

# Sister-Corps: Serving Others



## BROADCAST & RECAPS



### Sister-Corps: Empowers Women

Sister-Corps provides a vehicle for real life scenarios that captures life changing moments for both the survivor of a natural disaster plus the woman volunteering her time, talent, energy and heart to help someone in need. Women join Sister-Corps to be part of something greater than oneself, make life better for another, and the byproduct is ultimately making a positive impact in the volunteer's life.

Many women have a misconception about Sister-Corps and that is they need to be proficient in carpentry skills, handling power tools, swinging hammers, climbing ladders, installing sheetrock and flooring, tape and floating sheetrock, painting, operating a skid steer/bobcat or bull dozer and the list goes on and on. These are wonderful skills to have, but if you don't know how to do these things – no worries.

Sister-Corps is continually striving to offer training in many of these areas and to hopefully expand the S-C training portfolio to include other areas. All of these skills are wonderful but it truly takes a village when Sister-Corps deploys to a project. Did you know that a base camp is set up and there is a cooking team that prepares three square meals a day. Those clearing debris or working on the restoration of a home or church need to have fuel recharging their bodies in order to work long days; typically 8:00AM-5:00PM. Other tasks for a volunteer include: doing laundry for the volunteers, running errands, equipment inventory,

accounting plus other administrative duties, and acting as a historian taking pictures and videos.

Sometimes women find themselves in a place in their personal lives that they didn't expect. Life happens and lives change, but women are resilient and often move forward with support and encouragement. Sister-Corps can offer women the opportunity to engage with other women in a safe environment, learn new skills, learn more about oneself, engage in and expand ones network of contacts, get outside of one's comfort zone, enhance and increase one's self worth plus confidence by learning new skills, educating oneself and possibly exploring parts of the United States you had not previously seen.

Empowering women is not a new phenomenon, but we see more women today stretching their wings and taking on new exciting adventures and journeys in their lives. Why not incorporate Sister-Corps into your sphere and expand your horizons even more. Women are intelligent, sensitive, compassionate, empathetic, resilient, and have the fortitude to move mountains even if a teaspoon at a time making change for oneself and others.

Gena Curtis

*Make a difference and give blood in the name of Sister-Corps. This is an amazing life saving measure. Sister-Corps would appreciate you taking a picture of yourself and sending it to Jane Farmer at [Jane@sister-corps.com](mailto:Jane@sister-corps.com). Lets get all 50 states involved and represented.*



## Emergency Blood Shortage

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. Your blood donation is needed now to help alleviate the shortage and ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not delayed.

*Outstanding!!!!!!*

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**



*End of year fundraising  
Sister-Corps set a goal of \$50K  
and raised over \$51K.*

*Thank you Sister-Corps donors.*

## SISTER-CORPS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- GRANT WRITER  
- MEDIA RELATIONS  
Contact Leeann Moore at  
[president@sister-corps.com](mailto:president@sister-corps.com)  
if you can assist.

## Background Checks are important.

- Risk mitigation by reducing exposures to internal and external threats.
- Keeping both Sister-Corps volunteers and home owners safe.
- Collaboration and partnering with other disaster recovery groups require Sister-Corps volunteers to submit to a background check.
- Industry best practices.
- Building a measure of protection for Sister-Corps, volunteers, homeowners and ourselves.
- There is no cost to the volunteer.

Scan to



Donate

## Social Media Sites

<https://www.facebook.com/SisterCorpsTeam/>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/sister-corps>  
<https://twitter.com/SCServingOthers>  
[https://www.instagram.com/sister\\_corps/](https://www.instagram.com/sister_corps/)

## *Executive Summary*

### *prepared by President of Sister-Corps*

The Sister-Corps board developed a five-year strategic plan with goals set for one year, two years, and five years. Below addresses those goals.

**SERVICE PROJECTS - GROWTH OF DEVELOPMENT:** There were two significantly funded disaster recovery projects in 2023.

**Florida:** This project was centered in the Fort Myers area that was hit by Hurricane Ian in September of 2022. The project repaired several homes plus properties and cost approximately \$23,000. Also important to this project was partnering with a company to do on-the-job training in drywall installation and finishing.

