



# The NMCL Report

New Mexico Coalition  
for Literacy

Ist Quarter  
January 08

## Introducing our Two VISTA Volunteers: Virginia and Mariana!

### A Little About Virginia J. Pulver



Virginia J. Pulver is one of two individuals who will serve as VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America – see page 4 for information on

AmeriCorps\*VISTA) at the NM Coalition for Literacy in the upcoming year.

For the next twelve months, Virginia will work with our local staff and literacy organizations statewide to enhance our outreach efforts. She will use her skills and experience to strengthen recruitment and retention of tutors and students.

Virginia's unique background has prepared her well for this position. She breaks the stereotype when she admits to being a military veteran: yes, Virginia is a retired US Air Force Master Sergeant. In her early Air Force career, she worked on avionics systems on fighter aircraft and later moved on to serve as a maintenance-training manager, and still later became the Air Force training advisor and consultant for the southern Mediterranean. She also worked for several years in the demanding world of military re-VISTA *continued on page 2*

## “Rena Has Left the Building....” Changes & Additions at the NMCL!

Rena Paradis retired from the NMCL on December 12th of this year after 15 years of exemplary service. Rena began her work with the NMCL as the Training Coordinator and became the Executive Director in 2004. She will be missed terribly by everyone, and we wish her the best as she begins a new chapter in her life. Thank you, Rena, for your outstanding and invaluable service to the field and the cause!

Heather Heunermund has replaced Rena as Executive Director. Heather has been with the NMCL over 6 years, and most recently served as project coordinator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from St. John's College (“The Great Books Program”) and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the College of Santa Fe. Heather also holds a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in Community Counseling. Heather completed her clinical work with at-risk youth and their families; she facilitates grief support groups for pre-teens and will obtain her license as a mental health counselor later this year. Now, as she remains with the NMCL, Heather's focus is on those at-risk youth who grew up.

Ben Moya has been hired as our Administrative Assistant. He is eager to learn and happy to serve.

Here's a little bit about Ben in his own words... *Changes continued on page 4*

[www.nmcl.org](http://www.nmcl.org)

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“CREATING A  
PATHWAY TO  
THE FUTURE FOR  
NEW MEXICANS  
THROUGH  
LITERACY”





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cruiting, including a successful stint as a health-professions recruiter in Boston, MA. She ended her active duty career working at the Air Force Personnel Center where she developed and interpreted procedures for on-the-job training programs Air Force wide. While serving in the Air Force she completed an Associate's degree (AA) in Instructor Technology, a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Psychology and a Master's degree (MA) in Organizational Management.

Following Air Force retirement, Virginia spent several years teaching Junior Reserve Officer Training (ROTC) in a high school in an underserved community in South Carolina. Most recently she and her spouse lived for 27 months on the shores of the Black Sea on the isolated, easternmost tip of the Crimean Peninsula where they served with Peace Corps.

“My experience attempting to learn enough Russian to function professionally in Ukraine gives me some very real insight into what it means to cope with limited literacy skills,” says Virginia. “I am very grateful to be part of the NMCL team, working toward the goal of helping people to read, write and communicate more effectively.”

Virginia encourages you to contact her with any questions concerning recruitment matters. “I look forward to your e-mail!” she says with her inevitable smile. Her e-mail address is: [virginia@nmcl.org](mailto:virginia@nmcl.org)

**Mariana Bornholdt's Background**

Mariana Bornholdt is an amazing woman who brings a wealth of experience and skills to her position as a VISTA member with the NMCL.

Mariana is a Santa Fe resident who saw Peace Corps service twenty years ago, training the first ever group of high school counselors-to-

be in Ghana, West Africa.



Born and raised in California, she received her Bachelor's degree in Social Institutions and English from the University of California, Berkley, and an Master's degree in Counseling

Psychology. While teaching in the California state university system, she also had a private practice as a licensed Marriage, Family and Child counselor.

Moving to Oregon in 1970, where she remained for more than 30 years, Mariana taught family life education and sociology in local community colleges, also earning a Master's degree in Education with an emphasis in Gerontology from Oregon State University in Corvallis.

With this background, Mariana served for one year as a VISTA volunteer in a newly formed hospice, managing the Central Oregon Area Agency of Aging and supervising volunteer counselors to isolated seniors who were agency clients. She spent nine years in Oregon State service as a research analyst for the Departments of Energy and Social Services and as a JOBS counselor.

Upon retirement, Mariana packed her bags and went to China for one year to teach English to teachers in training. As an aside, Mariana is a Laubach tutor, though not currently practicing.

