

# PRESERVING THE DREAM OF VANQUISHING POVERTY

A dream of President John F. Kennedy, before his assassination in 1963, that was brought to fruition by his successor Lyndon B. Johnson continues to reap dividends for the Elaine and Marvell communities.

It is the AmeriCorps VISTA program, which annually has produced a team of young volunteers who work for a year with antipoverty agencies like the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center to alleviate the causes and results of low incomes.



Left to right: Kenneth Cox (AmeriCorps VISTA member), Ka'Chasity White (AmeriCorps VISTA member), Larry Denson (BGACDC Board Member), Anita Harrison (Community Volunteer) and Latina Taylor (AmeriCorps VISTA member).

BGACDC begins a new season with a new crop of visionary young men and women who will help BGACDC and the communities expand their capacity to improve literacy and creativity among children, deal with the problems of health care and housing for the poorest of us and help young adults with all the problems of child rearing and living with low incomes.

Beatrice Shelby, the executive director of BGACDC, said the agency was blessed with the work of five VISTA volunteers in the last year under the oppressive cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their work focused on BGACDC's 18-39 Parental Empowerment Project, improving young parents' access to good housing, medical care and healthy living.

Like other volunteers before them, Ms. Shelby said, "they have allowed the underprivileged, the under-represented, the underserved and the underemployed to join forces with us to improve the conditions of life. The young volunteers always work hard and are willing to go the extra mile to see that a capacity-building project is successful."



BGACDC's VISTA volunteers have moved on to other challenges. Many have furthered their educations and their chosen careers. They remember the skills and contacts acquired with BGACDC and continue to answer the call of BGACDC for help.