

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title	Woodshop 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 wood working and building furniture. This furniture will in turn be provided to other vets as a part of the 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 wood 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 woodshop and develop a hands-on environment with mini (1-2 hour) classes on woodworking techniques to engage veterans using instructional videos. They will work side-by-side with vets and volunteers building furniture for clients (other veterans receiving furniture). The VISTA will receive training and oversee the design of furniture, the execution of projects by other volunteers and staff, the management of safety regulations in the warehouse, and operations management for the program (inventory and materials). 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) Woodshop is in current operation with very little organization. The VISTA will: 1) Setup an organized wood workshop. 2) Inventory tools and identify additional tools needed. 3) Design and build tool cribs. 4) Create workflow for different equipment and processes. 5) Identify and start to record safety procedures for workshop and each piece of equipment.

Member Activity: (Timeframe ongoing) The VISTA will: 1) Write a curriculum for veteran employees that have little experience in woodworking. 2) Identify and create projects for training and engaging veterans and other volunteers. 3) Design/build/repair furniture.