October’s recognized National Day of Service is “Make a Difference Day,” October 28, 2017, which fell at the end of Red Ribbon Week this year.

Make A Difference Day is one of the largest annual single-days of service nationwide. It evolved from an idea for a national day of service on February 29, 1992, a Leap Year, and is now celebrated on the fourth Saturday every October. Make A Difference Day shows that anyone, no matter of age or background, can make an impact on their community.

Beginning in 1985, the Red Ribbon Campaign has impacted millions of people around the world. In response to the death of DEA Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, parents and youth in communities across the country began wearing Red Ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the destruction caused by drugs in America.

All of our PASS AmeriCorps school sites held projects and activities honoring either Make a Difference Day or Red Ribbon Week. Through awareness campaigns, pledges, kindness challenges, spirit weeks, and more, our PASS AmeriCorps Service Members and their students worked to make positive change in their schools and communities.

PASS AmeriCorps is “Making a Difference!”

Collaborative Partner Spotlight - Darcy Lomeli

We want to thank Darcy Lomeli, Organizational Effectiveness Specialist with SDCOE’s Human Resources Department, for leading our members through a Strengths Finders mini-training this month. We took the opportunity to get to know her a little better.

Favorite aspect of your job? Working with SDCOE employees to build capacity, community, and develop our organizational culture, all in service to our students!

Most important quality for success? A commitment to relationships, having a heart for your work, and persistence.

Greatest achievement? I’m really excited about the work that we’ve done over the past two years at SDCOE around recognizing, honoring, and developing individuals’ strengths. Naming, claiming, and aiming our strengths gives us the opportunity to do what we do best!

Three words to best describe you? Enthusiastic, nurturing, diligent.

Something unique about your 13 year old self? I was obsessed with Oldies music (and still love it). I loved Motown, Doo-wop, surf music, and classic cars. Our small town had a cruise-in/sock hop every year…. I took home the award for hula-hooping and strolling! (Told you I was obsessed!)

Advice for our PASS AmeriCorps Members? Share your interest, goals, and passions with others—confidently put it out in the world! Be bold to seek and create opportunities where you can pursue those goals and tap into your interests and strengths. I would encourage you to build relationships and learn from a mentor that you admire (their work style, career path, attitude, and values).
Students showing off their personalities as they show off their posters!

Hello again, Casita! So what do you do for fun? Or what special talents do you have? What’s your favorite internet meme?! Our PASS students in October tackled these and similar questions as they made their unique “My Story” posters. These posters were a showcase of each student’s individuality and creativity, and they were as much fun to make as they are to look at! Meanwhile, our Soccer Club is up and running strong, despite a necessary break during the October heat wave. Our talented athletes have been meeting together after lunch to run drills and play friendly matches. Students have taken on most of the leadership roles in the club, and it will be exciting to see what they do with the club in the future. Our Red Ribbon Week was scheduled for the last week in October. PASS students will be doing their part by giving out ribbons and talking to their peers about what the week means to them.

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Hello Rancho Minerva Bulls! October's National Day of Service is Make A Difference Day. Since 1992, volunteers and communities have come together on Make A Difference Day with a single purpose: to improve the lives of others. Can you think about some ways that you can help to improve someone else's life? Rancho Minerva made a difference with its Red Ribbon Spirit Week. The National Red Ribbon Week theme this year was 'Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free'. Did you know that 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon Week activities each year? Rancho Minerva students took part in pledging to make healthy choices for themselves and be drug free, while also wearing clothes to reflect the theme of the day. Students and staff wore great costumes to show their school spirit. 8th graders: Are you on track for Promotion? Want to know what to expect in High School? Set up a meeting with your counselor, or come by the PASS Room to find out more.

October has been grand at Roosevelt! This month, I was able to help out the counseling staff plan and execute Red Ribbon Week! My favorite days this week were Tuesday and Thursday. Tuesday, students either took the pledge to be drug free or stood in solidarity with those who have been affected by drug abuse by putting their thumb prints on a poster that then created a key to symbolize the national Red Ribbon Week theme, "Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free". Thursday, students raced to be drug free. I loved watching each student cheer on their classmates. For October, I would like to recognize Brenda P.G. (8th Grade). She has played a huge role in making sure that I felt welcomed at Roosevelt Middle. Brenda is always willing to help me out in anyway and pushes me on a daily basis to think outside of the box. Working with Brenda has been extremely rewarding and I can’t wait to see what the rest of the year has in store!

