

# COMMUNITY CARES

TCAC AmeriCorps Newsletter — December 2022

**In this issue:**

- Service Burn Out
- Christmas In the Smokies
- Voices from the Corps
- The Month of December
- Just for Fun: Christmas Movies!

## Service Burn Out

It's that time of year, when the world seems... to be burnt out! A lot of people reach the last month of the year hoping to pump the breaks and relax, while for some it is the busiest. This is a reminder to breathe, and if it can be let go, let it go. Service burn out is one of the worst forms of burn out because members are providing services to those who are unable to provide for themselves, which can make getting into the holiday spirit very difficult. Remember to be cordial to each other and to anyone else especially during this time of year. It is unknown what everyone faces each holiday.



**If you have moved, changed addresses since starting your AmeriCorps service term, or in recent weeks, PLEASE SEND TCAC YOUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS ASAP!!!!**

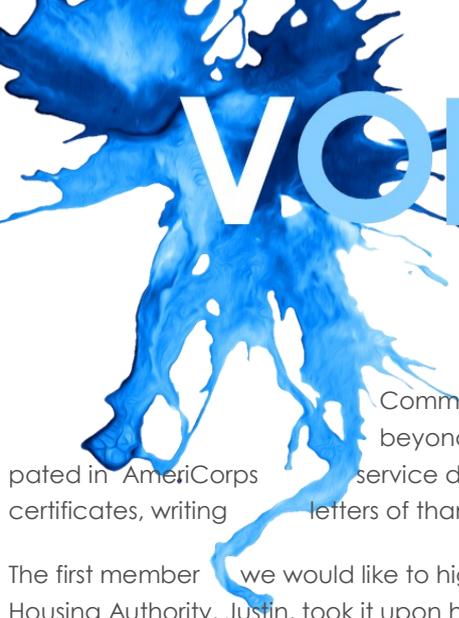
“Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It’s discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values.”

- Thomas S. Monson



**Christmas In The Smokies** — Visit the Smokies! See the beautiful opulent display at the Old Mill restaurant which uses more than 6,000 lights to animate the spinning wheel and flowing river.

Throughout the United States, you will hear about a Smoky Mountain Christmas (Especially if you live in East Tennessee). Many people from all over come to embrace the holiday spirit in the Great Smoky Mountains. The Smokies got their name from the ever-present dense morning fog. They are also known for the diversity of wildlife, the beauty of their ancient mountains, and their history of Southern Appalachian mountain culture. During the holidays, driving up the strip through Pigeon Forge and on into Gatlinburg you will see the *Twelve Days of Christmas* in the “Winterfest Lights” (between 5:00PM and 1:00AM daily through February 2023). The enjoyment many families get out of the light displays is telling of how beautiful the Smokies can be, decked to the nines with holiday lights around the towns. Although, the Smokies don't need to be completely adorned in lights to be enjoyed, any one can take a beautiful drive through the trees and see the running creeks and streams. It also helps that our East Tennessee queen, Dolly Parton, has a film with the name “Smoky Mountain Christmas” that she stars in. Take a drive this holiday season and learn more about these beautiful mountains we call home. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hscLRBDMtCl>



# VOICES

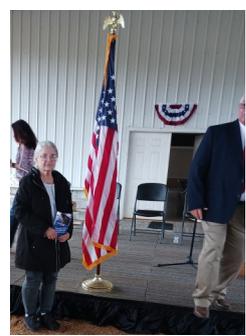
from  
the  
Corps

## SERVICE DAY

### Veteran's Day

Community Cares AmeriCorps members went above and beyond for Veteran's day activities. This was the most participated in AmeriCorps service day to-date. From placing flags on graves, to giving out certificates, writing letters of thanks, our members did it all for those who gave their all.

