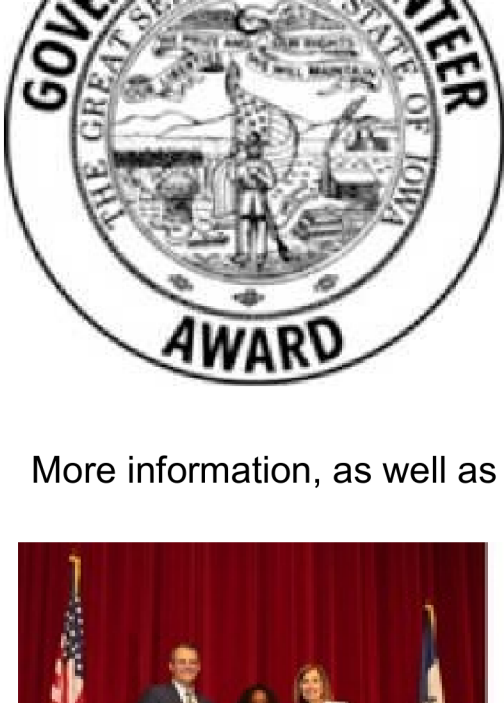


# Volunteer Iowa | Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service



## Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony

The 2024 Governor's Volunteer Awards were held at Ankeny High School on Tuesday, June 25. The ceremony featured remarks from Governor Kim Reynolds. More than 400 awards were presented during this year's ceremony. It is estimated that over 85 communities in Iowa were served by this year's honorees. Coordinated by Volunteer Iowa, the Governor's Volunteer Award program—now in its 40th year—provides an easy way for Iowa nonprofits, charitable organizations, and government entities to honor their volunteers with a prestigious, state-level award.

More information, as well as a [complete list of award recipients](#), is available at [volunteeriowa.org](#).



## Volunteer Iowa's Response in Greenfield

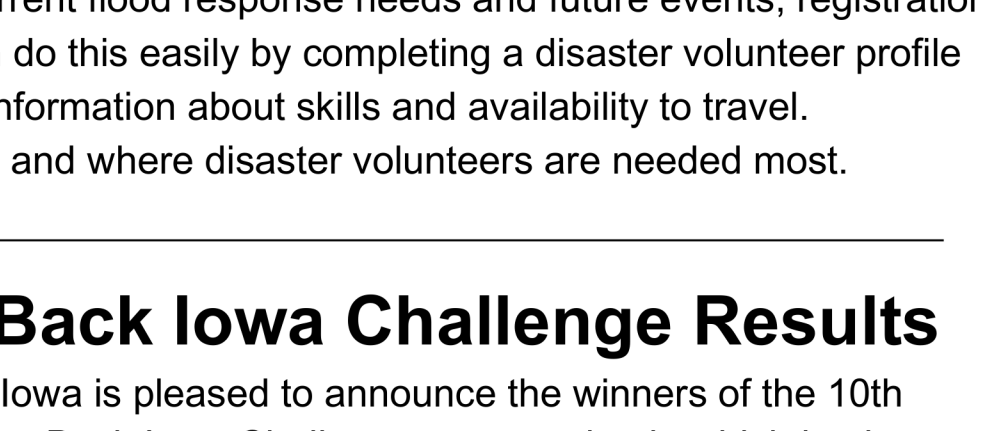
Volunteer Iowa was tasked with supporting volunteer coordination for the Greenfield tornado response. Staff deployed, setting up a Volunteer Reception Center and a process to collect volunteer information needed to be used for in-kind FEMA match. Additionally, the team set up a system and hotline for collecting requests from homeowners for clean-up and repair assistance.

An AmeriCorps NCCC team from Vinton was deployed to support the operation, and the Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team also assisted with response efforts. Volunteer Iowa was also tasked with supporting clean-up efforts in Cedar County, and deployed Bur Oak Land Trust AmeriCorps members to assist. In total, over half of the properties impacted by the Adair County Tornado have received assistance from Volunteer Iowa coordinated volunteers, saving residents and state and local governments hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs.



