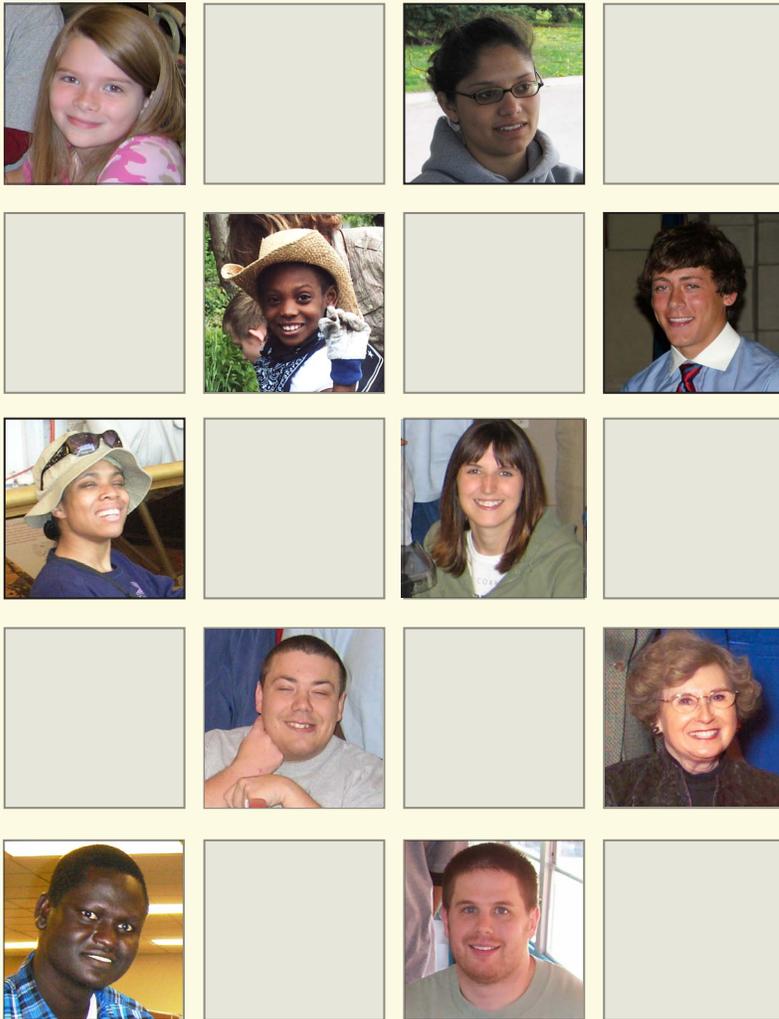


“AmeriCorps has allowed me to reach into myself and develop skills...that I use everyday. I am glad to have had this experience and sad to see it end... AmeriCorps will always be a strong part of my life.”

Jacquelyn Serflaten, AmeriCorps member



ANNUAL REPORT

2007 2008 2009



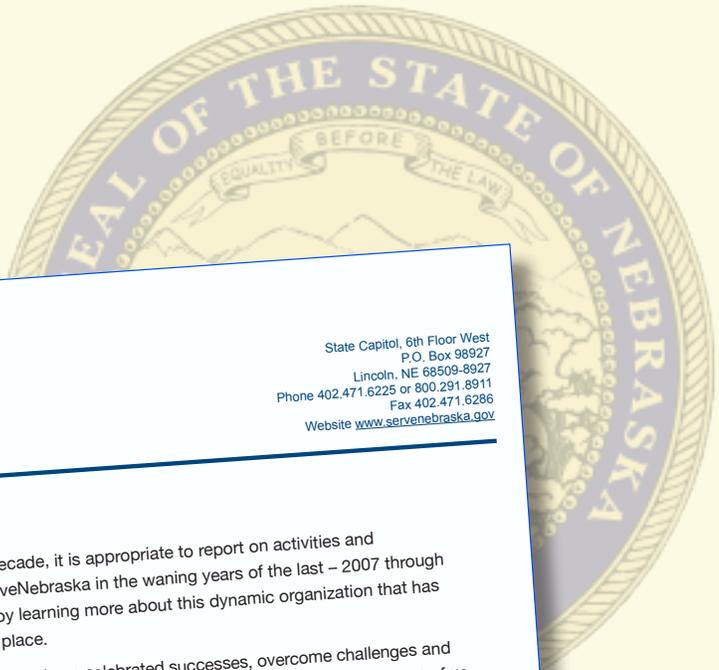
ServeNebraska
Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission





*Mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities
through volunteering, collaboration and national service*

Introduction



ServeNebraska
Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission

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Greetings,

As we welcome a new decade, it is appropriate to report on activities and accomplishments of ServeNebraska in the waning years of the last – 2007 through 2009. We hope you enjoy learning more about this dynamic organization that has made our state a better place.

Over the past three years, we have celebrated successes, overcome challenges and taken advantage of opportunities. While the economy caused tension for most of us, through hard work, good planning and skilled management of our resources, ServeNebraska was able to “get things done” for thousands of Nebraskans across the state.

Using our dedicated cadre of Commissioners for guidance and our small, but enthusiastic professional staff to execute our mission, ServeNebraska has fulfilled our promise to “mobilize Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.”

Please join us as we present three years of exciting, evolving and creative activities of ServeNebraska.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Kriha".

Barry Kriha
Chairperson
ServeNebraska

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally Ganem".

Sally Ganem
First Lady, State of Nebraska
Honorary Chair, ServeNebraska



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Wilson Thomas".

Barbara Wilson Thomas, M.S.E.
Executive Director
ServeNebraska

ServeNebraska
Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission

“It is wonderful that Nebraska continues to have one of the nation’s highest volunteerism rates. It is proof that we care about the well-being of others in this state.”

Governor Dave Heineman

Mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service

Nebraska is 2nd Nationally for Volunteering

For the fourth straight year Nebraska has the second highest rate of volunteering in the nation. Nearly 40 percent of Nebraskans reported volunteering in 2009. ServeNebraska is justifiably proud of Nebraskans and their willingness to help their communities stay strong through volunteering.

The Corporation for National and Community Service issues Volunteering in America Report annually. The Report is the most comprehensive collection of data collected on volunteering and civic engagement, including data for every state and almost 200 cities. The data are collected through a partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and have been released annually since 2005. The report is available at: www.volunteeringinamerica.gov.

Notable Nebraska volunteering statistics include:

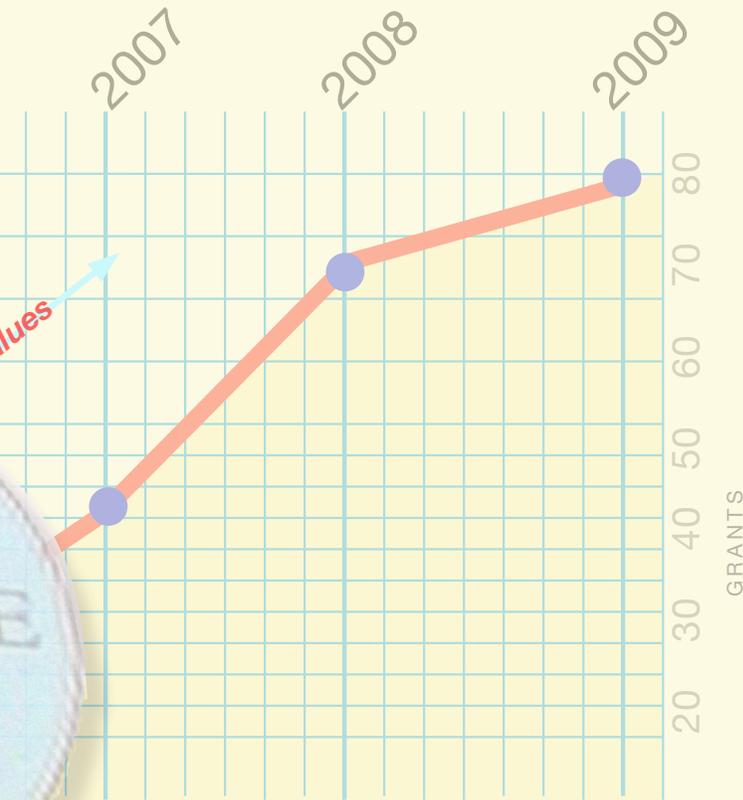
- 2nd in the nation with volunteer rate of 38.9 percent
- 2nd in the nation with a 78.6 percent volunteer retention rate
- 2nd in the nation with 45.7 percent of “Baby Boomers” who volunteer
- 2nd with 38.0 percent of college students volunteering
- 3rd in the nation with 39.2 percent of older adults who volunteer
- 3rd in the nation with 30.0 percent of millennial volunteers
- 3rd in the nation with 30.3 percent of young adults who volunteer
- 528,100 Nebraskans volunteered
- 66.9 million hours of service contributed
- \$1.4 billion of service contributed

“This report confirms what we witness everyday,” says ServeNebraska Chair Barry Kriha. “Nebraskans are dedicated and inspired to serve, whether it’s helping our neighbors rebuild after devastating storms, supporting local organizations or instilling our core values in our next generation.”

As Nebraska continues to face economic difficulties, volunteers are needed now more than ever. There is an increased demand for services at a time when there are fewer resources. This research shows that despite the additional stresses of a difficult economy, Nebraska volunteers are still serving.



President Obama signs Serve America Act.



