

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title	Metal Shop Trainer/Facilitator VISTA
Sponsoring Organization	Mesa United Way
Project Name	Mesa Veterans, Education, and Community Building Initiative
Project Number	13VSWAZ003
Project Period	03/24/2017 – 03/23/2018
Site Name	Bridging AZ Furniture Bank
Primary Focus Area	Veterans and Military Families
Secondary Focus Area	Economic Opportunity

Goal of the Project:

This VISTA member will build capacity for Bridging AZ Furniture Bank's Veterans Furniture Project. They will report directly to Executive Director. The goal for the one-year of service is to develop a curriculum for engaging and training veterans in welding and metal work and building furniture as well as art projects. This project will support Bridging AZ's initiative to end chronic veteran homelessness. The VISTA member will develop the infrastructure of the program, creating volunteer opportunities and paid positions for veterans to work in the metal shop. The ultimate goal is for the veterans to find gainful employment, or start a business on their own.

Objectives of the Assignment:

This VISTA member will help set up the metal shop and develop a hands-on environment with mini (1-2 hour) classes on welding and metal fabrication techniques to engage veterans and volunteers. They will work side-by-side with vets and volunteers building furniture type items for clients. The VISTA will be responsible for training veterans and volunteers and overseeing the execution of metal shop projects. This VISTA assignment is directly impacting the financial welfare of veterans in need of furniture for their homes, as well as benefiting veterans who are being trained the warehouse with marketable job skills.

Member Activity: (March 2017 – April 2017) Metal shop is currently not in operation. The VISTA will: 1) Setup an organized Metal working workshop. 2) Inventory tools and identify additional tools needed. 3) Design and build work areas. 4) Create simple metal working projects that can be incorporated into furniture pieces such as table bases and legs.

Member Activity: (Timeframe ongoing) The VISTA will: 1) Identify and create projects for training and engaging veterans and other volunteers. 2) Design/build/repair furniture. 3) Create a mobile metal shop to setup at farmers markets, fairs or outdoor events to engage the public. Design and build items that could be sold.