

Step Forward Awards

October 27th 2022
Omaha Palazzo



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Outgoing Commissioners

Thank you for your support

Amy Hall
Bosselman Enterprises

Ashley Hatheway
Think Healthcare

Deborah Neary
Nebraska State Board of Education

Wayne A. Nestor
Volunteer

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*Associated General Contractors,
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Agenda

Welcome

Kare Heilbrun, *Commission Chair*

Opening Remarks

First Lady, Susanne Shore

Recognition of 2020 & 2021 Honorees

Kare Heilbrun

Presentation of Awards

Event MC- Mary Nelson, *KMTV 3 News Now*

Keynote Address

Javier Fernandez, *OPPD President & CEO*

Closing Remarks

Drew Graham, *Community Volunteering Committee Chair*

ServeNebraska Mission

Mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration, and National Service programs.

ServeNebraska, Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission coordinates and supports community involvement by Nebraskans that address the needs of our communities. We coordinate AmeriCorps Programming, ServeNebraska Week, a coordinated statewide week of volunteerism, and celebrate volunteer achievements through the annual Step Forward Awards.

Thank you!

Volunteers:

Pat Taft	Candice Iberg
Jamesena Moore	Linda Taborek
Chris Bruss	Karol Swotek
Kristin Helmerichs	Nancy Faber
Kareon Miles	Kelly Koepsell
Wayne Nestor	Janice Jacobsen



Governor Pete Ricketts and First Lady Susanne Shore for their continuing support of volunteerism, national service and the Step Forward Awards.



Sponsors

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Jamesena & Bennie Moore

Veteran Award

Veteran Volunteer

An individual who served honorably on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service during and after active duty.

Rhonda McClellan

*Nebraska Air National Guard Veteran
Lincoln, NE*

Rhonda retired from the Nebraska Air National Guard earlier this year after a 30-year career. She has served on the Immanuel Lutheran Education Board for ten years, volunteered at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital for over five years, and volunteered with various veteran organizations, church functions, and school groups for the last 12 years.

Rhonda was nominated for her service at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, where she assists with patient transportation to the weekly interdenominational chapel service and conducts chaplaincy visits to attend to patients' spiritual and emotional needs. She draws upon her experience as a chaplain's assistant in the National Guard to demonstrate extraordinary empathy and attention to the needs and struggles of the patients. Her visits often result in recommended interventions that enhance the patients' quality of life at Madonna.

Rhonda first came to Madonna as a patient after she was injured in a car accident in 2009. Madonna helped her to relearn how to walk. Following her recovery, she took the chance to turn her tragedy into service by giving back. Her nominator told us, "She embodies the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do, in her military and civilian endeavors."

Youth and Senior Awards

Youth Volunteer Leadership

An individual, 18 or younger, who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service.

This individual may hold leadership roles in student organizations, student councils, or student service clubs where they have demonstrated exemplary leadership skills.

Raelynn Terveer

Norfolk, NE

Raelynn is eight years old, and she already has a passion for helping others. In June 2020, she took the initiative to create a project called "I CAN." For this project, she collects pop cans to help clean her community, removes the tabs for donation to the Ronald McDonald House in honor of her cousin, and then recycles the rest of the cans to raise money for the local animal shelter. So far, she has donated \$300 to the animal shelter and over 77,000 tabs to the Ronald McDonald House.

In December 2021, Raelynn expanded her service by hosting a food drive in Norfolk to donate to the Salvation Army. She has also created a project called "Raelynn's Warm Wishes," for which she makes tie blankets for veterans. Raelynn's nominator says, "As the daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter of Veterans, she knew how important it is to give back to our Veterans and hopefully bring them physical, emotional, and mental comfort through warm blankets."

Raelynn is also involved in volunteerism efforts at the Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska, Meals on Wheels, and various food, clothing and school supply drives.

Senior Volunteer

Individuals age 65 or older who are taking action to make their community a better place.

These individuals share their many years of experience and are role models for others to serve and volunteer.

Kris Peterson

Lincoln, NE

To everyone who visits the Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Kris should be a familiar face. She has been volunteering there for 11 years! Her service includes but isn't limited to accompanying residents on errands, assisting with recreational activities, helping with events, and staffing the welcome desk.

