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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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● **KIDS Consortium Welcomes New Americorps*VISTA Member**

Auburn, ME - KIDS Consortium is pleased to announce that Anne Leonard of Manchester, CT has joined their staff as an AmeriCorps*VISTA member for 2008-09. Anne is part of a larger statewide team of AmeriCorps*VISTA members organized by Communities for Children and Youth, a statewide initiative of the Maine Children's Cabinet working to promote positive child and youth development.

Ms. Leonard will be working with KIDS Consortium staff to increase the number of Maine K-12 students involved in service-learning projects in their communities. Through service-learning, students identify, research and address real community challenges, using knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. As part of her responsibilities, Ms. Leonard will assist with fundraising efforts and reach out to local community organizations and interested school districts with populations of children and youth at increased risk of poverty to encourage partnerships around service-learning projects.

Ms. Leonard is a 2005 graduate from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania where she majored in English and women's studies. For the past two years, Ms. Leonard has worked at the Lutz Children's Museum in Connecticut, as their Humanities Curator. To learn more about AmeriCorps*VISTA and teams organized by Communities for Children and Youth, please visit www.mainevista.net.

Founded in 1992, KIDS is a nonprofit organization based in Auburn that prepares young people to be active and responsible citizens by training and supporting educators, community organizations, and youth in best practices for service-learning. For more information about KIDS Consortium and service-learning please visit their website, www.kidsconsortium.org. ###