

West Seneca Youth Bureau & AmeriCorps 2001 Union Road - West Seneca, NY 14224

Service Groups Mourn the Loss of West Seneca AmeriCorps Member

May 29, Biloxi, MS – West Seneca Youth Bureau, The Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, and AmeriCorps Alums are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Dan Kivel, 34, a West Seneca, NY AmeriCorps member who drowned on Sunday.

Kivel was enjoying a day off, wading in the water at sunset on Sunday with another friend when a rip tide overpowered them both. The friend managed to swim back to shore, but Kivel struggled to stay afloat before friends finally lost sight of him. Authorities found his body on Monday evening.

Dan Kivel, a Detroit native, first volunteered in New Orleans with the Red Cross just after Hurricane Katrina, but continued his passion for service by joining the West Seneca AmeriCorps team. The West Seneca AmeriCorps team has been on the ground in Bay St. Louis since early May working alongside hundreds of other AmeriCorps teams and Hands On volunteers from around the country assisting in Gulf Coast recovery efforts ranging from gutting homes to helping rebuild local playgrounds and community gathering places, and connecting local citizens with much needed resources. Kivel was greatly admired by everyone who knew him for his energy and hard work. He found his calling in service to others. He loved technology and found a way to combine his passions right after the hurricane by using technology to help victims of Katrina find loved ones. Kivel was due to leave when his AmeriCorps term ended in July.

“Our hearts go out to Dan’s family, friends and fellow team members,” said Mark Lazzara, Executive Director, West Seneca Youth Bureau. “Dan’s hard work, strength and joy provided the backbone of our Gulf team.”

“Mississippi is blessed to have received so much from committed, dedicated people like Dan Kivel,” said Marsha Meeks Kelly, Executive Director, the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service. “Over the coming days, we will continue to honor his memory by remembering the passion and caring nature that brought him here to rebuild the Gulf Coast, and recommitting our own lives to service.”

About West Seneca Youth Bureau

The West Seneca Youth Bureau is an organization committed to developing the potential of youth, promoting community service and volunteerism, supporting families, and improving the Western New York Community. The West Seneca AmeriCorps team has been a program of West Seneca Youth Bureau since

1994.

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps members serve with more than 3,000 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based and community organizations. Since 1994, more than 400,000 men and women have provided needed assistance to millions of Americans across the nation through their AmeriCorps service.

For further info: Call Mark Lazzara, 716-913-7575