



# CalSERVES

*Making a difference in the lives  
of children and families*

# Message from the Director



I am inspired by the desire I see in young people to make a positive difference in the world. CalSERVES was created to connect this passion for service with the real challenges facing children and families. Our programs expose participants to the greater needs of the community, and provide tangible ways to make a lasting impact.

CalSERVES works in partnership with schools and non-profits to build high-quality programs. A cornerstone of this effort is our wonderful team of AmeriCorps members and volunteers who dedicate themselves to this work.

Through our programs, people have an opportunity to serve in a variety of ways. They can teach students to read, promote physical activity and good nutrition, ignite a love of learning, and build volunteer programs.

At CalSERVES, we believe that all children deserve to thrive academically, physically and emotionally. To achieve this, our programs focus on providing access to resources families need, particularly through after school instruction, health and wellness education, and literacy tutoring. CalSERVES also supports a thriving network of non-profit volunteer programs that offer family services in many areas, from food banks to transitional housing.

The staff at CalSERVES, many of whom are former program participants themselves, are focused on the vision to support the potential, encourage the passions and cultivate the power of all of those involved in the program.

I invite you to learn more about our vision at [www.calserves.org](http://www.calserves.org).

**Julie McClure,**  
CalSERVES Founder and Director



CalSERVES

# Results



Program wide,

**82%**

of students increased their scaled score on the CA Standardized Test (CST).



**78%**

of partnering organizations increased their ability to sustain volunteers.



**248**

AmeriCorps Members provide

**438,254**

hours of service each year.





*I feel so much more confident with my child's academics because of the CalSERVES After School program. I love how the staff focuses on these children, giving them the extra help they need to succeed.*

*— After School Parent*



# After School

# Expand opportunities. Ignite learning.

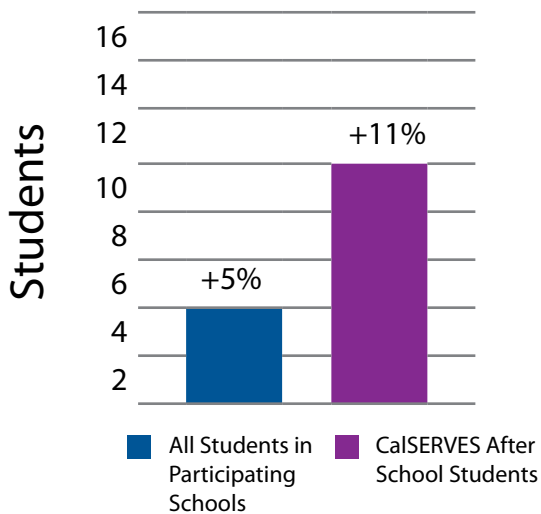
The CalSERVES After School Program creates after school environments that foster success and provide a safe and healthy place for children from the end of the school day until 6 P.M., five days a week. Students engage in literacy development, math and science, community-building, service learning projects, and enrichment activities. In addition, students receive instruction on healthy eating habits, physical education, and daily homework support. In After School, students are able to receive intensive tutoring from AmeriCorps Scholars to build skills fundamental to their school success. These services build on and expand learning in the school day, providing aligned instruction that is experiential and fun! The program consults regularly with school day teachers to ensure continuity of learning and maximum support for students.

Key components of the after school program are:

- ✦ Classes in literacy, math/science, health, art, and homework.
- ✦ Specialized instruction for all students in one of three areas: Literacy, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math), or Healthy Behaviors.
- ✦ Focus on safe, healthy, and engaged students in the community through character education and youth development.
- ✦ Opportunities for students to develop life skills through experiential service learning and positive role modeling.
- ✦ Clubs, field trips, and presentations that engage community volunteers and organizations in the enrichment of students.
- ✦ Training and ongoing development for staff.