The first member we would like to highlight for service well-done, is Justin A. from Memphis Housing Authority. Justin, took it upon himself to create certificates to honor those who have sacrificed their lives for this country through their military service. He and his immediate supervisor honored nineteen residents and two employees at MHA with these certificates of appreciation and in his words, "for protecting the freedoms of all citizens of the United States of America." He stated he was honored to check-in on all of these residents with a phone call to thank them personally and discuss any services they may need for the holidays. Justin has also created and maintained a database of community resources and partner organizations that can be directly applied to the majority of needs the residents are currently challenged with. Thank you, Justin, for *getting things done!* This is what AmeriCorps service is about!



Next on my list is Martha P. from Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center. Martha has been featured here before for her outstanding service to those individuals in the Narrow Ridge community. She was able to visit Rutledge on Veterans Day to attend a service to honor and represent all branches of the military. The ceremony was wonderful and she was able to snap a few pictures of that day. What was very interesting from Martha's writing about Veterans & Veterans Day were the stories from her family members in active duty during war times. The United States was such a different place back then, just like it changed drastically again after 9/11. I will leave you with this thought from her written entry on Veterans Day, "I don't watch war movies because I have lived through them in real life and choose not to participate in the glorification of these horrific acts of aggression." Nicely said Martha, and I would rather not relive things through film like I've seen in real life. Right there with you!



Another one, is Crossville Housing Authority's two members, Cindy S. and Janice M. Cindy, got word that a local organization created a Veteran memorial for the week leading up to Veterans Day. This memorial had 500 plus American flags privately sponsored to fly over the green in Garrison Park. She was able to capture the photos below with the most perfect weather for flag flying. The sponsors of the flags were able to include the names of the veterans in their lives, past or present, or just leave a patriotic message. Cindy says and hopes, "this new flag presentation was the inaugural display and I hope it will be the first of many for a small token to show our veterans how much they mean to our lives in this great country."



Janice, informed us she spent her Veterans Day a little differently. She took a lonely veteran to the Crossville Veterans Day Parade and to Garrison Park to see the aforementioned 500 plus flags. She stated, "I got to spend the day with a wonderful man that reminded me that no matter what life throws at you there is still hope and freedom." She added this gentleman was drafted; however, despite being forced to enlist he was very proud to fight for our freedom. She also added, "still today there are many that fight for us to stay free." Janice was able to imaginatively time travel with this veteran as he showed her his military jacket that he still wears with all of his medals, going over each one and what they mean to him.



Tanayha M. from Highlands Residential Services attended a program dedicated to veterans and her children's elementary school where they were an active part. They called veterans from the audience and school staff to give them goody bags, say thank you, and appreciate them for their service. The children completed their performance and had many in tears, including Tanayha.



This year during a family vacation I had the innate privilege to visit Elgin, Florida's Air Force Base as well as the Air Force Armament museum with my own Air Force veteran, my dad. My father is a war veteran from the Vietnam era who enlisted before he was drafted. After touring the base, we drove about a street over to the Armament Museum. At the museum where we were able to see the "bird" my father worked on an RF-4C Phantom II or "Scud Seeker!" He told us about how he packed parachutes into ejection seats, armed the planes with artillery, and how he repaired damaged machines when they returned from war zones. It was very interesting to see the size of this plane and the size of the shells he was placing on it. We learned a lot, and learned to appreciate why he didn't disclose a few things to us when me and my siblings were younger. During this awesome visit to the Armament we were also able to see an SR-71 "Blackbird," which has been recorded as the fastest fighter jet, and has reached Mach 3+ in an operation (which is three times the speed of sound or more than 2,200 miles per hour at altitudes of 85,000 feet). -Hayley



Many other members spoke of their own family members, some still with us and some that have sadly already departed, about their acts of valor and overall gratitude towards serving our country. Many discussed that through their heroic actions, we live in a free country. The stories of women, joining the US Army or Marines during times when women were still asked to be just "housewives" and "mothers" and how difficult it was for them to be treated as equals serving alongside men. Times were very different. Overall, the courage, bravery, and strength it takes to defend an entire nation on one's shoulders is a lot to take on, and they gave their all for us.