**Eastern Kentucky - Return to Vicco:** This disaster project was smaller in numbers, but large in budget. The rebuilding project lasted 2 weeks and served 2 families and one church/community center. The final cost was \$9,100.00. In addition, Sister-Corps provided needed assistance to the Food Bank and the Women's Shelter.

**OTHER PROJECTS:** For the second year, Sister-Corps worked in partnership with the National Park Service at Sequoia National Park in California to accomplish three projects! Over the last two years, the Sequoia project has attracted 50 volunteers and 47 of those were drawn to their first Sister-Corps experience by the environmental focus of this project.

**COLLABORATIONS:** We worked with a national non-profit, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, to participate in a Build-a-Bed-for-Kids Day in Eugene, Oregon. This organization (SIHP) builds, outfits, and delivers bunk beds to children who are sleeping on the floor. This volunteer day was held twice in Eugene and that idea spread to a small group organizing a session in Minnesota. Besides the service, and the visibility, our volunteers used power tools and increased their skills and confidence whereby we can emphasize "Empowering Women" again.

The board had a goal to increase collaborations and partnerships. This year there were fifteen new ones formed and three more organizations reached out with early contact. These included VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters), ROAD (Recovering Oklahomans After Disasters), FEMA, Tool Bank, and others.

**NATIONWIDE PROJECTS:** For the third year, we promoted a national blood drive in February and in July/August. We returned to the fall drives of "Pack a Bag" for women's shelters, and "Stock the Shelves" for food banks.

**TRAINING AND NETWORKING:** In our strategic planning we set a goal to emphasize safety and skills by offering more incentives for training and to offer classes in drywall and carpentry. This need has been seen in an increasing number of our disaster recovery projects. This year we used real life situations for teaching three week-long classes in light carpentry. "Empowering Women"

Additional training undertaken this year was CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) for four days plus ten volunteers attended a week-long, intensive Wilderness Medicine training in North Carolina.

The President and a member of the Advisory Panel, Tammy Fuller, attended Mountain States VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) in Salt Lake City in April. In May, both Gena Curtis and Leeann Moore attended National VOAD in St Louis. We attended numerous sessions on long-term disaster recovery, the emotional impacts on volunteers, how to collaborate with local and national groups, and improving communication among the organizations, along with many other topics. One of the important accomplishments was the numerous contacts made and networking with other groups, including the ROAD group that we will collaborate with in the Spring 2024 project in Oklahoma City.

## *Executive Summary - Continued*

A Task Force was formed for the purpose of examining our medical/first aid procedures and policies. The Medical Study Group began their work in June and was chaired by the new Sister-Corps Medical Director, Beth Fry, M.D. The group met for five months and formed a list of recommendations as presented to the board in January 2024.

In January 2023 Strategic Planning focused on becoming more financially stable and on development to include funding, donors, and potential sponsorships. We invested in a program to assist in the tracking of donations and communications with donors. Joan Johnson has invested many personal hours in getting this program up and running. In addition, both Gena Curtis and Joan Johnson took training in how to best utilize the international campaign, Giving Tuesday, into our end-of-the-year fundraising campaign.

One of our biggest single sources of funding this year came from the auction of the donated classic rebuilt 1962 Trailer, "Tie One On.". The proceeds came to \$ 20,500 after expenses.

A cargo trailer was donated in late 2022 and retrofitted for our equipment trailer as done by volunteers in the fall 2023 carpentry class. This renovation increased the value on the open market and significantly improved the assets for the organization.

We set a goal of increasing our total assets to \$250,000 for this year. That was a high goal and while we may have fallen short, we still had approximately \$100,000 in donations and income this year.

Development includes the resource of volunteers. This year on our projects, 52% of the registrations have been new volunteers. Our count on Facebook groups has risen to over 2000 members and the number of volunteers signed up on galaxy, our volunteer management system is 267 new users. On the upcoming project in Mississippi, we are showing about 1/3 or 15 out of the 45 as first time volunteers.