Growth in program contracts managed by Commission 2007-2009

Serve America Act of 2009

On April 21, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. The Serve America Act reauthorizes and expands national service programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service by amending the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (NCSA) and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (DVSA). This extraordinary new legislation to support national service and volunteerism will have a huge impact on ServeNebraska.

The Act may increase opportunities for Nebraskans to serve in several ways:

- Creates a Summer of Service program for young people.
- Increases AmeriCorps from 75,000 positions to 250,000 by 2017.
- Improves service options for experienced Americans and permits individuals age 55 and older to transfer their education award to a child or grandchild.
- Establishes a September 11 National Day of Service.
- Provides seed money to support innovation and strengthen the non-profit sector.
- Strengthens management, cost-effectiveness, and accountability.
- Increases support for State Commissions.

On December 16, 2009, the President signed into law the FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act to enable the implementation of the Kennedy Serve America Act. At a time of growing social needs and renewed interest in national service, the additional federal funding will help ServeNebraska expand Nebraska's AmeriCorps programming and meet new administrative responsibilities. ServeNebraska welcomes the opportunities and challenges presented by the Serve America Act for growth in national service and volunteerism in Nebraska.

ServeNebraska Highlights for 2007 - 2008 - 2009

While the national Serve America Act of 2009 and Nebraska's consistent top national ranking in the rate of volunteerism have set the stage for a bright future in service to Nebraska, ServeNebraska has shown exceptional growth as a leader in facilitating volunteerism and service during the last three years.

- Successfully passed a comprehensive on-site federal CNCS State Administrative Standards Review in August 2008 affirming strong practices.
- Established MOA with host state agency (DHHS) for in-kind support to meet federal match requirement.
- Re-branded the Commission with a new name and logo.
- Re-designed the website and broadened online presence.
- Nebraska Thrives VISTA program grew from one member to four.
- Created a new logo and disability preparedness poster for the Disability Program.
- Held innovative Disability Preparedness Summit.
- Expanded AmeriCorps programming to rural central and western Nebraska.
- Received Stimulus Recovery Act grant funding increasing the number of AmeriCorps members in Nebraska.
- Introduced a new Training Calendar for year-round classes, new fee-for-service trainings and electronic online registration sign-up process.
- Named lead agency for Global Youth Service Day three consecutive years with new private foundation grant funds.
- Introduced Facebook and Twitter social media on website.
- Partnered with the UNL Athletic Department to support National Preparedness Month promotional activities at a football and a volleyball event each year.
- Initiated a partnership to develop a public online registry for disaster volunteers with a new grant from the State Records Board.

“...to engage the idealism and energy of Nebraskans to meet the most critical needs of our communities.”

Governor E. Benjamin Nelson, July 26, 1994, upon creation of the Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service.

THE BEGINNING . . .

A renewed focus on encouraging volunteering in America led to the passage of the National and Community Service Act of 1990. This legislation, signed into law by President George H.W. Bush, created a new independent federal agency, the Commission on National and Community Service.

In 1993, that Commission became the Corporation for National and Community Service when President Bill Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act to create the new AmeriCorps program. The new program was established to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation.

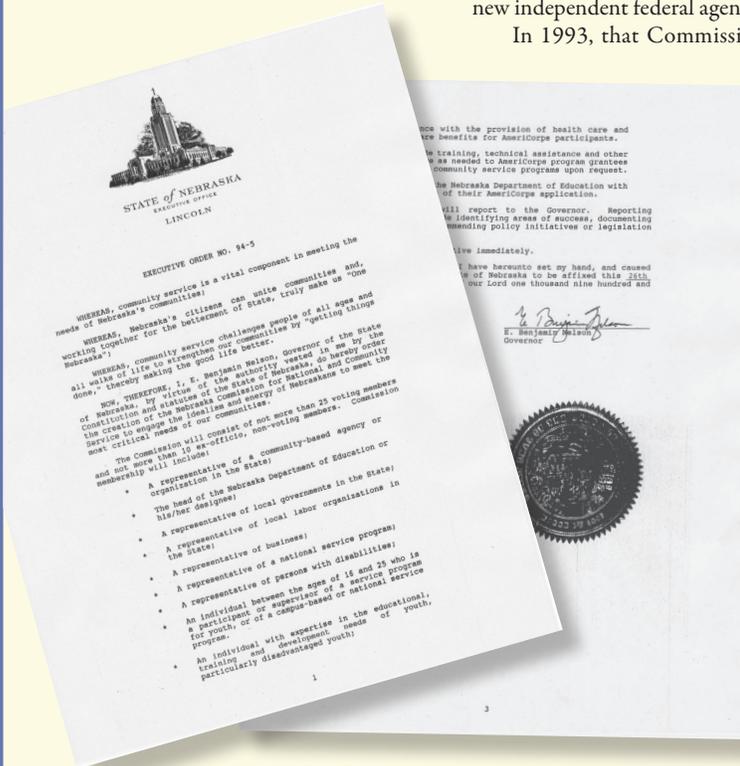
Governor-appointed State Service Commissions were designated to administer AmeriCorps funding at the state level. Each Commission's Administration, AmeriCorps Programs, AmeriCorps Training and Professional Development, and Disability Inclusion Programs were supported by federal grant funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service with a requirement for the state to equally match the Administrative Grant funds.

In 1994, Governor Ben Nelson signed Executive Order No. 94-5 to establish the Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service. The Nebraska Commission's name has changed twice since its creation – to the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission (1999) and to ServeNebraska (a new operating name in 2008). Today, ServeNebraska is one of 52 similar commissions that are active in each state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa and Guam. Only South Dakota does not have a volunteer service commission.

By executive order and federal requirement, the Commission consists of up to 25 voting members and up to 10 ex-officio, non-voting members. Included in the make-up of the Commission are representatives from local government, non-profit agencies, community-based organizations, business, persons with disabilities, educators, human services, youth, Native Americans, volunteer agencies, and older adults. Political parties must be equally

represented on the Commission.

In 2002, President George W. Bush asked all Americans to devote two years or 4,000 hours to volunteer service during their lifetimes. As part of this call to service, he created USA Freedom Corps with Citizen Corps as a component, a White House office and coordinating council to encourage Americans to serve their communities and country. ServeNebraska began managing the Nebraska State Citizen Corps Program in late 2006 with grant funds through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency from the Department of Homeland Security.



COMMISSION MEMBERS

Barry Kriha, Chair

InfiNet Solutions, Omaha

Ron Sedlacek, Vice Chair

NE Chamber of Commerce,
Husch Blackwell Sanders, LLP, Lincoln

Sally Ganem, Honorary Chair

First Lady of Nebraska

Lorinda Brown

2008 Ms. Wheelchair Nebraska, Grand Island

Susan Cook

Homestead National Monument, Beatrice

Nancy Faber

Omaha South Magnet High School (retired), Omaha

Jessica Hilderbrand

Nebraska Children & Families Foundation, Lincoln

Mike Kissler

NE Dept. of Education, K-12 Learn & Serve, Lincoln

Curt Krueger

Catholic Social Services, Lincoln

Tess Larson

University of Nebraska at Omaha, student, Omaha

Jamesena Moore

United Way of the Midlands, Omaha

Rick Nation

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership, Fairbury

Gerry Osborn

Retired Postmaster, Ainsworth

Susan Schnase

University of Nebraska Foundation – UNO, Omaha

Jeff Slobotski

AIM Institute, Bennington

Carol Speicher

Great Plains Resource & Conservation Development, Columbus

Angela Volovich

NE State Director, Corporation for National and
Community Service, Lincoln

Nancy Wang

MDS Pharma Services, Lincoln

Rose White

AAA Nebraska, Omaha

Lois Wine

Rose Blumkin Jewish Home, Omaha

STAFF

Barbara Wilson Thomas, M.S.E

Executive Director

Greg Donovan, M.P.A.

AmeriCorps Program Officer

Janet Schmidt,

Fiscal & Operations Officer

Peter Cales,

Training & Disability

Program Officer

Nancy Hock,

Administrative Assistant

ServeNebraska

Strategic Planning

ServeNebraska is dedicated to fulfilling its mission of mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through collaboration, volunteering, and national service programming. The Commission's 2006-2010 Strategic Plan is a five-year plan setting out the Commission priorities and goals. In implementing this plan, partnerships will be maximized and the Commission's role in furthering the quality of life in Nebraska will be expanded. Specific goals are:

Managerial Excellence

1. Implement relevant benchmarks for success
2. Energize the Nebraska Volunteer Foundation

Programmatic Distinction

1. Solidify the AmeriCorps Base and Protocols
2. Support Volunteerism Efforts Throughout Nebraska
3. Enhance Organizational Marketing and Branding
4. Engage Youth and "Baby Boomers"
5. Increase Trainings and Market to New Audiences
6. Reach into New Communities with Citizen Corps
7. Foster Unity in National Service in Nebraska

In October 2008, the Commission re-visited the 2006-2010 Strategic Plan at its midpoint to assess accomplishments and to assure that the Plan remains relevant and focused during the economic instability and federal transition. Key stakeholders, Commissioners and staff reached consensus through a survey that the organizational mission and values remain sound and progress has been made in attaining the identified strategic and operational goals.

- 85% of key constituents stated the mission effectively captures the essence of ServeNebraska
- At least 90% of key constituents stated that each of the Values should be retained.

A report was published to document that the majority of the original goals in the Strategic Plan had been accomplished. The Commission re-emphasized the pursuit of two broad philosophical aims: Think Big and Maximize Partnerships.

