“You will not read their stories without being inspired to act—and that’s the beginning of hope for democracy.”

—BILL MOYERS

NOW ON PBS

Your America
DEMOCRACY’S LOCAL HEROES

JOHN SICELOFF AND JASON MALONEY

STUDENT GUIDE
Dear Student,

If you want to change the world someday, consider this a blueprint. America needs you!

As the executive producer of the television show NOW on PBS, I receive lots of emails from the two million people who tune in to watch our reporting on the urgent issues that face America. They tell us what they love, and what they can’t stand. But one memorable email stands out – it was from a viewer who wrote that she and her family watch NOW every week without fail, but find many of the subjects gloomy and disheartening. She said they don’t call the show NOW – they call it “Kill Me NOW.”

Give us hope, she wrote.

That was the first of many emails from folks who’ve come to understand that America is confronting profoundly difficult problems; after getting little relief from their elected officials, they want to know what regular people can do to start solving them.

Producer Jason Maloney and I responded by lifting up stories of real life people who rose up and effected extraordinary change, and putting them in one book. The book is Your America.

The people you’ll meet in Your America and the Student Guide all came from humble beginnings. They weren’t big shots, with special connections. Just ordinary people who saw a problem that needed fixing, like Lucas Benitez, who forced fast food giants like McDonalds to treat their employees better, and Peggy Buryj, who went to battle with the U.S. military and won. They could just as easily be your neighbors, your cousins…or YOU.

For me, one of the antidotes to that “Kill me NOW” feeling is looking into the inspired eyes of your generation. Through this guide we hope to encourage ideas and debate, cultivate your spirit of citizenship, and build our next generation of leaders.

John Siceloff
I. An Introduction to Citizenship

Whether U.S. citizenship is acquired through birth or naturalization, all U.S. citizens have equal rights and responsibilities that are critical to full participation within American society. Discover some of these rights and responsibilities — as found in The U.S. Constitution and other founding documents.

Rights of a Citizen

★ Freedom to express yourself.
★ Freedom to worship as you wish.
★ Right to a prompt, fair trial by jury.
★ Right to keep and bear arms.
★ Right to vote in elections for public officials.
★ Right to apply for federal employment.
★ Right to run for elected office.
★ Freedom to pursue “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Responsibilities of a Citizen

★ Support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.
★ Stay informed of the issues affecting your community.
★ Participate in the democratic process.
★ Respect and obey federal, state, and local laws.
★ Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others.
★ Participate in your local community.
★ Pay income and other taxes honestly, and on time, to federal, state, and local authorities.
★ Serve on a jury when called upon.
★ Defend the country if the need should arise.

Individual Exercises

★★ Our Federal Courts
Citizens play a crucial role in the American judicial system. They help to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice by participating directly in the work of the courts as jurors, witnesses, and court system employees.

You can learn more about our federal courts here:
http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/resources/federalcourtnutshell.htm

Then take the quiz to test your knowledge:
http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/resources/federalcourtnutshell_keyconcepts.htm

★★ Your Guide to Voting
What have the trends been and what role has social networking played in the youth vote? What are the steps in the voting process and what are the rules in your state?

You’ll be 18 before you know it, so it’s time to answer these questions and understand the issues. Use this guide from Go College to find out what you need to know:
http://www.gocollege.com/students-guide-to-voting.html
II. Becoming a Citizen Activist

America was founded by people who were unhappy with the way things were and decided to do something about it. Today, as American citizens we still have the power to make positive changes in our country and local communities.

This civic participation is at the very heart of our democracy. If we want our voices heard, we have a wide range of participatory opportunities available to us, including: attending political meetings, contacting public officials, joining advocacy groups and political parties, writing letters, organizing communities and staging public protests.

In the summer of 1964, in her genuine, plainspoken style, civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer stated in an interview with the Nation that she was “sick and tired of being sick and tired.” Speaking on behalf of African-Americans living under the South's discriminatory rules, Hamer played a major role in creating the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which gave African-American citizens the right to vote.

