

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Feeding the Gulf Coast hosts AmeriCorps NCCC team

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Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, is hosting 8 AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members for over a week. The NCCC members are fulfilling their mission to strengthen communities through service activities by helping the food bank with warehouse and gardening projects. Feeding the Gulf Coast has a long relationship with AmeriCorps service teams, hosting many groups and individuals over the years who have generously donated their time and services to help fight hunger on the Gulf Coast.

Feeding the Gulf Coast depends on the generosity of people's time like the NCCC members. "Our operations would not be possible without the help of volunteers" said Cathy Pope, President & CEO of Feeding the Gulf Coast. "The community provides the support we need to fight hunger each day, and we are very grateful." In 2016 Feeding the Gulf Coast had over 16,000 volunteers donate close to 210,000 hours of their time.

This week the NCCC members have many projects to help Feeding the Gulf Coast's operations and gardening program. Operational activities include annual maintenance, painting, cleaning, inspecting and sorting food. They will help protect the garden from pests, animals and harmful vegetation by mending the fence and repairing 40 raised beds. This will dramatically increase garden production using organic methods.

"Domestic hunger is a really deep concern of mine and I am always interested in ways I can assist with the issue," said Regina Pineda, the NCCC group's Media Representative. "I am excited to be part of this project. I have had many gardens in the past, and I enjoy and find comfort in the activities of plant maintenance."

To learn how you and or your organization can help Feeding the Gulf Coast fight hunger, contact our volunteer coordinator by calling: 1-888-704-FOOD or visit:

www.feedingthegulfcoast.org



Photo of NCCC at Feeding the Gulf Coast left to right: Quintavious Whitner, Michael Gill, Jarrid Veals, Gloria Taylor, Justin Keller, Michael Miller, Clifton Brandy Jr. Not pictured: Regina Pineda

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About Feeding the Gulf Coast:

Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, serves a 24-county area spanning south Alabama, south Mississippi and the Panhandle of Florida. In 2016, the food bank distributed over 22 million pounds of food to nearly 400 church pantries, soup kitchens and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple nutrition programs, including Summer Food Service, Afterschool Snack, Backpack, Disaster Relief, Community Garden, Mobile Pantry, Produce Drop, Cooking Matters, and SNAP Outreach. Feeding the Gulf Coast is a United Way agency and a member of Feeding America. For more information, visit www.feedingthegulfcoast.org.

About AmeriCorp NCCC:

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, residential, national service program in which 1,200 young adults serve nationwide each year. During their 10-month term, Members – 18 to 24 years old – work on teams of 8 to 12 on projects that address critical needs related to natural and other disasters, environmental stewardship and conservation, urban and rural development, energy conservation, and infrastructure improvement . Members mentor students, construct and rehabilitate low-income housing, respond to natural disasters, clean up streams, help communities develop emergency plans, and address countless other local needs. The Southern Region campus in Vicksburg is one of five regional hubs in the United States and

serves eleven states in the southeast part of the country. The other campuses are located in Denver, Colorado; Sacramento, California; Baltimore, Maryland; and Vinton, Iowa.

In exchange for their service, members receive \$5,815 to help pay for college or to pay back existing student loans. All program expenses are covered, including a small living allowance as well as room and board. Members also receive leadership development, increased self-confidence and the knowledge that, through active citizenship, people can indeed make a difference. AmeriCorps NCCC is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency. The Corporation improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. For more information about AmeriCorps NCCC, visit the website at www.americorps.gov/nccc

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