Later, Mariana was appointed to two terms as a member of the Governor's Commission on Senior Services, where she specialized in mental health and ombudsman issues, advocating for elders before three sessions of the Oregon State legislature.

In her private life, Mariana is a dedicated environmentalist and her writings on natural history have appeared regularly in publications of the Native Plant Society of Oregon and Master Gardeners, Marion County, Oregon. Mariana is also a published poet. *VISTA continued on page 4...*



### New Year's Resolutions: Shopping for Literacy!

By VJ Pulver

It is the time when many of us think about New Year's Resolutions. One perennial resolution is to begin holiday shopping earlier next year.

But who wants to trek through the January snow to go shopping for bargains? Who wants to go from store to store searching for just the right gift for that favorite tutor or volunteer? And fighting for a parking place...Sigh.

Here is a great idea: a win/win solution. Sit down at your computer and go to the NM Coalition for Literacy's website ([www.nmcl.org](http://www.nmcl.org)).

Scroll down the page and find the bright gold invitation to visit NMCL's very own marketplace.

You are now just one click away from a pain-free shopping adventure. What could be easier? And even better, **every purchase** you make from this site **results in a small donation to NMCL**. There are sales too, and you can shop here, in the comfort of your home, all year long!

You will find stores such as Kohl's, Macy's, Toys R Us, Gap, Footlocker and many more. Favorites like Amazon.com are there too. Some stores, like Eddie Bauer Outlet, give 7.5% back to the NMCL (and FREE overnight shipping!).

Why just limit yourself to holiday shopping? Need flowers for a special someone (Valentine's Day is coming up soon!) or a clever gift for that helpful staff member on his or her birthday? How about pet supplies for that new puppy? It is easy and fast at the NMCL Marketplace! And it 's delivered to your door!

Please take a few moments to do two things right now. **First**, put a shortcut link on your

desktop so you will remember to come back to your private marketplace frequently. **Second**, take a few moments to **send the link to all your friends and family**. Encourage staff and co-workers to shop at our marketplace.

Help us raise funds by shopping through our marketplace.

Everytime you shop at the NMCL Marketplace, you help literacy programs in New Mexico; you help people you know, your friends and neighbors, your tutors and your students. Your small donations add up and ultimately make a big difference right here in New Mexico.

Now, pour yourself some tea, put your feet up, and settle in for some serious shopping! What a great way to start the New Year!



VISTA continued from page 2

Active in mycological pursuits over the years, Mariana has worked with Poison Control centers in cases involving mushroom poisoning.

In her role with the NMCL, she will enhance agency capacity by updating our roster of donors, developing new funding initiatives, and formulating a survey instrument that will support recruitment of literacy volunteers and students.

“My previous experience, both with government and nonprofit agencies, offers invaluable insight into how things work and how to make them better for my host agency and its partners,” says Mariana.

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Hello!

My name is Ben Moya and I have recently been hired as an Administrative Assistant

for the New Mexico Coalition For Literacy. I was born on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1982 to Arturo & Sharron Moya. I have been a lifelong resident of Santa Fe and received my GED through The Academy Alternative High School and NMSU at Alamogordo ABE program in 1999. I am married to Anita Tapia and we have two children, Kayleen age 6, and Cipriano (Cipi) age 4. I am attending Santa Fe Community College to pursue an Associate's degree in Business Administration. I am excited to work with what seems to be an outstanding team here in the Santa Fe Office. I hope to serve the residents of the state of New Mexico with the utmost professionalism and dedication and will work diligently to meet the needs of everyone.

Thank You!

Ben's email address is [ben@nmcl.org](mailto:ben@nmcl.org)

Welcome, Ben!



## What is a VISTA?

The Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program and its volunteers have been fighting a war on poverty over 40 years. VISTA is an elite group, the only federal program charged with the mission of reducing poverty.

In 1993, VISTA joined with AmeriCorps, a new, larger organization. They became AmeriCorps\*VISTA. There is still a distinction, however. VISTA retains its own identity and endeavors to eliminate poverty through capacity building. There are approximately 7,000 VISTA members currently serving across the USA.

AmeriCorps\*VISTA volunteers dedicate one year of their lives to work with community-based organizations, using their skills to make a lasting difference for members of low-income communities.

If your organization has a capacity-building need, you can develop a project and request the services of a VISTA volunteer. AmeriCorps\*VISTA members help organizations like yours create a sustainable infrastructure to fight poverty in your community.

For more information on volunteering or requesting a volunteer for your program, go to the website: [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov) or e-mail them: [vista@americorps.gov](mailto:vista@americorps.gov).

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**“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”**  
- Winston Churchill

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**