

# Morgan Named Coordinator for Village VISTA Associates Program

Mr. Joli Morgan has been named coordinator of the upcoming village VISTA Volunteer Associates Program. He will assume office on August 1 in Anchorage.

The purpose of the program is to select 25 village volunteer associates who will work on an equal basis with the existing VISTA Volunteers in the outlying areas.

The candidates for the 25 positions are now in process of being picked by village councils in some 70 communities to which a

letter from the Alaska VISTA headquarters in Anchorage has been sent explaining the program.

Out of the 70 or so candidates, 25 will be selected for VISTA work that will start on October 1, 1968 and end on May 31, 1969.

Joli Morgan said the training of the VISTA Associates will begin in Fairbanks on October 1 and ending on October 15.

"Since the Tundra Times banquet and the annual conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives will

take place during our training period, we'd like to have the native volunteers attend the banquet and attend the conference as observers," said Morgan.

He said he would talk to AFN President Emil Notti to see if he would agree to have the village volunteers attend the conference as observers.

"We hope also that we could get the various native associations to participate in the planning and training of the VISTA Associates."

(Continued on page 6)

# VISTA Associates . . .

(Continued from page 1)

he said.

Morgan said the program was aimed at developing leadership in the VISTA field work and if it is successful, it could eventually be taken over by the native people in the future.

He said that for future programs, "we would like to draw three project directors from the village volunteers for Kuskokwim area, Upper Yukon-Seward Peninsula, and the Fairbanks area north that would include Kotzebue and the area north to Barrow and Kaktovik on Barter Island."

"We also hope to find a person among this group next year who would be the coordinator of the whole area of the native volunteers," said Morgan.

He said there were three area directors at the present time and they are: John Shiveley, Fairbanks area; Bill Evans, Yukon-Seward Peninsula; Rick Newton, Bethel-Kuskokwim.

John Shuler with offices in Anchorage is the director for VISTA in Alaska.

The formal proposal submitted for funding the VISTA Associates program stated:

"The purpose of the VISTA Associates program is to train potential village leaders in the science of village organizations. The VISTA Associates service will be an educational experience that will be primarily geared to the development of the human resources found in the rural villages.

"The specific concerns of this training experience will include the following: 1) Leadership development. 2) Village oriented thinking. 3) Application of government programs to village needs. 4) Instruction in basic business and governmental procedures. 5) Preparation for employment with agencies concerned with social and economic development in Alaska villages."

The 8-month service period was picked between October and May because it was felt that the October date would be the earliest possible time that an effective well planned village volunteer program could be implemented.

It was also felt that the VISTA Associates who would be involved in such a program would leave the villages to work in summer

employment or be involved in food gathering or subsistence living.

"Also," the proposal states, "it is during the winter month that everyone has returned to the villages and it is during this period that the concept of a community is present."

"Because this is the only time of the year that people have a real identification as a village, the Associate would be best able to involve himself and the villagers in community oriented activities."

The 25 positions of the VISTA Associates will be based on the submission of a comprehensive and detailed 8-month project proposals submitted by the village councils and VISTA Volunteers now in villages and the recommendations of potential VISTA Associates.

Each person recommended to be a VISTA Associate will be interviewed in order to determine his qualifications based on the following considerations:

- 1) Potential leadership abilities.
- 2) Full time member of the community.
- 3) Command of English.
- 4) Capacity for social growth.
- 5) Potential interest and concern for the future of this village and the progress of the people.

The village VISTA Associates will be paid \$215 per month plus, the village VISTA will get \$50 put away for him each month.

He will get the money saved for him when the program is over.

Commenting on his new position as coordinator for the VISTA Associates Program, Joli Morgan said, "It is a creative job in a very unique program."

He said that after a short training session, the village volunteers will return to their villages and work on equal basis with the VISTA Volunteers from the Lower 48 who are now there.

"The volunteers will work on projects and programs drawn up by the village councils," Morgan said. "This associate program is part of a plan to phase-in native citizens into positions of responsibility and leadership. We want to work ourselves out of jobs."