



BENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Media Advisory

BENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES AWARDED GRANT PROJECT

Richland, Wash. - Rachel Jasper, a resident of Richland, was recently sworn in as a member of Volunteer's in Service to America (VISTA), the nearly 40-year old national service program dedicated to helping fight poverty in the United States. Jasper has been assigned to Benton County Emergency Services as their Volunteer Coordinator.

Jasper's position is funded by a grant from the State of Washington.

The VISTA program allows Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) to utilize the talent and skills of VISTA Volunteers to help lift individuals and families in our community out of poverty. Jasper will spend a year as the VISTA Volunteer Coordinator serving Benton County Emergency Services. In exchange for her year of full-time service, she will receive a modest living allowance along with health insurance, training, travel and relocation expenses. When she completes her service, she'll receive either a \$1,200 stipend or an education award of \$4,725 that she can use to help pay for further schooling, vocational training, or to pay off qualified student loans.

For 40 years VISTA has been helping bring communities and individuals out of poverty. Today, nearly 7,000 VISTA members serve in hundreds of nonprofit organizations and public agencies throughout the country - working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities, or bridge the digital divide.

Jasper is coordinating Community Emergency Response Training or (Cert) which will be trained in basic disaster procedures to assist their families, neighbors, and coworkers in an emergency. Participants will receive training in disaster preparedness, fire suppression, disaster first aid, light search and rescue, and all hazards awareness training.

Jasper has been an active volunteer in the community for over eight years for groups including Pasco High Key Club, CBC Circle K International. She was also one of the many Crew Chiefs for the first women-only built home for the Habitat for Humanity.

Jasper has an eight year old son, Donavyn.

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