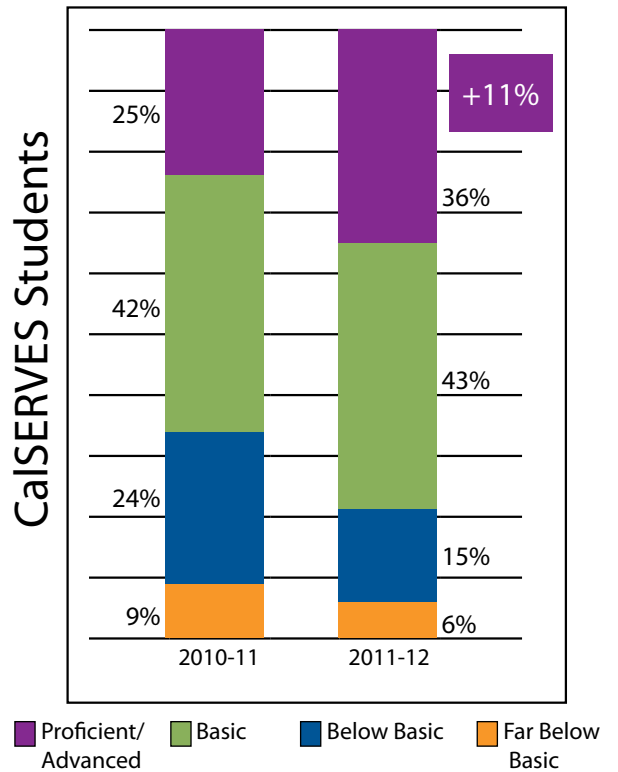
Comparison of Growth from 2011 to 2012  
in ELA on the CST in % of Students  
Scoring Proficient or Advanced



CalSERVES After School students are more successful than their peers in improving from “not proficient” to “proficient” on the California Standards Test (CST).

CalSERVES After School students are achieving academically, with 65% of students exhibiting improvement in the California Standards Test (CST).

CalSERVES After School  
California Standards Test English/LA  
Performance Levels for CalSERVES Students



## CalSERVES After School is igniting a *Passion* for learning.

“Two of my young men were really struggling with math. After working with the mentor in the after school program, they both got 100% on one of their tests. They were so excited! One also went from 50 percent to 80 percent on his District Benchmark test. I know the extra help and support with homework gave this student the confidence to get these scores.” —Teacher

Over the two years that I have worked in the CalSERVES program, I have seen very few situations that were not success stories. As an after school mentor I grew close to my class and made meaningful connectors that allowed my students to trust and open up to me. Together we worked through obstacles and they were able to become leaders, hard workers, and achieve success! I’m so proud of what we were all able to accomplish and the opportunity given through CalSERVES.

—AmeriCorps Member

“I know we are very fortunate to have this program at our school. The children benefit with homework assistance, academic support, art and science lessons, field trips and the care of more adults in their lives who are all loving and supportive.” —Teacher

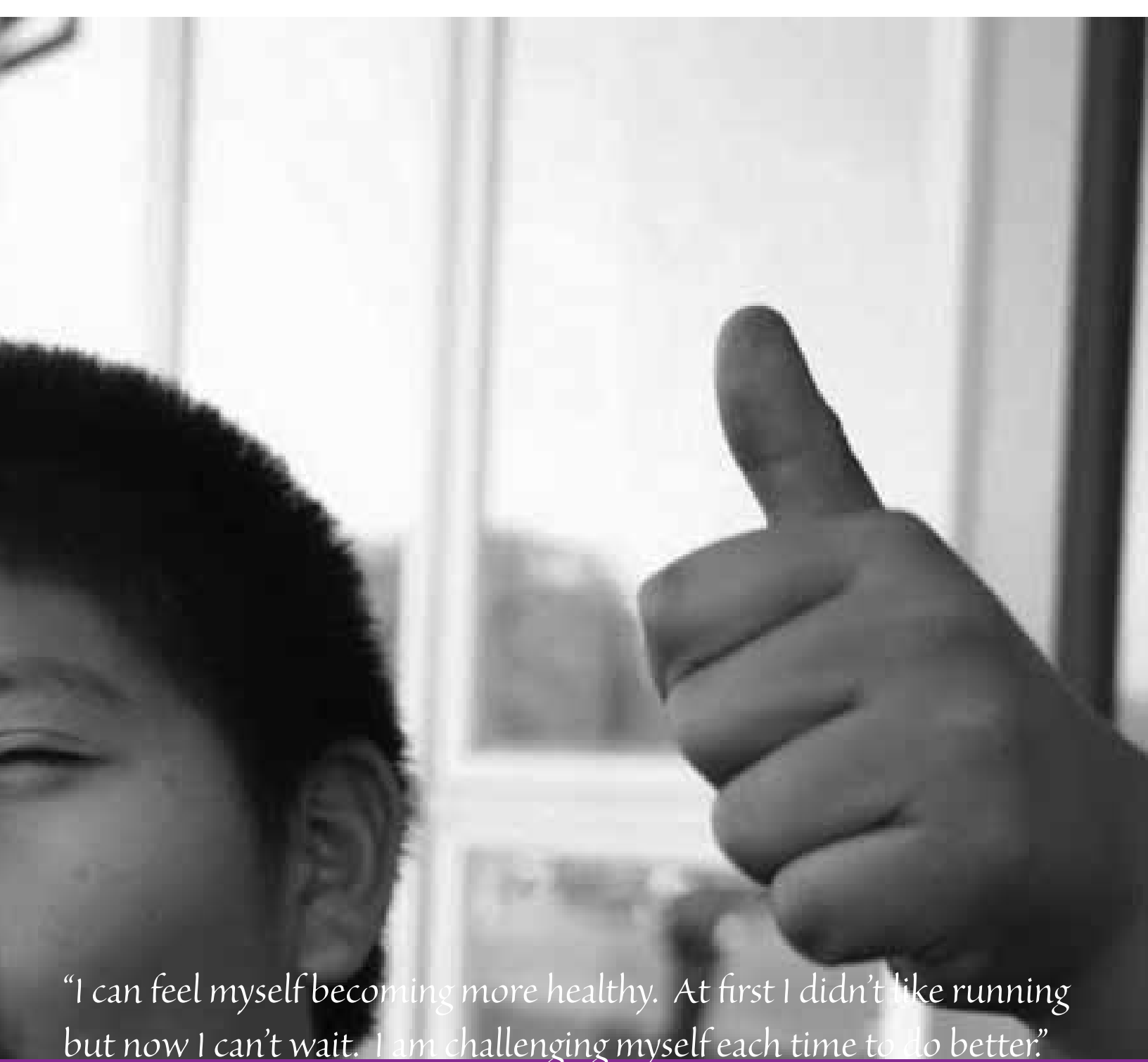
“I am thankful for this after school program. I see my child grow more every day. I appreciate everybody’s help!” —After School Parent

