



AmeriCorps VISTA Spotlight!

Alicia Goddard

Alicia is serving as a VISTA with Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential aka LEAP. Alicia became a VISTA because COVID-19 hit and she found herself laid-off so she looked around and knew that she wanted to make a difference. As she started to look for ways to get involved she discovered the VISTA program. While reading about the program she felt the call to respond. Alicia is so happy she did!

Alicia has established a new virtual recreational program and partnership between Lorain Community College and LEAP. Next, she worked on creating a Speakers Bureau that works at community outreach. She has also worked with LEAP and OOD (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities) to put on the first regional and virtual Youth Leadership Forum for high school Juniors and Seniors. She continues to work on community outreach with more topics to be presented to ADA Cleveland. She is also developing a business plan to incorporate the Community Outreach and Education branch of LEAP into the overall structure of the organization.

Alicia has gained so much from VISTA Service! She has gained more experience, learned about capacity building, and has worked with awesome people. What excites her the most can best be explained by quoting Flora Edwards: "In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us." She believes that LEAP reached out to her because she has two daughters that have disabilities as well as teaching swimming lessons to people with physical and mental challenges. Alicia also coached the Special Olympics! She was excited to get on board and help others. Alicia is thrilled there is a community out there that builds social capital between people with disabilities, which LEAP provides.