

# Volunteer Iowa | Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service



## 9/11 Day of Service: Volunteer Opportunities Across the State

As we approach the [9/11 Day of Service](#), communities across Iowa are coming together to honor this day with impactful volunteer opportunities. From local clean-ups to community outreach, there are numerous ways to get involved and make a difference. Visit our [9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance page](#) or our [online volunteer opportunity database](#) to find ways to volunteer in your area.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that Training + Implementation funding opportunities for next year's 9/11 Day of Service will open in October. Programs will include the City Volunteer Initiative, Service Enterprise Program, and Youth Board Initiative. Selected organizations will be provided in-depth capacity building training, one on one coaching, and implementation funding to put what's learned into practice. Start planning now to bring meaningful projects to your community in 2025!

September 11th was designated a National Day of Service by Congress in 2009 and is led by AmeriCorps, the federal agency for volunteerism and national service. AmeriCorps partners with [911Day.org](#), the nonprofit that, along with 9/11 families, began the 9/11 Day observance more than a decade ago and engages hundreds of nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, schools, and businesses nationwide.

## Join the City Volunteer Engagement Peer Network!

Are you a city government staff member passionate about harnessing the power of volunteers to help achieve your city's goals? Whether you're a one-person team or part of a larger department, you're not alone in this rewarding yet challenging journey! Cities across Iowa are coming together to share insights, swap resources, and tackle common challenges. Be part of our new peer learning network, where your ideas and experiences will shape our collective success. Let's collaborate, innovate, and celebrate the impact of volunteer engagement in our communities.

[Register to join us for a session](#) on Monday, September 23rd at 2:00pm

Can't make it? [Sign up to hear about future meetings and resources](#).

Don't miss out—your voice is crucial as we build this network together!

## Volunteer Iowa VISTA Program Update

The Volunteer Iowa VISTA team had a busy month of enrolling new members, showcasing one of our projects with AmeriCorps staff, and gathering the whole VISTA crew in a one-day poverty training. On August 8th the Volunteer Iowa team joined by Jancy LaFollette with AmeriCorps Headquarters, Kristin Honz and Meghann Henry with the AmeriCorps North Central Regional Office participated in a site visit in Neola, IA. The visit was to learn about the VISTAs serving with NAMI Southwest Iowa and how their service has impacted the organization and community. The work the VISTAs are doing have increased the organization's ability to bring more people together to support mental health, develop programming and expand to new areas in southwest Iowa.

A week later, on August 14, VISTA members, leaders, and supervisors gathered at Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines for a day full of training and activities. VISTA leaders facilitated a panel discussion with three AmeriCorps alums: Anna Nalen served two terms with Campus Compact MN/IA and as a VISTA Leader with Iowa Council of Foundations; Donya Jenkins-Gai served with Volunteer Iowa as a VISTA Leader; and Daniel Warfel, VISTA member with Volunteer Iowa. The big takeaway is that no matter how small your work may feel you are making a big difference.

Two others joined us to discuss poverty in Iowa: Kelli Soyer, United Ways of Iowa provided a glimpse into the challenges individuals and families considered ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed). This was an overview of what the poverty in Iowa is like. Sarah Trone Garriott of DMARC led the VISTA team in a Hunger Simulation. During the presentation she gave us insight into her personal background story of her VISTA term of service, working in food pantries, and how she is championing food insecurities in Iowa.



## Welcome Tanya Chlopek!

Volunteer Iowa welcomed Tanya Chlopek to the team on July 22. She is serving in the role of AmeriCorps Seniors Program Coordinator. She will be working with RSVP volunteers in western Iowa. Tanya comes to us from a previous role as Senior Companion Manager for EveryStep, where she recruited volunteers aged 55+ to give back to their communities. Prior to that, Tanya worked as a volunteer coordinator for hospice companies and has done some bereavement work as well.

Tanya grew up in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, and earned an associate's degree in healthcare administration from Southeast Community College, a bachelor's degree in behavioral science from Bellevue University, and is currently working on her master's degree in healthcare administration from Western Governors University.

Tanya enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters traveling, swimming, attending concerts and playing board games. They spend a lot of time attending various school events and activities. A fun fact about Tanya is that she is terrified of birds. She served for four years in the JROTC and has CNA/CMA certifications. We are thrilled to have Tanya on our team!

## Don't miss the 2024 Iowa Nonprofit Summit, October 22

The [Iowa Nonprofit Summit](#) brings together hundreds of nonprofit leaders from across Iowa to expand their knowledge of advocacy, fundraising, and philanthropy practices. It serves as a platform for connection and collaboration to enhance the nonprofit sector.

Join over 300 of your nonprofit colleagues for two days filled with professional development, networking, inspiration, and celebration – curated specifically for Iowa's nonprofit professionals.

In addition to practical trainings, hear from two nonprofit thought leaders.

Tuesday, October 22, 2024  
The Kirkwood Center  
7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Iowa Nonprofit Alliance members get a deep discount. [See the tuition rates here](#).

## Volunteerism in the News

- [AmeriCorps volunteers end month stay at Dordt](#)
- [SMC receives Governor's Volunteer Award](#)
- [MRHC's SHIP Program Receives Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award](#)
- [Volunteers spent Saturday morning picking up trash at Long Grove Lake in Eldridge](#)
- [Climate change group helps lowans curb climate change](#)
- [Bridging generations: Young ladies in Sioux City build friendships as pen pals with local seniors](#)
- [AmeriCorps Seniors Honors Exemplary Leaders at Annual Convening](#)
- [Area conservation groups get 'shot in the arm' from increased Americorps presence](#)
- [CMS introducing new mentoring program](#)
- [AmeriCorps Volunteers Help Northwest lowans Recover From Flood](#)
- [AmeriCorp helps Hawarden residents clean up flood damage](#)
- [NW Iowa RSVP Program Has New Director](#)

## Current Volunteer Iowa Opportunities

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

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

## Important Dates

- **September:** [National Preparedness Month](#)
- **September:** [Hunger Action Month](#)
- **September 2:** [Labor Day \(Volunteer Iowa office closed\)](#)
- **September 6:** [National Read a Book Day](#)
- **September 11:** [9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance](#)
- **September 17:** [National Voter Registration Day](#)
- **October 26:** [National Make a Difference Day](#)
- **October 27:** [National Civics Day](#)
- **October 30:** [National Speak Up for Service 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:

