

THE VOLUNTEER STAR

a monthly newsletter from your friends at the



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
KANSERVE.ORG

APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH!



April is Volunteer Appreciation Month:

April is National #VolunteerAppreciationMonth and we want to celebrate YOU - our incredible mentoring champions! Your dedication, time, and passion are helping to change lives and close the mentoring gap every single day. Whether you're a mentor, advocate, or supporter, your effort makes an impact. Thank you for being part of this movement. We couldn't do it without you!

#MentoringAmplifies



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

SERVICE ENTERPRISE ACCREDITATION



Harvesters staff pictured with Service Enterprise accreditation certificate.

Four organizations achieve Service Enterprise Accreditation, and one organization achieves Re-Accreditation.

Flint Hills Breadbasket, Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri, Harvesters – The Community Food Network and Stormont Vail Health have recently become among the thirteen nonprofit organizations in the state to become accredited as a Service Enterprise - joining the top performing 11% of nonprofits nationwide in volunteer engagement and organizational performance. Topeka Habitat for Humanity achieves re-accreditation.

Kansas Volunteer Commission has partnered with the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (ALIVE) to offer Kansas access to the Service Enterprise program. Service Enterprise (SE) is a national change management program that helps organizations gain greater returns on volunteer investment to better achieve their mission.

Achieving SE accreditation is a very prestigious accomplishment for an organization. Organizations that accredit join the top 11 percent of nonprofits nationwide in volunteer management and organizational performance. Accreditation signifies that organizations have the capability and management expertise to strategically use volunteers to improve their organization's performance. By becoming accredited, they are uniquely positioned to engage the time and talent of volunteers to expand program operations and revenue, realize the higher programmatic impact, and better achieve their mission.

The following organizations were accredited in 2025.

- Flint Hills Breadbasket.
- Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri.
- Harvesters - The Community Food Network.
- Stormont Vail Health.

The following organization was re-accredited in 2025.

- Topeka Habitat for Humanity.

Learn more about Service Enterprise [here](#).

GIVE BACK KANSAS CHALLENGE UNDERWAY



The Give Back Kansas Challenge is an eight-week challenge that engages Kansans in employer-supported volunteering, both during and outside the workday. The Kansas Volunteer Commission and Volunteer Kansas are excited to co-partner in this challenge because much research shows the connection between employer-supported volunteering and improved employee engagement, employee wellness, organizational commitment, job satisfaction, and retention. There is also research connecting employee engagement with increased profitability and productivity.

There is no cost to participate, and the challenge is open to ANY employer in Kansas (for-profit, non-profit, education system, and government).

2025 Participating Organizations:

- Andover Historical Museum
- Arvest Bank
- Cloud County
- Fidelity Bank
- Girls on the Run Serving Greater Kansas City

- Hunter Health
- Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Kansas State Department of Education
- KFMC Health Improvement Partners
- McPherson Museum & Arts Foundation
- Peace Connections
- Rainbows United
- Rise Up Reno
- Smoky Hill Museum Friends, Inc.
- Towanda Area Historical Museum
- Urban League of Kansas

Follow the challenge on our social media channels [here!](#)

AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE REPORT: KANSAS



AmeriCorps.gov/Kansas



Last year, more than **3,900 Americans** of all ages and backgrounds united to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and expand opportunities through national service in Kansas. AmeriCorps invested more than **\$8.6 million** in federal funding to support cost-effective community solutions, working hand in hand with local partners to empower individuals to help communities tackle their toughest challenges.

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers are preparing today's students for tomorrow's jobs, connecting veterans to services, fighting the opioid epidemic, helping older adults age with dignity, rebuilding communities after disasters, and improving Americans' physical and mental well-being nationwide.

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers served at more than **400 locations across Kansas**, including schools, food banks, homeless shelters, health clinics, youth centers, veterans facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations. Last year, through a unique public-private partnership, AmeriCorps and its partners generated more than **\$2.7 million** in outside resources from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources in Kansas. This local support strengthened the community impact and increased the return on taxpayer dollars.

"AmeriCorps works for America," said Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi, Interim Agency Head, AmeriCorps. "Our latest National Service Reports prove it, showing strong returns on investment across all 50 states, U.S. territories, and DC. Through evidence-based projects meeting urgent local needs, we engaged **200,000 Americans** in sustained service last year, inspiring 1.9 million more volunteers to join in."

Between January of 2023 and January of 2024, **200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers** supported student success, connected veterans to services, provided key services to fight the opioid epidemic, helped seniors live independently, and rebuilt communities after disasters. Almost 60,000 of these participants were AmeriCorps members who received a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, which can be used to pay down student loans or cover tuition, as AmeriCorps alumni further their education and improve their career prospects. Since 1994, AmeriCorps participants have earned **\$4.8 billion in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards**. **86 percent** of these members report that their service has furthered their professional goals, leading to communities across America benefiting from improved local employment outcomes due to service with AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency places more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles, empowering millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. Learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov](https://www.americorps.gov).

More information about this reporting can be found [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

These groups are intended to build and engage a network of volunteer managers and cultivate a volunteerism culture.

M.O.V.E.

Meets the Third Wednesday of Each Month

9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please visit www.moveks.org.
Or reach out via [Facebook](#).

Peer Association of Volunteer Engagers (P.A.V.E)

Statewide - Virtual

Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month
9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please email Meg Pearson
meg.carrie.pearson@gmail.com

Volunteers United: Newton

Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month
12:00 to 1:00 PM

To learn more, please email Dalton Black
director@uwhmc.org

NOTE: The above dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

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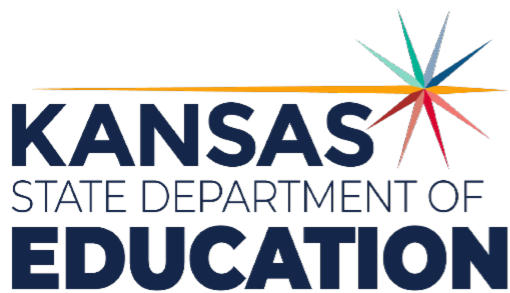
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