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Buffalo AmeriCorps, nonprofits work jointly child readiness



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Half a dozen area nonprofit groups will bring on staffers funded through a new state funding allocation to Buffalo AmeriCorps program at The Belle Center.

The \$278,907 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service comes through the New York State Commission on National and Community Service, and funds 27 new members for one year of service.

The new members will serve at **Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority's** planning and information center; Buffalo Dream Center; **Buffalo Urban League**; the city of Buffalo's division of citizen services; St. Columba-Brigid Roman Catholic Church; the West Buffalo Charter School; and The Belle Center's After-School Advantage Program & Early Childhood Center.

This year's program focuses are education and healthy futures. Members will assist young children with school readiness initiatives, as well as school-age youth on literacy and/or math, as well as helping seniors and the disabled with snow removal, lead abatement and other issues to help them age in place and live independently.

Since its inception in 2007, the Buffalo AmeriCorps program has provided services to more than 5,000 children and seniors, while recruiting more than 35,000 volunteers to work in low-income communities. In 2013, the agency received \$400,000 to fund 46 members.

Tracey Drury covers health/medical, nonprofits and insurance

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Courtesy AmeriCorps and Belle Center