When COVID hit, Kris missed helping at Madonna every day and checked in regularly to find the soonest date that she could come back to help. In the meantime, the Foundation team dropped projects off on her porch so she could help them get things done. Her nominator says, "It's great to have her back on campus, our employees know they can count on her."

Time isn't the only thing that Kris donates to Madonna. She and her late husband helped fund the Zender Meditation Garden in memory of her parents, who were also highly involved with the organization. Kris' most incredible contribution came about when she noticed that staff members regularly struggled with the old, high-mileage van they used to take residents on outings. The van had limited space for wheelchairs, thus limiting the number who could participate in any given outing. Kris donated a new one to ensure more patients could participate in outings.



Proud to Support **Our Volunteers**

Nelnet is proud to support those who volunteer in their communities. We share your passion for strengthening communities and making the world a better place. One step at a time, we make a difference. To the ones who serve - **thank you.**



[NelnetInc.com](https://www.NelnetInc.com)

Disaster and Group Awards

Disaster Volunteer

An individual or group that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to volunteerism by helping with a special project or ongoing activities, in preparation for or during times of disaster.

Dodge County Amateur Radio Emergency Services

Fremont, NE

Dodge County Amateur Radio Emergency Services played a critical role in responding to the 2019 flooding in Fremont and the surrounding areas. They serve as a vital link between the fire departments and staff responding to disasters and they've taken significant steps to ensure that the Fremont community is always prepared. Thanks to their leader, Steve Narans, they are retrofitting a County Communications Trailer and set it up for use by first responders.

They participated in a full-scale disaster drill with the Nebraska National Guard, Fremont Police, and Fremont Fire Department to test their skills and demonstrate how their services fit in among other disaster response efforts.

During severe weather, they monitor weather conditions and report to the County Emergency Operations Center and National Weather Service.

Volunteer Group

A group of volunteers who have served together on a common project that has impacted their community.

The nominees strive to make communities better places to live through a variety of activities or by focusing on one issue of primary importance in their community.

North Platte Buffalo Bill Kiwanis

North Platte, NE

The North Platte Buffalo Bill Kiwanis raised funds to build three complete playgrounds in North Platte. The total cost for the playgrounds was over \$100,000, and the group helped to bring down the price by donating their time and rallying the community to install the structures themselves. This extra work saved \$20,000 per site so that every penny raised could go toward providing the highest quality equipment for the children.

When they ran into obstacles installing one of the playground's equipment, they didn't quit. They worked together to get the job done. They also worked extra hard to ensure the playgrounds benefit as many as possible. To do this, they carefully chose accessible equipment and central community locations.

But the North Platte Buffalo Bill Kiwanis don't just handle playgrounds. They're involved in a multitude of projects across the North Platte community including trash walks, providing scholarships, and otherwise fulfilling their motto; "One child and one community at a time."

SHARE Omaha applauds all Step Forward Award winners!

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National Service and Adult Awards

National Service

An individual or group currently serving in a National Service program in Nebraska.

This individual or group demonstrates outstanding effort to increase the quality of life in one or more communities in our state. Nominees may be serving through AmeriCorps, VISTA, or AmeriCorps Seniors (Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP).

Zoey Ballard

Omaha, NE

Zoey is an AmeriCorps member who served two terms with Partnership 4 Kids. Over the course of her terms, she has completed 225 hours of one-on-one case management with 79 different high school and post-secondary students. She serves as a mentor and stands out among her peers because she has an extraordinary talent for getting to know the students by listening closely, engaging with them, and empowering them to reach their potential.

When confronted with challenges, she almost always comes up with a satisfactory solution earning her a reputation for being an adept problem-solver. She is vocal about the importance of investing in the community to build a better future and cites this as her motivation for joining AmeriCorps and returning for a second term.

Zoey took the lead in planning the MLK Day of Service in 2022 by coordinating a day of service with the Open Door Mission. Over 25 students and staff participated. Her nominator wrote, "Zoey has been a model AmeriCorps Member by serving marginalized youth and supporting their academic success and eliminating educational inequities and barriers they face."

Adult Volunteer

An individual, 19 or over, who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service.