This month has been busy here at VIDA! I have been helping my PASS students academically by pushing directly into their classrooms. I have also been providing academic support during lunch to help students with work they may be having a hard time with. Last month, students got to participate in the VIDA Heroes Project in remembrance of 9/11. Students got to honor their personal heroes by completing stars with the phrases: “My Hero is...” “I admire...” and “My role model is...”. All of the stars completed were turned into a banner that is now on display in the PASS office. This month, the school celebrated Red Ribbon Week. From October 23rd to Oct 27th, students participated in dress up days that encouraged them to say no to drugs. For our service project on October 26th, over 130 students, including PASS students, participated in Red Ribbon Week trivia during lunch. Students who answered their question correctly were able to receive a small prize. It was a great turn out!
This month flew by! Red Ribbon Week was huge and the student body worked so hard. The events included: Hugs Not Drugs, Red Ribbon Scavenger Hunt where students could win slurpees from the student store, and of course students taking the pledge to stay off drugs. PASS AmeriCorps united with RBV students to take a visible stand against drugs by asking students to write a piece of advice about the positive parts of staying drug-free to middle school students. Their advice was written on each chain link, which will be displayed at Madison Middle School. Fifty-five students participated in this service project. PASS students have been working hard now that the end of the second progress report is here and we are so proud to see their hard work pay off! Along with the academic support, we have been getting in some great goal setting and we are looking forward to seeing these goals come to fruition.

Greetings all, as more staff and students continue to welcome us with open arms, Vista High School is truly starting to feel like home. For this month’s service project, we focused on Red Ribbon Week. Traditionally, schools embrace one week in October for drug awareness. In preparation for this month’s service project, three PASS AC students helped create a banner that was displayed during lunch at our PASS AC project table. Those same students also helped create the final banner that will soon be displayed on campus. This school year, students were asked to sign a paw if they knew of someone who has been affected by drugs or are anti-drugs. Later, the paws were put together to make the final banner that states “These Paws Don’t Touch Drugs”. Student’s support and excitement continues to encourage us and we are very excited for next month’s service project.

PASS AmeriCorps Student Donates Blood

PASS AmeriCorps Student, America, creating our banner for our service project.

PASS AmeriCorps Student, America, creating our banner for our service project. 

PASS’s goal was to bring several programs to Alta Vista to help our students flourish. Students participated in a very successful blood drive under the direction of Ms. Penney. As a school, we donated forty-two units (ten over our goal). The ASB club and a few PASS students took leadership roles during the drive. PASS also partnered with the Jonathan Tarr Foundation to provide scholarships to a few of our students. Love on a Leash therapy dogs will also be making weekly visits to Alta Vista. Boys2Men, (emotional support group for young men) with the support of PASS, provides restorative practices through group discussions. Girl’s Circles are also being implemented on campus. Additionally, PASS continues to offer classes in class academic support and PASS is still heavily invested in our sports programs. Rugby will be concluding at the end of the month, but basketball will begin in mid-November.

Karen Ordorica and Andrea Venegas, PASS AmeriCorps Members

Corey Bishop, PASS AmeriCorps Member
The Murray Bulldogs have been up to so much in the month of October! PASS had the great opportunity to support the students on two great field trips this month. The students were able to see Mrs. Morrison in ACTION on the California Challenge as their math teacher fired off some cannons! Everyone that went to the sailing trip had the opportunity to make a thank you card with Mrs. Garritson, the PASS mentor at Murray, for half a credit. Then the senior bulldogs went to the finance park where they had to go through a simulated budget plan with real life locally researched prices. The September PASS project made its way to the front office and for October, students have been working on their projects. They are being asked to anonymously write down one negative effect drugs have had on their lives. PASS students are going to rewrite these in the next week and then PASS will display the messages in the display case on campus.
San Diego County Office of Education
PASS AmeriCorps Program

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Website: www.sdcoe.net/pass-americorps

The PASS AmeriCorps Program serves students in grades 3 through 12 at 30 school sites across San Diego County, including campuses in San Diego, Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, and Valley Center. Each PASS AmeriCorps member provides support for 30 students through individual and group mentoring, academic support, grades and attendance reviews, leadership development, guest speakers, service learning projects, and parent outreach. Through their service with PASS, our AmeriCorps members are able to create positive change in our schools and communities.

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**Upcoming Month’s Calendar**

**November 2017**

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**Notes**

- November 5th – Daylight Savings: “Fall Back” One Hour
- November 6th – PASS AmeriCorps All Staff Meeting and mini-training: NCORE Comm Labs 1-4, 12:30pm; Senior Members Only Committee Meeting – 11:30am
- November 7th – Veterans’ Day: All Districts and SDCCD Closed. Mandatory National Day of Service. Please observe during the month of November.
- November 20th-24th – All Districts are closed for Fall Recess. SDCCD Closed Only: November 22nd and 24th.