In order to keenly focus Commission direction, the original goals were refined into three key integrated Strategic Focus Areas for 2009-2010.

Resource Generation

- Think creatively.
- Cultivate new fund sources.
- Improve community awareness.
- Legislative education and advocacy.

Entrepreneurial Approach

- Develop sustainable and revenue producing initiatives.
- Expand fee-for-service trainings to new audiences.
- Explore business volunteerism initiative to increase business involvement/investment.

Organizational Promotion

- Develop a comprehensive marketing plan.
- Produce publications to highlight Commission programs.
- Improve electronic messaging.

“How wonderful that no one need wait a single moment to improve the world...”

Anne Frank

AmeriCorps Changing Lives in Nebraska

Through AmeriCorps, dedicated individuals apply their skills and ideals to helping their fellow Nebraskans by meeting the most pressing locally identified needs. AmeriCorps members expand the reach and capacity of strong community-based non-profit and public organizations. In turn, many of the organizations sponsoring AmeriCorps programs further extend the reach through a network of partners – host sites in which AmeriCorps members are based. These host sites allow AmeriCorps members to benefit geographically and demographically diverse clientele.

In return for their service, members receive professional development, the satisfaction of helping others, a modest stipend, and an education award that can be used to pay for higher education or to pay back qualified student loans. AmeriCorps members in Nebraska span all age, ethnic, racial and socioeconomic categories. Diversity of participants in the program is a hallmark. AmeriCorps members in Nebraska leave a legacy of service by meeting the needs of youth, refugees, individuals with disabilities, those on probation and low-income families in rural and urban Nebraska counties and cities.

Rural and Urban Outreach

Traditionally, the AmeriCorps presence has been strongest in the areas with the greatest population centers – metropolitan Omaha and Lincoln. ServeNebraska has put an emphasis into broadening this and is pleased at the growing number of sponsoring organizations and host sites in rural and frontier Nebraska.

increase community responsiveness. As part of this effort, the Nebraska InterCorps Council organizes efforts statewide in celebration of established national days of service including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service, Global Youth Service Day, and Join Hands Day. The InterCorps Council is a coalition of representatives of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps*VISTA programs from throughout the state that is convened by ServeNebraska.



AmeriCorps Program Grant Awards

ServeNebraska provides leadership in assuring accountability for AmeriCorps. As Nebraska’s state commission for national service, ServeNebraska solicits applications for AmeriCorps grants, facilitates funding, and works with funded programs to maximize effectiveness and efficiency in addressing the community needs of our state. ServeNebraska accesses AmeriCorps support for Nebraska from two funding streams through the federal Corporation for National & Community Service. The Commission receives funds for programs in Nebraska through a population-based formula, called Formula grants. ServeNebraska can also recommend strong larger established programs to compete nationally, called Competitive grants. In addition, AmeriCorps programming was funded through both Formula and Competitive appropriations as part of the 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA).



AmeriCorps Week

ServeNebraska annually sparks public recognition and celebration of service through AmeriCorps Week activities. Activities have included a fun community picnic, a thought-provoking series of trainings, and a service project focused on urban forestry. The 2009 AmeriCorps Week was highlighted by a day of professional development and Celebration of National Service for AmeriCorps, VISTA and returned Peace Corps members. The featured speaker at the May 13, 2009, luncheon was Chris Beutler, Mayor of Lincoln and Peace Corps alumnus.

InterCorps Council

In addition to tackling urgent needs, AmeriCorps members also grow the already strong volunteer spirit of our state. By enhancing volunteerism, AmeriCorps members increase the sustainability of their efforts and

Impact of AmeriCorps Service	2007	2008	2009
AmeriCorps members	136	137	144
Hours of AmeriCorps members service	150,467	130,572	data unavailable
Dollar value of AmeriCorps members time	\$2,499,257	\$2,168,801	data unavailable
Beneficiaries of AC member services	12,161	17,162	10,572
Volunteers recruited by AC members	4,491	2,966	5,226
Nebraska counties served (3 urban)	21	25	37



During 2007, 2008 and 2009 Nebraska AmeriCorps members:

- Assure that children and youth have safe and enriching activities during out-of-school time
- Increase opportunities for those with disabilities
- Integrate immigrants and refugees into the economic and social fabric of our state
- Enhance literacy and economic prospects for adults
- Reduce recidivism by enhancing employment and educational opportunities for those on probation in rural Nebraska
- Promote healthy living and learning environments for low-income children and families
- Expand the network of volunteers

AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

2007

Formula Programs

- Star City Treasures, City of Lincoln
- Munroe–Meyer Institute, UNMC/Omaha
- Habitat for Humanity, Omaha

Competitive Programs

- CommUNITY, Lincoln Action Program
- Lutheran Family Services, Omaha

2008

Formula Programs

- Star City Treasures, City of Lincoln
- Munroe–Meyer Institute, UNMC/Omaha
- RISE, State Probation/Lincoln

Competitive Programs

- CommUNITY, Lincoln Action Program
- Lutheran Family Services, Omaha

2009

Formula Programs

- Kids at the Core, City of Lincoln
- Hastings Literacy Program, Hastings
- Munroe–Meyer Institute, UNMC/Omaha
- RISE, State Probation/Lincoln
- Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance
- Rural Corps of South Central NE, United Way/Kearney

Formula Programs - ARRA

- Hastings Literacy Program, Hastings
- Munroe–Meyer Institute, UNMC/Omaha
- RISE, State Probation/Lincoln
- Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance
- Rural Corps of South Central NE, Community Foundation/Kearney

Competitive Programs

- Reach for the Stars, City of Lincoln
- Lutheran Family Services, Omaha

Competitive Program - ARRA

- Go Green, City of Lincoln



Greg Donovan, AmeriCorps Program Officer



“Citizen Corps volunteers are ready at a moment’s notice to help in recovery efforts following natural disasters and other emergencies. They make Nebraska communities safer, less vulnerable and better prepared.”

Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy

NEBRASKA
citizen

Uniting Communities, Preparing the State

Formed after the attacks of September 11, 2001, Citizen Corps programs are active in all 50 states. In Nebraska, the Citizen Corps program is managed by ServeNebraska in partnership with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

In 95% of all emergencies, bystanders or victims are the first to provide emergency assistance or to perform a rescue. Thus Citizen Corps asks individuals to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared, to take care of themselves, their families and their neighborhoods during times of crisis allowing first responders to focus their efforts on the most critical, life-threatening situations.

Citizen Corps Regions

Local Citizen Corps Councils in Nebraska are linked to a regional network of local and tribal Councils. To comply with the Department of Homeland Security’s directive to regionalize, ServeNebraska worked with local Council members to assign eight Citizen Corps regions. The Councils in the region collaborate on plans to use grant funds to implement programs to benefit each of the local Councils in the region. In 2008, Citizen Corps funds were subcontracted to regions that applied for a grant and had a lead regional representative.

Community Preparedness Campaigns

Volunteers join together on local Councils to develop preparedness activities and organized responses to emergencies and disasters. The Nebraska Citizen Corps Program seeks to have every local Council develop an organized local Community Preparedness Campaign that includes: (1) a plan for spontaneous volunteers, (2) a plan for special populations, (3) a plan for pet/animal preparedness and (4) partner with faith-based organizations for member preparedness and to increase the shelters available for special populations.

National Preparedness Month Promotion

Citizen Corps Councils use funds to promote National Preparedness Month activities and events in September each year. At the state level, a Governor’s proclamation is issued; the Lt. Governor does media interviews to promote preparedness in September; and the Commission partners with the UNL Athletic Department to distribute preparedness information to persons attending a football or volleyball game during the month. Local Councils develop a variety of unique activities that have been very successful such as the Southeast Region’s Business Interruption Workshop.

Highlights

Among the initiatives that keep Nebraska communities ready to handle disasters and emergencies are:

- In 2007, the Commission hosted a Disability Preparedness Summit, a partnership between the Commission’s Disability and Citizen Corps programs to increase the capacity of local Citizen Corps Councils to develop preparedness plans for special populations.
- In 2008, the state brought CERT trainers together to develop the initial draft of State Standards for CERT Training.
- In 2009, the state Citizen Corps Program developed a teaching methods curriculum with the help of two university educators as a parallel to the FEMA CERT Train the Trainer class. Nineteen persons attended the first course.
- In 2009, the Douglas County Citizen Corps Council sponsored a TEEN CERT Instructor Training attended by 16 persons interested in starting this program in high schools. Instructors from FEMA-approved national TEEN CERT program at Eastern Michigan University taught the class.
- Local Citizen Corps Programs (CCP) were involved with projects as diverse as producing display booths and distributing literature at local festivals, to hosting seminars and providing first aid stations at various community events.

First Lady Sally Ganem distributes ICE flier prior to UNL volleyball game.





ServeNebraska Citizen Corps creates opportunities for individuals to help make Nebraska communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to emergencies and disasters. When disaster or an emergency strikes a community, neighbors helping neighbors count the most. While every Nebraska community can rely on friends and neighbors in tough situations, an organized approach for planning and preparedness makes the difference between chaos and orderly recovery.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- More than **40%** of Nebraskans are impacted by the efforts of the volunteer-led Citizen Corps.
- In 2009, **31** Citizen Corps Councils were registered on the national Citizen Corps website to lead community preparedness initiatives in the 8 Citizen Corps Regions that receive almost **\$100,000** in subgrant funds from ServeNebraska annually.
- In 2008, the Commission provided outreach to **26** county Citizen Corps Councils and managed more than **\$160,000** in federal funding granted. Local communities contributed nearly **\$30,000** of local cash and in-kind resources to benefit local communities.