## Be a Disaster Volunteer

Natural disasters, including tornadoes and flooding events, can happen in our state at any given time without much warning. To be made aware of how volunteers can help and where they are needed most, with the current flood response needs and future events, registration as a disaster volunteer is key. Volunteers can do this easily by completing a disaster volunteer profile on our [volunteer portal Get Connected](#), with information about skills and availability to travel. Registered volunteers will be contacted when and where disaster volunteers are needed most.



## Give Back Iowa Challenge Results

Volunteer Iowa is pleased to announce the winners of the 10th Annual Give Back Iowa Challenge, a campaign in which businesses encourage their employees to volunteer and log their hours as part of a statewide competition. This year, the challenge ran from April 1 – May 31 across the state of Iowa.

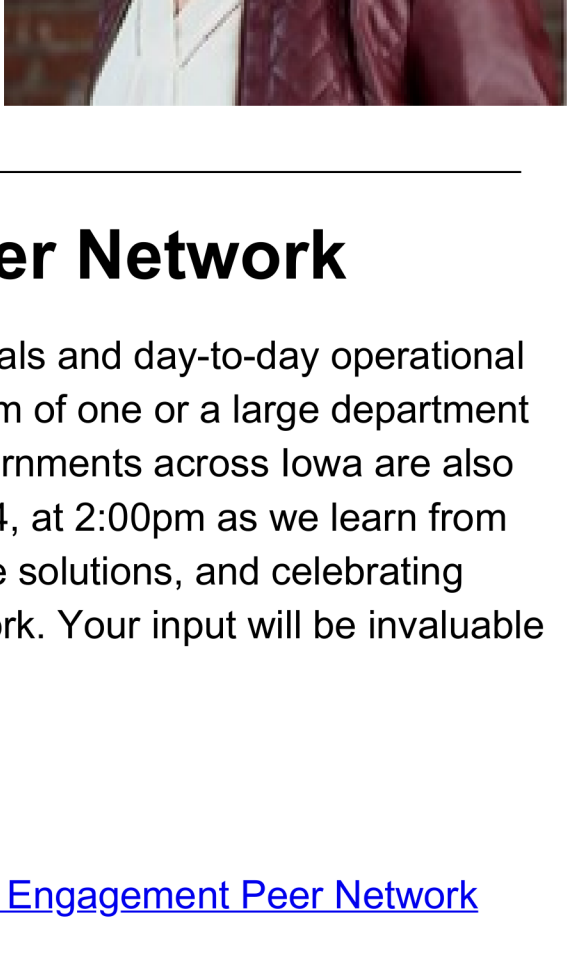
Studies show employer supported volunteering leads to improved employee engagement, organizational commitment, job satisfaction, and retention. From an engagement perspective, places of employment are perfect environments to encourage and support volunteering efforts that contribute toward meeting significant community challenges. Participating employers were divided into three categories based on the number of employees. Winners were selected by the highest average number of volunteer hours per employee. The 2024 winners are:

- **Small: Community Youth Concepts (CYC), Des Moines**
  - Honorable Mention: United Way of Central Iowa
- **Mid-sized: Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, Riverside**
  - Honorable Mention: First Citizens Bank, Mason City
- **Large: ITA Group, West Des Moines**
  - Honorable Mention: City of Dubuque, Dubuque

For resources on employer-supported volunteering or to find volunteer opportunities, visit [volunteeriowa.org](#).

## Monica Chavez-Silva recognized as a Woman of Influence

Commissioner Monica Chavez-Silva is being recognized by the Des Moines Business Record as a [2024 Woman of Influence](#). The Women of Influence awards celebrate the work of women who have made a difference by blazing trails for other women to follow and spending countless hours as role models with impeccable ethics. The winners are chosen based on the impact they make in their chosen field or for contributions through civic and philanthropic organizations. The awards will be presented at a reception on Thursday, August 1.



