



Winnebago County

Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

September 18, 2025

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Community Members Honored for Volunteer Service with the Winnebago County Medical Reserve Corps

WINNEBAGO COUNTY – On Wednesday, September 17, the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) recognized local community members who volunteered their time over the past year with the Winnebago County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to help build a healthier, safer, and stronger community.

“MRC volunteers support our community to be able to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies,” said Dr. Sandra Martell, Public Health Administrator for the Winnebago County Health Department. “These are neighbors, friends, and colleagues that give selflessly of their time and talents to make us more resilient. On behalf of Winnebago County, thank you to our MRC Volunteers for their commitment.”

In the past year, MRC volunteers have contributed over 250 hours of service:

- Assisting adults over 65 and individuals with disabilities with planning for emergencies
- Reading books provided by the United Way of the Rock River Valley to children whose families receive services at the Winnebago County Health Department
- Providing seasonal influenza vaccinations to populations at higher risk for hospitalization and severe illness.
- Scanning historical documents detailing locations of drinking water wells
- Training for emergency response and recovery efforts including CPR, STOP THE BLEED®, and Mental Health First Aid.

The Winnebago County MRC is part of a network of more than 300,000 volunteers in 800 units nationwide dedicated to improving the health and safety of their community. The MRC recruits and trains volunteers to maintain their readiness to respond to public health emergencies at the local level.

To volunteer with the Winnebago County MRC, go to <https://publichealth.wincoil.gov/get-involved/volunteer/>

"Working with the many good people connected to the MRC has been an amazing experience. Additionally, I continue to meet the resilient Winnebago County residents who call this home. Keep moving forward!" - **Patricia Powers Sanders, RN – Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer**

"I started volunteering with the health department during the COVID pandemic. As a retired nurse I felt like I had to do something to use my skills and help the community. After I received my own vaccination protection, I volunteered at many vaccination clinics. The leadership, the staff and the clients have been wonderful to work with." - **Anne Hammes, RN – Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer**

"When I retired and was looking for a way to get involved in community programs, I came upon MRC and covid vaccination volunteer opportunities. Since then I have enjoyed the children I meet at Reach out and Read and all the great people at Environmental Health. It is a pleasure to make so many new friends." - **Jeanette Roncke, RN – Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer**

For more information about your Winnebago County Health Department or the MRC, go to: publichealth.wincoil.gov.

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