CITIZEN CORPS Subgrantees

2007	2008	2009
County	Region	Region
Cass	Central	Central
Cherry-Keya Paha	East-Douglas Co.	East-Douglas Co.
Dawson	East-Sarpy Co.	East-Sarpy Co.
Frontier	North Central	North Central
Gage	Panhandle	Panhandle
Gosper	South Central	South Central
Hall	Southeast-Cass Co.	Southeast
Kearney		
Keith		
Lancaster		
Lincoln		
Madison		
Phelps		
Platte		
Red Willow		
Scottsbluff		

Councils and Partner Programs in Nebraska (2009)

- 31 Citizen Corps Councils
- 11 Community Emergency Response Teams
- 5 Volunteers in Police Service Units
- 3 Fire Corps Units
- 6 Medical Reserve Corps Units
- 2,321 Neighborhood Watch Programs
- 1,711 Business Watch Groups

2009 Statewide Projects

- Partnered with UNL to have questions on the annual Social Indicators Survey measure citizens' knowledge of Citizen Corps, community preparedness, individual preparedness and disability preparedness.
- Partnered with Nebraska.Gov to develop an Online Volunteer Registry (grant funding from Nebraska State Records Board to provide a centralized database of trainers and CERT teams. The registry has the capacity to expand and add a statewide database for NE Fire Corps Teams, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and HAM radio operators.



Curtis Rainge, Community Services Director and CitizenCorps Point of Contact, Sarpy County, Papillion, NE, with Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy. "We must rely on our own citizen volunteers to help in an emergency, but first they must know what to do and how to do it. Training is key and ServeNebraska is a valued partner in that training effort", Rainge says.



“Let the shameful walls of exclusion finally come tumbling down.”

President George H.W. Bush, upon signing the Americans with Disabilities Act, July 26, 1990



When President George H.W. Bush signed into law the world's first comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities, the event represented an historical benchmark and a milestone in America's commitment to full and equal opportunity for all of its citizens.

ServeNebraska is committed to using all the talents of interested, dedicated individuals in AmeriCorps and other community and national service programs. The commission's outreach and educational efforts over the past three years have resulted in more than double the number and percentage of individuals with disabilities in service in Nebraska's AmeriCorps programs. In many cases, individuals with disabilities have used the skills, experiences and training gained through their AmeriCorps service as stepping stones to competitive employment.

ServeNebraska's inclusion success in AmeriCorps programs is demonstrated by steady increases in members disclosing disabilities:

- 5.0% (7 of 138) in 2006
- 8.0% (11 of 136) in 2007
- 8.8% (12 of 137) in 2008
- 10.4% (15 of 144) in 2009
- All of the 2008 and 2009 AmeriCorps programs included at least one member with a disability.

Training and Accommodation

ServeNebraska works to educate specific populations and the general public about the value and benefits of including individuals with disabilities in programs and activities. Besides training and technical assistance by ServeNebraska professionals, the Commission also engages individuals with disabilities to prepare for disasters and emergencies.

ServeNebraska's proactive approach and proven ability to provide reasonable accommodations has been a major factor in building a state-wide AmeriCorps team that consistently includes a roster of members who have disclosed disabilities. ServeNebraska offers AmeriCorps members accommodation choices ranging from sign-language interpreters, CART and Braille services.

ServeNebraska is a proven leader in engaging individuals with disabilities in service opportunities and utilizes a wide network of disability organizations, national resources and best practices to ensure Nebraska's national service programs are striving to create a culture of inclusion in their programs. One of Nebraska's experi-

enced AmeriCorps subgrantees, the Munroe-Meyer Institute, is also the state's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. This partnership has yielded training opportunities, additional resources related to reasonable accommodations and a strong example of how recruiting and enrolling members with disabilities can work for other AmeriCorps programs.

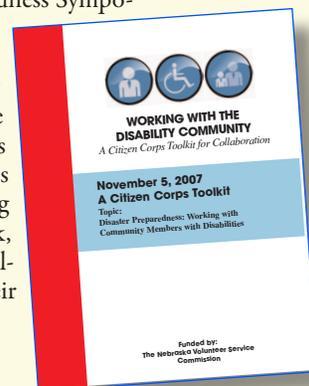
Program Highlights:

- Developed a new logo and Disability Preparedness Poster for the Commission's Disability Program through a competition extended to college art departments in spring 2007.
- Disability Program Officer presented/facilitated disability preparedness sessions at:
 - National Disaster Service Workshop (Dallas, TX, 2007)
 - National Conference on Volunteerism and Community Service (Atlanta, GA, 2008)
 - Mississippi State Commission's Disability Preparedness Summit (Jackson, MS, 2008)

Special Projects Reach Target Populations

In summer 2008, the Commission began a collaboration with the NE Health Department-Office of Emergency Response to sponsor and co-fund two special populations preparedness pilot projects. The Panhandle Public Health District in Hemingford, and the East Central District Health Department in Columbus were selected as the pilot sites to engage and provide resources for special populations including individuals with disabilities, the elderly and non-English speaking members of the community.

Each project organized a local coalition led by partners from local health districts and Citizen Corps Councils and included members of the target populations. The East Central Pilot Project culminated its work with a Special Populations Preparedness Symposium in May 2009 for persons with disabilities and the Hispanic-Latino community. The Panhandle Pilot Project completed four podcasts to provide online training to those with disabilities and the elderly. The Pilot grant projects ended after more than a year of assessing their communities, collecting feedback, and developing electronic resource Toolkits to help other coalitions replicate their successes.



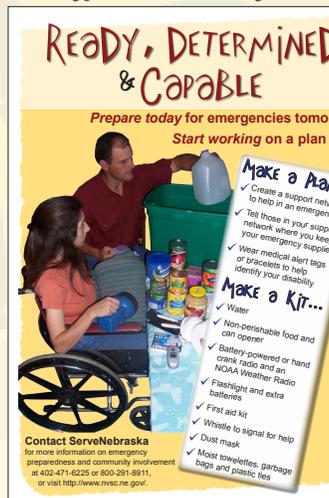
Inclusion Team Formed

With the assistance of the National Service Inclusion Project, an Inclusion Team was formed and used as a resource to reach out to individuals with disabilities in an effort to increase recruitment and inclusion efforts for AmeriCorps. The Statewide Disability Inclusion Team, consisting of representatives from more than 15 disability-related organizations, focused its efforts on inclusive service within the AmeriCorps programs. When ServeNebraska was named a Lead Agency for Disability Preparedness in Nebraska by the NE Emergency Management Agency, the Team began to increase its focus on disability preparedness and decided to rename itself the NE Disability Preparedness Team in May 2007. Those who served on the team continue to offer guidance on programming that is needed for those with disabilities.

Summit on Disability Preparedness 2007

After being named the Lead-Agency for Disability Preparedness by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency in 2006, ServeNebraska enthusiastically stepped into a leadership position to address the disaster preparedness needs of those with disabilities. In November 2007, ServeNebraska convened the first ever innovative Disability Preparedness Summit at the Paralyzed Veterans Center of America in Omaha. The Summit united two ServeNebraska programs, Disability and Citizen Corps, to assist those with disabilities to plan and prepare for emergency situations. The keynote speaker, Chad Colley, a triple amputee and decorated Vietnam veteran from south Florida, represented the National Council on Disability in sharing his vision for preparedness and inclusion.

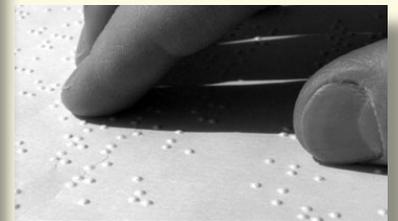
Winning poster from 2007 design contest.



Peter Cales, Training & Disability Program Officer



A new ramp provided **Chuck Fowler** easier access to his home.



“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”

DeAnn Hollis

First Lady's Community Service Awards, 2008 & 2009

This award reflects First Lady Sally Ganem's lifelong passion for education. These awards are presented annually and honor exemplary students, adults and group projects.

Lifetime Achievement in Volunteer Service

2009 – Lawrence “Dick” Frederick, Falls City

2008 – Pam Fuhr Dineen, Lincoln

School Volunteer Program

2008 – Students in Free Enterprize, Chadron State College, Chadron

Student Leader

2009 – Kendre' Barnes, Omaha

Business Support in Education

2009 – HyVee, Store #9, 180th & Q, Omaha

Community Partnership in Education

2009 – College of St. Mary & Mercy Housing, Omaha

2008 – Pinewood Elementary School & Monica White, Clarkson College, Omaha

Community Service in Ecology & Environmental Stewardship

2009 – College of St. Mary Green Team, Omaha

Service Learning Program

2009 – Camp Fire USA – Midlands Council, Omaha

2008 – Food 4 Thought Backpack Program, Hastings

Service Learning Adult Leader

2009 – Stephen W. Jones, University of Nebraska at Kearney

2008 – Joleen Zabawaq, Omaha

Service Learning Student Leader

2009 – Dillon Duermeyer, Omaha

First Lady's Community Service Awards, 2007

Adult

Kate Sommer, Omaha

Adult Group

The Omaha Quilters Guild, Omaha

Business

Union Pacific Railroad, Statewide

Family

The Lauers, Lincoln

National Service Member

Ana Castenada, Lexington

National Service Program

LFS AmeriCorps Team, Statewide

Retiree

Ann Carroll, Omaha

Youth

Dillon Scott, Falls City

Youth Group

Norfolk Panther JOOI Club, Norfolk

Volunteer in The Arts

Barb Gilham, Doniphan



Impact Awards, 2008 & 2009

Individuals and groups who go above-and-beyond to address the needs of their communities and bettering the quality of life for fellow Nebraskans are honored each year with this award.

Volunteer of the Year

2009 – Eunice Cade, Lincoln

2008 – Donald Harvey, Lincoln

Volunteer Group

2009 – Nebraska American Red Cross, Disaster Volunteers, Omaha

2008 – Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, Lincoln

National Service Member

2009 – Stacy Bliss-Fudge & the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute, MMI-AmeriCorps Team, Omaha

2008 – Kimberly Smith & Lutheran Family Services LFS-AmeriCorps, Omaha

Debra Hartmann Award for Professional Commitment to Service

2008 – Cynthia Archwamety, The Arc of Buffalo County, Kearney

Lt. Governor's "Be Prepared" 2008 & 2009

Each year ServeNebraska takes pride in recognizing Nebraska's spirit of volunteerism through the support and promotion of the following awards:

"Be Prepared" Awards honor Nebraskans' volunteer contributions to their communities through public safety service. These volunteers focus on preparedness, response recovery, leadership and assistance during a disaster, emergency or crisis. The awards are presented each September during National Preparedness Month activities.

Citizen Corps Council of the Year

- 2009 – Sarpy County Citizen Corps Council, Papillion
- 2008 – Panhandle Citizen Corps Network, Hemingford

Citizen Corps Council Member of the Year

- 2009 – Bob Hessler, Council Bluffs, Iowa
- 2008 – Kathy Mersch, Bellevue

Citizen Corps Council Partner Program of the Year

- 2009 – The Cornhusker Region American Red Cross Disaster Team, Lincoln
- 2008 – Eastern Nebraska Community Response Team (CERT)

Local Hero Award

- 2009 – Scott Zager, Lincoln
- 2008 – Pahuk Pride Class of 2008
Mid-America Boy Scouts of America Council, Omaha

Excellence in Disaster Preparedness

- 2009 – Loren Uden, Hastings
- 2008 – Tim Hofbauer, Columbus

Excellence in Risk Communications

- 2009 – Robin Zagurski, Omaha
- 2008 – Otoe County Red Cross Disaster Volunteers

Excellence in Preparedness Education & Outreach

- 2009 – Betty Plankinton, Columbus

Excellence in Emergency Volunteer Mobilization

- 2008 – Otoe County Red Cross Disaster Volunteers

Excellence in Volunteer Public Safety

- 2008 – Ken Kruse



Janet Schmidt,
Fiscal/Operations Officer & Awards
Program Coordinator
Nancy Hock,
Administrative Assistant

Governor's Points of Light Awards, 2007-2009

Each quarter, these awards are presented to recognize youths, adults and groups who give time, talent and energy to help build stronger communities. The Awards are sponsored in part by Woodmen of the World.

Adult

- 2009** Nov. – Jerry Johnson, Mayor, Wahoo
Aug. – Kathleen "Katie" Packard, Lincoln
May – Megan Matthews, Omaha
Feb. – Myrna Red Owl, Omaha
- 2008** Nov. – Mike Bush, Omaha
Aug. – Sheryl Oakman, Bellevue
May – Barbara Priessler, Giltner
Feb. – Marie & Eldon Wietzke, Valentine
- 2007** Nov. – Lucille Schwarck & Barbara Burton, Lincoln
Aug. – Rick Voss, South Sioux City
May – Mildred Moseman, South Sioux City
Feb. – Kate Sommer, Omaha

Youth

- 2009** Nov. – Auburn High School, Auburn
Aug. – Monika Lukasiewicz, Omaha
May – Nebraska Foster Youth Council, Lincoln
Feb. – Norfolk Panther JOOI Club, Norfolk
- 2008** Nov. – Nathaniel & Victoria Young, Omaha
- 2007** Nov. – College View Academy, Lincoln
Aug. – Kyle Lacy, Omaha
May – Students in Free Enterprize, Kearny
Feb. – BRAVO- Bullying Recognition & Anti-Violence, O'Neill

Group

- 2009** Nov. – UNO Service Learning Academy, Omaha
Aug. – United Methodist Ministries, Omaha
May – Woodmen of the World Lodge 706, Millard
Feb. – Global Service Learning Organization, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln
- 2008** Nov. – Orphan Grain Train, Norfolk
Aug. – Heartland Equine Therapy Riding Academy (HETRA), Valley
May – Care-A-Van, Inc., Valley
Feb. – Staff & Clients of Region V Services, David City
- 2007** Nov. – Pine Ridge Job Corps, Chadron
Aug. – Nebraska Freemasons' Child Identification Program (CHIP), Lincoln
May – Star City Optimist Youth Foundation, Lincoln
Feb. – Omaha Quilters Guild, Omaha

*“You make a living by what you get, but
make a life by what you give.”*

Winston Churchill



Cynthia Buettner (Commission Chair-2007)

“It is an honor to serve others – this is a way for me to be part of something great to serve others and change lives. I am proud to be a Commissioner and to support the essential volunteer and national service programs in our state.”



Susan Schnase (Commissioner-2009)

“I believe it is incumbent upon us to help our fellow Nebraskans. I hope that, through my efforts, this state is a better place and I hope to inspire others to serve as well.”



Ed Burchfield (Commission Vice Chair-2008)

“I believe strongly in being involved in my community, state, and country and feel that through the Commission I can support and promote the efforts of others.”

“Our current VISTA member, is working with three agencies including ours to introduce best practices in disaster preparedness among other issues. ServeNebraska has the connections to help with grant funding, training and even as a sounding board for issues we face here in Columbus.”

Denise Kollath, Connect Columbus Volunteer Center, Columbus

“Volunteer experiences are a powerful way to have young people see their value to the community. They begin to sense a purpose for their own lives, build relationships and gain confidence.”

Geraldine Stirtz, Rural Corps AmeriCorps Program, Kearney

“AmeriCorps is a great program. You can try out working in an area without experience to see if you like it. You get paid something and have educational benefits for the future.”

Ingrid Kirst, Community Crops, AmeriCorps host site, Lincoln

“The experience has been a blessing. I am reminded how powerful it is to serve, how things we least expect happen when we give of ourselves, and if we pay attention, we are changed for the good.”

Stacey Wilcox, Reach for the Stars, AmeriCorps Program, City of Lincoln

“We can save a tremendous amount of health care dollars just by teaching seniors fall prevention. Beyond what my position can do for others, I appreciate the training and support. It means I can be productive, help others and maintain a lifestyle that works for me.”

Pat Talbott, AmeriCorps/VISTA member, Aging Partners, Lincoln

“What I wanted most was to make a difference, to make my life count for something after most everything I loved to do was taken away.”

Dave Burgess, AmeriCorps Alum, Co-Founder/National Events Director, Sportsmen Assisting Nebraska's Disabled Sportsmen (SANDS), Omaha

“AmeriCorps members are tremendous with clients and they've helped us expand programs such as improving family literacy by helping with childcare so parents can attend classes.”

Jesse Alber, Hastings Literacy Program, AmeriCorps, Hastings



“Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others.”

Danny Thomas



The lunch crowd was entertained by Nebraska humorist and motivational speaker, **T. Marni Vos**.



Clayton C. Anderson, NASA astronaut and Ashland, Nebraska, native spent five months aboard the International Space Station in 2007.



As a U.S. Representative, **Tom Osborne** was a founder of the National Service Caucus in the House of Representatives.

Governor's Conference on Community Service

ServeNebraska's successful 2007 and 2008 conferences offered a broad range of best-practice keynote presentations and workshop sessions by distinguished local, regional and national leaders and noted professionals. This prestigious event unites Nebraskans by providing insightful, practical professional development guidance in a variety of workshop sessions such as leadership, fundraising, volunteer management, board development, marketing, inclusion/diversity, preparing volunteers for disasters and rural services. Commissioners changed the conference to every two years with the next one scheduled for April 8-9, 2010, at the Doubletree Hotel in Omaha.

2007 Conference Highlights:

Quick Facts:

- 223 registrants from three states
- 44% of registrants were from Lincoln; 24% from Omaha
- 48 speakers presented keynote and workshop sessions

The Commission envisioned and successfully executed a conference larger in scope than had been previously attempted. Central to this was a return to a two-day format. Presenters of national and regional prominence were secured that provided sessions loosely connected to the conference theme, "Giving Back to Your Community: Personal Responsibility and Preparedness".

Keynote Presenters:

- Robert Goodwin, President & CEO of the Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network, Washington, D.C.
- Sam Harrison, National Speaker and Author, Atlanta, GA.

Featured Presenters:

- First Lady Sally Ganem, First Lady's Community Service Awards
- Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy, Director, NE Homeland Security
- Carol Weisman, President of BoardBuilders, St Louis, MO.
- Lindsey Wischmeier, Director of Volleyball Operations, UNL, Lincoln, NE.
- Tim Harrington, Executive Director, The Ability Center, Toledo, OH.
- Royce Fitts, D.Min., Western Sky Counseling, Gering, NE.
- Mark Sloan, Harris County Citizen Corps, Houston, TX.

