

Volunteer Iowa | Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Northwest Iowa Flood Response

Volunteer Iowa has been active in the response to the flooding in northwest Iowa since late June. Twelve Volunteer Reception Centers (VRCs) have been established by local counties in flood-affected communities, with support from Volunteer Iowa. Over 1000 volunteers have come through these VRCs to support the cleanup efforts.

AmeriCorps members serving in Iowa have mobilized to the flood-impacted counties to support the response effort. AmeriCorps programs in Iowa who have sent members to the flood-affected areas are Habitat for Humanity of Iowa Mobile Response team, RIVA AmeriCorps and the Iowa Community Corps. Volunteer Iowa staff also assisted with volunteer recruitment and management at five Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) application locations in northwest Iowa.

In addition, three-week opportunities to serve in AmeriCorps to aid in the response are available with Habitat for Humanity of Iowa through the Mobile Response Team. Iowans who want to help can earn a college education award and a cash stipend; applicants should go to www.iowahabitat.org/apply-ameriCorps

We have requested and received a federal Mission Assignment deploying hundreds of AmeriCorps members from across the country (and locally) over the next 60 to 90 days, with the first 38 already on the ground in northwest Iowa to start working on homes today. Most of the work they will be doing will include mucking and gutting homes, mold suppression and debris removal.

More help is needed for general volunteers! The best place to find out how to help locally is at the [Iowa Disaster Recovery](http://IowaDisasterRecovery.org) website.



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](http://volunteerportal.org), with information about skills and availability to travel. Registered volunteers will be contacted when and where disaster volunteers are needed most.

Disaster Volunteers Register Here!



Welcome Candace Cropp

Please help Volunteer Iowa welcome Candace Cropp to the team! Candace started with Volunteer Iowa on July 29 as a VISTA Leader. Candace was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, IA. She joined AmeriCorps VISTA because she has a passion for helping others. Growing up, Candace always saw her parents giving back to the community and anyone in need. She learned early on that we all have a responsibility to support one another. Candace is the mother to four sons, ages 16, 16, 9, and 23, whom she loves to annoy. She is an avid reader (hence the shirt), loves to fish and tend to her vegetable garden.

Over the next year, Candace hopes to build meaningful connections and get others as excited as she is about helping different communities, all while understanding how we can create change for our futures.

Bidding Adieu to Caleb Rigdon

Volunteer Iowa bid adieu to Caleb Rigdon in July. Caleb first joined our team as a VISTA Leader in July 2022, serving in that role for one year before transitioning to the position of Recruitment Specialist. In that role, Caleb supported our national service programs and recruitment efforts across all streams of service. In one year, Caleb expanded our network, built relationships with external stakeholders, attending dozens of career and networking fairs, and raised awareness of AmeriCorps across the state.

Caleb was also willing to jump in at a moment's notice when help was needed in other areas, most recently supporting the volunteer reception center in Greenfield and onboarding an AmeriCorps NCCC team deployed to Greenfield. We wish Caleb the best in his next endeavor!



Thank You to Kathlyn Wagner for Her Service to Volunteer Iowa

Kathlyn Wagner has been serving with Volunteer Iowa as our AmeriCorps Service-Learning VISTA. Her last day with us is August 12. Kathlyn led Volunteer Iowa's state-wide youth service calls, where she led many conversations with young people about service, service-learning and leadership. Kathlyn also conducted outreach and research on best practices with Silver Cord programs in Iowa, meeting many Silver Cord Program Directors at High Schools and Middle Schools. These programs get young people motivated about volunteering all across Iowa.

Kathlyn also worked on connecting with homeschool programs and educators in Iowa, introducing Volunteer Iowa and service-learning resources to these groups and individuals.

Kathlyn's next steps will be relocating to Washington DC, where she accepted a job as a Management Analyst in the U.S. Department of State.

Iowa MENTOR Annual Survey

Thank you for all you do to support young people in Iowa. Iowa MENTOR is seeking data on mentoring programs across the state. Your program information provides important insights and data to assist us in our mission to promote, support and build quality mentoring relationships by elevating the capacity of programs, systems and policies. It is essential for accurate data on the state of mentoring in Iowa that all mentoring programs complete the survey.

The [Iowa MENTOR annual survey is available here](http://IowaMentor.org) for submission. If you are not an Iowa MENTOR program partner, you will be exited from the survey after question #14.

We appreciate your participation!



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 work Iowa nonprofits are doing across the state. On this day, 300 nonprofit leaders, staff, funders, and fans will come together to build community, recharge, and celebrate 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.](http://IowaNonprofitAlliance.org) INA members will receive discounts and incentives.

Interested in supporting the summit and sector?

- [Be a Sponsor](http://BeASponsor.org) - 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

- [30 YEARS OF SERVICE: Local volunteer receives governor's award](http://30YearsOfService.org)
- [WCSD receives volunteer award](http://WCSD.org)
- [Local Citizens Receive Recognition at Governor's Volunteer Award](http://LocalCitizens.org)
- [Waterloo Community Schools receives volunteer award](http://Waterloo.org)
- [Reuman, Stoakes honored during 40th Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards ceremony |](http://Reuman.org)
- [Reynolds: Housing programs will help Iowans recover from floods, tornadoes](http://Reynolds.org)
- [Governor announces disaster recovery housing programs](http://Governor.org)
- [District earns Governor's Volunteer Award](http://District.org)
- [Principal@ Veterans Employee Resource Group Receives Governor's Volunteer Award](http://Principal.org)
- [Errand Buddy with RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program](http://Errand.org)
- [Local citizens receive Governor's Volunteer Award](http://LocalCitizens.org)
- [AmeriCorps volunteers deploy to Perry for the summer](http://AmeriCorps.org)
- [Governor Honors Carrie Merritt For Volunteerism](http://Governor.org)
- [Volunteers unite under Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council during crises](http://Volunteers.org)
- [Volunteering would feel good even if it didn't have health benefits. But it does |](http://Volunteering.org)
- [New to volunteering? A how-to guide to find the right fit](http://Newto.org)
- [Riverside Casino & Golf Resort Wins Seventh Give Back Iowa Challenge](http://Riverside.org)
- [Glenwood Mentoring Program Named TeamMates Chapter Of The Year](http://Glenwood.org)

Current Volunteer Iowa Opportunities

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

Other Iowa AmeriCorps programs supported by Volunteer Iowa are also recruiting now. Find a listing of Iowa AmeriCorps programs at [Join AmeriCorps | Volunteer Iowa](http://JoinAmeriCorps.org).

Important Dates

- August: [Back to School Month](http://BacktoSchoolMonth.org)
- August: [National Immunization Awareness Month](http://NationalImmunizationAwarenessMonth.org)
- August 12: [International Youth Day](http://InternationalYouthDay.org)
- August 15: [National Relaxation Day](http://NationalRelaxationDay.org)
- August 21: [Senior Citizens Day](http://SeniorCitizensDay.org)
- September: [National Preparedness Month](http://NationalPreparednessMonth.org)
- September: [Hunger Action Month](http://HungerActionMonth.org)
- September 2: Labor Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- September 6: [National Read a Book Day](http://NationalReadaBookDay.org)
- September 11: [9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance](http://911DayofServiceandRemembrance.org)
- September 17: [National Voter Registration Day](http://NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org)

Looking for a way to give back? Visit [Get Connected](http://GetConnected.org) today to find volunteer opportunities.

Organizations can [post volunteer opportunities](http://postvolunteeropportunities.org) on Get Connected as well at no cost.



Stay Connected with the Volunteer Iowa:

