

## Volunteering In America



*It is wonderful that Nebraska continues to have one of the nation's highest volunteerism rates. This is one of the many areas where our state stands out and it is proof that we care about the well-being of others in this state. I want to thank those who give back by committing their time and energy to Nebraska's many charitable organizations and those in need. It makes a difference.*

- Governor Dave Heineman

[Volunteering in America](#), a thorough report providing the most comprehensive data ever assembled on volunteer trends and demographics, found that a total of 61.8 million Americans volunteered through an organization in 2008, up one million from the previous year.

For the fourth straight year Nebraska has the second highest rate of volunteering in the nation, ranking behind only Utah in the percentage of the population volunteering. Nearly 40 percent of Nebraskans reported volunteering in 2008. Other notable Nebraska rankings include:

- Second in the nation with volunteer rate of 38.9 percent
- Second in the nation with 49.3 volunteer hours per resident
- Second in the nation with a 78.6% volunteer retention rate
- Second in the nation with 45.7% of "Baby Boomers" who volunteer
- Third in the nation with 39.2% of older adults who volunteer

Overall, 528,100 Nebraskans contributed 66.9 million hours of service - providing assistance valued at \$1.4 billion. Additionally, Nebraskans are regional leaders - volunteering at higher rates than other Midwestern states (39.6 vs. 30.2%).

The survey also includes data from 50 large and 75 mid-size cities, including Omaha. Omaha ranks 20<sup>th</sup> among mid-sized cities with an average volunteer rate of 34.8%, considerably higher than the 2007 national average of 27%. The city also averages 41.1 volunteer hours per capita.

### [Learn more about volunteering in Nebraska.](#)

National, regional, state, and municipal volunteer statistics are readily available for review and analysis at [www.volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov). The study was conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics in consultation with the Corporation for National & Community Service.

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While Nebraskans have much to be proud of, there is still much that can be done to make the good life in Nebraska even better. This summer, President and First Lady Obama are encouraging all citizens to take part in the national renewal and recovery through sustained community involvement. Visit [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov) to learn how to help, post opportunities for others to assist your efforts, and review toolkits to assist you in planning activities.