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Buffalo AmeriCorps awarded grant, community to benefit

Business First by Tracey Drury, Buffalo Business First Reporter
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The Belle Center welcomed 46 members into its Buffalo AmeriCorps program thanks to a new federal grant.

The \$400,000 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service comes through the New York State Commission on National and Community Service and provides funding for one year of service.

The new members of the program will serve at more than 20 nonprofit groups and schools throughout the Buffalo and Western New York community.

Since its inception in 2007, the Buffalo AmeriCorps program has awarded over \$700,000 in education awards and over \$1 million in stipends. Members have tutored over 5,000 school-aged children in kindergarten through grade 12, eradicated over 26 miles of graffiti, shoveled snow for 800 senior and disabled citizens and recruited over 35,000 volunteers to work in low-income communities.

Benefits for AmeriCorps members include education awards, student loan assistance, living allowance, health insurance as well as child care and a variety of training.

The program is housed at The Belle Center, a nonprofit community center on Buffalo's Lower West Side that provides a range of services for children, youth, young adults and senior citizens.

Tracey Drury covers health/medical, nonprofits and insurance

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