**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Jessica Dorsey

April 9, 2025 (785) 296-3163 | [jdorsey@ksde.org](mailto:jdorsey@ksde.org)

***EDITOR’S NOTE:*** *The Kansas Volunteer Commission shouldn’t be shortened to KVC. It should be written out as Kansas Volunteer Commission.*

**Flint Hills Breadbasket, Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri, Harvesters – The Community Food Network, and Stormont Vail Health earns Service Enterprise accreditation**  
*Nonprofit organizations are among the thirteen in Kansas to earn accomplishment*

TOPEKA – 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.

The Service Enterprise program, administered by AL!VE (Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement), strengthens nonprofit capacity through the fundamental and strategic use of volunteers and their skills to address community needs, according to [volunteeralive.org](https://www.volunteeralive.org/). A Service Enterprise is an organization that strategically leverages volunteers to achieve operational efficiency and greater social impacts.

The Kansas Volunteer Commission notified Flint Hills Breadbasket, Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri, Harvesters – The Community Food Network and Stormont Vail Health about the accreditations in 2025. Accreditation remains in effect for three years. Organizations are required to apply for reaccreditation after three years. The prestigious award was approved by AL!VE, one of the nation’s largest organizations dedicated to volunteer service.

The accreditation recognizes Flint Hills Breadbasket, Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri, Harvesters – The Community Food Network and Stormont Vail Health as leading organizations in volunteer engagement. To earn the accreditation, the nonprofits completed an extensive organizational assessment; 20 hours of training; 24 hours of coaching; intensive planning; and the implementation of change management practices.

Meeting the accreditation criteria means that Flint Hills Breadbasket, Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri, Harvesters – The Community Food Network and Stormont Vail Health are fully equipped to utilize the time and talent of volunteers to expand and enhance its services.

The Service Enterprise program concept was formed in 2010. In fall 2013, Points of Light scaled the project to 17 Service Enterprise Hubs in 11 states and certified 60 organizations. Points of Light between 2014 and 2021 scaled the project to 31 states and certified more than 640 organizations. As of 2025, there are now more than 700 Service Enterprise organizations nationwide. In October 2022, AL!VE, began administering the program.

Service Enterprise training and accreditation is delivered through a network of Service Enterprise Hubs, which are qualified organizations designated as trainers in the program standards.

In 2019, the Kansas Volunteer Commission became the first organization in Kansas to receive Service Enterprise accreditation and was reaccredited in 2024. Now, the Commission serves as a Service Enterprise Hub for the Midwest.

Research conducted by the TCC Group, a national program and evaluation firm, found that organizations operating as Service Enterprises outperform peer organizations on all aspects of organizational effectiveness and are more adaptable, sustainable and capable of scaling their work.

Research also shows that Service Enterprises are as effective as their peers while operating at almost half the annual budget. For every $1 Service Enterprises invest in volunteer engagement, they get $3-$6 in return through more effective program delivery.

The thirteen Kansas organizations to receive Service Enterprise accreditation to date are:

* Kansas Volunteer Commission, Topeka. The organization was accredited in 2019 and reaccredited in 2024.
* Topeka Habitat for Humanity Inc., Topeka. The organization was accredited in 2021 and re-accredited in 2025.
* Barton Community College Volunteers in Action of Central Kansas/RSVP, Great Bend. The organization was accredited in 2021.
* United Way of Kaw Valley, Topeka. The organization was accredited in 2021.
* Elizabeth B. Ballard Community Services, Lawrence. The organization was accredited in 2022.
* Douglas County CASA Inc., Lawrence. The organization was accredited in 2023.
* Johnson County Library, Overland Park. The organization was accredited in 2023.
* Peace Connections, Inc., Newton. The organization was accredited in 2023.
* Butler County Department on Aging, Augusta. The organization was accredited in 2024.
* Flint Hills Breadbasket, Manhattan. The organization was accredited in 2025.
* Girl Scouts NE Kansas & NW Missouri, Kansas City. The organization was accredited in 2025.
* Harvesters – The Community Food Network, Kansas City & Lawrence. The organization was accredited in 2025.
* Stormont Vail Health, Topeka. The organization was accredited in 2025.

For more information regarding Service Enterprise, please contact [volunteer@ksde.org](mailto:volunteer@ksde.org) or visit [kanserve.org](https://kanserve.ksde.org/what-we-do/volunteer/service-enterprise).

###

*The Kansas Volunteer Commission is a program of the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE). The vision of the Kansas Volunteer Commission is to empower all Kansans to meet community needs through service. The Commission's primary role is to provide resources and leadership to support local initiatives that tackle community needs. As the state service commission, the Kansas Volunteer Commission promotes AmeriCorps national service, volunteer engagement, youth mentoring and civic engagement. For more information, visit* [*www.kanserve.org*](http://www.kanserve.org)*.*