David Hogsett

Lamar, NE

David's community can always count on him to help out with everything from chasing cows to visiting those under the weather. For the past 22 years, David has shared his passion for trap shooting with children and youth in the community. Through the local 4H and a biennial science camp, he teaches how to handle a gun safely, how to shoot to protect livestock, and how to hunt.

David is also a volunteer firefighter. He worked his way up to fire chief, and then used his position to fundraise for improvements to the fire hall building and equipment. Though he has since stepped down from the role of chief, he still volunteers with the department.

On a mission to reach out to those who don't feel comfortable in a traditional church setting, David started the Cowboy Church. He traveled around the county to learn how to organize the church, and now they meet about twice a month in the local sales barn. David's nominator says, "David Wayne Hogsett embodies what it means to be 'Nebraska Nice.'"

LEADING THE WAY

We are proud to provide health insurance that helps Nebraskans get the care they need and are grateful for ServeNebraska's volunteers who step forward to strengthen our communities. Thank you!



**BlueCross
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Nebraska

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Corporate Community Volunteer Awards

Corporate Community Volunteer

Corporations and businesses that excel in community involvement and demonstrate excellent corporate citizenship by giving back to their community in a variety of ways.

Small Business

Fusion Medical Staffing

Omaha, NE

Fusion Medical Staffing is well-known for prioritizing philanthropy and service in the community. Leadership at the company organizes opportunities for employees with organizations such as with Habitat for Humanity, Keep Omaha Beautiful, Kamie K. Preston Hereditary Cancer Foundation, MS Forward, and many more.

From the beginning of their tenure, each employee is encouraged to voice a cause about which they are passionate so that Fusion can help them participate in meaningful service. Plus, they offer Employee Paid Volunteer Time Off to help them give back.

Fusion has a handful of long-term partnerships with local nonprofits such as QLI rehabilitation and Angels Among Us. During the pandemic, the company was forced to halt in-person events but made up for it by matching every employee's donations to nonprofits of their choice. Their nominator wrote, "The organizations we work with know that when Fusion shows up, we go all out. There is never a question of if we are committed to their cause or not because we make it who we are."

Large Business

Bosselman Enterprises

Grand Island, NE

Bosselman Enterprises was nominated primarily for their support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Nebraska (BBBS), but they are also significant supporters of many organizations and initiatives across the state. Organizations that they support include, but aren't limited to, the Red Cross, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, First Light (Grand Island's Child Advocacy Center), and many others. Not only does Bosselman Enterprises fund these efforts they also encourage employees to volunteer their time.

For BBBS, Bosselman is the leading "Mission Sponsor." They invite and entertain youth by providing access to potential career paths while waiting for a Big Brother or Sister to mentor them. A member of leadership at Bosselman Enterprises sits on the Executive Board for BBBS and is a mentor for a "little." Their nominator says, "Bosselman Enterprises has a passion for supporting educational efforts in all the towns they serve."



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Jamesena Moore Award

Jamesena Moore Making a Difference Service Award

This award is named in honor of founding ServeNebraska Commissioner, Jamesena Moore. It was developed to honor individuals who are making significant contributions to the Mission of ServeNebraska through their time, actions, talents and dedication. The honoree selected serves as a role model for the compassion of service and strives to make the world a better place. This individual should have a passion for service to others and demonstrates this by their actions.

Congressman Don Bacon

Omaha, NE

The ServeNebraska Commission unanimously elected to present Congressman Bacon for the Jamesena Moore Making a Difference Service Award because of his stellar record in supporting AmeriCorps service in Nebraska. The Congressman has supported and worked alongside ServeNebraska on multiple occasions to remove barriers to service in our state and across the country.

Congressman Bacon supported both the CORPS act and the Segal AmeriCorps Education Tax Relief Act to help thank and support AmeriCorps programs and members who make our communities better. He also cosponsored the Inspire to Serve Act and is a member of the National Service Congressional Caucus. In recognition of these efforts, he was awarded a Congressional Service Award from Voices for National Service in February 2022.

The Congressman models his belief that everyone has a duty to do what they can for their country, and he helps make AmeriCorps a more accessible way to serve.

ServeNebraska thanks Congressman Bacon for his partnership and for being a champion for service in the state of Nebraska.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

The most prestigious state-level honor volunteers can receive; the people selected are those who have forever changed their community, the state, the nation, or the world with their volunteer service and action.

