

Volunteer Iowa Awards Ceremony

On Thursday, April 27, the Volunteer Iowa Awards Ceremony was held at the Iowa State Capitol. Four individuals and one family were inducted into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame. Two individuals were honored at the ceremony by receiving the Excellence in Mentoring award.



The Volunteer Hall of Fame inductees have contributed service over their lifetimes and have stepped up to answer urgent needs in their communities, such as housing, food insecurity, and brain injury and addiction in our state. They build houses and mentor youth; provide accessible, vibrant public amenities for all residents; visit with homebound individuals and drive them to needed appointments; and rescue and redistribute food to those in need. They have gone above and beyond to ensure thousands of Iowans have access to healthy food, adequate shelter and social connections, committed countless hours to community improvement activities, and answered the call for service wherever and however it is needed. Collectively, these honorees have raised millions of dollars for their causes, which range from meal delivery to providing resources and supports for people living with brain injuries and addiction issues to supporting community food rescue and food pantries. Most importantly, they have shared the spirit of service with others, training and connecting volunteers to service opportunities, and giving them the tools to pay it forward.

The two individuals who received the 2023 Excellence in Mentoring awards have positively impacted the lives and families of the young people they mentor, as well as their own, often leading to a change in the trajectory of the lives of all involved. They have also actively and consistently recruited other mentors, growing the impact of mentoring in their communities.

Learn more about the 2023 awardees:

- [Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame inductees](#)
- [Excellence in Mentoring Award recipients](#)



Join Our Commission!



Do you have an interest in improving and expanding national service and volunteerism in the state of Iowa?

Then you should apply to join our commission! We are accepting applications to fill open commission slots in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Apply today at [Iowa Talent Bank](#) or contact info@volunteeriowa.org.



Give Back Iowa Challenge

The 9th Annual [Give Back Iowa Challenge](#) has begun! The Give Back Iowa Challenge is an eight-week statewide challenge, which serves as a competitive way to encourage organizations and businesses alike to participate in community volunteering. The Challenge runs from April 1st through May 31st. You can still [register your organization](#). Then just track the hours of your employees, record those hours in our system, and celebrate your employees and their dedication to volunteerism!

There are a variety of ways to help out in your community. There are many volunteer opportunities statewide, including youth mentoring, college and career mentoring, assisting food banks and food pantries with packaging and distribution, skills-based opportunities, and more. Search our [statewide volunteer database](#) for volunteer opportunities in your area.

Visit the [Give Back Iowa Challenge website](#) to learn more about this year's challenge. Contact [Betsy Shelton](#) with questions.

Service Enterprise Information Webinar



Join Volunteer Iowa for an informational webinar on Friday, May 11th from 11:00am-Noon CST and hear from colleagues in the field as they share how participating in this research-based assessment, training, and coaching process can build the capacity of your organization. [Register for the webinar](#) today.

Presented by:

- Michelle Raymer, Senior Program Officer, Volunteer Iowa
- Sarah Lettow, Managing Director of Volunteer Engagement, The ALS Association
- Chris Eckles, Chief Engagement Officer, Blank Park Zoo

A "Service Enterprise" is an organization that effectively leverages volunteers, and their skills, to meet their social mission. Research by Deloitte shows organizations operating at this level are able to operate at the same level as their peers, with half the median budget. Cohorts across the state are beginning soon, with Des Moines area applications accepted on a rolling basis until filled or mid-August.

Questions? Want to request an application link? Please contact Michelle Raymer at michelle.raymer@volunteeriowa.org or 515-348-6235.

National Survey for Volunteer Engagement Professionals

Do you spend a minimum of 25% of time spent on your role fulfilling volunteer engagement responsibilities (directly managing volunteers or building volunteer capacity for own organization or other organizations)? If so, your input is needed. [The Association for Leaders in Volunteer Engagement](#) (ALIVE), the national association for the volunteer engagement profession, has launched [this survey](#) with a goal of creating a Career Pathways report that demonstrates the various job levels within our field and the competencies and skills for each level, giving practitioners and employers a roadmap of progression. The survey take 15-20 minutes to complete and responses are due by May 6, 2023.

