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ServeNebraska Welcomes New AmeriCorps VISTA Members Serving Communities Across Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. – ServeNebraska is proud to recognize and welcome 9 newly sworn-in AmeriCorps VISTA members who began their service in October. These dedicated individuals are joining organizations across Nebraska to strengthen communities, build organizational capacity, and support efforts to address poverty and improve the quality of life for Nebraskans.

Through the AmeriCorps VISTA program, members commit to a year of service focused on helping nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and tribal governments expand their impact. VISTA members work behind the scenes to develop programs, strengthen resources, build partnerships, and create sustainable solutions that help communities thrive.

The newest ServeNebraska AmeriCorps VISTA members and their host sites include:

- **Sydney Blum** – Nebraska City Memorial Building
- **Fawzia Mohammadi** – HEART Ministry Center
- **Rachel Ulrick** – United Way of Kearney Area
- **Kenza Ouedraogo** – African Immigrant Family Services
- **Natalie Howard** – Mission University
- **Natasja Swanson** – The Foundry
- **Caleb Howard** – Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation
- **Faiz Mohammad** – Nebraska Afghan Community Center
- **Malalia Fazli** – Nebraska Afghan Community Center

Each member brings unique experiences, perspectives, and talents to their service placement. By working alongside local organizations and community leaders, they will help strengthen programs, expand opportunities, and address needs within the communities they serve.

"AmeriCorps VISTA members play an important role in building stronger Nebraska communities," said ServeNebraska. "We are excited to welcome these new members and recognize their commitment to service. Their dedication and hard work will help our

community organizations build capacity, expand their reach, and make a lasting difference in the lives of Nebraskans."

About AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is a federal national service program founded in 1965 as the domestic counterpart to the Peace Corps. Its mission is to fight and alleviate poverty across the United States by strengthening the organizations and communities working to address its root causes.

Originally created under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, VISTA was later integrated into the broader AmeriCorps network in 1993. For more than six decades, the program has provided opportunities for individuals to dedicate themselves to building stronger, more resilient communities.

Unlike traditional volunteer opportunities that focus on direct service, such as distributing food or tutoring, VISTA members work behind the scenes to build long-term organizational capacity for nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal governments. Their work may include grant writing, fundraising, recruiting and coordinating volunteers, developing programs, building community partnerships, and establishing resources and systems that allow organizations to better serve their communities.

By focusing on sustainable solutions rather than short-term assistance, VISTA members help organizations expand their reach and create lasting change in the fight against poverty.

About ServeNebraska

ServeNebraska is Nebraska's state service commission, working to strengthen communities through volunteerism, community engagement, and national service programs. Through AmeriCorps and other service initiatives, ServeNebraska connects individuals and organizations with opportunities to address community needs and create positive, lasting change throughout the state.

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