



**State Representative
Debbie Phillips**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 15, 2012

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State Rep. Phillips' Statement on National AmeriCorps Week

COLUMBUS--State Representative Phillips (D-Albany) released the following statement on National AmeriCorps Week, March 10th to 18th, 2012:

AmeriCorps, a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, provides invaluable services to citizens across the country every year. AmeriCorps' mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members throughout Ohio strengthen our communities by mobilizing volunteers to meet needs in the areas of education, public safety, health and the environment.

For over 15 years, Rural Action has been involved with AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Together they have worked to engage individuals and address unmet needs in the community. Most recently, Rural Action launched their Ohio Stream Restore Corps program in partnership with AmeriCorps to increase the impact of watershed restoration efforts in the Appalachian region.

Their efforts have resulted in positive, meaningful change in our community through environmental education and Monday and Sunday Creek Watershed restoration and cleanup, among other initiatives. Since last fall alone, four trash cleanups have been completed resulting in nearly 150 bags filled and 1,042 pounds of glass recycled. AmeriCorps and Rural Action have engaged over 3,000 volunteers through the Ohio Stream Restore Corps program and have served over 6,000 disadvantaged youths through Environmental Education activities, and 42 teachers have received training to help incorporate outdoor learning in their classrooms.

As you can see, these projects have had a significant impact, and continue to be a conduit for community members to connect, build relationships and develop meaningful collaborative efforts that will transform our area.

I would like to thank Ohio Stream Restore Corps members and volunteers for their achievements and look forward to many more successes in years to come.