Of course, your participation doesn't have to be revolutionary. Working to save a park, to organize a reading program, or volunteering to help a person in need are all ways you can make the world — your world — a better place. Activism is patriotic. Although you may begin your activism because an issue personally affects you, in the end, you're really helping to improve your school, your neighborhood and ultimately our country. As the writer Gunter Grass said, "The job of a citizen is to keep his mouth open."

The following is an eight-step framework on how to get started as an activist. These eight steps are specific tactics utilized by the 12 heroes profiled in Your America. In each case study you will see how they found, by trial and error, just the right combination of tactics to be effective.

**Eight Steps of Civic Activism**

1. Find Your Issue
2. Learn About It
3. Become Empowered
4. Find Allies and Alliances
5. Focus Your Goal
6. Publicize
7. Take Action
8. Persist
Is there a local issue you already care about deeply? Staying on top of local news through newspapers, magazines, and blogs can help you become aware of issues that may inspire you. It makes more sense to start changing something close to home, in your town or community then to tackle something nationwide.

**Your America Case Study: Greening the Gulf: Diane Wilson, Your America**

Diane Wilson, a fourth-generation fishing boat captain, took on a giant chemical company and forced it to stop dumping chemicals along her beloved Gulf Coast. While change did not come easily, Wilson held hearings and protests, tried to mobilize her town’s residents, and urged her elected officials to help. None of that worked. So this mother of five went on a hunger strike, her first of many acts of civil disobedience. Wilson’s actions led to death threats, the loss of her job, as well as fights with family and friends. But in the end her determination did more than curtail a corporate polluter in her community: it pointed the entire environmental movement in a new direction.

**Key Lessons:**
- The power of one. Government failed the residents of Calhoun County, Texas. Elected representatives were in cahoots with the companies doing the polluting. Local residents cared more about jobs than the environment.
- Diane started out thinking of the companies that were polluting the water as the enemy. But she came to appreciate their need for branding and public relations in order to expand. Her new approach helped convince Formosa Plastics to adopt a “zero-discharge” system.

**THINK ABOUT IT…**
1. What is an environmental activist?
2. What is the *Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act*? What prompted its creation?
3. What is a *technocratic approach*? What are its limitations? What innovative direction have some environmentalist taken as a result of some of the failures of the last decade?

**Your America Group Activity**

**Find Your Cause**

In your group, identify problems in your school or community that need to be addressed. Why is it important that the problem is tackled? Who, if anyone, is already addressing the problem? If a group or government agency is addressing the problem, what are some of the strengths and weaknesses of their policies? At the conclusion of this exercise, each group should agree on one issue that they will focus on. Each student should then write a one to two paragraph summary of the problem.
Step 2: Learn About Your Issue

The second step in becoming a civic activist is to learn everything you can about your issue: Who are the interested parties? Who are the key personalities? What is the history? What laws or regulations pertain to it? Learn in every way possible: use the internet, talk to neighbors, contact elected officials, etc. Chances are that you’re not the first person to address the issue. You may be able to find other people who are willing to share both specific information and their valuable experience. The bottom line: become an expert. You will be challenged and need to answer questions and make points accurately.

Your America Case Study: Corporate Cruelty: Katie Redford

While studying law, Katie Redford traveled to Burma (Myanmar) and was shocked by the human rights abuses she saw. Inspired to make a change, she came up with an innovative way to make corporations accountable for their involvement in atrocities outside American borders by reviving an arcane law. Katie Redford took on U.S. oil giant Unocal scoring a huge victory for Burmese villagers. Redford’s victory sent shock waves through the global business community. The message went out to corporate executives that consorting with dictators can be disastrous — and illegal. Today, you will find reference to Doe v. Unocal in textbooks at both business and law schools. In addition, every oil company now has a social responsibility statement as well as codes of conduct.

Key Lessons:

- Your knowledge goes a long way.
- The target of your activism is not your enemy. Redford says that she supports the international scope of American corporations. She is not anti-corporation. She just wants them to do business the right way.
- Believe in yourself and your goals. Redford’s legal strategy was based on an arcane law; an approach her law school professor told her would never succeed, but it did.