“The students who get tutoring have increased their reading level and have improved in vocabulary. CalSERVES tutoring has provided a great relationship between the students and their tutors. When students feel that someone cares, they do better in all aspects of their education and behavior.” —Teacher

In the 2011-12 School year, **108 AmeriCorps** members provided **122,088 hours of mentoring** to **1,400 students** in Santa Rosa schools.

# Results





*“I can feel myself becoming more healthy. At first I didn’t like running but now I can’t wait. I am challenging myself each time to do better.”*

*— CalSERVES Student*



# Healthy Behaviors



# Encouraging Healthy Minds & Bodies.

CalSERVES is one of only nine After School Healthy Behaviors Learning Centers in California. As part of this statewide network, CalSERVES is proud to champion and model best practices for creating healthy learning communities for youth and families.

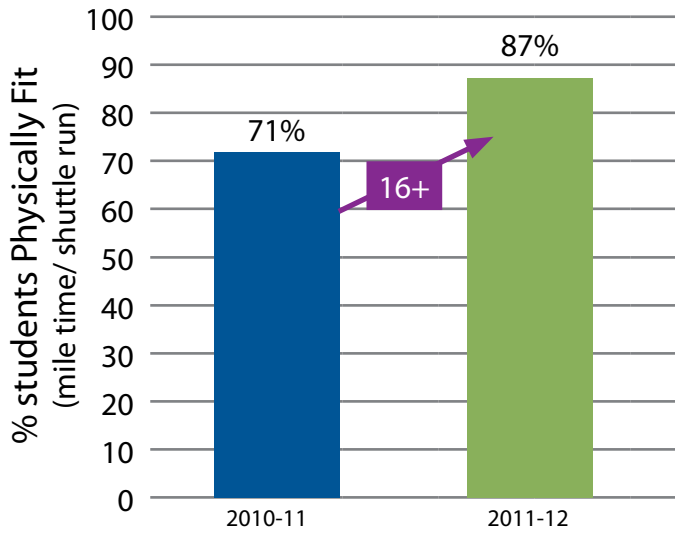
The Healthy Behaviors Initiative addresses the serious health problems facing students in low-income communities throughout California and those most at risk of obesity. CalSERVES is demonstrating the important role that after school programs can play in improving the lives and health of these children and families by addressing the childhood obesity epidemic in the United States.

Key components of the Healthy Behaviors program are:

- ✦ Nutrition and Physical Education Classes through daily nutrition education and physical activity promotion in our After School Programs.
- ✦ Partnerships with schools and community-based organizations to establish mutually supportive relationships for nutrition education efforts.
- ✦ High-quality, in-depth professional development on best practices in Nutrition Education and Physical Activity in After School locally, regionally and state-wide through workshops, conferences and trainings.
- ✦ CalSERVES staff are engaged in our mission to create a healthy and thriving community.