Celebrating Bob Mulqueen, Volunteer Iowa VISTA Leader

Volunteer Iowa's very own VISTA Leader, Bob Mulqueen, completes his term of service on May 8th. Bob has graciously served as one of two VISTA Leaders this past year helping transform our VISTA program, supporting VISTAs across the state, and keeping us up to date on the latest disparities affecting Iowans who experience poverty. His tenacity and drive are unmatched as he weaved his way through the hundreds of emails, phone calls, and miles crisscrossing the state to meet with community partners, potential VISTA project host sites, VISTAs serving their communities, and meet with prospective candidates for service at various fairs and events.

Recently, he mentioned that his summer plans were "nothing much". We hope that means he will continue to help support moving forward National Service in Iowa. We thank Bob for his tremendous contribution to our work.



Service in the News

- [Iowa Volunteers Seek to Boost Literacy This Month](#)
- [Thank 4-H volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 16-22](#)
- [Victor 4-H volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 16-22](#)
- [Victor volunteer connects senior residents to the community](#)
- [Local United Way launches community volunteer hub](#)
- [Nonprofits scramble for help amid dearth of volunteers](#)
- [Former AmeriCorps Partnering to Protect Children member to enter Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame](#)
- [A Dallas Center Resident Recognized as Iowa's Top Volunteer](#)
- [Children enjoy hands-on conservation program](#)
- [Falconer Among Iowa's Top Volunteers to be Honored Tomorrow](#)
- [Goetz named 2023 'Excellence in Mentoring' recipient](#)
- [Oskey's Paula Falconer to be inducted into Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame today](#)

Current Volunteer Iowa Opportunities

Volunteer with us! Volunteer Iowa is always on the lookout for individuals who want to give back and help support our work. Find [general volunteer opportunities with Volunteer Iowa](#). Our current openings are:

- Do you have experience as an AmeriCorps member, or are you a returned Peace Corps volunteer that seeking to continue making a difference in your community? Volunteer Iowa is seeking an experienced AmeriCorps member to promote volunteerism and national service in Iowa. [Apply today!](#)
- Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service) is looking for an energetic, independent volunteer or team of volunteers to help [assemble and organize award packets for the Governor's Volunteer Awards](#) program. This opportunity is great for detail-oriented volunteers who want to lend their talent for organization to a worthwhile cause - recognizing and thanking volunteers across the state! This work can be done by an individual or a team who will work closely with the staff to assemble and organize the GVA awarded packets for the award ceremonies.
- Volunteer Iowa seeks a detail-oriented volunteer to assist with improvements to the statewide [Get Connected](#) database. This database provides the ability for individuals and groups across the state to find and register for meaningful volunteer opportunities and improves the ability for nonprofits and organizations who are in need of volunteer assistance to have those needs met. The volunteer will ensure the information contained in the database is up-to-date, create resources to ensure usability of the site, and develop a promotion plan to reach organizations and individuals who could benefit from the service. This opportunity can be completed virtually and scheduled at the volunteer's discretion. [Learn more and sign up](#) today.

Join the ranks of other AmeriCorps VISTA members serving in organizations across the state helping to alleviate poverty. AmeriCorps VISTA provides opportunities for Americans eighteen years of age and older from diverse backgrounds to dedicate a year of service with non-profit organizations or public entities (as a host organization) to create or to expand efforts designed to empower low-income individuals and communities. VISTA members serve for one year in full time position with a host organization. More information about joining VISTA and a current list of AmeriCorps VISTA opening in Iowa can be found on our [AmeriCorps VISTA page](#).

Other [Iowa AmeriCorps programs](#) supported by Volunteer Iowa are also recruiting now.

Important Dates

- May: [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#)
- May: [National Mental Health Month](#)
- May: [Older Americans Month](#)
- May 7-13: [Public Service Recognition Week](#)
- May 14: Mother's Day
- May 16: [National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day](#)
- May 29: Memorial Day
- May 31: [National Senior Health and Fitness Day](#)
- June 14: [Flag Day](#)
- June 18: Father's Day
- June 19: [Juneteenth](#)

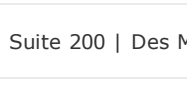
Looking for a way to give back? Visit [Get Connected](#) today to find volunteer opportunities. Organizations can [post volunteer opportunities](#) on Get Connected as well at no cost.

Get Connected!



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