

**FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF HVANDEVER@NORTHROCKINC.COM**

From the Wichita Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/wichita/news/2024/02/09/give-back-kansas-employers-volunteer-challenge.html>

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT:

**Philanthropy & Nonprofits**

## **Wichita-based nonprofit part of team behind challenge that encourages volunteerism in Kansas**



Employer winners of the annual "Give Back Kansas Challenge" will have a \$1,000 donation made on their behalf to a nonprofit of their choice. One of many local nonprofits, Wichita Habitat for Humanity, is pictured in action here.

BRENDA HEARD



By **Josh Witt** – Reporter, Wichita Business Journal  
Feb 9, 2024

 Listen to this article 3 min



A statewide competition intended to encourage employee volunteerism in communities throughout Kansas is gearing up for its fourth year – with the potential for multiple nonprofits in the state to receive \$1,000 donations as a result.

The annual "Give Back Kansas Challenge" aims to give workplaces another means to be recognized for their work and encourage other businesses and organizations, who may be newer to promoting volunteerism, a unique way to engage.

**Registration is open through March 22** for Kansas employers wanting to participate in the eight-week challenge that takes place from April 1 through May 31.

"The challenge is a fun and exciting way for participants to learn more about nonprofits in their communities and to help them out by giving of their time and abilities," said Nola Brown, executive director of Wichita-based nonprofit Volunteer Kansas, in a news release.

Volunteer Kansas partners with the Kansas Volunteer Commission, a Kansas Department of Education program, on the annual challenge.

Depending on the number of employers participating, businesses and organizations are divided into three categories – large, medium and small.

Winners of the challenge are determined by the average number of volunteer hours per employer completed during the competition period, and those topping each category will have a \$1,000 donation made on their behalf by Volunteer Kansas to the nonprofit of their choice.

The contest is free to enter, and employers of any type in the state – including for-profit, nonprofit, education and government – can participate.

"Research shows that employer-supported volunteering can result in improved employee engagement, organizational commitment, job satisfaction, and retention," said Jessica Dorsey, executive director of the Kansas Volunteer Commission. "We look forward to seeing the many positive ways participating organizations are affected during the Give Back Kansas Challenge."

A [2023 report from AmeriCorps](#), the federal agency for volunteerism and national service, found that Kansas had the eighth-highest formal volunteering rate – at 31.5% – in the country based on 2021 data.