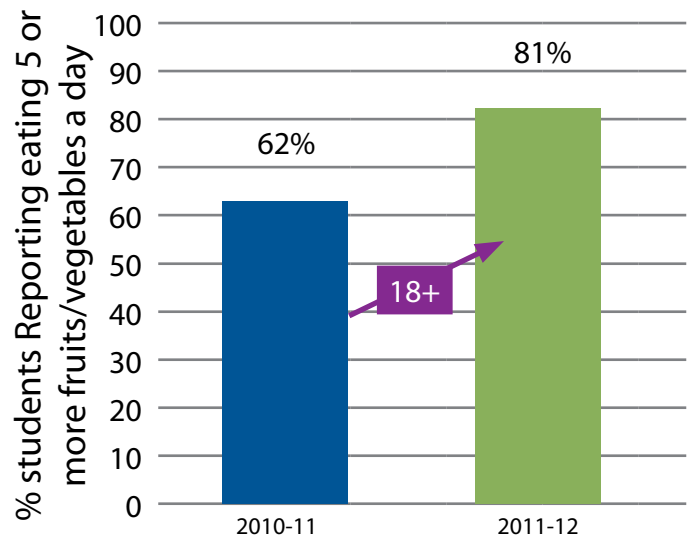
### Achieved Standard of Physical Fitness



Because of CalSERVES Healthy Behaviors programs, students are achieving greater levels of physical fitness with 87% achieving a healthy standard on the mile run.

Participating student also report healthier eating habits, with 81% eating 5 or more fruits and vegetables a day.

### Met Nutrition Guideline Eating Fruits and Vegetables



# Healthy Behaviors

## CalSERVES Healthy Behaviors is motivating students to reach their *Potential*.

“All of my students that attend Healthy Behaviors tutoring do so for different reasons, and the results and changes I am seeing are impressive. The program focuses on nutrition, self-esteem, and teamwork, and that has been crucial to its success and the great improvement I have seen in students. They are learning what it means to be healthy physically, emotionally, and socially. Sometimes my students will say something was ‘hard’, which I love! They are being challenged and remembering what they discuss, which is not always the case with 5th graders! I honestly wish I could send my entire class to Healthy Behaviors.”

—Teacher

“One of my duties as a Healthy Behaviors Scholar is to serve snack in the After School program. As a new person on campus, I knew I needed to make a positive impression on the students. I started saying, ‘Drink your milk’ and followed up with a fun fact or joke. I got giggles and smiles, but no verbal response except for this one little boy in the second grade. He looked up, smiled, and said, ‘I’ll drink my milk’. After he finished his milk he came up to me and showed me his empty milk carton by flipping it upside down, and continued to do that every day. As the rest of the students witnessed him do this every day, they also wanted to impress me and be a part of the fun. Now I’m known as the milkman. Every day, kids in all grades crowd around me showing me their empty milk cartons.” —AmeriCorps Member

In the 2011-12 School year, **2,605** students in **20** schools participated in After School Fitness Programs.

# Results





*"I find it really inspiring to work every day with people who care so much about the community in which they live."*

*— AmeriCorps VIP Member*



# Volunteer Infrastructure Project (VIP)

# We Serve. We Lead. We get things done.

The recent economic downturn hit communities hard - especially non profits and other service providers that are most needed in times of trouble. Supports that were once provided gave way to cost cutting and other priorities. Assistance decreased. Service decreased. But community needs increased exponentially.

Through the Volunteer Infrastructure Project (VIP), teams of AmeriCorps members are placed in communities to provide infrastructure support for volunteer programs in service organizations across California, which include non profit and educational organizations.

VIP Fellows are AmeriCorps members who make a real difference. Through 1700 hours of service, they are building the systems necessary for organizations to have volunteer programs for years to come, ensuring that services continue to be provided for those most in need. Fellows work “behind the scenes” of service, allowing volunteers to take part in necessary programs, and ensuring that the community’s needs are met.

Key components of the Volunteer Infrastructure Project are:

- ✦ Building sustainable volunteer programs that enable partner sites to serve more clients through volunteer efforts. We do this by creating strong systems of volunteer recruitment, management, tracking, and training.
- ✦ Recruiting 60 long-term and 60 short-term volunteers for each partner site during their VIP Fellow’s term of service.
- ✦ Incorporating professional and personal development opportunities for volunteers.





