

VISTA Biographies

Jack Frech

Jack has more than 40 years' experience working in poverty programs and advocating for poor people. This includes time as a teacher, welfare caseworker and social worker. He was the deputy Director of a Community Action agency for five years and the Director of the Athens County Department of Job and Family Services for 33 years. He has been a VISTA volunteer with the Mayors' Partnership for progress for the last year. Jack was a founding member of the Have A Heart Ohio Coalition, The Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation and Poverty Law Center. He served on the state's Medicaid Advisory Board and on other poverty related boards and coalitions.

He has presented testimony on poverty related issues at numerous federal, state and local hearings. Jack has been involved in a wide range of media events and articles about poverty.

He has a B.S. in Secondary Education and a Master's Degree in Political Science both from Ohio University.

Randy Lambert

Our other VISTA is Randy Lambert. Randy is completing his first term as a VISTA with the MPP and will be staying on for another term. Before coming to the MPP, Randy served as an AmeriCorps College Completion Coach at Hocking College for 19 months. Randy's focus with the Mayors Partnership is social media development and community development issues. His personal efforts in fighting poverty as a VISTA include issues that affect veterans, stable and affordable housing, and access and availability of clean water.

Randy's accomplishments with the MPP have been completing a comprehensive website and social media survey, a survey of water and sewer rates in the 15 county MPP area, and creating and updating various databases. He attends Athens County Land Bank meetings, as well as other community meetings and workshops to further his knowledge of issues affecting the MPP. He also was instrumental in creating and editing the first two issues of the MPP newsletter.

Randy has an Associate's Degree in accounting from Hocking College, and through the AmeriCorps Segal Education award, is completing the bachelor's degree at Ohio University that he started many years ago. Originally from near Youngstown, Randy has lived in Athens County for over 35 years. He resides in Glouster with his cat Iggy and a host of visiting stray kitties, raccoons, and occasional opossum.