2008 Conference Highlights:

Quick Facts:

- 265 attendees from five states
- 35% from Lincoln; 33% from Omaha
- 36 speakers presented keynote and workshop sessions

Based on previous years' feedback regarding start and end times, the 2008 Conference was shortened to one-and-a-half days. Having the conference fall on a day connected to a weekend day allowed people from out-state areas to travel on a non-work day. Speakers and sessions that addressed the theme of "Emerging Ideas – Innovation for Nebraska" were solicited with a Call for Presenters process that secured more than two dozen proposals.

Keynote Presenters:

- Clayton Anderson, NASA Astronaut, International Space Station, Houston, TX.
- Dr. Tom Osborne, UNL Athletic Director and Former Nebraska Congressman, Lincoln, NE.
- Henry C. Lozano, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of USA Freedom Corps, White House, Washington, D.C.

Featured Presenters:

- First Lady Sally Ganem, First Lady's Community Service Awards
- T. Marni Vos, Motivational Speaker and Humorist, Lincoln, NE.
- Phil Kirk, FEMA Region VII Community Assistance Coordinator, Kansas City, MO.

Training & Governor's Conference



Training opportunities expand

ServeNebraska has focused its efforts on offering training and professional development opportunities that are relevant to Nebraska's national service programs, non-profit organizations and community leaders. A new fee-for-service initiative was introduced to allow non-national service participants to attend any of the Commission's training classes. Through local, regional and national associations, ServeNebraska is committed to offering high-quality, affordable, cutting-edge professional development opportunities that meet the needs of all Nebraskans involved in community service. The Commission became a member of the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (Omaha) and the Human Service Federation (Lincoln) to build new training partnerships with non-profit organizations. Listings of training opportunities are kept current on the Commission's website, www.serve.nebraska.gov.

Most training sessions are open to the public for a minimal fee.

Training Events 2007 - 2009

2007

- Governor's Conference
- AmeriCorps Kick-off
- AmeriCorps Staff Launch, 07-08
- Disability Preparedness Summit
- Time Management II
- Conflict Resolution
- Group Facilities Skills
- Project Planning

2008

- Mentor Training
- Love & Logic
- Conflict Resolution (2)
- Aspiring to Greatness for the New Professional
- Governor's Conference on Community Service
- Professional Resume & Interview Skills
- AmeriCorps Week Celebration
- InterCorps Council Recognition
- AmeriCorps Staff Launch
- Midwest Consortium for Service Learning in Higher Education's State Conference
- VISTA Conflict Resolution
- AmeriCorps Staff Launch, 08-09
- AmeriCorps Kick-Off 08-09
- Volunteer Development-4 part series
- Collaboration & Community Partnerships

2009

- Discipline with Love & Logic
- Community ConversationSeries: Assessing Political Leaders
- InterCorps Council Meeting
- Resume & Interview Skills
- Disability Awareness
- Marketing 101
- First Lady's Awards
- East Central Region Special Populations Symposium
- Deepening Critical Reflection & Civic Learning
- National Service Celebration for AmeriCorps Week
- Community Conversations Series: Understanding Immigrant & New American Issues
- Nebraska CERT Train the Trainer
- Public Policy & Civic Participation
- Midwest Consortium for Service-Learning in Higher Education's State Conference
- Religious Diversity & Public Service
- What Leadership Means Today
- Education Planning & Opportunities
- Basic Disaster Life Support (2)
- Strategic Planning
- AmeriCorps Staff Launch, 09-10
- Conflict Resolution Training
- Diversity & Inclusion



Patrick McNamara, Director of Philanthropic Services, Omaha Community Foundation, Omaha, NE

A speaker at the Governor's Conference on Community Service, Patrick McNamara knows first hand about the biennial ServeNebraska event that celebrates Nebraska volunteers and provides cutting-edge education opportunities for participants. "I believe deeply that volunteerism is at the heart of a democracy. It's really the bedrock of American society," McNamara says. "What ServeNebraska does for our state, the every day support that they give to volunteers and the meaningful training that they produce gives those who participate inspiration for their work as well as a sincere thank you for their service. It's just terrific."

2007 REVENUES

Federal Funds	
AmeriCorps-Formula	\$528,632
AmeriCorps-Competitive	\$834,511
Citizen Corps	\$211,443
Disability/Inclusion	\$59,559
Disability Disaster Training	\$19,996
Program Development and Training	\$84,000
Commission Administration	\$169,988
Federal Funds Subtotal	\$1,908,129
Other	
State General (SFY)	\$20,000
Youth Service Day	\$2,000
Host State Agency In-Kind Support	\$82,800
Other Subtotal	\$104,800
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,012,929

2007 EXPENDITURES

Program/Grants	\$1,289,908
Program Training	\$31,411
Operations and Administration	\$318,801
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,640,120



2008 REVENUES

Federal Funds	
AmeriCorps-Formula	\$557,836
AmeriCorps-Competitive	\$552,342
Citizen Corps	\$160,424
Disability/Inclusion/Special Populations	\$65,379
VISTA Training	\$11,000
Program Development and Training	\$84,000
Commission Administration	\$168,309
Federal Funds Subtotal	\$1,599,290
Other	
State General (SFY)	\$20,000
Youth Service Day	\$2,275
Host State Agency In-Kind Support	\$107,793
Other Subtotal	\$130,068
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,729,358

2008 EXPENDITURES

Program/Grants	\$998,828
Program Training	\$32,510
Operations and Administration	\$382,179
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,413,517



2009 REVENUES

Federal Funds	
AmeriCorps-Formula	\$519,083
AmeriCorps-Competitive	\$629,382
Citizen Corps	\$160,184
Disability/Inclusion/Special Populations	\$90,651
VISTA Training	\$12,000
Program Development and Training	\$89,393
Commission Administration	\$155,057
Federal Funds Subtotal	\$1,655,750
Other	
State General (SFY)	\$20,000
Youth Service Day	\$2,116
Host State Agency In-Kind Support	\$118,759
Other Subtotal	\$140,875
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,796,625

2009 EXPENDITURES

Program/Grants	\$1,131,599
Program Training	\$39,422
Operations and Administration	\$379,104
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,550,125



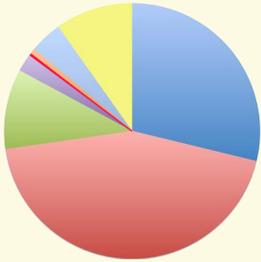
Nebraska Volunteer Foundation

The Nebraska Volunteer Foundation (NVF) was incorporated and chartered as a 501c3 non-profit corporation in 1996 to promote, support and advance community service and volunteer efforts among Nebraskans; to solicit and receive all forms of gifts, donations and property; and to use its resources to support the projects and programs of ServeNebraska.

The Foundation transferred its funds to the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) in 2006 where they are held in NCF affiliated fund accounts. An Advisory Committee oversees the NVF funds held in NCF. Two non-commissioners, two commissioners and the Commission Executive Director serve on the Committee.

Financial Data

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES



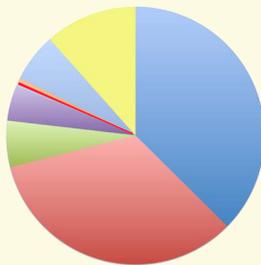
- AmeriCorps-Formula
- AmeriCorps-Competitive
- Citizen Corps/Special Projects
- Disability/Inclusion Program
- Youth Service Day
- Commission Administration
- Program Development & Training Disability
- Disaster Training

REVENUE



- Federal (94.79%)
- Other (5.21%)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES



- AmeriCorps-Formula
- AmeriCorps-Competitive
- Citizen Corps/Special Projects
- Disability/Inclusion Program
- Youth Service Day
- Commission Administration
- Program Development & Training Disability
- Disaster Training

REVENUE



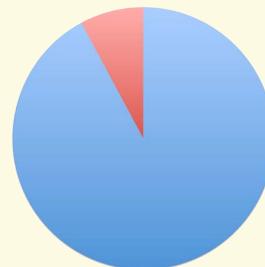
- Federal (92.48%)
- Other (7.52%)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES



- AmeriCorps-Formula
- AmeriCorps-Competitive
- Citizen Corps/Special Projects
- Disability/Inclusion Program
- Youth Service Day
- Commission Administration
- Program Development & Training Disability
- Disaster Training

REVENUE



- Federal (92.16%)
- Other (7.84%)

New Marketing Tools Unveiled–2008. Image Updated

Old Logo



Hall of Fame football coach, former Congressman and current University of Nebraska Athletic Director, **Tom Osborne** unveils new logo.

New Logo



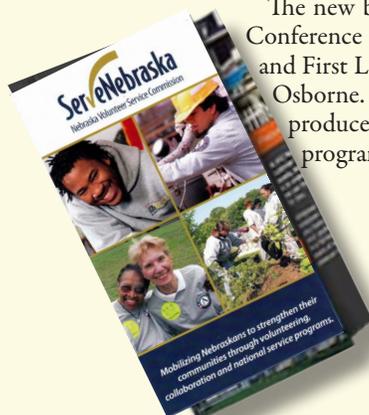
Nebraska's First Lady, **Sally Ganem** and **Curt Krueger**, ServeNebraska Chair.

The Commission determined that the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission name was too long for ease in sharing a short message about the Commission's name and mission with the public and stakeholders. Other state Commissions were using an easier-to-understand name so it made sense for Nebraska to follow the same course and change its brand to ServeNebraska.