THINK ABOUT IT

1. What is the Alien Tort Claims Act and how did Katie Redford use it to fight Unocal?
2. What are crimes against humanity?
3. Why did Unocal propose an out-of-court settlement?
Learn About Your Issue
Discuss the problem your group has identified with family members, friends, neighbors or others. Is this a problem they think is important? Why? How is the problem being addressed and what could be done to improve it? What other sources of information are available on the problem?

Research the problem by looking in local newspapers and on the Internet. Keep notes on what you find and discuss your research with your group members in class. Each student should summarize the group’s research findings in a one page document. Photos, graphs, newspaper clippings and other exhibits should be included as appropriate.
The third step in becoming a citizen activist involves finding the tools and means to empower yourself.

**Your America Case Study: Have Justice, Will Travel: Wynona Ward**

Wynona Ward was a truck driver based in Vermont. When she was forced to face the domestic abuse she had experienced as a child it was like lightning struck. She knew she had to help others who were still the victims of abuse. She went to law school and then founded an organization called Have Justice Will Travel (HJWT) — part law firm, part counseling service, part taxi fleet. She's helped thousands of hard to reach women in Vermont break the cycle of domestic abuse.

**Watch video of Wynona Ward’s story:**
http://www.pbs.org/now/youramerica/meet.html

**Key Lessons:**

- You don't need to be rich, powerful or politically connected to be empowered.
- Finding an issue from your own life experience is often the most powerful motivator.
- Who do you help? Civic activism, as we use the term, is not about altruism, but rather about acting to help those in your own community. Community can have many definitions: it can be a physical community; it can also be people who are all affected by the same conditions.

**THINK ABOUT IT**

1. How did Wynona Ward empower herself to create change?
2. What obstacles did Wynona Ward overcome to become an attorney?
3. How has publicity played a role in Ward’s ability to raise money for her organization?
Your America Case Study: Agitate! Agitate! Agitate!: Robert Moses

Robert Moses, a former civil rights activist, knew that children from poor and minority backgrounds didn't always receive the quality education they deserved. He developed The Algebra Project, a program that helps disadvantaged children in math. His initiative didn't just make math fun, but had positive ripple effects throughout communities across America with former students leading the way.

Watch video of Robert Moses' story: http://www.pbs.org/now/youramerica/meet.html

Key Lessons:

- The people who you want to help must be empowered.
- Leading doesn't mean telling people what to do. Moses' approach was to develop methods of empowerment and techniques of algebra instruction, and lift up the work of parents, teachers and administrators and above all students to make a plan and make change happen.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What is the key goal of the Algebra Project?
2. How did Robert Moses empower himself to succeed?
3. What was the link Moses made between the civil rights struggle and his movement for math literacy?

★ Individual Exercise: Peer Mentoring

Peer mentoring programs match older youth with younger students in one-on-one relationships to provide guidance, friendship and support for youth facing challenges socially and/or in school or home. You can also provide positive youth development activities in your school or local community by establishing a Peer Mentoring Program. To become a peer mentor or to develop a program for your community, check out the guide from Youth in Action: http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/171691.pdf

★ Your America Group Activity

★ Finding a Model

Find someone in your community who has become empowered to make strides for the greater good. How did they become empowered? What do you think would be the biggest obstacle for you personally? Draw lessons for your everyday life and share your stories with your group in class.
Step 4: Find Allies and Alliances

The fourth step in becoming a citizen activist is to realize you can’t do this alone. Begin acquiring assistance and support by enlisting the help of like-minded neighbors, friends and community groups. You may start your own organization dedicated to your cause. Ask people for small bits of their time and build a core group. Then spread your net by looking for other organizations, businesses and elected representatives who share your interest.

Your America Case Study: A River Runs Through It: Lynn and Devonna Owens

Lynn and Devonna Owens have been cattle ranchers in beautiful Madison Valley, Montana for four decades. But as part-time wealthy residents moved in, including some of Hollywood’s brightest stars, development boomed and the sweeping vistas and open spaces of the valleys were threatened. The Owens feared that traditional ranching would become a thing of the past given Montana’s permissive laws on land use and development. So they banded together with fellow ranchers and teamed up with their former enemies — environmentalists — to create a world-class community alliance.

Watch video of Lynn and Devonna Owens’ story: http://www.pbs.org/now/youramerica/meet.html

Key Lessons:

- Be willing to look anywhere for support. You may be surprised at who your allies are. For example, environmentalists and Evangelical Christians, who have been at odds on many issues, have recently found common ground over environmental issues.
- The Owens, like so many activists, found their cause in their own backyard.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why were environmentalists, wildlife advocates and ranchers unlikely allies?
2. Why is it ironic that the ranchers became advocates for zoning regulations?
3. What are exclusive conservation homesites?
**Your America Group Activity**

⭐ **Forming Alliances**

Your group should meet and discuss who can help you to achieve your goals. Did anyone you met while collecting information about your cause express interest in helping out? Are there community groups or other student groups that may be allies? What might you need to do to win their support? Consider who you could possibly enlist to help; be creative and think outside the box. Write up a list of people that could help, and include how you would go about approaching them.
Step 5: Focus Your Goal

In step five, you must decide exactly what it is that you're trying to achieve. Do you want to save a single park in your neighborhood from development or do you want to restrict all development anywhere in your town? Is your goal to get a local company to clean up a specific hazardous waste site, or to change federal regulations that would apply to any manufacturing process that produces that waste? Know your goal, and know what success would look like. Then, determine the best way to achieve your desired outcome.

Your America Case Study: Helping the Children: John Walsh

John Walsh knew first-hand the overwhelming problems facing the foster care system in Florida. As a lawyer for the Department of Children and Families, he saw how the state was doing a poor job of intervening when children were at risk, and its system of placing kids into foster care was a mess. As a result children were suffering — some even dying — and it broke his heart. Walsh wanted to get kids out of foster care and into a better place — the quicker the better. From inside the belly of the beast, Walsh came up with a way to cut case time in half. His approach has salvaged many young lives and is now being adopted by counties across Florida and across the nation.

Key Lessons:

- Our image of activists is that of the outsider forcing change. But John Walsh shows that civic activists can accomplish great change from within an institution.
- Know your subject. Walsh could not have created change without knowing the intricacies of a very complex system and knowing how and where to apply pressure.
- Choose your tactics wisely.

THINK ABOUT IT

1. Why was the Children’s Services Council created?
2. What rationale led to John Walsh’s mission to move children out of foster care quickly?
3. Why does Walsh want to permit gay couples to adopt children?

Your America Group Activity

★ Developing Strategies and Tactics

Meet with your group and brainstorm ways to solve the problem you have selected. What are the benefits and drawbacks of each approach? Which tactics make the most sense given the problem? Is there more than one tactic that needs to be used? After meeting, each group member should write up a one page summary of the different strategies.
Step 6: Publicize

Step six of your journey in becoming a citizen activist, you must publicize your cause, your organization and your events. Design a website. Contact local reporters and bloggers. Use social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

Your America Case Study: A Loud Whistle: Bunny Greenhouse

Bunnatine "Bunny" Greenhouse was a top civilian procurement officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supervising billions of dollars in work assignments when she discovered something was seriously amiss. She believed that Halliburton and its subsidiaries were able to get preferential treatment, including billion dollar contracts, for rebuilding projects in Iraq. She could not keep quiet, no matter what the consequences. Greenhouse helped bring accountability and transparency to a giant government organization. Her reward for whistleblowing? A demotion from her job. But this woman has absolutely no regrets.

Key Lessons:

- Change can stir up powerful opposition. Know that there may be a cost for your efforts.
- The press can be a very powerful ally.
- Greenhouse is an example of creating change from within. She relied on the rules of the institution itself to promote reform.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why was the press and other watchdog groups interested in Halliburton and the RIO contract?
2. What is a whistleblower and what is meant by the information triangle?
3. How did Greenhouse use the media?

Individual Exercise: Understanding the Media

The Young Citizens and Media Access lesson plans and activities were developed by the Citizen Advocacy Center of Illinois. Read the following materials to understand the different types of media available to the public and be sure to look at the tips for writing a letter to the editor:

http://www.citizenadvocacycenter.org/Lessons/The%20Media.pdf
Your group should meet and think about different ways to publicize your cause. What different ways could you get your message out, and through what media? What methods do you think would work best for your cause and what should your message be? Each group member should individually write a 300 word letter to the editor of a local newspaper (see the tips in the exercise above) to attract attention to the problem you are trying to solve.
Step 7: Take Action

An "action" can be a public protest, handing out leaflets to educate the public, or a letter-writing campaign. It can be lobbying politicians in your hometown or in Washington, D.C. There is no single action that is appropriate for every scenario. Find the ones that are appropriate and execute them.

Your America Case Study: A Literary Movement: Rueben Martinez

As a child, Rueben Martinez loved to read. As an adult, he used his barbershop in California to advocate literacy to his clients. Martinez filled his barbershop with classics by heavyweights like Tolstoy and Hemmingway. As he cut hair, he shared his love for literature with his clients. Many of them didn't read English and despite a large Hispanic population it was hard to find books in Spanish. So Martinez made book runs to Mexico to pick up Spanish language titles. Demand was overwhelming, so Martinez transformed his small barbershop into a major bookshop and community center. Along the way, he has put over two million Spanish-language books into the hands of schoolchildren and adults.

Key Lessons:

- Civic activism has no age limit. Martinez didn't embark on his career in civic activism until he was in his mid-fifties.
- Tough it out. Martinez believed so much in his bookstore that he was willing to lose everything to keep it going.
- Change happens in many ways. Martinez supports more resources for schools. But he chose to go in a different direction in his effort to create change.
- Change does not always involve opposition. When you point your life in the right direction, good things can happen.

THINK ABOUT IT

1. What is the mission of Libreria Martinez?
2. What specific action did Martinez take?
3. What are Martinez’s strategies for building his business for the future?
Individual Exercise: Peers As Reading Helpers

Would you like to assist your school or community in literacy and reading development like Rueben Martinez? You can begin today by creating a Peer Tutor Reading Program in your local school or other community organization using the Peers As Reading Helpers training manual. This manual is designed to provide guidance and instructions needed to run a successful peer-tutoring program. Students and youth groups must first identify an adult advisor within their organization who will provide overall guidance and management of the program in order to successfully implement this program guide:


Your America Case Study: Demanding the Future — Now: Bill Graham

Bill Graham wanted to bring high speed Internet to his small Indiana town in a bid to save it from economic doom. The telecommunications companies weren’t interested so Graham, also the town’s mayor, developed plans to wire the town on his own. Just as he was on the verge of success, the telecommunications companies cried foul. They reached out to their political allies to strangle Graham’s service. Although the odds were stacked against him, Graham spearheaded a technology revolution that has helped his town blossom into the 21st Century.

Watch video of Bill Graham’s story:
http://www.pbs.org/now/youramerica/meet.html

Key Lessons:

• Being an activist may be part of your job. Graham became an activist while he was mayor of a small town in Indiana. He’s still the mayor — and still getting things done. Empowerment moves you forward from where you are.

• Activists are not all anti-corporate left-wingers. Graham is a Republican. He takes the view of business — that support of local communities and creating more jobs helps everyone, including companies both big and small.

THINK ABOUT IT

1. What are big box stores and how do they affect mom-and-pop stores?
2. What three factors did Graham need to attract business investment?
3. How did Graham solve the broadband deficiency in his town?
**Individual Exercise: Internet Safety**

The Internet has become a “must have” tool in business, entertainment, education and social networking. However, just as in the non-cyber world, there are individuals online who might try to take advantage of you — and downloading inappropriate materials can also get you into big trouble with the law. Explore and share these valuable websites with friends, parents, schools and youth groups through email, blog, newsletter or discussion board.

- **SafeTeens.com**: [www.safeteens.com](http://www.safeteens.com)
- **Cyberangels**: [www.cyberangels.org](http://www.cyberangels.org)
- **i-SAFE America**: [www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org)
- **WiredSafety**: [www.wiredsafety.org](http://www.wiredsafety.org)

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**Your America Group Activity**

**Taking Action**

Discuss the action steps your group will take to achieve your goal. How will you divide up the work and how will you know if your plan is working? Each student should write up a one page document outlining the action plan and their role in the campaign.
Step 8: Persist

Persistence is a key to becoming a citizen activist as real change rarely happens quickly. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Your America Case Study: Tomatoes of Wrath: Lucas Benitez

Lucas Benitez worked picking tomatoes in Southern Florida for wages that were barely sufficient to support his basic needs. Conditions were deplorable and workers faced a climate of intimidation, fear and violence right here in the United States. Lucas Benitez rose up to create an alliance of workers and consumers that forced fast food giants McDonald’s and Taco Bell to change their ways. He was able to transform the lives of some of the worst paid people in America by bringing concrete change to their working conditions.

