

## **Community Connections Announces Opportunity for A New Volunteer**

Pathfinder Community Connections, the Housing Division of Pathfinder Services, Inc., is now accepting applications for a new volunteer position targeting to begin in August. The new position is a VISTA volunteer position through AmeriCorps, a Corporation for National & Community Service.

Job responsibilities for the VISTA volunteer include working closely with the staff of Pathfinder Community Connections in the counties of Allen, Huntington and Wabash. The VISTA volunteer will create support systems that build the capacity of foreclosure prevention, financial fitness and asset building, and neighborhood stabilization programs to impact low- to moderate-income households. Tasks of the volunteer will include: conducting neighborhood surveys, developing workshop materials, recruiting resident volunteers, fund-raising and much more.

AmeriCorps VISTA provides the following benefits to its member volunteers: Child Care allowance if appropriate, an Education Award to reduce tuition or End of Service Stipend, Health Insurance Coverage, Living Allowance, Relocation Allowance, and Training. Helpful skills include education or experience in Communications , Community Organization , Computers/Technology , Education , Fund raising/Grant Writing , Leadership , Public Speaking , Recruitment , Teaching/Tutoring , Writing/Editing , Community Organization, and knowledge of local government.

“The VISTA volunteer program is an outstanding partnership between Pathfinder Services, Inc., AmeriCorps, and NeighborWorks America,” states Jan Baumgartner, Director of Pathfinder Community Connections. “It is a perfect opportunity for individuals to add one year of community service to their resume. Our volunteer will work hands-on in Foreclosure Prevention and Neighborhood Development through our Fort Wayne office, and in developing our Voluntary Free Income Tax Preparation program for the 2010 tax year,” concluded Baumgartner.

For more information on becoming a VISTA volunteer at Pathfinder Community Connections please contact Natalie Fisher at (260) 356-0521 or at [nfisher@pathfinderservices.org](mailto:nfisher@pathfinderservices.org).

Pathfinder Community Connections, the Housing Division of Pathfinder Services, Inc. is a part of a national program in which VISTA members will be placed at community-based organizations around the country. Working together through NeighborWorks America, more than 70 VISTAs will build on a 30-year track record of working with communities to spur reinvestment and bring program expertise, research, and infrastructure support to maximize and replicate successful strategies. The VISTAs will generally build the capacity of NeighborWorks organizations (NWOs) to reduce the number of foreclosures, stabilize communities affected by foreclosures, and protect and build personal and community assets in low-and moderate-income communities.

Pathfinder Community Connections is the Housing Division of Pathfinder Services Inc., a not for profit Human Services organization with offices in Huntington, Wabash, and Plymouth. Community Connections began in 1997 and has helped over 1,300 families fulfill the dream of homeownership and has provided over \$9.6 million in down payment assistance to those families.