## City Volunteer Engagement Peer Network

Engaging community volunteers to help meet your city's strategic goals and day-to-day operational needs can be both rewarding and challenging. Whether you're a team of one or a large department of volunteer engagement professionals, you're not alone! Local governments across Iowa are also working with volunteers in a variety of ways. Join us on July 15, 2024, at 2:00pm as we learn from each other by sharing resources, discussing challenges and possible solutions, and celebrating volunteer engagement successes. This is a new peer learning network. Your input will be invaluable as we develop this network to best need our needs.

Webinar Registration: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Sign up to hear about future meetings and resources: [City Volunteer Engagement Peer Network \(office.com\)](#)

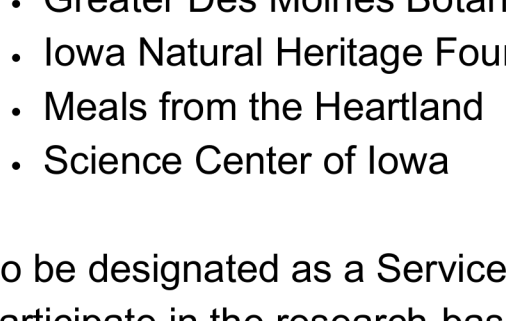
## Empowering Youth Service-Learning Awards Announced

Volunteer Iowa is pleased to award six youth-serving organizations with funding to support the development of service-learning programming that engages youth in authentic and meaningful service projects. Each organization will receive a \$2,500 award to participate in a learning cohort and for the implementation of a service-learning project.



The organizations receiving funding are West Des Moines Community Schools, Marine Cadets of GMMG Elementary School, Hansen Elementary School, Yirah Good House, and CORE (Community of Racial Equity for Advancement) in partnership with Grandview University. The service-learning learning cohort is open to all interested organizations. To learn more or participate, please contact Kamryn Ryan at [kamryn.ryan@volunteeriowa.org](#)

## Service Enterprise Reaccreditations



Volunteer Iowa is pleased to announce that the following organizations have been reaccredited as a Service Enterprise:

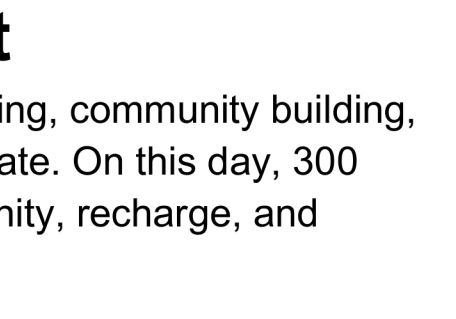
- Blank Park Zoo
- Cedar Rapids Public Library
- Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- Meals from the Heartland
- Science Center of Iowa

To be designated as a Service Enterprise, organization staff, board members, and volunteers must participate in the research-based assessment, training, and consulting. The designation, awarded by the [Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement \(ALIVE\)](#), strengthens the capacity of nonprofits to leverage the skill sets and talents of volunteers to address community needs.

Service Enterprise is currently delivered through Volunteer Iowa, part of a national network of Service Enterprise Hubs, which has certified more than 700 organizations across the country since 2012. Over 60 organizations across Iowa have received the Service Enterprise accreditation.

To learn more about Service Enterprise in Iowa, visit [Volunteer Iowa's Service Enterprise webpage](#). Organizations and agencies that are interested in becoming a Service Enterprise can contact Michelle Raymer at [michelle.raymer@volunteeriowa.org](#).

## Join us! Volunteer Iowa is searching for our next VISTA Leader!



We are looking for a VISTA Leader to support VISTAs across the state have a successful term of service. The VISTA Leader, known as a Member Experience Coordinator, will arrange training for VISTA members, support them with their activities throughout the year, and assist with recruiting new members to the program. The VISTA Leader earns a living allowance, an end of service benefit in the form of an education award or cash stipend, health benefits, and much more! To be eligible to serve as a VISTA Leader you must be 18 years old, have previously served as a VISTA member, a full-time AmeriCorps member, or a returned Peace Corps volunteer. For more information, visit the [online job description](#). Please share this opportunity with your networks, thank you!

