

## Neighborhood House AmeriCorps 2016-2017

**Member: Emily Kohring**

**Site: Wiley Center at Greenbridge & Birch Creek—Employment and Education Outreach and Engagement**

*Emily serves the White Center community in Seattle and the Birch Creek community in Kent, Washington providing support to employment programs that aim to remove barriers for low income, immigrant and refugees. Her work this year will focus on facilitating regular employment workshops, building capacity for existing programs and working to create stronger community partnerships.*

*Let's learn more about Emily...*

***Q: Where are you from?***

**Emily: Lopez Island, Washington**

***Q: What are your hobbies/interests?***

**Emily: I really enjoy cooking and baking - at one point in high school, I wanted to become a chef and spent a few months working as a prep cook at a local hometown café...that did not last. I still enjoy cooking for groups and family members and avidly reading cooking magazines. I like to run a few times a week and am working on a 7.30-minute mile! Finally, I sing in a Lithuanian choir here in Seattle. In the past few years, we have travelled to Lithuania to participate in their national song festival, Dainu Šventė, as well as in Chicago.**

***Q: What made you choose to become an AmeriCorps member?***

**Emily: I have been aware of AmeriCorps for many years, but I didn't think it was an option for me until this year. In 2015 I graduated from University of Washington with a degree in Public Health, but in the year that followed, I realized I wasn't gaining any relevant, professional experiences that applied to my field of study or future goals. It was difficult to gain employment with a social service or public health agency without at least a year's worth of exposure to case management and barrier removal. When I discovered that I would**



have the opportunity to build my skills through a service term with AmeriCorps, I knew it was the right decision for me.

*Q: What are you looking for most this year?*

Emily: Building my confidence and aptitude to work with social service non-profits; engaging with a wide variety of clients and community members; utilizing the many resources in the Seattle/King County area to ensure that all who pass through our doors have a strong chance of gainful, long-term employment.

*Q: What have you enjoyed most so far about your service term?*

Emily: Having my own desk! As well as being granted the autonomy to conduct my work; I enjoy feeling like others are counting on me to further our collective efforts as an agency. I also feel like I am an active part of something productive and good in our city, both within the Employment and Adult Education team and our AmeriCorps team. The trainings have been great, too.

*Q: What has been most challenging?*

Emily: Understanding our limitations with clients, in the sense that sometimes an individual won't qualify for certain programs, but I want to be able to give them what they need right away. I am learning to be more patient with myself.