



## GOALS – AmeriCorps Vista Capacity Building Project



GOALS has partnered with the regional (LA based) AmeriCorps/Vista office for a large scale project designed to significantly build the operating capacity of GOALS and further our mission to help youth achieve better things with their lives. One of the overarching efforts of AmeriCorps/Vista is to assist local programs in their efforts to help bring people out of poverty. This project, is operating for a three-year period, thus representing a multi-year commitment approaching \$500,000 dollars. GOALS hires and manages “volunteer” staff members who follow specific goals and activities as specified in our capacity building strategy. All personnel costs will be supported by AmeriCorps-Vista. This support has led to an influx of 14 new positions with GOALS and represents an enormous step forward in potential for strengthening and sustaining our community programs and efforts.

GOALS is responsible for staff selection, training, management, and retention of staff based on our criteria and standards. Eligibility for staff consideration involves meeting threshold age, application and background check requirements. The recruitment of GOALS alumni will be a priority for filling these important service positions.

The four principal goals for deployment of AmeriCorps/Vista staff under GOALS direction as articulated in the successful GOALS-AmeriCorps Vista application are as follows:

- Expansion and strengthening of the GOALS community “footprint”. Development of community advisory teams (CATS) to support community engagement and civic support. Build longer-term involvement of teens in social enrichment programs within Disney GOALS especially GOALS Cadets.
- Enrichment and expansion of GOALS Cadets – our landmark civic service initiative. The GOALS Cadets has value in terms of general social development, career development and job training.
- Promote teen retention through the developmental approach of the A+ Opportunity Academy, a morning companion program for “off-track” Anaheim youngsters. Those youth involved will receive enhanced tutoring, athletic and other social opportunities.
- Strengthen program strength and capacity through improved training and resource development.

Based on the success of this major capacity building project GOALS will seek to further expand our partnership with AmeriCorps in the years ahead. AmeriCorps-Vista is one of many major community service initiatives developed through the Corporation for National & Community Service, a federal agency.

**GOALS – Growth Opportunities through Athletics, Learning & Service**

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