Watch video of Lucas Benitez’s story:
http://www.pbs.org/now/youramerica/meet.html

Key Lessons:

- Growing a movement requires reaching out and building a coalition — not a political partisan group, but people who share common interests.
- Making change requires the long view. Benitez and his group of workers have been working for over a decade to raise wages for farm workers. They have had great success, but progress is measured in years.
- Even the largest, most powerful organizations in the country can be swayed by the right tactics.

Think About It:

1. What is a migrant worker and what challenges do they typically face?
2. Why does empowerment begin with the expectation of possibilities?
3. What was the rationale behind formulating the CIW with a cooperative dynamic that postures equality of management? What are the pros and cons of this strategy?
Your America Group Activity

★ Working On Your Issue

Each student should read up on current events to select a national issue or problem that you want to address. The NOW on PBS video archive [http://www.pbs.org/now/thisweek/archive.html](http://www.pbs.org/now/thisweek/archive.html) is a good starting point to get ideas. Research the issue and come up with an action plan for trying to solve the problem. Each student will present the problem they select and their proposed action plan to the class in a press conference format lasting 5 to 10 minutes. Your classmates will act as members of the press and ask relevant questions concerning your issue. Be sure to be prepared for the different views and perspectives they might take on the issue.
Additional Resources:

NOW on PBS
www.pbs.org/now
Called "fearless about challenging conventional wisdom" by Tom Brokaw and "one of the last bastions of serious journalism on TV" by the Austin American-Statesman, the Emmy-winning PBS weekly newsmagazine NOW on PBS engages viewers with documentary segments and insightful interviews that probe the most important issues facing democracy, including media policy, corporate accountability, civil liberties, the environment, politics, social responsibility, and foreign affairs. NOW’s website features a variety of Web-exclusive investigations, video segments of Now’s broadcast, transcripts, as well as search and browse tools covering current topics about the environment, government, social policy, education, media, economy, military, and business.

PBS Access, Analyze, Act Curriculum
http://www.pbs.org/teachers/vote2008/blueprint/
Curriculum designed to promote civic engagement while strengthening students’ media literacy and other 21st century skills.

Do Something, Inc.
24-32 Union Square East, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10003
(212) 254-2390, x233, www.dosomething.org
Do Something Inc., founded in 1993 by actor Andrew Shue of Melrose Place, is a national not-for-profit youth organization that empowers young people to make a difference in their local communities and the world. The organization’s BRICK Awards were renamed the Do Something Awards in 2008. Its annual grand prize of $100,000 was recently presented by actress Scarlett Johannson at the Teen Choice Awards.

Youth Service America
1101 15th Street, Suite 200
Washington DC, 20005
(202) 296-2992, http://ysa.org
Youth Service America (YSA) seeks to improve communities by increasing the number and diversity of young people, ages 5-25, serving in important roles. Founded in 1986, YSA is an international nonprofit resource center that partners with thousands of organizations in more than 100 countries to expand the impact of the youth service movement with families, communities, schools, corporations, and governments.

Center for Civic Education
5145 Douglas Fir Road
Calabasas, CA 91302-1440
(818) 591-9321, www.civiced.org
The Center for Civic Education is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational corporation dedicated to promoting an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy in the United States and other countries.

Corporation for National and Community Service
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
(202) 606-6946, www.nationalservice.gov/
In 1993, the Corporation for National and Community Service was created to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation. It merged the work and staffs of two predecessor agencies, ACTION and the Commission on National and Community Service. The Corporation now manages three main programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America, (formerly known as Serve America). The Corporation is part of our nation's history of commitment to building a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility.