

Updated: 5/15/2024

## Meet the Be Well Fox Valley AmeriCorps Members!

Meet our enrolled AmeriCorps members, who are serving at our partner host site organizations throughout the Fox Valley.

---

### Alyssa Retza

**Host Site: ThedaCare**

1. Why you chose to serve with BWFV AmeriCorps? **I chose to serve with AmeriCorps as a Community Connections Navigator for its unique opportunity to directly engage with our community, address systemic issues, and enhance access to vital resources like healthcare. The role aligns with my dedication to social justice and equity while offering practical experience for my future career in clinical mental health.**



2. Where are you from (can either be where you are now, or your original hometown)? **Appleton, Wisconsin**
3. Hobbies? **I love learning, reading and/or listening to audiobooks (especially memoirs, psychology, and true crime), traveling, cooking, spending time with friends and family, and occasionally unwinding with reality TV.**
4. Favorite form of physical activity: **Long walks by the Fox River and Yin Yoga**
5. Favorite food? **Sushi/anything from Far East in Appleton**

---

### Ashley Chick

**Host Site: B.A.B.E.S., Inc.**

1. Why you chose to serve with BWFV AmeriCorps? **When I first applied I thought it was just for B.A.B.E.S., I had no idea what AmeriCorps was. Now after being in the program for over a month I am so grateful for this opportunity to serve with both B.A.B.E.S. and AmeriCorps. I really like the variety of things I can do. I really**

like the fact that they want you to get the most out of your service term and help you achieve that in every way.

2. Where are you from (can either be where you are now, or your original hometown)? **I am from Fox Cities. I have lived in Neenah, Menasha, Kaukauna, and Appleton.**
3. Where did you go to school or where are you currently going to school (could be high school, college, etc.)? **I graduated high school from Kaukauna High School and then went to college at Steven's Point. After 1 year I transferred to Rasmussen College to do the CMA program.**
4. Is there any relevant past work/volunteer/internship experience you'd like to share? **I used to be a CMA**
5. Hobbies? **I enjoy spending time with my daughter Emery and our dog Luna. I am very close with my whole family.**
6. Favorite form of physical activity: **Swimming**
7. Favorite food? **Tacos**
8. Other fun facts you are be willing to share? **I really want to go back to college to be a substance abuse counselor**

---

## Jacob Holt

### Host Site: VPI, Inc.

1. **Why you chose to serve with BWFV AmeriCorps?**
  - a. I choose to serve with BWFV AmeriCorps because it offers a great opportunity to learn and grow with Public Health focuses. I am in the process of earning my Masters of Public Health (MPH) and I wanted to get into the community with learning some skills that I will later need. This Job is also a work of love and I am passionate about serving those that are willing to receive my help. It is contagious because when you help someone they tend to reciprocate that same feeling and both of you resonate.
2. **Where are you from (can either be where you are now, or your original hometown)?**
  - a. My family and I lived in Madison for a time while I worked as an Associate Scientist for PPD part of Thermo Fisher. Previous to that I grew up in Kentucky where I finished my four year Bachelor of Science degree in General Biology.
3. **Where did you go to school or where are you currently going to school (could be high school, college, etc.)?**
  - a. High School: North Hardin High school

- b. 2-year College: Elizabethtown Community and Technical College
- c. 4-University: University of Kentucky
- d. Currently studying at Liberty University with my MPH

**4. Is there any relevant past work/volunteer/internship experience you'd like to share?**

- a. Some past experiences that I have had related to serving the community has been with Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and service provided through church activities from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I served in BSA from the time of Cub scouts until graduating High school. This organization has truly played a critical role in my personal development with community outings, service projects, and developing skills that I use on a daily basis. I was able to build soft skills and learn how to cooperate as a team in executing our goals and ambitions. With my service at church, we have the duty to serve and strengthen each other with Gospel teachings and set services to help those in need. I had the opportunity to go on a Two year Mission trip to Concepcion, Chile to serve the people in that region and teach them about Christ in the Spanish Language. From this experience, I developed the passion and joy that comes from living the Hispanic Culture. I cherish these past moments and strive to continually serve those around me similarly of how I have done so from BSA and Church involvement.

**5. Hobbies:**

- a. It is hard to say what exactly it is but I am a problem solver and love to learn. I use reverse engineering when I work on my cars and enjoy exploring new flavors in the Kitchen!

**6. Favorite form of physical activity:**

- a. Going to the Gym and just having an overall great exercise.

**7. Favorite food:**

- a. Strong flavorful meals (Asian, Hispanic, Indian, European, ect...)

**8. Other fun facts you are be willing to share?**

- a. -I have a dry sense of humor.
- b. -I like to play video games from time to time.

---

**Jena VonFeldt**

## Host Site: United Way Fox Cities

1. Why you chose to serve with BWFV AmeriCorps?
  - a. To continue to work and learn in the non-profit sector in a way that is helpful and educational for both parties.
2. Where are you from (can either be where you are now, or your original hometown)?
  - a. Whitefish, Montana originally but now Weyauwega
3. Where did you go to school or where are you currently going to school (could be high school, college, etc.)?
  - a. High school in Montana, Undergraduate at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN & Grad school at the University of Montana, Missoula
4. Is there any relevant past work/volunteer/internship experience you'd like to share?
  - a. I've been a mental health therapist for 4 years now and have worked in the non-profit realm in various capacities for going in 15.
5. Hobbies?
  - a. Slowpitch softball, hanging with my kids, traveling with my husband, reading
6. Favorite form of physical activity:
  - a. Lifting
7. Favorite food?
  - a. Spinach and Artichoke Dip
8. Other fun facts you are willing to share?
  - a. I have two kids one is 6 months and the other is 2 😊

---

## Liseng Xiong

### Host Site: NEW Hmong Professionals

1. Why you chose to serve with BWFV AmeriCorps? I wanted to make an impact on my community.
2. Where are you from (can either be where you are now, or your original hometown)? Appleton, WI
3. Where did you go to school or where are you currently going to school (could be high school, college, etc.)? Appleton West High School and then UW-Oshkosh

4. Is there any relevant past work/volunteer/internship experience you'd like to share? I have worked with Cia Siab In Wisconsin: A HMoob story to create an exhibit highlighting the trauma and experiences that the Hmong community, particularly women and children, has faced since coming to the US and how they have or still are coming to terms with said trauma and experiences.
5. Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, gaming, computers, coding
6. Favorite form of physical activity: Soccer, Volleyball, Hiking
7. Favorite food: Rice
8. Other fun facts you are be willing to share with the public: I am a first generation Hmong American.

---

## Nicole Popp

### Fox Valley Advance Care Planning Partnership

1. Why you chose to serve with BWFV AmeriCorps? I chose to serve with AmeriCorps as I was seeking for new opportunities to use my Bachelor's Degree as I had graduated this past May. When I discovered this opportunity, I was beyond excited to serve my community and use my degree to expand the partnership with FVACPP.
2. Where are you from (can either be where you are now, or your original hometown)? My hometown is Eagle River, Wisconsin
3. Where did you go to school or where are you currently going to school (could be high school, college, etc.)? I graduated from the University of Wisconsin La Crosse with a Psychology Degree and a Gerontology Emphasis
4. Is there any relevant past work/volunteer/internship experience you'd like to share? I had an internship at the Aging and Disability Resource Center in La Crosse
5. Hobbies? I enjoy traveling, hiking, exploring national parks, and staying active by playing golf, volleyball or wakeboarding
6. Favorite form of physical activity: Sand Volleyball or going for a hike
7. Favorite food? Pizza!
8. Other fun facts you are be willing to share?