



# Community Corps - A Jumpstart Journey

Christine Manley, Program Director

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# Agenda

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## Setting the Stage

Community Corps Basics

Lessons Learned

Dreams & Desires

# THE ISSUE

## Kindergarten Readiness Gap



Children in low-income neighborhoods start kindergarten **60% behind** their peers from more affluent communities.

When children **start behind** they tend to **stay behind**.

A young boy with short dark hair is smiling broadly at the camera. He is wearing a dark-colored shirt. In the background, a classroom setting is visible with other children and a teacher. One child is wearing a red shirt with the word "Jumpstart" on it. There are yellow structures and colorful decorations in the background.

Working towards the day **every child**  
in America enters Kindergarten  
prepared to **succeed**





# From College Corps to Community Corps



Children First

- **1993** - Jumpstart founded by students at Yale
- **2004** - Strategic Plan includes engaging “Older Americans” as volunteer Corps members:
  - National demographic trends
  - Time, talent, and expertise
  - New markets
  - Deeper community impact
- **2011** - Success in Boston and San Francisco lead to launch of program in Los Angeles.
- **2017**: Boston, LA, DC & Atlanta



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# Community Corps Basics



Teresita Remo - Reading

- **Team of 5-7** serve 1 classroom for ~ an entire **school year**
- Each volunteer focuses on **3-5 target children**
- Research based curriculum: 2 hr session / 2x a wk / 20 wks
- Child Centered Time: 4+ hrs/wk
- Learning through books, songs, poems, word games, and play!
- Language & Literacy activities + caring adults = success!



## Community Corps Basics (LA)



75+ volunteers @ 13 preschools  
235+ children served 80,000+ hrs/yr



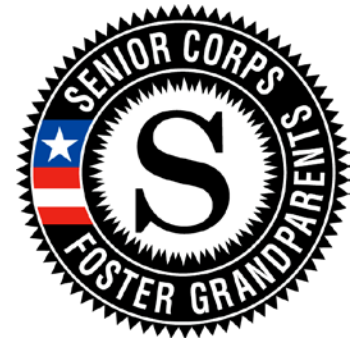
# Community Corps Basics (LA)

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## Volunteers benefits:

- Extensive Training in Early Childhood Education
- Leadership Skills & Professional Development
- Modest Non-Taxable Stipend\*
- Meals &/or Meal Reimbursement\*
- Travel Reimbursement\*



\*Incentives vary by site. These benefits are provided thanks to the Foster Grandparent Program, part of CNCS & the National Service Movement

**Note:** Volunteers qualify for these benefits based on income (<200% PL)



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## Lessons Learned

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## Lessons Learned

- We are asking too little, not too much
- Adaptations not lowered expectations
- Impact on Volunteers:
  - Social, Cognitive, Health & More...
  - Importance of Purpose, Being Needed
- Impact on Us







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## Wholistic Volunteer Engagement via Partnerships:

- *Current examples:*
  - Training for volunteers by the Department of Mental Health
  - SSG Silver (Case Management & Drop-in support)
  - Partners in Care (Evidence-Based Health Programs)
- *Plans & Dreams for the future:*
  - Workforce opportunities
  - Improved travel options & reimbursement
  - Healthier more generous meal provisions
  - Increased stipend
  - TBD... based on volunteer's expressed needs

**Expansion:** Every older adult deserves the opportunity to live with **purpose**, to give back, to be needed, and feel their **worth**



**Christine Manley**

Program Director

[christine.manley@jstart.org](mailto:christine.manley@jstart.org)

213.387.5507