Henry Potter

Willow Island, NE

Henry began his service as a mentor for troubled boys in his community and what started as a simple set of school clothes became a mission. When Henry saw how new clothes affected one boy, increasing his self-esteem and even improving his academic performance, he began to have an idea. Henry draws upon his faith for inspiration and believes God led him to show his love for children by purchasing clothing for their first day of school. And just like that, “L2 for Kids” was born.

When Henry retired in 2012, he formed the organization and acquired its 501c3 designation. The organization is entirely volunteer-run and gives students the chance to have a new set of clothes, sometimes the first new set they’ve owned, for the first day of school. They even get to choose the clothes themselves! The organization gives these children the chance to express themselves, look nice, and fit in.

The organization utilizes approximately 50 volunteers, and 40 area churches sponsor L2 for Kids. From 2012 to 2021, L2 for Kids enabled 7,146 kids to purchase \$544,969 of new clothes from local stores.



AmeriCorps - Serving Communities in Nebraska

ServeNebraska

ServeNebraska, the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, receives over \$2.5 million in federal funds from the AmeriCorps federal agency to operate and grant out to communities across Nebraska who have identified critical issues that can be addressed by AmeriCorps members. The federal funds are matched by local funds which add over \$868,036 to address the needs of Nebraska communities.

Commissioners

Commissioners are appointed by the Governor of Nebraska. Commissioners are private citizens who act as visionaries to set priorities in a nonpartisan manner. They are catalysts and ambassadors for service, creators of sustainable infrastructure and developers of service and volunteer resources for the state.

Meeting Community Needs in Nebraska

Through AmeriCorps, VISTA and AmeriCorps Seniors, more than 4,600 people of all ages and backgrounds helped to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in Nebraska in 2021. Serving at more than 300 locations throughout the state, these citizens tutor and mentor children, support veterans and military families, provide health services and fight hunger, restore the environment, respond to disasters, increase economic opportunity, and recruit and manage volunteers.

Nebraska State and National AmeriCorps Programs

College Possible

College Possible is a national nonprofit organization that makes college admission and success possible for low-income students through an intensive curriculum of coaching and support, utilizing AmeriCorps members as coaches to provide near-peer coaching to high school and college students.

Conservation Nebraska

Conservation Nebraska is a statewide organization that utilizes AmeriCorps members to educate Nebraskans across the state about conservation issues facing their communities and provide them with the tools they need to improve their local environment.

Partnership 4 Kids

Partnership 4 Kids is a college and career AmeriCorps program that promotes student success through career and college readiness and mentoring. The program focuses on secondary students in areas of career development while promoting college retention and graduation.

Nebraska State Probation (RISE)

Nebraska State Probation (RISE) utilizes the skills of AmeriCorps members to address and serve youth who are at greater risk of educational failure resulting in truancy, negative behaviors and continued involvement in the juvenile justice system. The members facilitate a skill-based curriculum to adjudicate youth focusing on educational skill development.

YWCA of Adams County

YWCA of Adams County assists community partners in youth development, housing, career services, restorative justice, and adult education. Through the service of AmeriCorps members, the Hastings community can offer more comprehensive assistance to its citizens.

Together Inc.

Together Inc. utilizes AmeriCorps members to aid in the fight against food insecurity in Omaha's most disadvantaged populations. AmeriCorps members serving with Together Inc. will play an integral part in not only providing the food that visitors need in the short-term, but also connecting them with the tools they need to become self-sufficient and food secure in the long-term. The Together Inc. AmeriCorps Program lessens the overall instances of food insecurity through education and outreach.

International Council for Refugees and Immigrants

International Council for Refugees and Immigrants AmeriCorps members provide support to refugee youth who are struggling to adjust to life in the United States. AmeriCorps members aims to improve the well-being of refugee children by serving as mentors and role models, and by helping to boost their self-confidence and self-efficacy. With the help of this AmeriCorps program, refugee children won't have to face alone the unique challenges that come from starting life in an unfamiliar country.

Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln

Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln partners with Community Learning Centers with the aim to help children and families implement healthy nutritional habits. They facilitate education on growing and harvesting food, cooking healthy meals, and managing portion control. The impact of this program extends past nutrition by creating a solid foundation of healthy habits upon which children can build.