**MARKETING** - spreading the word: A quarterly newsletter prepared by Gena Curtis was published this year and posted on the website and on Facebook. These are easy to read, visually attractive, and informative newsletters and they are very important in spreading the word. An informative e-mail blast is being written and sent by Joan Johnson through a planned schedule and is sent to the donor base. This email blast is visually appealing and contains useful upcoming information and where Sister-Corps has been. It is a key instrument in helping our donors see the way their donations are being used.

Gena Curtis has worked to improve our social media and has made a clearer distinction between the two Facebook pages. In addition, she has encouraged our use of hashtags. We need a very deliberate plan to improve our posting on Instagram, and on YouTube.

**WEBSITE:** The Board set the goal of a major overhaul of our original website and that was accomplished in the Spring of 2023. Bids were taken and interviews made with five web site developers and resulted in the launch in May of the rebuilt website.

Sister-Corps set a goal for this year to better communicate with our volunteers and show a greater level of appreciation. As a part of that appreciation, a committee was formed to investigate the Presidential Volunteer Service Award Program sponsored by the Points of Light foundation in Washington D.C. and started 30 years ago by President George H.W. Bush. Sister-Corps had 21 volunteers who had the hours needed for either bronze, silver, or gold levels. Congratulations to all that received the Volunteer Service Award.

## Executive Summary - Continued

In summary, the year 2023 saw continued growth and stability of Sister-Corps. Our successes were in establishing more measures to address risk management and health/safety. We continued growth in attracting new volunteers and in having past volunteers return to be a part of a project. Our decision to hire a professional CPA is indicative of the growth of new donors. This was a good year for Sister-Corps, and we are well positioned to enter the seventh year as a non-profit.

### Testimonials Requested

If you have volunteered with Sister-Corps and your journey impacted your life we would love to hear from you. Please send your email articulating your experience to Gena at [gena@sister-corps.com](mailto:gena@sister-corps.com).

### Are you a published writer?

If yes, Sister-Corps could use your assistance. Contact Leeann Moore @ [president@sister-corps.com](mailto:president@sister-corps.com)

### Ideas, Suggestions or Comments

Do you have ideas, suggestions or comments on how to reach more women and encourage them to join Sister-Corps? What about topics of conversation for the newsletter? If yes, please send email to Gena at [gena@sister-corps.com](mailto:gena@sister-corps.com).

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

### 2024 Spring Projects

Oklahoma in April

Mississippi in March



Visit <https://volunteers.sister-corps.com/need/> to learn more.

**Stay tuned for more projects and training in 2024.**

*More carpentry classes and project in Montana*

## Sister-Corps Board

Leeann Moore (TX), President; Sherry Gibbons (TX), Vice President; Greta Rigney (TX), Treasurer; Lisa Moreland (LA), Secretary; Jane Farmer (FL), Member; Gena Curtis (TX), Member; Joan Johnson (TX), Member; Debbie Grieve (TX), Member; Barbara Jones (TX), Member.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Presidential Volunteer Service Award Recipients

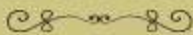
*The Board of Directors of Sister-Corps is pleased to announce that 21 of our volunteers achieved the number of hours for recognition by the White House in the 3rd decade of Presidential Volunteer Service Awards.*

*In 2003, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation founded the President's Volunteer Service Award to recognize the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity. This award honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires those around them to take action, too.*

*The PVSA has continued under each administration, honoring the volunteers who are using their time and talents to solve some of the toughest challenges facing our nation. Led by the AmeriCorps and managed in partnership with Points of Light, this program allows Certifying Organizations to recognize their most exceptional volunteers.*

<https://presidentalserviceawards.gov/>

### Bronze Award over 100 hours



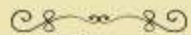
Darlene Altman 151  
Taffy Armstrong 205  
Linda Fox 135  
Debbie Grieve 107  
Barbara Jones 162  
Marcia Kaiser 152  
Kitsy Parrish 131  
Linda Paul 150  
Marcia Scott 107  
Virginia Spencer 147  
Pam Dobson 126  
Brenda Williams 164

### Silver Award 250-500 hours



Laura Bank 302  
Gena Curtis 253  
Beth Fry 290  
Donna Voelker 278  
Monica Burke 334

### Gold Award over 500 hours



Greta Rigney 581  
Joan Johnson 625  
Sherry Gibbons 732  
Leeann Moore 986