There was hesitancy, however, to lose the description that identified the organization as a state commission. The Commissioners decided that adding the old name, Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission as a tagline and part of the logo, provided the continuity needed to merge the old name with the new brand.

With assistance from Commissioner Ed Burchfield and an in-kind donation from a public relations firm in Omaha, ServeNebraska's new image was born. Work on the new image produced the unique logo with the stylized V.

The new brand was unveiled at the 2008 Governor's Conference by then Commission Chair, Curt Krueger and First Lady Sally Ganem and keynote speaker, Tom Osborne. In 2009, a comprehensive brochure was produced which described all the Commission's programs.



Website Redesigned and eNewsletter Introduced

To complement the new brand, a redesigned and enhanced website was launched giving the Commission a more inviting online presence. Added home page scroll, program depth, tools for grantees and an online resource library rounded out new website content.

A new eNewsletter was developed in December 2008 to share timely announcements and information about ServeNebraska. E-mail is the primary method used to communicate Commission events, activities, training sessions and programs.

Communication includes Social Media

ServeNebraska has taken advantage of the ever-growing popularity of social media. Twitter, Facebook and other social media links are featured on the home page of the website in an effort to connect with those who prefer social media as their preferred means of communication.



Nebraska Leaders Involved

A great partnership has been forged with Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy through his role as Nebraska's Director of Homeland Security and the Commission's Citizen Corps Program.

First Lady Sally Ganem plays an active role in Commission work in her role as Honorary Chair and patron of the First Lady's Community Service Awards.

During the 2009 Legislative Session, the Commission held a Legislative Breakfast in partnership with three other State Commissions to educate State Senators about the good work of each Commission. The Nebraska Mexican American Commission, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs joined ServeNebraska in the very successful event.



Director of Homeland Security, **Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy**.

Commission Outreach and Partnerships

Keeping the Governor informed of Commission efforts and in turn, aligning Commission priorities with his vision for strong education, economic vitality, efficiency in government and protecting families, has resulted in the forging of a strong relationship between the Governor, his staff and the Commission's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meets with the Governor annually to report on accomplishments and future plans and share issues that he may be able to provide advice for the Commission.

Nebraska Thrives

AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993, VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years. Over that time, VISTA volunteers have created some of best-known anti-poverty programs including Head Start, Upward Bound and the credit union system.

‘NEBRASKA THRIVES’ VISTA PROJECT

ServeNebraska’s AmeriCorps*VISTA program is titled “Nebraska Thrives.” The Commission serves as an intermediary to secure grant positions from the State Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The grants allow the Commission to place AmeriCorps VISTA members throughout the State.

ServeNebraska can place a position with the Commission or with qualified nonprofit or governmental partners. The program has seen steady growth – from one member position to four since 2007.

The Nebraska Thrives VISTA Program strives to create lasting solutions that help Nebraskans meet some of the state’s most pressing needs. VISTA members conduct research and use best practices for critical programming.

2006-2007

The first VISTA position served in the Commission office and was charged with resource development in the new Citizen Corps grassroots community preparedness initiative. Specific emphasis was placed on connecting impoverished, underserved and at-risk populations to emergency and disaster preparedness resources and service opportunities. Additionally, the project increased the number of Nebraskans with disabilities involved in disaster preparedness, response and other community service activities. This initiative resulted in the Commission’s Disability Preparedness Summit in 2007.

2007-2008

A new VISTA member filled the position at the end of the previous project and created a best practices online resource library to assist low-income and other disadvantaged populations. The library was launched on the Commission’s website in April 2008. The VISTA served as the facilitator of a re-energized InterCorps Council and helped the Commission prepare for and pass its federal Administrative Standards Review in late summer 2008.

An additional VISTA position came on board in 2008 to work with the City of Lincoln to address the negative impacts of graffiti. Once the VISTA member’s term of service was completed, the work was continued by a coalition of residents.

2008-2009

Lincoln’s Aging Partners’ goal – to reduce health care costs and improve older adults’ quality of life—was enhanced when the Commission placed a VISTA position with the agency. This position created and managed a new education program for the area’s older populations to increase awareness about aging, mental health, fitness issues and to better manage their own health.

A second Commission VISTA position was placed in a new project for the Latino/Hispanic community in Columbus, NE. There, an effort is under way to generate resources that address poverty, illiteracy, disaster preparedness, domestic violence, emergency food and shelter needs, court advocacy, mentoring, children’s health, special needs populations, drug and alcohol issues, transportation, and teen pregnancy.

The Columbus Cares VISTA member assisted the community to plan and implement a Disability Preparedness Symposium held in May 2009. A summer lunch program for children from families with low incomes in the Columbus area was developed in this VISTA project.

A third new VISTA position was placed with the Nebraska Mexican American Commission to develop and implement a pilot outreach program for selected public schools throughout the State. This outreach program encourages collaboration between Hispanic parents, school administrators and faculty to reduce the dropout rate of high school Hispanic students.

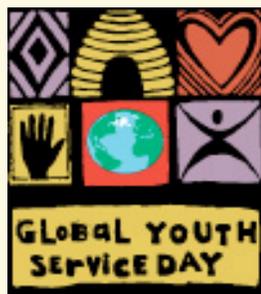
A fourth VISTA position was developed in partnership with the Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska in Gering. This position, currently recruiting a VISTA, will focus on developing a new volunteer program to give economically disadvantaged volunteers a high-quality experience that offers opportunities to learn new marketable job skills and leadership skills.



Kathy Hibdon, AmeriCorps VISTA member, Nebraska Mexican American Commission, Lincoln, NE

She’s been a VISTA member at the Nebraska Mexican American Commission for only a short time, but Kathy Hibdon is not new to VISTA. Educated in Hong Kong, China, to be a teacher, Kathy made her way from China to the American territory of Guam where she ran a travel business for 12 years. Marriage took her to the United States and a two-year VISTA assignment in Elko, NV. Today, she provides outreach to Mexican-American parents to encourage them to become more involved in their children’s schools and reduce the drop-out rate. “VISTA work is challenging, but it is really rewarding.”

Youth Service Day



Youth Service Day Activities

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is a campaign to celebrate and mobilize millions of children and youth to positively impact their communities every day of the year through service and service-learning.

Established in 1988, GYSD occurs in over 100 countries each year and is the largest service event in the world. On GYSD children and youth address the world's most critical issues by partnering with families, schools, community and faith-based organizations, businesses and governments.

Each year organizations, schools and other groups take part in Global Youth Service Day activities throughout Nebraska. These activities engage youth, including those with disabilities, in community-focused service learning.

The Commission received a grant in each of the last three years to serve as a Lead State Agency for Nebraska. Grant funds are distributed to agencies through a mini-grant application process. Support from State Farm Insurance Foundation funds the grant to make these opportunities possible.

AmeriCorps members constructed steps for owners whose pets had mobility limitations. Materials were donated by Home Depot.



2009

Project	Organization	Location
Basic First Aid for Youth w Special Needs	Red Cross Prairie Valley Chapter	Columbus
Veteran's Park Dedication and Fair	Burwell GLW Counties Children's Council	Burwell
Clean-up at Local Animal Shelter	Columbus H. S. Diversity Leadership Group	Columbus
School garden	Dundee Elementary School	Omaha
Food Bank drive	Munroe-Meyer Institute AmeriCorps	Omaha
Make Porches Lead-Safe	Omaha Healthy Kids	Omaha
Big Garden Project	United Methodist Ministries	Omaha
Read and Craft Event	United Way of the Midlands	Omaha
Graffiti Abatement	Volunteer Partners	Lincoln

2008

Project	Organization	Location
Inside Chemical Dependency – a Play	217 Productions	Grand Island
Training for Families and Youth with Behavioral Disabilities	ARC of Buffalo County	Kearney
Car Wash to make Disabled Boy's Home Accessible	Blackburn Alternative School	Omaha
Life Skills Landscaping Project	Broken Bow Pubic Schools and Prairie Pioneer Senior Center	Broken Bow
Service Learning Literacy	Creighton University and Kellom Elementary School	Omaha
City Park clean-up	Crofton Community Schools	Crofton
Children's Rainbow Garden	Dundee Elementary School	Omaha
Community Blood Drive – Marketing Design by Students with Disabilities	Educational Service Unit #13	Scottsbluff
Art Project for Youth with Limited Mobility	Hart of the Matter, Inc	Omaha
Heartland Hoofbeat Newsletter by HETRA Youth Clients	Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA)	Omaha, Valley
Brightening Community Spaces	CommUNITY AmeriCorps, Lincoln Action Program	Lincoln
Military/Elderly Letter Earth Day Recycling, Park Teen Center	Star City Treasures AmeriCorps, City of Lincoln	Lincoln
Big Garden Series Project	United Methodist for Mission & Justice	Omaha

2007

Project	Organization	Location
Creative Arts for Children with Limited Mobility	Aldrich Elementary School and Children's Respite Care Center	Omaha
City Park Erosion Control	Auburn High School	Auburn
Community Clean-up	Bancroft-Rosalie Community School	Bancroft-Rosalie
South Omaha History-Mural	Chicano Awareness Center & Marrs Middle School	Omaha
Urban Youth Community Garden	Community CROPS	Lincoln
Sunshine Art Quilt by Autistic Youth	GWR Sunshine Foundation	Omaha
Heartland Hoofbeat Newsletter by HETRA Youth Clients	Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA)	Omaha, Valley
Omaha Children's Hospital Mini-Carnival	JOOI Club - Norfolk Schools	Norfolk
South Street Youth Service Mural	Seal Club at Saratoga Elementary School	Lincoln
Pet Steps Project	ServeNebraska	Lincoln

Supporters

In any organization success is often the result of leadership and support. Over the years, ServeNebraska has been fortunate to have an abundance of both.