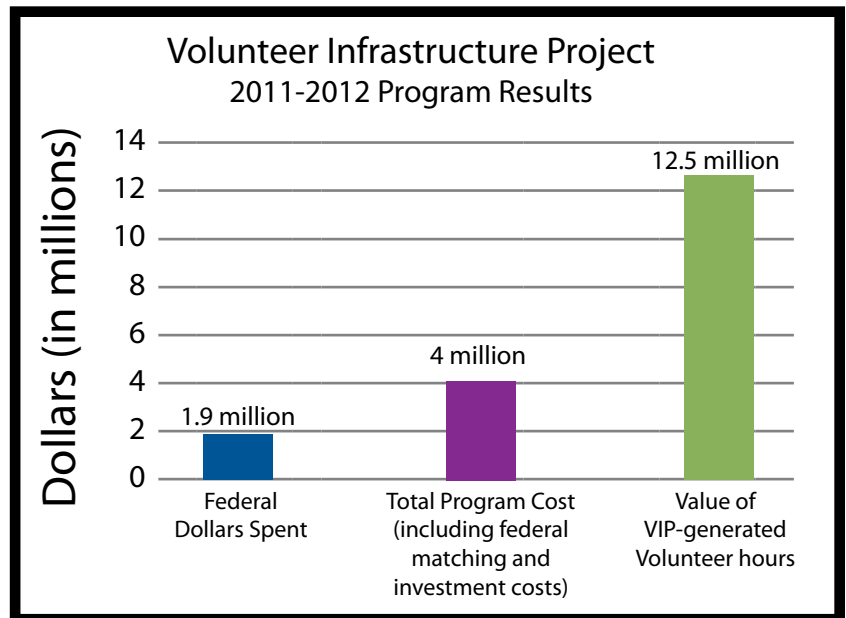
Our 140 AmeriCorps VIP Fellows spend each year serving full-time to build sustainable volunteer programs at over 100 partner sites by orienting, training, and managing volunteers, and setting up the systems that will allow these volunteer programs to thrive.

In 2011-2012, 138 nonprofit and educational organizations were served by our AmeriCorps members. Here are just a few:

- Berkeley Food & Housing Project
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Foothill Unity Center
- Hospice of SLO County
- Kings County Action Organization
- NCOE Foster Youth Education Services
- Orange County Rescue Mission
- The Salvation Army
- Santa Cruz Public Library
- United Way

All partner sites grew in volunteer capacity by implementing volunteer management best practices in recruitment, utilization, and evaluation of volunteers. 78% of sites improved their capacity to utilize volunteers by 20% or more.

In 2011-2012, 52,117 volunteers served 515,289 hours at non profit and educational organizations throughout California, resulting in a 312.5% return on investment.



# Volunteer Infrastructure Project (VIP)

## CalSERVES VIP allows communities to harvest the *Power* of volunteers.

“I am continually amazed at the ways I am rediscovering the heart and nature of service. The volunteers I work alongside and support inspire me with their insights and passion for their community. Among the stories I have the privilege of hearing, it all comes back to a theme of selflessness, which gives me hope that our society has not forgotten that we belong to each other. With this hope, I too am inspired to make a difference in my service year. In this role, I see lives changed through both the mundane and marvelous. I see volunteers who are flexible and patient, and who give their time to fill a need in our community. As a VIP Fellow, these are the stories I will leave with as I continue in my life to explore the way that service is key to cultivating community and healthy individuals.” —VIP Fellow

“Our VIP Fellow has made an immediate and significant impact on our volunteer program. Within just a few weeks, she established herself as an integral and valued member of our organization.”

—VIP Partner Site

“Our organization’s volunteer infrastructure, being relatively undeveloped, has done a lot of growing up under the stewardship of our AmeriCorps VIP Fellow. Overall, our Fellow is working with his colleagues to implement a comprehensive strategy to improve volunteer recruitment, retention, and productivity. Volunteer recruitment has improved as a direct result of the Fellow’s involvement with AmeriCorps.” —VIP Partner Site

In the 2011-12 School year, **238,254** hours of AmeriCorps service were provided by the program’s **140** members. VIP Members mobilized **52,117** Volunteers, who served a collective **515,289** hours.

# Results





### **CalSERVES Funded By:**

Corporation for National and Community Service / California Volunteers  
US Department of Education  
California Department of Education  
California Department of Public Health  
Individual Donors

### **CalSERVES Distinctions:**

Golden Bell Award of Excellence  
Healthy Behaviors Learning Center  
After School Demonstration Project



### **CalSERVES**

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