# A NATIONAL SERVICE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Greg Tucker

An AmeriCorps Agency holiday tradition of sharing our remix of Clement Clarke Moore's poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (commonly known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas"). We hope you enjoy this salute to our national service programs and volunteers.

## A National Service Night Before Christmas

(with sincere apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the land,  
AmeriCorps members were driving, in a basic white van.  
But their stockings weren't hung; no, not with care.  
They're riding fast as they can, going to who knows where.

They had to be tired, many nodded their heads,  
But when duty calls, no one sleeps in their beds,  
This assignment was special, it came in a snap,  
Santa needs help; grab your boots, grab your cap!

I looked out my window; wondering "What's all the fuss?"  
My wife and kids were sleeping, should I tell them to hush?  
All these people in khakis, well branded with A's,  
But others came with them, I didn't know what to say.

The snow was falling; I had just come home,  
Three tours of duty; no more holidays alone.  
Christmas might miss us, but we had each other,  
Here, just four of us gathered, along with my mother.

All of a sudden, an SUV tore 'round the corner;  
It stopped in our drive, out popped folks with hand warmers;  
The front door flung open and who did appear;  
It was a special Team Leader, in red khaki gear.

She looked all around, like she had a plan,  
Her team followed her lead, at a wave of her hand,  
We had heard of her legend, who knew she was real?  
She called out her groups, with vigor and zeal!

"On NCCC and VISTA, FEMA bring your Corps,  
Come on State and National, we need you, of course!  
Senior Corps got here first, thanks to RSVP,  
And Foster Grandparents brought gifts for the tree!"

There were Senior Companions, and a team named "Spruce,"  
They make the holidays happier, we just turn them loose!  
"When Santa calls, we answer, each and every one,  
Service is what we do, we 'get things done!'"

Just then on the roof, a commotion began,  
Santa and eight tiny reindeer found a nice spot to land.  
He popped down the chimney, and appeared at the door,  
"My elves can't be here, I could use a few more."

Then he saw National Service, all bunched in a pack,  
They were clad in snow boots, carrying whatever they could pack,  
His eyes – they twinkled, as a grin crossed his face,  
"I'm glad that you're here, let's decorate this place."

He said, "They need toys, a tree – make this home festive."  
But his new elves were so quick, he exclaimed, "Now that is impressive!"  
He sat for a moment, and let his belly sag,  
His elves were slackers; it was really a drag.

"Leader, can I borrow your elves just one night, for you see,  
I would love the help of someone, who works even harder than me."  
She shook her head, and told Santa, "Tough luck"  
America still needs us. Everyone – back to the trucks!"

I watched in amazement, dumbstruck, as they left,  
They brought Christmas to us before we could catch our breath.  
Everything was so sparkly, so merry, so bright,  
It was hard to believe, it was done in one night.

We tell you this tale, to fill you with glee,  
'Cause we love people like you, who are not just about me.  
National Service is awesome, just a wonderful sight,  
Happy Holidays to all, and to all, a good night!

Happy Holidays from AmeriCorps the Agency!

# IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

## Monday, December 5th—

Member monthly check-in. Check in with us and hang out for 30 minutes. @ 9:00AM EST

Data collection due for the month of November. In-Kind Logs and Volunteer Logs.

## Thursday, December 22nd—

TCAC will be closing at 12PM (EST) noon and will remain closed until the following Tuesday.

## Friday, December 23rd — Monday, December 26th & Monday, January 2nd

TCAC Offices as well as some AmeriCorps service sites will be closed.

If your service site location is **closed** for the holidays, you **will not report to service**.

**Please** complete your timesheet for that time period, by stating below the signature lines as to why it is blank.

Ex: **\*\*This timesheet is incomplete due to \_\_\_ being closed for the holidays.**

Site supervisors as well as members will still need to sign off on timesheets as usual.



**If you have moved, changed addresses since starting your AmeriCorps service term, or in recent weeks,**

**PLEASE SEND TCAC YOUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS ASAP!!!!**

## Behind on Hours?

### If you missed the first Service Day, what's next?

AmeriCorps members must reach out to Hayley to receive opportunities to gain hours or complete a service day. Reminder: you must serve two within your service year! (there are only 6 service days!) **Remember communication is key!!**



*Merry Christmas*

*&*

*Happy Holidays to you and your families!*

*From the Community Care  
AmeriCorps staff*

*May the coming year be filled  
with Joy and  
Success!*



# JUST FOR FUN!

## It's Christmas time again!

My favorite time of year, and these are MY top 10 favorite Christmas movies I have to watch EVERY YEAR, on repeat, until Christmas Day... Let me know which ones you've seen, plan on watching this year, or what some of your favorites are! Did I list any of your favorites? Let me know!

1.



### the Holiday



#### ***The Holiday***

(2006) Rated PG-13 • Romance/Comedy • Runtime: 2h 18m

If you want to fall in love with Jude Law and Jack Black, as well as Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet, watch this movie. It's heartwarming and full of holiday cheer. Visit the countryside of England for a romantic getaway. (Currently streaming on Hulu, SlingTV, Vudu, and Amazon Prime Video)

"Dumped and depressed, Iris agrees to swap homes with similarly unlucky in love Californian Amanda for a much-needed break. Iris finds herself in a palatial Hollywood mansion while Amanda navigates the lanes of a picture-perfect English village. Soon enough, both lovelorn ladies bump into local lads perfect for romance.

2.



#### ***Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer***

(1964) Rated G • Family/Musical • Runtime: 55m

Everyone knows the song, and it's not Christmas without the classics! I love the original stop-motion animated Rudolph, Santa Clause is Coming to Town, A Miser Brother's Christmas, Little Drummer Boy, and Jack Frost. These movies still give me the "child-like" feeling of Christmas that we all love and adore. (Not streaming anywhere currently, but can be purchased on Amazon Prime.) — I've got all of these bad boys on DVD. Haha.

"Young reindeer Rudolph lives at the North Pole. His father is one of Santa's reindeer and it is expected that Rudolph will eventually be one too. However, he has a feature which is a setback and causes him to be ostracized: his red nose."

3.



#### ***Tim Burton's the Nightmare Before Christmas***

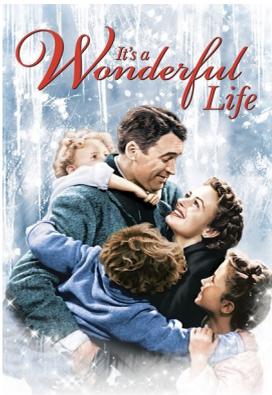
(1993) Rated PG • Fantasy/Musical • Runtime: 1h 16m

This one... it's one of my all time favorites, which is why it is in my top 5. I watch it around Halloween every year, and a few more times after Thanksgiving on into December around Christmas. It can always be classified as BOTH a Halloween and Christmas movie in my book. "Kidnap Mr. Sandy Claws?" (Currently streaming on Disney+)

"The film follows the misadventures of Jack Skellington, Halloweentown's beloved pumpkin king, who has become bored with the same annual routine of frightening people in the "real world." When Jack accidentally stumbles on Christmastown, all bright colors and

warm spirits, he gets a new lease on life -- he plots to bring Christmas under his control by kidnapping Santa Claus and taking over the role. But Jack soon discovers even the best-laid plans of mice and skeleton men can go seriously awry."

4.



#### ***It's a Wonderful Life***

(1946) Rated PG • Fantasy/Drama • Runtime: 2h 10m

Pull out the tissue box for this one! You'll be tearful as you learn a valuable life lesson from this movie, to appreciate what you've got and love who you have in your life, because once it's gone.. There's no getting it back. There is a technicolor version of this movie as well as the original in black and white. "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings!" (Currently streaming on Plex, fuboTV, Amazon Prime Video, and Hulu)

"George Bailey has so many problems he is thinking about ending it all - and it's Christmas! As the angels discuss George, we see his life in flashback. As George is about to jump from a bridge, he ends up rescuing his guardian angel, Clarence - who then shows George what his town would have looked like if it hadn't been for all his good deeds over the years."

5.



**The Muppet Christmas Carol**

(1992) Rated G • Family/Fantasy • Runtime: 1h 25m

Will Ebenezer Scrooge change his mind? Will he be kind this Christmas? Marley and Marley shake him up with their daunting song, warning Ebenezer to change his ways. This one is one of the classics (I also really like the remake with Jim Carrey— both to me are 10/10. (Currently streaming on Disney+)

“The Muppets perform the classic Dickens holiday tale, with Kermit the Frog playing Bob Cratchit, the put-upon clerk of stingy Ebenezer Scrooge (Michael Caine). Other Muppets -- Miss Piggy, Gonzo, Fozzie Bear and Sam the Eagle -- weave in and out of the story, while Scrooge receives visits from spirits of three Christmases -- past, present and future. They show him the error of his self-serving ways, but the miserable old man seems to be past any hope of redemption and happiness. .”

6.



**Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

(2000) Rated PG • Family/Fantasy • Runtime: 1h 45m

Speaking of Jim Carrey, would it really be Christmas if the Grinch wasn't trying to steal it? Hah. This wonderful rendition of the Dr. Seuss classic, is a great one and has been a classic with my family since the movie came out. “That's it I'm not going!” Also, if you've watched *Gossip Girl* you might recognize a grown up Cindy Lou. (Currently streaming on HBOMax and Hulu)

“In this live-action adaptation of the beloved children's tale by Dr. Seuss, the reclusive green Grinch decides to ruin Christmas for the cheery citizens of Whoville. Reluctantly joined by his hapless dog, Max, the Grinch comes down from his mountaintop home and sneaks into town to swipe everything holiday-related from the Whos. However, the bitter grump finds a hitch in his plans when he encounters the endearing Cindy Lou Who.”

7.



**Elf**

(2003) Rated PG • Comedy/Family • Runtime: 1h 37m

“SANTAAAAAAA!!!!!!” Do you like eating chocolate syrup with spaghetti noodles? This guy sure does! Join Buddy the Elf on a fun adventure to discover his true family. This one is enjoyable and pretty funny at times. (Currently streaming on HBOMax, Hulu, and SlingTV)

“Buddy as accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and raised to adulthood among Santa's elves. Unable to shake the feeling that he doesn't fit in, the adult Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. As it happens, this is Walter Hobbs, a cynical businessman. After a DNA test proves this, Walter reluctantly attempts to start a relationship with the childlike Buddy with increasingly chaotic results.”

8.



**Holiday Inn**

(1942) Not Rated • Musical/Romance • Runtime: 1h 40m

“Come stay at the Holiday Inn!” Come stay for the holidays and enjoy the in-house singing and entertainment selections! And fall in love with Bing's voice. “Happy Holiday, while the merry bells keep ringing, may your every wish come true!” (Currently not streaming on any platform)

“In this Irving Berlin musical, Jim and Lila are members of a performing trio who plan to quit and run a country hotel. When Lila says she has fallen in love with the dancer in the act, Ted , Jim leaves town with a broken heart. After turning the inn into a holidays-only live entertainment venue, Jim winds up booking -- and falling for -- Linda. But when Ted shows up at the place after being dumped by Lila, he too sets his sights on beautiful Linda.

9.



