

BITTERROOT ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS RESOURCES (B.E.A.R.) MENTORING PROGRAM VISTA: VICTORIA GREEN

EDUCATION

QUICK FACTS:

\$22,455 cash raised
\$2,317 in-kind raised
35 volunteers recruited
53 new clients served



My goal at B.E.A.R. was to increase the sustainability capacity of the Mentoring program to guarantee existing resources to reach additional at-risk youth through resource development, coalition & partnership building, and assessments. My service year at BEAR resulted in over 4 new capacity-building events, a stronger community presence and BEAR's as sanctioned surplus recipient from the Montana state surplus. I assisted in Board and Partnership development in cultivating positive relations with the Bitterroot Nonprofit Partnership and co-hosting B.E.A.R.'s board meet and greet, resulting in a 40% increase in Board of Directors. I've supported B.E.A.R. by increasing community outreach through logo reconstruction, sticker and decal creation and distribution, revamping the website for easier navigation and the creation of BEAR's first annual report, as well as acting as a BEAR representative at several community events throughout the community. I've also spent the year, identifying new granters, volunteers and community donors within the community.

In the last year, BEAR has gained 53 new middle-school aged youth participants enabling opportunities to explore the outdoors and foster positive relations with mentors and peers. Through the launching of our peer mentoring program and an expansion of group mentoring programs in schools, B.E.A.R. is able to reach more high-risk youth in the Bitterroot Valley. Throughout my year as a VISTA, I've hosted 2 Silent Auction Film fundraisers, 1 community silent auction, participated as sponsor recipient of Bitterroot Classic Triathlon and B.E.A.R.'s first annual Donor luncheon. These events resulted in a over \$22,455 in cash resources, and more than \$2317 In-kind donations. The First annual donor luncheon will assist in BEAR's sustainability ensuring over \$6,000 in the next 3 years. Thanks to secured funds, BEAR will be able to continue to make an impact with 16% of programs mentees showing improved substance use/attitudes, 44% of mentees showing an improvement in school attendance/attitudes, 33% of participants gaining an improvement in family connections. B.E.A.R. will continue to serve over 300 youth annually and encourage healthy futures throughout the Bitterroot Valley.