## 2024 Iowa Nonprofit Summit

We invite you to join your nonprofit colleagues for a jam-packed day of learning, community building, recharging, and celebrating the important work Iowa nonprofits are doing across the state.

The 2024 Iowa Nonprofit Summit will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at the Kirkwood Center, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

This flagship event is the statewide conference by and for community nonprofits—the only one of its kind in Iowa. Featuring some of the most innovative voices in the nonprofit sector, the Iowa Nonprofit Summit provides an exceptional experience for attendees and our sponsorship partners.

Hosted at The Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids, the Iowa Nonprofit Summit will include:

- Inspiring keynote
- Networking opportunities
- Breakout sessions with timely topics, skill-building, and action-oriented workshops
- 30+ resource vendors and prizes
- Wellness activities and resources
- Healthy food and snacks

[Registration information will be available this summer](#). INA members will receive discounts and incentives.

Interested in supporting the summit and sector?

- [Be an exhibitor](#) - secure your spot by July 1; last year the exhibit spaces sold out
- [Lead a Workshop](#) - proposals due June 14
- [Be a Sponsor](#) - support the summit and sector

If your company, business, or organization is interested in supporting Iowa's nonprofit sector and the Iowa Nonprofit Summit in another way, please contact Bethany at [bethany.snyder@iowanonprofitalliance.org](#). We will find a way to work together.

## Volunteerism in the News

- [Jefferson County RSVP members meet 4th grade pen pals](#)
- [Greenfield sees progress in tornado recovery with much more to do](#)
- [Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden earns accreditation award for volunteers](#)
- [Greene County Sheriff to Receive Governor's Volunteer Award](#)
- [Iowa Department of Education awarded over \\$330,000 in AmeriCorps funding to support postsecondary access and success](#)
- [Local recipients to be recognized with Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award on June 25](#)
- [Local individuals, groups receive Iowa Governor's Volunteer Awards](#)
- [AmeriCorps Released Studies on the Impact of the NCCC Program](#)
- [Local Citizens Receive Governor's Volunteer Award](#)
- [Seven Area Organizations, Individuals To Be Honored At 2024 Governor's Volunteer Awards](#)
- [Iowans to be Honored for Volunteer Service at Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony](#)
- [Carson rodeo to be honored at upcoming 2024 Governor's Volunteer Awards](#)
- [Madison Craig honored for volunteer service at Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony](#)
- [Area individuals, groups receive Governor's Volunteer Award](#)
- [Local individual receives Governor's Volunteer Awards](#)
- [Gov. Reynolds honors Iowans for volunteer efforts](#)
- [Local residents honored during Governor's Volunteer Award program](#)
- [Whiterock Conservancy Extending Current Internships with Green Iowa AmeriCorps To Help Promote Conservation Efforts](#)
- [Governor will recognize volunteers at award ceremony today](#)
- [Governor Volunteer Award Recipients from Guthrie County](#)

## Current Volunteer Iowa Opportunities

- Volunteer with us! Find volunteer opportunities with Volunteer Iowa here: [Volunteer Iowa | Volunteer Iowa \(galaxydigital.com\)](#)

Other Iowa AmeriCorps programs supported by Volunteer Iowa are also recruiting now. Find a listing of Iowa AmeriCorps programs at [Join AmeriCorps | Volunteer Iowa](#).

## Important Dates

- July: [Anti-Boredom Month](#)
- July: [National Picnic Month](#)
- July 4: Independence Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- August: [Back to School Month](#)
- August: [National Immunization Awareness Month](#)
- August 12: [International Youth Day](#)
- August 15: [National Relaxation Day](#)
- August 21: [Senior Citizens Day](#)

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.



Stay Connected with the Volunteer Iowa:

