

## AmeriCorps Alumni Continuing to Support the Community Mediation Movement



I carry my AmeriCorps/CMM experience with me everywhere I go. I liked my 1st year with Baltimore Community Mediation Center (BCMC) so much I stayed on for a 2nd, and then stayed on full-time as the Volunteer Coordinator. I left to be closer to family in Philadelphia, where I eventually got a PhD in Communication. I continue to be an active volunteer mediator with the Chicago Center for Conflict Resolution during my postdoctoral fellowship at Kellogg School of Management. Upon moving to London for a **tenure-track position at the UCL School of Management**, I joined as a volunteer with the Transforming Conflict team for Extinction Rebellion (XR) UK, and I'm seeking opportunities to volunteer as a community mediator in London. I provide pro-bono workshops for charities whenever I can, and I sneak conflict theory into my negotiations course, which focuses on interest-based listening. Mediation is life!

2008-2009 & 2009-2010 Alumni—JOSHUA BECKER



While incarcerated I received CMM mediation training. During that time, my son, an honor roll student, was murdered. His death inspired me to transform my life. After my release from prison I became an AmeriCorps member. This not only allowed me to give back, but it also helped me financially with college. I enjoyed my AmeriCorps experience and the people so much that I served twice. At the end of my 2nd term in 2012, I accepted a position with BCMC as the Mediation Coordinator. Currently, I am the **State's Attorney Mediation Coordinator**. Over time, this has become my family — my home. I am proud to be the first person to become a trained community mediator while incarcerated, and mediate after being released. Making mediation known and accessible is what I am all about.

2010-2011 & 2011-2012 Alumni—CORNELL ANDERSON



My AmeriCorps experience was the push I needed to be confident in myself. It had a way of putting me into positions where confidence is a prerequisite. It was the first time I got a chance to serve a cause higher than myself. I started by providing prisoner re-entry mediation as well as mediating in the community with Baltimore Community Mediation Center, and now serve as **Community Mediation Coordinator**. Service of this caliber creates a chance for anyone to be a peacemaker and life changer. I'm proud to say "I served as an AmeriCorps for community mediation."

2016-2017 Alumni—PAUL BRIDGEFORD



I loved my service year so much, I now work at my service site of Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center as the **Manager of Community & Family Mediation**. I started AmeriCorps wide-eyed and eager to learn, and honestly, nothing has changed. I just now have a few more wrinkles. Being part of the community mediation movement has been a humbling and transformative experience for which I am most grateful. My appreciation and reverence for AmeriCorps knows no bounds.

2018-2019 Alumni—RACHEL BRAUER



I started AmeriCorps during the pandemic. To see service in action during such a scary time gave me purpose. Just a few days into Basic Mediation Training, I thought "I found my people". Even so, it wasn't easy, but I seldom felt hopeless. Almost a year and a half later, I sit at the same desk, except now I am the **Mediation Intake Coordinator for Tri Community Mediation**. We support people having tough conversations. I always had it in me, I just didn't know it until I found myself here.

2020-2021 Alumni— JESSICA ROSE



When the pandemic began and so did unemployment, AmeriCorps was my solution! Community Mediation Corps did a conflict management training during my previous service year and since then, I knew I had to get involved with CMC. So I did, as an AmeriCorps Regional Team Leader. Starting my 2nd term, I felt uniquely prepared to support my fellow members through serving during a pandemic. That year challenged my notions of what support looks like, and taught me what it means to meet people where they are. Just as AmeriCorps members create safe spaces for mediation participants, CMC create those same safe spaces for their members. When my service year ended I was heartbroken because CMC was my home. Evidently, CMM felt the same way!

Currently, I am the CMM **AmeriCorps Coordinator** where I support members, learn to run an AmeriCorps program, and develop my skills as both a mediator and a leader.

2020-2021 Alumni—ALLIE MATHEU