

13th & Union Partnership

Newsletter

AmeriCorps VISTA Returns

We're fortunate to have Jasmine Clarke '14 return for a second year as the Albright College AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA).

Clarke oversees the tutors at 13th and Union, helps build community ties, and works with the Albright sophomore class mentoring program. Her office is located in the Sage House.

"I am hoping to accomplish, through this opportunity, a system that allows parents and students to become more knowledgeable about educational resources. I want to see Reading students succeed," Clarke said. "I also hope to break the language barriers and provide support and confidence for at-risk Latino youth to excel."

Grants Attained

The Partnership was successful in attaining two grants this summer. The first was the Jean Stauber grant from The Beacon Society, which awards funds to promote the reading of Sherlock Holmes' mysteries. This year, 13th and Union Elementary School fourth-graders will visit the Albright Library to read the exciting tales of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous detective. There, Heidi Ziemer, who is instrumental in bringing the fourth-graders to campus, will adapt our annual Bigfoot presentation about how to search for good information on the Internet to include Sherlock Holmes.

The Partnership also received a grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for the purchase of 12 Apple iPads for the Ready. Set. Read! program and the Homework Center. The iPads will provide our tutors with books to read to the children and dictionaries at their fingertips.



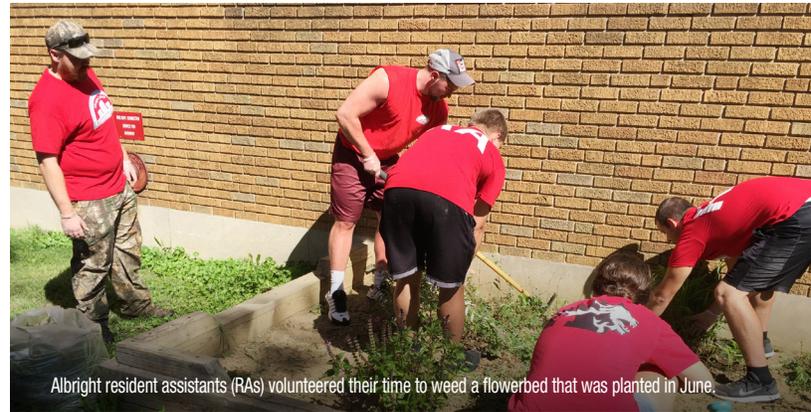
Jasmine Clarke '14, Albright College AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA)

PTA Support for Albright Camp

Thanks to the generous support of the Parent Teacher Association at 13th and Union, three students were able to attend the Art and Motion Camp at Albright's Freedman Gallery this summer. Beth Krumholz, Albright and 13th and Union council member and art education curator at the College, served as the director of the camp. The children combined art and outdoor activities with movement, working with Alison Burke, director of Albright's Schumo Center for Fitness & Well-Being. Participant Finn McCarty, 10, said the program was "the best art camp I ever went to. I got to make robots and even be in an exhibit." Haley Zebert, 12, said, "I had so much fun. Can I come back next year as a counselor?" Ildiko Veres, a mother of a participant, added that, "This is the most innovative art program for kids in the county."



Children participate in the Art and Motion Camp at Albright's Freedman Gallery.



Albright resident assistants (RAs) volunteered their time to weed a flowerbed that was planted in June.

Thanks to Albright Resident Assistants and Garden Interns

In August, Albright resident assistants (RAs) volunteered their time at several local nonprofit organizations. For the Partnership, they picked up trash at the pond by Albright Woods Apartments and did some much needed maintenance work at 13th and Union. The RAs painted poles and weeded the flowerbed that Albright interns Ally Hunter and Ellen Underwood had planted in June. Native perennials, chosen for their color, scent or noise were then planted.

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Clearances Required

This summer, Pennsylvania legislators passed a law requiring all volunteers that work with children to have two clearances—the Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance and the State Police Background Check. Thankfully, the lawmakers eliminated the cost to apply for those clearances if you're a volunteer. In addition, some community organizations may also require FBI fingerprinting.

Contact Information

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