

CURRENT VISTA MEMBER BIOS AND ACTIVITIES Updated January 2012

Doretha Chatman, [Mary McLeod Bethune Intervention & Enrichment Center \(MBIE\)](#)

In her roles as a VISTA Member Doretha works to strengthen the community – MBIE bond in order to locate resources and funding for community projects. She plans informational events to market the organization’s future plans to supporters and other organizations as well as researches funding sources. Doretha works closely with residents of the community in order to strengthen their capacity.

Alexandra DeBiase, [Ohio City](#)

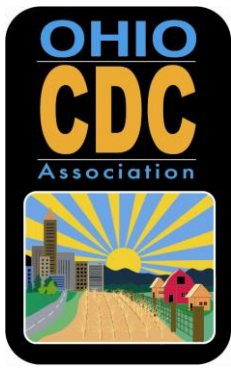
During Alexandra’s year of service she is working on housing and vacant land reuse projects. By performing outreach and foreclosure prevention, she has already worked to start a community garden that will plant next spring and has successfully referred homeowners in foreclosure to ESOP where they are receiving assistance.

Rhonda Gray, [Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency \(LFCAA\)](#)

Rhonda will support two key areas of LFCAA’s Housing Department by collecting and compiling local data for market studies and help assess overall supportive housing needs in Fairfield County. She will also assist with the development of the agency’s supportive housing project for families and help with updating Fairfield County’s Continuum of Care and the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Keith Harris, [Nazareth Housing Development Corporation](#)

Serving his second term as a VISTA Member at Nazareth Housing in Akron Ohio, Keith has continued to grow capacity by remodeling and updating Nazareth’s website achieve the capacity to promote Nazareth’s various programs and services more effectively to targeted audiences and community outreach activities to promote Nazareth’s name. He is also involved in development of Nazareth’s Home Ownership (NSP) and Lead Hazard Reduction Program. As well as in developing Nazareth’s Volunteer program which recruits volunteers from the community and the University of Akron to assist with construction/demo activities on several of Nazareth’s dilapidated NSP homes.



Jen Harvey, [Appalachian Center for Economic Networks \(ACEnet\)](#)

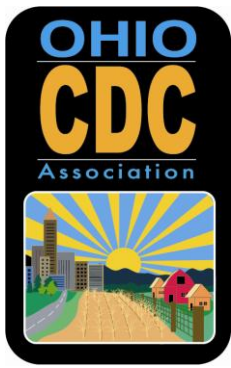
ACEnet works with low-income individual to develop and preserve assets and increase financial literacy through the development of microenterprises. As a VISTA Member, Jen has been charged with creating a formal volunteer business coaching program to assist ACEnet's clients with increasing business capacity. Jen is also assisting ACEnet's management with strategic planning to move the organization to scale. She will also focus her year of service on grant writing and fundraising.

Emily Jones, [The New Path](#)

During her service term Emily will be working on a variety of community development projects. The projects will also require consulting with local housing agencies to create a home maintenance course to serve those moving into the neighborhood. Emily will research and develop a database of local landlords and home owners in order to strengthen the neighborhood. Throughout her year with New Path she will be investigating new opportunities for New Path to contribute and enhance the area through grant and property acquisition as well as providing information to local residents, business owners, and employees on affordable housing options.

Patrick F. Kennedy, [Burten, Bell, Carr Development Inc. \(BBC\)](#)

Patrick will focus his service year on housing development by improving access to safe, healthy, and affordable housing and by increasing awareness of programs and resources available to residents of the Kinsman and Central neighborhoods. He will also focus on community development by identifying small grants for community improvements and providing technical assistance, advice, and trainings to resident associations. Patrick will also provide assistance with grant-writing and marketing for BBC.



Kameelah Muhammad, [Organize! Ohio \(O!O\)](#)

Kameelah will be building the capacity of Organize! Ohio through the Ohio Fair Lending Coalition. The coalition will work to provide fair, equitable and far reaching home lending products to neighborhoods in order to increase the stability of neighborhoods with concentrations of vacant and foreclosed properties. She will also help coordinate the United Clevelanders Against Poverty's Self Advocacy Project that enables low income residents to advocate for themselves for services to which they are entitled and to address the issues impacting their lives. This will ultimately help low-income individuals develop and preserve assets and increase financial literacy.

Sean Posey, [Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation \(YNDC\)](#)

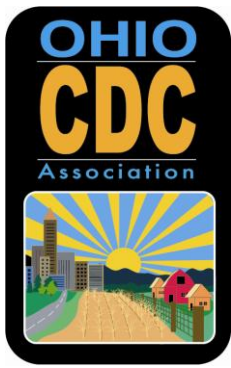
During Sean's service year he will lead the volunteer recruitment program at YNDC. In order to do this he will put together a comprehensive volunteer program and do outreach with local churches, schools, and neighborhood organizations to recruit members for volunteer work days and neighborhood projects. Additionally, Sean serves as a photographer for YNDC and stays active engaging residents at community garden hours during the spring, summer, and fall months.

Kate Roth, [WSOS Housing](#)

During her service term Kate will assist with planning and developing homebuyer education classes and will utilize marketing strategies in order to enhance fundraising. She will also spend her time engaging community members through outreach that will not only cultivate positive relationships but will also promote WSOS Community Action services.

Colby Sattler, [Neighborhood Progress, Inc. \(NPI\)](#)

At NPI, a nonprofit intermediary, Colby will be helping to create a stabilization and sustainability agenda in a cross-section of strategically important neighborhoods in Cleveland, OH. This work will take place in-part through the ReImagining a More Sustainable Cleveland, pilot land reuse program where he will be supporting the 56 projects currently in development. Additionally, he will be planning volunteer events and celebrations and assisting with the facilitation of community planning meetings for potential vacant land projects and the implantation of those projects.



Joel Solow, [Slavic Village Development \(SVD\)](#)

Joel will be acting as a community organizer in the Broadway/Slavic Village neighborhood during his year of service. He will provide outreach, engagement, and leadership development for parents and youth in the neighborhood. In this role, he will help organize an energy-efficiency party for SVD's lease-purchase tenants, work with the Student Parent Organization (SPO) at Fullerton School to organize a Winter Math Fair, and help coordinate the SVD Neighborhood Summit, an annual event that celebrates and recognizes the community.

Jack Storey, [Northeast Shores Development Corporation](#)

During Jack's year of service in the neighborhood of North Collinwood in Cleveland, his primary task is aiding in the creation of a systems guide for an exciting new Artists-in-Residence program that is being supported by the Kresge Foundation and others. He will also assist with creating sustainable systems processes for initiatives that involve North Collinwood's sizable lakefront access, vacant housing and commercial properties, and young entrepreneurship programs.

Ben Von Blon, [Homes on the Hill CDC \(HOTH\)](#)

Ben will support HOTH in the development of affordable housing in Hilltop and southwest Franklin County. He will assist in creating procedures for purchasing, repairing, maintaining, and marketing of homes. Ben will also help with programs to educate low income individuals on developing and preserve assets. Two complements to this work will be the creation and implementation of a financial literacy course and the establishment of a marketing plan for the multiple courses offered by HOTH.