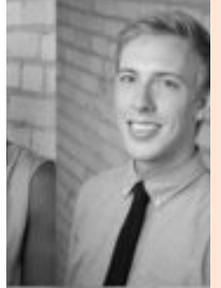
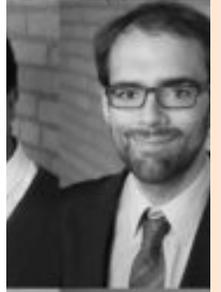


C3 Twin Cities: Three Year Program Review

The Jay & Rose Phillips
Family Foundation of
Minnesota



C3 Twin Cities

In 2016, The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota launched C3 Twin Cities, an AmeriCorps VISTA Program. Foundation staff used lessons learned from the previous VISTA Program, the Phillips Sectoral Employment Initiative (PSEI) to shape C3 Twin Cities. In particular, the Foundation wanted to make explicit the desire among potential service members to connect career, cause and community. We were trying to build a program that could live at the nexus of building a career, working for a cause bigger than yourself, and feeling part of a community. Whether we were 100% successful at this 100% of the time is debatable—we learned a lot about what comprehensively addressing those needs would entail, and whether a program like AmeriCorps could be a conduit for them. Nevertheless, we tried.

C3 Twin Cities connected three VISTA cohorts with nonprofits, government, and educational institutions. VISTAs served full-time for 12 months in organizations advancing strategies to lift

up opportunity youth, foster student-centered education, and build vibrant local economies.

C3 Twin Cities members undertook a significant variety of impressive projects. From creating a smartphone app to connect youth with social services to developing a cooperative learning series, our VISTAs made their mark at their sites and in the broader Minneapolis-St. Paul community.

C3 Twin Cities' greatest long-term asset, however, was in its ability to hold space for emerging leaders to develop relationships, unpack identity, and learn together. As a result, C3 Twin Cities was particularly effective in cultivating and retaining members in the nonprofit or otherwise social justice-aligned sector.

Though we are sunsetting the program in the fall of 2019, the impacts of Phillips Foundation-sponsored AmeriCorps programs will surely persist long into the future.

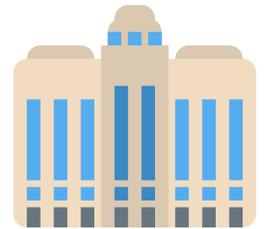
-E. Coco, Program Officer

Numbers at a Glance



30 members served in C3 Twin Cities.
Of those, **7** signed on to serve a
second year.

We partnered with **22** host sites in
Minneapolis and St. Paul. Of those, **11**
sites hosted a VISTA more than once.



9 VISTAs received an employment offer from
their site at the conclusion of their service.

We hosted **65** professional development
trainings on topics such as behavioral
interviewing, intercultural conflict styles,
and the nonprofit industrial complex.



VISTA Spotlight

Raquel Arismendez, Project for Pride in Living - LEAP Initiative

"Being a part of the C3 cohort made my service position at Project for Pride in Living meaningful. C3 went above and beyond compared to other VISTA cohorts in Minnesota. If it weren't for the support and benefits C3 offered, I wouldn't have considered being a VISTA, let alone gone on to complete two years of service.



While the program was not perfect, the cohort model created a sense of community among VISTAs who would've otherwise been unable to collaborate and support each other during their year."

Looking Forward

Just as we used PSEI as a springboard for C3 Twin Cities, we are taking the lessons we learned from this program and applying them to our next venture, a fellowship designed to address gentrification and displacement in North Minneapolis beginning in 2020.



Thank You

C3 Twin Cities could never have happened without the co-sponsorship of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Pohlad Family Foundation and Nexus Community Partners.

Thank you to all of our other facilitators for imparting your wisdom during our training, in particular, Ricardo Levins Morales, Eleonore Wesslerle, the Nexus Community Engagement Institute, Headwaters Foundation for Justice and Kelly C. Weiley for training our members all three years of the program.

And finally, thank you to all the VISTA members and supervisors for your often underappreciated (and underpaid!) work. We are so glad to have you in the fight for a more just world.