Mentor Nebraska

This AmeriCorps program supports AmeriCorps members as they provide consulting and training experience to mentoring programs in Omaha, central, and western Nebraska. The program aims to improve the quality and quantity of mentoring programs for students statewide.

Nebraska Department of Education

Nebraska Department of Education members endeavor to fight learning loss by connecting organizations, individuals, children and families to education resources in their community. They analyze current and future programs to identify gaps and find solutions to meet those needs



Past Honorees

Adult Volunteer

Rich Aerni (2015)
Dave Kleopfer (2016)
Justin Evertson (2017)
Loren Eichelberger (2018)
Keryl Brady (2019)
Kendra Feather (2020)
Sandy Manfull (2021)

Community Media Partner

KOLN-KGIN TV (2015)
KETV (2016)
Lincoln Journal Star
Neighborhood Extra (2017)

Corporate Community Volunteer

MTPG Citizen Patrol (2015)
Mutual of Omaha (2016)
Blue Cross Blue Shield of
Nebraska (2017)
Black Hills Energy
Ambassadors (2018)
Omaha Public Power
District (2019)
Wolf Auto (2019)
BD Construction (2020)
Union Bank & Trust (2020)
Dave's Pharmacy (2021)
Home Instead: Champions of
Aging (2021)

Lifetime Achievement

Jeanne Cuda (2015)
Richard Gray (2016)
Ruth McKinstry (2017)
Tom Scott (2018)
Dr. Tom and
Nancy Osborne (2019)
Rita Shipley (2020)
Nancy Hoch (2021)

National Service Volunteer

Rose Christiansen (2015)
Tina Winchell (2016)

Martin Macias Jr. (2017)
Breadbasket RSVP
Volunteers (2018)
Chuck Scripter (2019)
Team RSVP: Frances Gonzalez
& Sharon Bartlett (2020)
Nicole Metz-Andrews (2021)

Veteran Volunteer

Bryon Line (2015)
Gary Feldbauer (2016)
Jim Cada (2017)
Dell Moninger (2018)
Dietrick Frye (2019)
Dick Harrington (2020)
Jim Kuhn (2021)

Volunteer Group

Greater Nebraska Friends of
Make-a-Wish (2015)
AAA School Safety Patrol (2016)
Union College (2017)
Norfolk Panther JOOI (2018)
Lincoln Northeast Sertoma
Club (2019)
Rotary 14 (2020)
Washington County Recycling
Association (2021)

Youth Volunteer

Randa Klein (2015)
Joseph Ptacnik (2016)
Cooper Bates (2017)
Jorja Boller (2018)
Molly Kammerer (2019)
Joseph Zhong (2020)
Mahika Kanchanam (2021)

Senior Volunteer

Janyce Warneke (2018)
Lyle McKlem (2019)
Dr. Mike Eppel (2020)
Larry Massie (2021)

Disaster Volunteer

Tim Garrison (2016)
Reynolds Davis (2017)
MyPI Nebraska Instructors (2018)
Carol Clausen/
Dale Clausen (2019)
Alyssa Spartz (2019)
Carl Ratcliff (2019)
Kathy Kneifl (2019)
Michael and Ruth Bitter (2019)
Rick Brown (2019)
Tri-County CERT (2019)
Wood River Volunteer Fire Depart-
ment and Mayor Cramer (2019)
Southeast Nebraska Medical
Reserve Corps (2019)
Bellevue Christian Center (2019)
India Association of
Nebraska (2019)
Nebraska Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster (VOAD) (2019)
D.A. Davidson & Co. (2019)
Catz Angels Rescue Efforts (2019)
North Bend Eagle (2019)
Jan tenBensel (2020)
Taylor Cumblidge (2020)
Dakota County Voices for Food
Council (2020)
Green Plains (2020)
Matthew Spaustat (2020)
Carissa Schank (2021)

Friends of ServeNebraska

State Farm (2016)
TD Ameritrade (2017)

Jamesena Moore Award

Senator Ben &
Diane Nelson (2019)
Senator Tony Vargas (2020)
Former First Lady
Sally Ganem (2021)

Notes



Save the Date and Participate!

During this national movement, Nebraskans of all ages are asked to step forward, get involved, and give back.

April
16th-22nd
2023

**National
Volunteer
Week**

