

Self-Help:

Strategies for the 1980's

ACTION

Washington, D.C. 20525

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use \$300

433

**VISTA's national conference
on people in poverty helping
each other through citizen
participation and
voluntary action.**

Sponsored by
Volunteers in Service to America

**June 13-15, 1980
Washington, D.C.**

**POSTAGE & FEES PAID
ACTION
Washington, D.C. 20525
PERMIT NO. G21**

Ongoing Activities An Information Exchange Center will be open throughout the Conference. VISTA Volunteers and VISTA sponsors are especially encouraged to bring materials, crafts or other items representing their work for display at the Conference. If you wish to reserve exhibit space, please check the appropriate box on the registration form.

- The Sherry Towers Hotel**
 2117 E Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20037
 (202) 861-8200

Accommodations:	Room Rates
Single/one person	Per Night:
Doubles/(one bed) two people	\$30
Twin/(two beds) two people	36
	36

Reserve on or before May 23, 1980.
 Make check payable to Sherry Towers Hotel.

- Thurston Hall, George Washington University**
 c/o Hager, Sharp & Abramson, Inc.
 1725 K Street, N.W., #1003
 Washington, D.C. 20006
 (202) 466-5430

Accommodations:
 Thurston Hall has a limited number of double and triple occupancy rooms for \$15 per person, per night.

Reserve on or before May 15, 1980.
 Make check payable to Thurston Hall.

VISTA Conference Registration Form

Name	Arrival Date and Time
Organization	Departure Date
Additional Names	Type of Accommodation ¹
Address	Guaranteed yes no²
City/State/Zip	Amount of Deposit Enclosed ³

- ¹If rate selected is not available, next rate will be assigned.
²Reservation held until 6:00 p.m., unless guaranteed for later arrival.
³A one night's deposit is required with this form. Be sure to include your check.

VISTA CONFERENCE

Please register me for the VISTA Conference.

Mail to: Hager, Sharp & Abramson, Inc.
 1725 K Street, N.W. #1003
 Washington, D.C. 20006

Name	Phone Number
Title	Organization
Address	City/State/Zip

- I am a VISTA Volunteer.
 Please reserve space for me to display at the Information Exchange Center.

RETURN THIS FORM BY MAY 20, 1980

SATURDAY: June 14, 1980

Address Si Kahn, former VISTA Volunteer, author, songwriter and community and union organizer since the 1960's, will discuss self-help strategies for the future. Speaking from his extensive experience in developing citizen participation, Mr. Kahn will explore the steps he feels are necessary to eliminate poverty. In addition, he will assess alternative strategies and tactics for promoting self-reliance in the new decade.

Morning Workshops Strategy workshops will examine current economic, social, and demographic models which will have particular relevance in the 1980's. Each workshop will focus on ways volunteers and organizations can address the particular issues dealt with on the previous day and on methods to improve service delivery, increase citizen participation, and expand constituent networks. Innovative ideas and alternative models for meeting the challenges of the coming decade will be discussed.

Afternoon Workshops Ten workshops on such topics as the media, private fundraising and leadership development will provide the building blocks to help carry out the conclusions offered in the strategy workshops. These "how to" workshops are designed to build skills and will allow attendees to share their experiences and expertise. Resource people will provide insights and reaction. Open discussion will follow.

Afternoon Panels Panels on citizen participation and coalition building will again be presented by groups of experts different from those on the Friday panels. This will allow participants to get additional perspectives on the same topic or attend a panel on a different issue.

Evening Activities Films and music will provide informal entertainment for the evening.

SUNDAY: June 15, 1980

Plenary Session

The closing address, to be delivered by a distinguished national figure who has made an outstanding commitment to anti-poverty, will synthesize many of the major points made during the conference and will analyze the contributions of citizen participation and voluntary action to eliminating inequality in our society and to achieving self-reliance for the poor.

REGISTRATION and Other Information:

Conference Location and Registration

The Conference will be held at the George Washington University Lisner Auditorium in Washington, D.C. (21st and H Streets, N.W., 20037, tel: 202-676-6800—near the Foggy Bottom Metro stop). There is no Conference fee. However, all registration forms must be received by May 20, 1980.

