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## Kansas ranked 7th in the nation for volunteerism

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Kansans are no strangers to rolling up their sleeves and helping others in need. In fact, the state ranks seventh in the nation for volunteerism, according to the Volunteering and Civic Life in America report released recently. Last year's report ranked Kansas at No. 5 in the nation. Utah continues to rank No. 1.

While Kansas dropped two place ranking, with a 35 percent volunteer rate in 2014 compared to 31 percent in 2015, volunteers are volunteering more hours. Kansas volunteers served 6.39 million more hours in 2015 than they did in 2014. Hours served in 2015 equaled \$1.8 billion in service.

The majority of volunteers in our state spent time helping with religious activities, followed by educational or youth activities, and social or community service, respectively.

Wichitans can specifically be proud of their service as the city ranks 23rd in the nation among mid-sized cities with a volunteer rate of 31.6 percent. Other significant volunteer numbers for Kansas include Baby Boomers in our state ranking in the top 10 for volunteerism, taking the number nine spot; college students ranked No. 18; Millennials ranked No. 10, as did parents; and, veterans ranked No. 7.

"We are extremely glad to see a continued interest in volunteerism in our state," said Nola Brown, executive director of Volunteer Kansas. "The fact that we have remained in the top 10 rankings for volunteerism year over year is a positive testament to the kinds of friends and neighbors we have here in Kansas. It is nice to see that those who are giving of their time and talents are giving even more than the previous year, but of course we would ultimately like to see every single Kansan who able, volunteer in some capacity in the coming year. There are so many opportunities to help each other, formal or informal, especially during this time of the year."

Those interested in volunteering can find opportunities throughout the state listed on the Volunteer Kansas website [www.volunteerkansas.org](http://www.volunteerkansas.org). Volunteer Kansas partners with Kansas organizations to promote volunteer opportunities and engage those willing to serve in meaningful volunteer experiences such as KFDI's Christmas in a Box event.

The Volunteering and Civic Life in America report found that 62.6 million American adults volunteered through an organization in 2015, and that volunteers are more likely than non-volunteers to talk to neighbors, fix things in the neighborhood, attend community meetings, and do favors for friends.

