

Tail.” I also began taking photos and learned how to take portraits, nature and landscape photographs. After AmeriCorps, I plan to attend college for creative writing, get my driver’s license, save money

continued on back

I PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FOR CREATIVE WRITING, GET MY DRIVER’S LICENSE, BECOME A PUBLISHED WRITER, START MY OWN PHOTOGRAPHY BUSINESS . . .

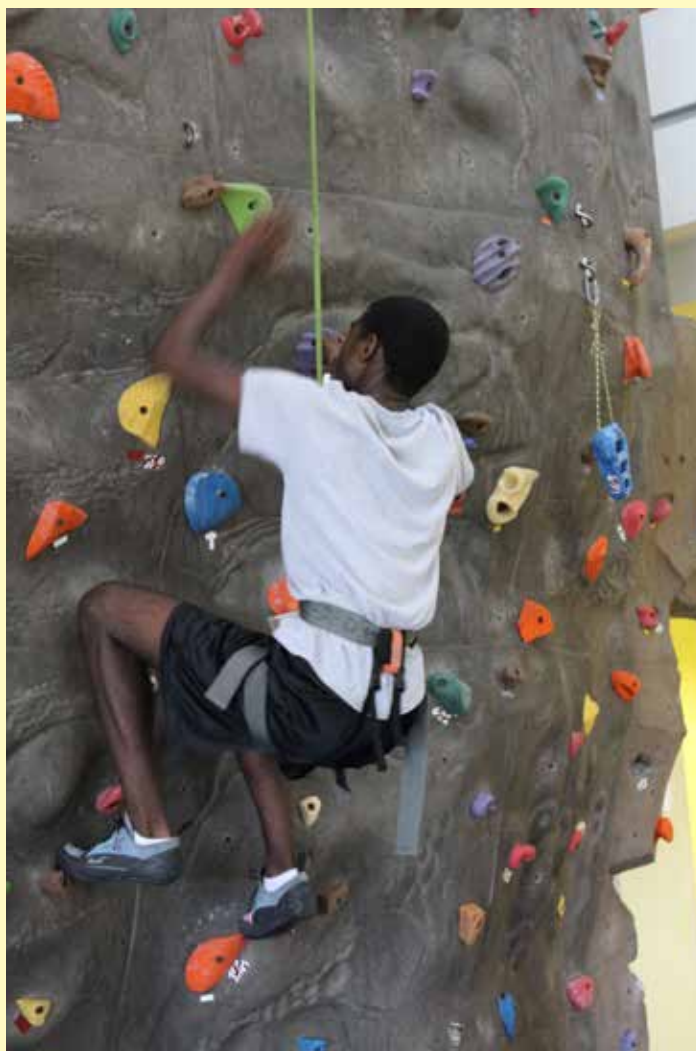
TONY’S STORY

BY ANTONIO NORWOOD

Before I joined TRIAD Service AmeriCorps, I felt as if I didn’t have that one purpose in life. I never thought that I would have any more opportunities after high school. At the time, I was enrolled at AbilityWorks because I wanted a job in the community. While I learned a lot of workforce skills, I did not know what I wanted to do. A friend of my grandmother told us about AmeriCorps and told me it would be perfect for me.

I felt a little skeptical about joining at first. I thought the program was too good to be true. However, it has been nothing but a pure blessing. I never imagined that I would establish and maintain genuine friendships with others just like me. With AmeriCorps, I have learned how to become a better person, how to find my voice, and how to stand up for myself and others. I feel that I’ve fully blossomed since I joined AmeriCorps. I love being a part of the community and helping others. It seems I finally found my place in the world and that one true purpose.

Since joining AmeriCorps, I have focused on my interests such as writing and photography. I began writing poems based on the personal experiences that I’ve been through. I’m currently working on a book series, and the first book is titled “A Mermaid’s



Institute for Disability Studies



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What Does AmeriCorps Mean to Me?

by Antonio Norwood
TRIAD Service AmeriCorps Member

What does AmeriCorps mean to me?
It means . . .

Putting your life on the line for others,

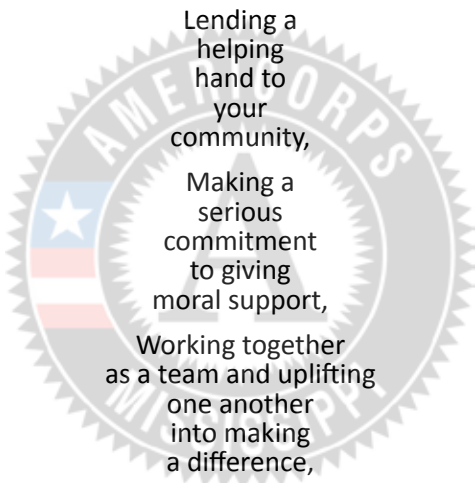
Lending a helping hand to your community,

Making a serious commitment to giving moral support,

Working together as a team and uplifting one another into making a difference,

And taking immediate action into changing lives, building hope, establishing friendships, and showing guidance.

That is what AmeriCorps means to me.



to purchase my own vehicle, become a published writer, start my own photography business, and live independently on my own.

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through the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service. The TRIAD Services AmeriCorps Program is housed at the Institute for Disability Studies, Mississippi's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) Research, Education, and Service, at The University of Southern Mississippi.

TRIAD Service AmeriCorps, funded through the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, focused on providing financial literacy education for people with disabilities for the 2014-15 service year.