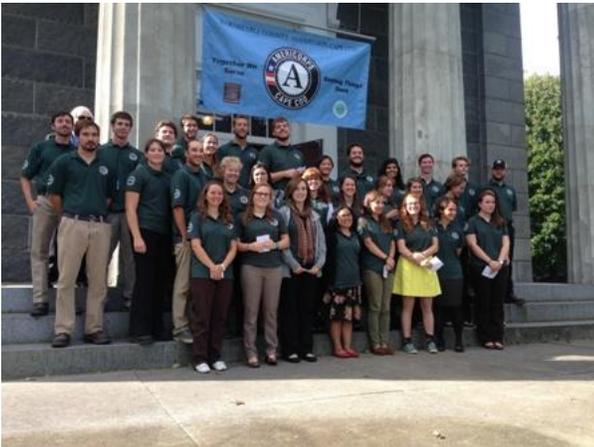


**A new exhibit “Together We Grow: 15 Years, 15 Towns, 15 Trees” – celebrating AmeriCorps Cape Cod’s fifteen years of service in Barnstable County**, will be on view from October 24 – November 9, 2014 at the Cataumet Arts Center. The exhibit showcases a series of posters designed to commemorate a tree given by AmeriCorps Cape Cod to each of the 15 towns on the Cape. The exhibit’s theme “Together We Grow” celebrates simultaneously AmeriCorps’ fifteen years of service on Cape Cod, the fifteen towns on the Cape that AmeriCorps members have partnered with, as well as the fifteen trees planted to highlight these partnerships and the environmental focus of the Cape Cod branch of the AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps is a federally funded national service movement overseen by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Often referred to as the “Domestic Peace Corps,” AmeriCorps engages Americans of different ages and backgrounds in service to address the most critical needs in our nation’s communities. Examples of program focus areas are education, literacy, public safety, the environment and disaster response.

As the national AmeriCorps organization this year celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the Cape Cod AmeriCorps is beginning its 16<sup>th</sup> year on the Cape. Fifteen years ago they started clearing Perry Avenue Extension in Bourne to prepare for the development of Three Mile Look. Last year’s members helped with the Mashnee Dike Grasslands Restoration, Bournedale Herring Run, and Sagamore Hill Restoration, and often help at the Valley Farm Community Garden. In September of 2014, AmeriCorps Cape Cod welcomed an incoming group of 30



new members. These volunteers from around the country will serve the 15 towns of Barnstable County in a number of environmentally based projects to which they will be assigned over the year. The Bourne House in Pocasset houses 12 of the members annually.

Types of projects and services undertaken over the past 15 years include working with Cape Cod Towns, non-profits as well as State and national organizations on environmental and disaster preparedness and relief needs. Organizations partnered with and collaborative projects that have been undertaken on the Cape over these years include water quality and environmental educational programs with children and youth through the Cape Cod

Commission, coastal cleanups with the National Seashore and National Parks Service, assisting with marine mammal strandings through the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and setting up, manning and assisting people in need at local relief stations on the Cape during storms, blizzards and hurricanes. Members have also assisted with creating wildlife corridors and removal of invasive species where proposed by local Town or conservation groups. AmeriCorps volunteers have also been active in Town shellfish conservation and re-seeding projects, and clearing brush from waterways and herring runs.

Organizations seeking help with projects can learn more about the requirements for becoming a service partner with AmeriCorps Cape Cod and can download a proposal form at: [www.americorpsscapecod.org/become-a-service-partner](http://www.americorpsscapecod.org/become-a-service-partner)

The public is warmly invited to meet and help welcome the 30 newly arrived 2014-2015 season AmeriCorps members during the opening reception at the Cataumet Arts Center on Friday, October 24, from 5-8 pm. Enjoy viewing the commemorative tree posters over refreshments while informally talking with the new members and staff, and learning about how and why chose to sign up with and serve in AmeriCorps Cape Cod. Also present at the reception will be AmeriCorps Cape Cod’s Executive Director Darlene Johnson Morris, Resource Development Officer Ashley Look, and members of the 2014-2015 staff.

Exhibit viewing hours during in addition to the Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> evening reception are Saturdays, 10-5, and Sundays 1-5 through November 9. Gallery admission is free and wheelchair accessible. For information or directions visit: [www.cataumet-arts.org](http://www.cataumet-arts.org), or [www.americorpsscapecod.org](http://www.americorpsscapecod.org).