.

Jennifer Livingston, Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada

Jennifer Livingston is originally from Lenoir, North Carolina. She received a *Bachelor of Fine Art in Sculpture* and a *Bachelor of Science in Art Management* from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina in 2008. After graduating, Livingston relocated to Portland, Maine to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Maine Campus Compact at Maine College of Art in their Service Learning and Student Engagement program. She is currently serving as the AmeriCorps VISTA Leader for the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada's VISTA program. After completing her second year of service, Livingston plans to take some time to travel and tentatively plans to pursue Master's degree in architecture beginning fall 2011.

Pam Brearey, Earn It Keep It Save It

Pam Brearey is an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Earn It Keep It Save It collaborative, a program of United Way of Southern Nevada. Her main responsibilities are growing the volunteer base for the program, as well as building and maintaining partnerships with community organizations. Pam recently graduated with a B.A. in International Studies from Elon University, in Elon, North Carolina. She enjoys swimming, playing rugby, and playgrounds. After her year of service she plans to get her Master's degree and travel the world.

Paul Lauber, Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada

Paul Lauber is an AmeriCorps VISTA at the Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada, a program of United Way of Southern Nevada. He works on the Earn it Keep it Save it Collaborative. His main responsibilities include managing partnerships with organizations in the Earn it Keep it Save it Collaborative and volunteer recruitment efforts. Paul was born in Las Vegas but spent most of his life living in rural Northeastern Nevada. He is deeply committed to social justice and has had experience working with political campaigns. He speaks Spanish from having lived in Bilbao, Spain for nearly one year from 2006-2007. His hobbies include reading and hiking.

Ruthie Howard, Interfaith Council of Southern Nevada

Ruthie Howard is an AmeriCorps VISTA member at the Interfaith Council of Southern Nevada. Her main objective through the year of service is to assist in capacity building of the organization which includes administrative support for the Interfaith Council, collaborative involvement with United Way partnerships as well as fundraising assistance for the Interfaith Council's leadership youth program, Camp Anytown. Ruthie graduated from Humboldt State University in May of 2009 with an undergraduate degree in Psychology. She relocated to the Las Vegas area in July 2009 from the San Francisco Bay area. Ruthie has felt inspired by working with the Interfaith Council and staff of Camp Anytown, and has therefore decided to further her education in the field of Social Work following her year of service in AmeriCorps.