Appointed for three-year terms by the Governor, Commissioners come from various locations and multiple backgrounds. All have served with dedication—generously sharing their collective talents, resources and energy.

We are pleased to devote this space to ServeNebraska supporters.

SUPPORTERS

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Valmont Industries, Inc.	Omaha
Russ's Market	Lincoln
Finke Gardens & Nursery	Lincoln
Lauritzen Gardens	Omaha
Cox Classic	Omaha
Taipei Economic & Cultural Office	Kansas City
Omaha Public Power District	Omaha
Omaha Convention & Visitors Bureau	Omaha
Asbestos Workers, Local 39	Omaha
US Bank	Lincoln
Department of Education, K-12 Learn & Serve	Lincoln
Creative Design Video	Omaha
Nebraska Turkey Growers	Kearney
Nebraska Volunteer Foundation	Lincoln

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY PROJECT

Home Depot	Lincoln
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WHEELCHAIR RAMP PROJECT

Asbestos Workers, Local 39	Omaha
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FIRST LADY'S AWARDS

Valmont Industries, Inc.	Omaha
Nebraska Volunteer Foundation	Lincoln

COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

Valmont Industries, Inc.	Omaha
National Research Corporation	Lincoln
MDS Pharma Services	Lincoln
United Way of the Midlands	Omaha
First Lady of Nebraska	Lincoln

OUTREACH MATERIALS

David Day & Associates (logo)	Omaha
Ervin & Smith Advertising & PR (brochure)	Omaha
Creative Design Video (PSAs)	Omaha
Redstone Communications (PSAs)	Omaha
First Lady of Nebraska	Lincoln

DISABILITY PREPAREDNESS SUMMIT

Paralyzed Veterans of America Center	Omaha
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CITIZEN CORPS REGIONAL MEETING

North Platte Airport Authority	North Platte
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COMMISSIONERS

CITY

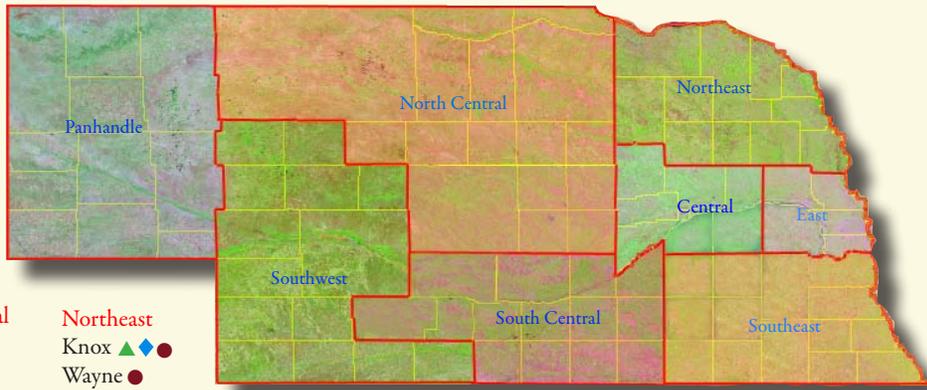
BUSINESS

Patrick Beans, 07, 08, 09	Lincoln	National Research Corporation
Ed Burchfield, 07, 08+, 09	Omaha	Valmont Industries, Inc.
Lorinda Brown, 08, 09	Grand Island	Nebraska citizen
Cynthia Buettner 07•, 08, 09	Omaha	Omaha Public Power District
Susan J. Cook, 07, 08, 09	Beatrice	Homestead National Monument
Jessi Moore Drake, 07, 08, 09	Chadron	Chadron State College
Nancy M. Faber, 09	Elkhorn	Retired High School Principal
Sally Ganem, 07, 08, 09	Lincoln	First Lady of Nebraska
Doug Gibbs, 07	Lincoln	Nebraska Legislative Aide
Robert Hall, 07, 08	Wahoo	Insulation/Asbestos Local #39
Jessica Hilderbrand, 08, 09	Lincoln	Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
Gary Heusel, 07, 08	Lincoln	UNL-Midwest Consortium for Service
Mike Kissler, 07, 08, 09	Lincoln	Nebraska Department of Education
Richard Koza, 07, 08	Chadron	Chadron State College
Barry Kriha, 07, 08, 09•	Omaha	InfiNet Solutions
Curt Krueger, 07+, 08•, 09	Lincoln	Catholic Social Services
Tess Larson, 08, 09	Omaha	University of Nebraska at Omaha
Art May, 07, 08, 09	Winnebago	Board of Trustees, Village of Winnebago
Jamie Moore, 07, 08, 09	Omaha	United Way of the Midlands
Diann Muhlback, 07, 08	Shelton	Coalition for Children, Grand Island
Rick Nation, 07, 08, 09	Fairbury	Blue Valley Community Action Partnership
Gerry Osborn, 07, 08, 09	Ainsworth	Retired Postmaster
Susan Schnase, 09	Omaha	University of Nebraska Foundation
Ron Sedlacek, 07, 08 09+	Lincoln	Nebraska Chamber of Commerce; Blackwell Sanders, LLP
Jeff Slobotski, 08, 09	Omaha	AIM Institute
Carol Speicher, 07, 08, 09	Columbus	Great Plains Resource Conservation & Development
Angela Volovich, 09	Lincoln	Nebraska Office of the Corporation for National & Community Service
Nancy Wang, 07, 08, 09	Lincoln	MDS Pharma Services
Rose White, 09	Omaha	AAA Nebraska
Heather Wiley, 07, 08	Lincoln	Nebraska Office of the Corporation for National & Community Service
Vickie Hover-Williamson, 07	Des Moines	Iowa Office of the Corporation for National & Community Service
Lois Wine, 07, 08, 09	Omaha	Rose Blumkin Jewish Home

• = Chair + = Vice-Chair

ServeNebraska's Impact Across the State

Programs are in 72 of Nebraska's 93 counties (77.4%)



PROGRAMS BY COUNTY

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Panhandle | North Central | Northeast |
| Banner ▲■ | Thomas ■ | Knox ▲◆● |
| Sioux ■▲ | Blaine ■ | Wayne ● |
| Dawes ●■▲ | Loup ▲■ | Thurston ●◆ |
| Sheridan ●▲■ | Garfield ◆■ | Madison ●■◆ |
| Box Butte ●■▲ | Wheeler ■ | Cuming ◆ |
| Scotts Bluff ●■▲◆ | Custer ■▲◆ | |
| Morrill ▲■ | Valley ■▲◆ | East |
| Garden ▲■ | Greeley ■ | Dodge ■● |
| Kimball ▲■ | Sherman ■▲ | Douglas ●■▲◆ |
| Cheyenne ▲■ | Cherry ■ | Sarpy ■ |
| Deuel ▲■ | Keya Paha ■ | Saunders ● |
| Southwest | Central | Southeast |
| Keith ■ | Boone ■▲ | York ● |
| Lincoln ●■ | Platte ●■▲◆ | Seward ● |
| Red Willow ■ | Nance ●▲ | Lancaster ●■▲◆ |
| Perkins ◆ | Polk ■ | Cass ■ |
| | Butler ■ | Saline ● |
| | Colfax ■▲ | Gage ●■ |
| | South Central | Otoe ● |
| | Buffalo ●▲◆ | Nemaha ◆ |
| | Hall ●■▲◆ | Pawnee ● |
| | Hamilton ■ | Richardson ● |
| | Frontier ■ | |
| | Phelps ●■ | |
| | Kearney ■ | |
| | Adams ●■ | |
| | Harlan ■ | |
| | Dawson ●▲■ | |
| | Gosper ●■ | |

● AmeriCorps ■ Citizen Corps ▲ Disabilities ◆ Youth Services Day

Service Awards by year, county and number

	2007	2008	2009
Douglas	5	6	16
Lancaster	5	4	6
Dakota	2	Madison	2
Buffalo *	Otoe	2	Sarpy
Dawes	Platte	2	Adams *
Dawson/Gosper	Sarpy	2	Buffalo
Hall	Adams *		Madison
Holt	Box Butte		Nemaha
Madison	Buffalo		Richardson
Richardson	Butler		Saunders
	Dawes		
	Cherry		
	Hamilton		

*Counties without a number received 1 award.



Project management:
CJJ Communications
www.cjjcommunications.com
Design:
Joe Ruffo
www.josephmruffo.com

“Serving in AmeriCorps has taught me that sometimes it is the little things we do that makes all the difference.”

Annette Alohaid, AmeriCorps member

VALUES

Excellence

Pursuing the highest standards of performance in all endeavors through a spirit of continual improvement.

Responsiveness

Creatively exploring and embracing dynamic approaches to addressing current and emerging societal challenges.

Inclusiveness

Striving to involve and engage interested parties from all sectors of the state.

Collaboration

Involving complementary parties in mutually beneficial relationships.

Efficiency

Operating in a way which produces the greatest return for the least output of resources.

Integrity

Conducting all activities in accord with the highest ethical and moral standards.



Barbara Wilson Thomas,
Executive Director

ServeNebraska-
Nebraska Volunteer Service
Commission

State Capitol, 6th Floor West
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