

# THE FHVC VOLUNTEER BULLETIN



## Memorial Day 2026

### Events Around Town

Monday May 25; 9:30am

*Sunset Cemetery; Manhattan KS*

Memorial Day service with the Manhattan Municipal Band. American Legion Post 17 will lead the service.

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@flinthillsvolunteercenter



**Lindy Lindquist,  
President, Board  
of Directors**

*“At the end of the day  
it’s not about what  
you have or even  
what you’ve  
accomplished... it’s  
about who you’ve  
lifted up, who you’ve  
made better. It’s  
about what you’ve  
given back.”  
— Denzel  
Washington*

Greetings Volunteers,

## Spring Renewal & Exciting Transitions at Flint Hills Volunteer Center

As spring arrives in the Flint Hills, it brings a season of renewal, growth, and fresh beginnings. The longer days and blooming landscapes remind us of the power of community and the positive change that comes from people working together. At the Flint Hills Volunteer Center, this spirit is especially meaningful as we celebrate both a heartfelt farewell and an exciting new chapter.

After many years of dedicated service, Lori Bishop has retired. Her leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment have shaped the organization into what it is today. From expanding volunteer programs to strengthening community partnerships, her impact will be felt for years to come. We are deeply grateful for her contributions and wish her all the best in this well-earned next chapter.

At the same time, the Board of Directors is committed to hiring someone who brings energy, innovative ideas, and a passion for community engagement and volunteerism. We are excited to see how their perspective will help us grow and continue serving the Flint Hills region in meaningful ways.

Spring reminds us that change can be both beautiful and necessary. As we honor the legacy of one leader and embrace the promise of another, we look forward to continuing our mission with renewed purpose.

Thank you for being part of our community.

Lindy



## Coordinator Update

We have some exciting changes happening at the Flint Hills Volunteer Center!

Please join us in welcoming our new Volunteer Coordinator, Lynda Roberts we are so glad to have her on board. We also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Lori Bishop, our Executive Director, who retired on April 24th. Her dedication and service have meant so much to our organization and community.

As we move through this transition, there will be a number of changes taking place. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through the details.

As always, we remain committed to serving you and our wonderful community.

-Meghan



I want to start by expressing how excited I am to join the Flint Hills Volunteer Center team. I have been a member of the Manhattan community for over 25 years, and I am thrilled to be involved in the many projects and events that bring our community together.

A little background information on myself. I hail from a small town in Southwest Kansas. I attended Kansas State University and earned two Bachelor of Science degrees in Kinesiology and Athletic Training. Two years after graduating, I enlisted in the Army as a Combat Medic. During my 13 years on active duty, I was stationed at Fort Riley, KS; Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; back to Fort Riley, KS; Fort Bliss, TX, and a rotation at Camp Casey, Korea. In 2020, I left active duty, joined, and continue to serve in the Kansas Army National Guard in the Medical Detachment under the 69<sup>th</sup> Troop Command. I am currently a Sergeant First Class.

“Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else’s help.” – Heather French Henry

-Lynda



**Meghan Loverude**  
Program Services  
Coordinator



**Lynda Roberts**  
Volunteer  
Coordinator



# AmeriCorps Seniors

254 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have reported 6,497 volunteer hours so far for February through April!

Featured in our photos this month are our AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers from Leonardville and Riley, sending their best wishes to Lori as she begins her retirement.

The bottom photo captures Hannah on her final day of work. We wish both Lori and Hannah all the best as they embark on their next chapters!

### [Upcoming Events & Ongoing Opportunities](#)

Please contact Meghan if any of these upcoming opportunities interest you!

#### **Medical Transportation Drivers**

Our office is in need of volunteers who can help drive local residents to medical appointments within Manhattan. The requests for rides are rapidly growing and your help to keep this program running smoothly is greatly appreciated! This is a flexible opportunity depending on your schedule, but you must have a safe driving record, insurance, and a reliable vehicle.

#### **Friendship Meals**

Volunteers who can commit to a regular route or who can serve as substitute drivers are needed. Driver volunteers should be available to run their route(s) from 10:30am-12pm.

#### **Neighbor2Neighbor**

Spring is here, and lawn care season is beginning.

If you enjoy spending time outdoors, consider volunteering with our Neighbor2Neighbor Program. This program connects volunteers with neighbors age 55 and older who are no longer able to mow their lawns.

Your time and effort can make a meaningful difference by helping maintain their yards and supporting independence within our community.



## Learn More:

*Meghan Loverude*

*Program Services Coordinator*

*fhvcmhk@gmail.com*

*(785) 776-7787*



As I orientate to my new position, I am also expanding my network to connect students with opportunities to give back to the community. I have been setting up meetings with local organizations so I can create a calendar of events that you can choose from. Be on the lookout for these events on our Facebook page (Flint Hills Volunteer Center), Instagram page (cscfhvc), email distribution (email fhvc.csc@gmail.com for the link) and website (<https://flinthillsvolunteercenter.com/volunteer/#volunteer-mhk>).