**The National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation**

(1989) Rated PG-13 • Comedy/Slapstick • Runtime: 1h 37m

“Surprised? Eddie, if I woke up tomorrow with my head sewn to the carpet, I wouldn't be more surprised.” Clark Griswold AKA Chevy Chase is a living legend!! All of the National Lampoon movies are some of my family's favorites, but this one takes the number one spot on that list. If we're not watching this while we cook Christmas dinner or on New Year's Eve, there is something wrong. (Currently streaming on HBOMax, Hulu and SlingTV)

“As the holidays approach, Clark Griswold wants to have a perfect family Christmas, so he pesters his wife, Ellen, and children, as he tries to make sure everything is in line, including the tree and house decorations. However, things go awry quickly. His hick cousin, Eddie, and his family show up unplanned and start living in their camper on the Griswold property. Even worse, Clark's employers renege on the holiday bonus he needs.

10.



**A Christmas Story**

(1983) Rated PG • Comedy/Family • Runtime: 1h 34m

“You’ll shoot your eye out kid!!” “Oh... FUDGE only I didn’t say fudge..” Some of the most quotable lines ever came from this movie, and I would like to say my siblings and I still annoy my parents to this day in repeating them. LOL. Watch little Ralphie nearly shoot his eye out with his Red Ryder BB Gun and watch a kid get his tongue stuck to a pole off of a triple-dog-dare. (Currently streaming on HBOMax and Hulu with premium subscription)

“Based on the humorous writings of author Jean Shepherd, this beloved holiday movie follows the wintry exploits of youngster Ralphie Parker, who spends most of his time dodging a bully and dreaming of his ideal Christmas gift, a "Red Ryder air rifle." Frequently at odds with his cranky dad but comforted by his doting mother, Ralphie struggles to make it to Christmas Day with his glasses... and his hopes intact.”

**Honorable mentions! I still can’t go a Christmas season without watching these either..**



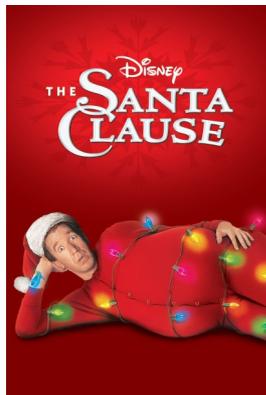
**The Polar Express**

Who has two thumbs and believed in Santa Clause far longer than I should’ve because of this film? This girl.. It was me. Haha. Still a magical one to watch after all of these years.



**Miracle on 34th Street**

This is mine and my mom’s present wrapping movie. Every year when we’ve got everything purchased we get together and WRAP while watching this and sipping eggnog. (and no the newer one is *not* just as good)



**The Santa Clause**

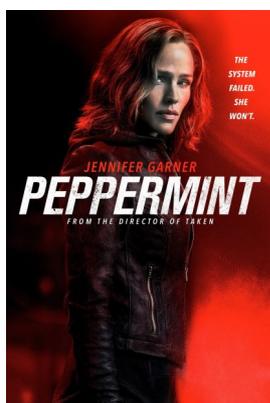
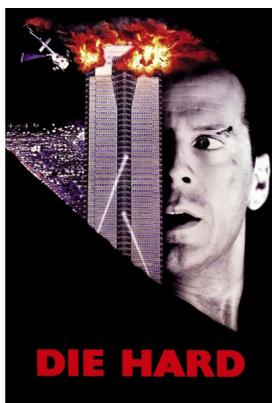
Another movie that made me believe Santa was real... for a LOT longer than I should have. Still love the original with Tim. Brings the magic to life each time.



**Home Alone**

I’ll always enjoy this movie, for two things.. When his mom realizes he’s not there.. The “KEVIN!!!!” anndd “Keep the change, ya filthy animal!”

I cannot mention all of these other shows and movies without a mention of the other Christmas movies.... Bruce Willis’ *Die Hard* and a newer rendition of it with a female lead (or female perspective) Jennifer Garner’s *Peppermint*.



**Die Hard**

1988 · Action/Thriller · 2h 12m

This search may be relevant to recent activity:

[die hard is a christmas movie](#)

“ Make the most of this holiday season with sparkling celebrations and unlimited fun on New Years..... Best wishes on Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.”

- Anonymous