Schedule Formal sessions for the Conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 13, and conclude at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 15. Participants may check in at Lisner Auditorium on Thursday, June 12, between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and on Friday, June 13, from 8:00 a.m. through the rest of the day. Programs, name tags, and Conference materials can be picked up at this time.

Hotel Locations and Accommodations Each participant makes his/her own hotel reservations and meal arrangements. A card for hotel reservations is included in this brochure and should be mailed back to the appropriate hotel along with one night's deposit. The Key Bridge Marriott Hotel, located in Arlington, Virginia is only one metro stop from the Conference. The Sherry Tower Hotel is within walking distance of the Conference site and George Washington University offers a limited number of on-campus dormitory rooms at Thurston Hall. Reservations made after dates listed below will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

- **Key Bridge Marriott Hotel**
1401 Lee Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22209
(703) 524-6400

Accommodations:	Room Rates Per Night:
Single/one person	\$45
Doubles/(one bed) two people	56
Twin/(two beds) two people	56
Triples	60
Quadruples	64

Reserve on or before May 30, 1980
Make check payable to Key Bridge
Marriott.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY: June 13, 1980

It has been fifteen years since the first Volunteers in Service to America went out into the field as part of the War on Poverty. Yet the twin ideals they carried with them—citizen participation and community self-help—have never been more important than they are now. Today, as the United States moves into the 1980's, we face the stark reality of an ever-tighter economy. Now more than ever, low-income people have to rely on themselves. In light of these prospects, it is essential for low-income people, grassroots organizations, and others involved in anti-poverty work nationwide to come together, share their successes and failures, evaluate their on-going efforts, and develop ways to move the dreams and hopes of the 1960's into the realities of the 1980's.

To this end, VISTA is culminating its 15th Anniversary with a national conference on poverty in the 1980's. The Conference will take place June 13-15, 1980 at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

The Conference will bring together 1,000 concerned Americans, including low-income people from across the country, VISTA Volunteers, Action staff, community activists, government officials, academics, legislators and their staffs, representatives of voluntary service organizations, and other groups nationwide that deal with poverty-related issues. Speakers at the Conference will represent a broad cross section of those people who have worked to help solve the problems of the poor from the first days of the War on Poverty to the present.

VISTA is in a unique position to pull together such a Conference, situated as we are at the intersection of the diverse networks involved in anti-poverty work. VISTA interconnects with the traditional social service networks and with other government programs, as well as with the many other groups dealing with economic development, citizen action, alternative energy, housing displacement, and other issues vital to low-income Americans. The Conference will bring together these networks and the people they serve to take a hard look at anti-poverty efforts, citizen participation, community self-help, and voluntary service.

Participants in the Conference will share information, build on individual skills and expertise, and enhance organizational abilities.

It is our hope that participants will also gain the renewed commitment and sense of purpose that come from being a part of a larger, truly national effort.

We hope you will join us in Washington on June 13.

Sincerely,

Marge Tabankin

Marge Tabankin
Director, VISTA

Keynote Address Andrew Young, former Ambassador of the United Nations and noted civil rights leader, will deliver the Conference's keynote address. Mr. Young will offer his view of the social and economic factors that will shape American life in the 1980's. He will explore public attitudes, changing lifestyles, and work patterns that are evolving within our national culture. Particular emphasis will be placed on the importance of self-help and volunteer service as a means for change.

Morning Workshops Participants may choose from 22 issue workshops on such areas as energy, health advocacy, cooperatives, housing, and the role of voluntary service. Experts in related fields will provide an historical perspective on each subject. The workshops are designed to present community-based programs and to encourage group discussions.

Afternoon Panels

Citizen Participation

The citizen participation panel will focus on organizing and channeling volunteers to provide service that involves and meets the needs of low-income Americans. Panelists will discuss which factors influence people to act and offer strategies and techniques for encouraging voluntary service and community involvement in the 1980's.

Coalition Building

The coalition-building panel will draw on past and present examples of successful networks and alliances to see why they worked. The panel will explore coalitions as a community base and discuss methods and techniques for strengthening networks in the future.

Evening Activities The Friends of VISTA are sponsoring an evening of music and awards to honor exceptional service and work to end poverty.