### What Motivates Volunteers?

- A desire to reconnect with their community after years of isolation.
- Flexible opportunities that can fit into a busy schedule.
- A chance to make a tangible difference on issues they care about.

Whether it's a weekend park cleanup or a one-time graphic design project, volunteers are clearly seeking opportunities that offer flexibility, impact, and purpose.

The effects of youth volunteering in the USA are multifaceted and significant:

**Personal Development:** Volunteering enhances critical life skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership, which are valuable for future educational and career pursuits.

**Social Connections:** Engaging in volunteer work fosters meaningful connections among peers and mentors, helping youth build relationships and expand their networks.

**Empathy and Understanding:** Youth volunteers learn about diverse life experiences, which promotes greater empathy and understanding within their communities.

**Community Impact:** Young volunteers address local issues, contributing to community vitality and addressing gaps that formal organizations may overlook.

**Civic Engagement:** Volunteering encourages youth to be more engaged in their communities, fostering a sense of civic responsibility and connection.

Overall, youth volunteering not only benefits individuals but also positively impacts the broader community and society as a whole.



## Learn More:

Lynda Roberts

*Volunteer Coordinator*

[fhvc.csc@gmail.com](mailto:fhvc.csc@gmail.com)

(785) 776-7787

<https://www.flinthillsvolunteercenter.com/csc/>

# 8 Benefits of Volunteering

- Good for your mental health
- It prevents loneliness and isolation
- It gives you a feeling of purpose
- It helps you meet new friends



- It gives you and a loved one a way to reconnect
- Increases physical activity
- It bridges the generation gap
- It helps you learn new skills

**Contact us today!**

# Volunteer Opportunities

## May:

- 8th: Harvesters; 3:30pm, Blue Valley Memorial UMC
- 19th: Harvesters; 9:00am, Cico Park
- 25th: Memorial Day (office closed)
- 26th: Harvesters; 9:30am, Ogden Community Center
- 26th: Harvesters; 11:30am, Downtown Manhattan (by Dillard's)

## June:

- 12th: Harvesters; 3:30pm, Blue Valley Memorial UMC
- 16th: Harvesters; 9:00am, Cico Park
- 23rd: Harvesters; 9:30am, Ogden Community Center
- 23rd: Harvesters; 11:30am, Downtown Manhattan (by Dillard's)

## Ongoing Opportunities:

**The Flint Hills Discovery Center:** Volunteers are needed the annual Flint Hills Festival on Saturday, May 2, 2026—a beloved event that draws over 9,000 visitors each year!

Volunteers can sign up for one or more shifts between 8:00 AM and 5:45 PM (2–2.5 hours each), helping with setup, activities, guest support, and tear-down.

Interested or have questions? Contact Kristen Hoffman at [kristen.hoffman@cityofmhk.com](mailto:kristen.hoffman@cityofmhk.com).

**Friendship Meals (Meals on Wheels):** The Senior Center has great opportunities for AmeriCorps Seniors (ages 55+) who can commit to a regular volunteer schedule. They are currently in need of:

- 5–6 Delivery Drivers
- 2–3 Meal Preppers
- 2–3 Dining Room Servers

If you're interested, please contact Keri Dutch at the Friendship Meals Office: Phone: 785-587-2462 Email: [rcsscdriers@gmail.com](mailto:rcsscdriers@gmail.com)

## Cookie Brigade:

- May 14th
- June 11th

Cookies should be freshly baked within 24 hours of delivery to our office at 100 Manhattan Town Center, Suite 160 (Thursday by 1pm or the Wednesday before). Volunteers will package the cookies at the office before delivery. Cookies are delivered to units at Fort Riley or local community service agencies.



*Welcome to  
our 51 new  
volunteers &  
groups who  
have enrolled in  
March & April!*

# Flint Hills Volunteer Center

100 Manhattan Town Center

Suite 160

Manhattan, KS 66502

(785) 776-7787

fhvcmhk@gmail.com



AmeriCorps Seniors, Kansas Volunteer Commission, YES! Fund, Riley County Council on Aging, Greater Manhattan Community Foundation

The Flint Hills Volunteer Center is driven by its mission of connecting volunteers to the needs of our community. As our community grows rapidly, the issues we face continue to increase in providing resources for unmet basic human needs.

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP of Riley County is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation for people 55 and over. Volunteers use the skills and talents they've learned over the years, or they develop new ones while serving in a variety of volunteer activities within our community.

Volunteers are needed every day for a variety of opportunities in Riley, Geary, & Pottawatomie counties. If you are not currently enrolled with our program and would like to learn more about how to help, please contact us for more information.

785-776-7787

fhvcmhk@gmail.com

flinthillsvolunteercenter.com

Our communities depend on great volunteers like you!