

# Volunteer Iowa | Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service



## Volunteer Iowa Awards Ceremony

On Tuesday, April 30, the Volunteer Iowa Awards Ceremony was held at the Iowa State Capitol. Four individuals and two groups were inducted into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame. Four individuals were honored at the ceremony, receiving the Excellence in Mentoring award.

The six 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, donation collection and redistribution, resettlement, and translation services, and cancer awareness in our state. They welcome and mentor newly arrived refugees; provide translation, shelter, food, and transport to those in need; organize health screenings, gift drives, and engaging activities for individuals with disabilities; collect and distribute household donations; and serve as pillars of service in their communities. They have gone above and beyond to ensure thousands of Iowans have access to housing, food, and social connections; committed countless hours to community improvement activities and cultural enrichment; and answered the call for service wherever and however it is needed. Collectively, these honorees have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for their causes, which range from Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness; refugee resettlement; household and holiday donations; and fostering civic engagement and connection. 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 four individuals who received the 2024 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 2024 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](mailto:info@volunteeriowa.org).



## Give Back Iowa

The 10th 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. Your business or organization can still [register to participate](#), then just track the volunteer hours of your employees, record those hours on our system, and celebrate your employees and their dedication to volunteerism!

There are many volunteer opportunities statewide and in your community, including youth mentoring, assisting food banks and food pantries with packaging and distribution, skills-based opportunities, and more. Volunteer opportunities in your area can be found in our [volunteer opportunities portal](#) [Get Connected](#). Visit the [Give Back Iowa Challenge website](#) to learn more about this year's challenge.

Please contact Betsy Shelton at [betsy.shelton@volunteeriowa.org](mailto:betsy.shelton@volunteeriowa.org) with questions.

## Empowering Youth Service-Learning Funding Opportunity

Volunteer Iowa is pleased to announce funding to support the development and execution of youth-led service-learning projects. Volunteer Iowa will provide \$2,500 in funding for up to six organizations. This opportunity is open to K-12 schools, afterschool programs, & nonprofits connected learning programs, such as homeschools/youth-serving organizations.

Youth-led Service-Learning funds will help students succeed academically, create meaningful connections within their school and community, improve the overall quality of life within communities, and support students personal and professional development.

Interested organizations can view more information related to this funding opportunity and apply via [Microsoft Forms](#). Applications are due June 14th at 5:00 PM.

Please contact Kamryn Ryan at [kamryn.ryan@volunteeriowa.org](mailto:kamryn.ryan@volunteeriowa.org) with questions.

## Volunteerism in the News

- [The responsibility to care for older adults should lie in communal hands](#)
- [Benton County Volunteer Center Celebrates Volunteer Week](#)
- [AmeriCorps 30: Three Decades of Protecting the Planet](#)
- [Controlled Burn at Cedar Bluffs](#)
- [Henry County Conservation To Receive AmeriCorps Team](#)
- [RSVP Awarded Funding For Another Three Years](#)
- [SALUD to be Inducted into Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame](#)
- [Iowa's Top Volunteers to Be Honored](#)
- [How to design a volunteering program in your workplace](#)
- [AmeriCorps Releases Report on Volunteer Generation Fund Evaluation and Capacity Building Project](#)
- [Northwest Iowa RSVP Program receives three more years of funding](#)
- [RSVP Program Assisting in Battle Against Food Insecurity](#)
- [Two QCA volunteers honored for Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame](#)

## 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

- May: [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#)
- May: [National Mental Health Awareness Month](#)
- May: [Older Americans Month](#)
- May 5-11: [Public Service Recognition Week](#)
- May 12: Mother's Day
- May 16: [National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day](#)
- May 27: Memorial Day
- May 29: [National Senior Health and Fitness Day](#)
- June 14: [Flag Day](#)
- June 16: 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.



Stay Connected with the Volunteer Iowa:

