

# Arkansas 4-H Afterschool

U of A UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

"Making the Best Better"



ISSUE 5

AUGUST 2011

## Notes from the Editor

### Inside this issue

- Lights On Afterschool .....2
- 411 on Poverty,  
Education and 4-H .....2
- Let's Read, Let's Move .....2
- The VISTA Connection ....3
- Let's Talk: Ms. Ida .....3
- Let's Talk: Jenne' .....3
- Dates to Remember .....4
- Links .....4

### 4-H Pledge

I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world.



Hello, everyone. My name is Brandon Stegall. I am a former Arkansas 4-H'er who grew up in Wynne, Arkansas. I recently graduated from Hendrix College with a bachelor of arts in cross cultural leadership. I am one of the new Arkansas 4-H AmeriCorps\* VISTA members who will be working with the 4-H Afterschool program and

promoting 4-H throughout the state of Arkansas.

You may be wondering how I decided to work with AmeriCorps\*. When I returned home after graduation, I was not sure what I wanted to do next. Did I want to work or go to grad school? I found AmeriCorps\* and began to see it as the path I should embrace. This opportunity allows me to continue to learn while not yet focusing on a career. I got lucky because there happened to be AmeriCorps\* positions with Arkansas 4-H. There was no way that I could not do this.

When I was kid, 4-H gave me a reason to want to travel outside of Arkansas and to choose to walk a path that I might have missed

without it. It was through 4-H that I began to break out of my shell and build social relationships. I have so many great friends whom I would not have met (Jef Ferguson, Stephanie Delay and Elise Snoddy), and I have worked with wonderful people who inspired me to keep going (Priscella Thomas-Scott, Shannon Caldwell, Rick Wimberly, all of my Cross county extension staff family and so many more).

I am working through the AmeriCorps\* VISTA program to end poverty, get kids off the street, change the world and, at the same time, give back to a wonderful program that helped me develop as a youth. I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and I look forward to working with you all.

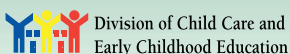
### Meet Tasha

My name is Tasha Rainey, and I am an AmeriCorps\* VISTA. I am from Little Rock, Arkansas, and I attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. I graduated in May 2011 with a bachelor of science in business administration and management. While at UAPB, I participated in the nationally known marching band, the Marching Musical Machine of the Mid-South (M4), as a Golden Silk.

I chose AmeriCorps\* because both my older brother and sister were part of AmeriCorps\*. They were part of City Year. I felt it was my destiny to do my share in serving my community. However, I chose a different AmeriCorps\* program. I chose AmeriCorps\* VISTA with Arkansas 4-H Afterschool so that I could use my degree, my knowledge and my experience within my year of service.



In partnership with



# Lights On Afterschool

*Lights On Afterschool* is celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families and communities.

The program gives young people a time to speak publicly to policymakers about their views on afterschool, learning, education and other related issues. It was launched in October

2000 with celebrations in 1,200 communities nationwide. In the following year, 3,600 events took place.



Today, more than 7,500 *Lights On Afterschool* rallies are held annually, attracting one million Americans and media coverage nationwide.

Join us October 20, 2011, in celebrating *Lights On Afterschool*! Invite your mayor, school board members or city council members to come to your afterschool program to listen to what kids have to say.

— JENNE' RICHARDSON

1 in 4 youth -  
15.1 million  
children - are  
alone and  
unsupervised  
after school.  
Afterschool  
programs keep  
kids safe, help  
working families  
and inspire  
learning.

LIGHTS ON  
AFTERSCHOOL

## 411 on Arkansas, Poverty, Education and 4-H

"With more than 186,000 Arkansas children living in poverty, the state has the third highest child poverty rate in the nation, after Mississippi and the District of Columbia."

— ARKANSAS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Education is not a magic bullet when it comes to society's problems, but it may be a miracle drug to cure some societal ills. A task force in Arkansas determined that expanding education for poor people can help reduce poverty ([change.org](http://change.org)). According to the U.S. Department of Education, the importance of

a diploma has only grown over time. In 1964, a high school dropout earned 64 cents for every dollar made by a high school graduate. Fast forward to 2004, and a high school dropout earned only 37 cents for every dollar made by someone with a diploma. Arkansas State Senator Joyce Elliot, Little Rock, says, "Education can and does sustain people for a lifetime, and offers an opportunity to overcome the plague that is a life in poverty."

The 4-H Afterschool program is a way to help

combat poverty in the state of Arkansas. Parents can feel safe in knowing their kids are being taught with a great curriculum free of charge that not only promotes learning but promotes healthier living as well.

If you are interested in investing in not only your child but other children across the state of Arkansas, then contact your local extension office to find out more about the 4-H Afterschool program and how you can help reduce poverty in Arkansas.

## Let's Read, Let's Move

On September 11, 2001, our country suffered a tragic loss when terrorists attacked the United States. By encouraging Americans to participate in service and remembrance activities on the 9/11 anniversary, family members may provide a productive and respectful way to honor those who perished, rekindle the spirit of unity and compassion that swept our nation after 9/11 and help meet the challenges we face today.

This year more than one million people are planning to join together to make this day a day of service. In the state of Arkansas, we plan to observe this day through *United We Serve* as "National Reading Day." I plan to serve by applying for my first library card since high school at the Central Arkansas Library. I also plan to serve by reading at least five books by the end of the month of December.

*We will never forget...*  
**9-11-01**

Arkansas 4-H Afterschool encourages everyone to plan a day of service as we recognize and honor those we lost in the September 11 terrorist attack. You can make this possible by going to [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov) to register your service/project. — TASHA RAINEY

# The VISTA Connection



## What VISTA Members Do

VISTA members commit to serve full time for a year at a nonprofit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups and much more. With passion, commitment and hard work, members create or expand programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty. Members find the fulfillment that comes from using their knowledge and skills to help those in disadvantaged circumstances turn their dreams into reality. — AMERICORPS\* WEBSITE

## What Is AmeriCorps\* VISTA?

AmeriCorps VISTA\* is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Founded as the Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps\* network of programs in 1993, VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years.

**Thirty-seven million Americans live in poverty. Through AmeriCorps\* VISTA, you can make a tangible difference.**

## Let's Talk: Ms. Ida



**How would you describe yourself in three words?**

Creative, humorous and proactive.

**If you were a tree (or animal), what kind of tree (or animal) would you be?**

A lion. I like the courage and strength of the lioness and how she protects her cubs.

**If you could trade places with any other person for a week, famous or not famous, living or dead, real or fictional, who would it be?**

Mahatma Gandhi.

**If you could be any character in fiction, who would you be?**

Dante in the *Divine Comedy*.

**If you were a Star Trek® (or Star Wars®) character, which one would you be?**

Jean Luke Picard. The phrase "Engage" is so cool to me. To me it means let's do this.

**If you were a type of food, what type of food would you be?**

An onion. So many layers!!!

## Let's Talk: Jenne'

**How would you describe yourself in three words?**

Driven, cool and beautiful.

**If you were a tree (or animal), what kind of tree (or animal) would you be?**

I would like to be a Bengal tiger because I love their coat and their keenness.

**If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see play the leading role?**

Jessica White or Naomi Campbell.

**Why are manhole covers round?**

People are not squares.

**What is your favorite color?**

In all honesty, I admire all the colors. However, my most favorite is indigo. It is such a deep, rich and beautiful color.

**If you were a Star Trek® (or Star Wars®) character, which one would you be?**

Yoda. He is extremely wise and speaks in code. LOL.



## Dates to Remember

### Arkansas 4-H Afterschool In-Service

August 16-17, 2011

C.A. Vines 4-H Center, Little Rock

### Arkansas 4-H Afterschool Best Practices Academy

September 16, 2011

Arkansas State University, Blytheville

### Southern Region Volunteer Forum

October 5-9, 2011

C.A. Vines 4-H Center, Little Rock

### Arkansas 4-H Foundation Celebration of Excellence

October 11, 2011

C.A. Vines 4-H Center, Little Rock

### Arkansas State Fair

October 14-23, 2011

### 4-H Day at the Arkansas State Fair

October 15, 2011

### 13th Annual Arkansas Conference for Parent Education and Involvement

"Parenting Education: It's a Jungle Out There!"

October 19-20, 2011

Hot Springs Convention Center

<http://www.parenting-ed.org>

### Lights On Afterschool!

October 20, 2011

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm>

### National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference

October 24-28, 2011

Omaha, Nebraska

<http://2011nae4ha.unl.edu/>

## Links

### Lights On Afterschool (October)

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm>

### MLK Day of Service (January)

[http://mlkday.gov/assets/files/2011/Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://mlkday.gov/assets/files/2011/Fact_Sheet.pdf)

### Children's Defense Fund: Children in Arkansas

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/state-data-repository/cits/2011/children-in-the-states-2011-arkansas.pdf>

### ArkansasEd.Org Grants

<http://arkansased.org/programs/grants.html>

### United We Serve

<http://www.serve.gov>

### Start, Join, and Win Campaigns for Social Change

<http://www.change.org/>

## Contact Information

Ida Collier

Program Associate - 4-H Afterschool

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

2301 South University Avenue

Little Rock, AR 72204

Phone: 501-671-2270

Fax: 501-671-2028

E-mail: [icollier@uaex.edu](mailto:icollier@uaex.edu)

[www.kidsarus.org](http://www.kidsarus.org)

## 4-H Motto

To Make the Best Better