



# KAPPA GAMMA PI NEWS

Leadership • Scholarship • Faith • Service

[www.kappagammapi.org](http://www.kappagammapi.org)

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## 2025 Faith and Service Award

At each biennial National Convention, Kappa Gamma Pi presents the Faith and Service Award to an outstanding non-Kappa who exemplifies Kappa values in local or national church or secular affairs.

The recipient of the 2025 Faith and Service Award is Emmy Hildebrand, CEO, Helping Veterans And Families of Indiana, Inc.

Helping Veterans And Families (HVAF) helps homeless veterans return to self-sufficiency and engages at-risk veterans and their families to prevent them from becoming homeless by providing supportive housing, case management, employment support, therapy, and basic needs assistance including food, hygiene and clothing. In 2024, HVAF served 1,346 veterans and provided over 37,000 life-changing services. HVAF is the largest nonprofit provider of comprehensive services for veterans facing homelessness in Indiana.

## Kappa's 47th National Convention



**2025-2027 KGP National Board** - Pictured (L-R): KGP Treasurer Anne F. Simon; Recording Secretary Kate Coulihan Ficke; II Vice President Dr. Carl Cain; I Vice President Dr. David W. Seeger; and KGP President Anne Dunlap-Kahren.

KGP's 47th biennial National Convention on July 18-20 was an event packed with valuable information exchanges, lively discussions, and fun sightseeing in Indiana's capital city. Many thanks to the members who joined us – both in-person in Indianapolis and virtually via Zoom.

At the National Business Meeting on July 18, delegates processed resolutions, reviewed membership and nominations statistics reports, examined KGP's financial report for 2023-2025 and the budget presented for 2025-2027, and elected officers for the National Board for the upcoming two-year term.

All of the current National Board officers agreed to serve another term. **Anne Dunlap-Kahren** (*Holy Names University, CA, '88*), Sacramento, CA, was elected as National President for 2025-2027. Other elected officers are I Vice President **David W. Seeger**,



Pictured (L-R): KGP Treasurer Anne F. Simon; Convention keynote speaker Holland Haiis (Loretto Heights College, CO, '83); KGP President Anne Dunlap-Kahren; Faith & Service Award recipient Emmy Hildebrand and her husband Jay.

See Convention page 4

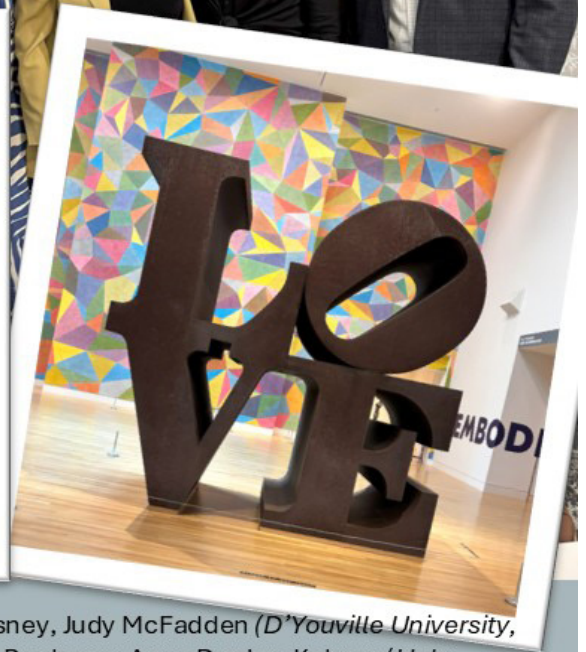
See Faith page 3

Welcome to Pillars of Celebration!

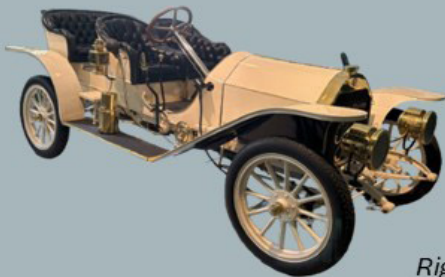
47<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL KGP  
NATIONAL CONVENTION  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
July 18-20, 2025

Celebrating milestones  
in the lives of Kappas  
and looking ahead to  
Kappa Gamma Pi's  
Centennial in 2026

KGP Treasurer Anne Simon, Convention keynote speaker Holland Haiis, and KGP President Anne Dunlap-Kahren with Faith & Service Award recipient Emmy Hildebrand and her husband Jay.



Front row: (L-R): KGP National Office Administrator Michelle Chesney, Judy McFadden (*D'Youville University, NY, '76*), and Elizabeth Navitsky (*Misericordia University, PA, '01*). Back row: Anne Dunlap-Kahren (*Holy Names University, CA, '88*), Anne Simon (*D'Youville University, NY, '94*), Theresa Rush Woo (*Holy Names University, CA, '85*), Kate Coulihan Ficke (*Dominican University, IL, '75*), Carl Cain (*Niagara University, NY, '06*), Holland Haiis (*Loretto Heights College, CO, '83*), and David Seeger (*Lourdes University, OH, '05*).



Right: Dessert!  
at Saint Joseph Brewery &  
Public House



Left: Visiting the  
Indianapolis  
Museum  
of Art at Newfields



## Faith *from page 1*

Veterans are more likely than non-veterans to face homelessness, especially women veterans. Women veterans are 2-3 times more likely to be homeless than any other adult in the United States. Veterans are also more likely to face food insecurity, mental health and substance use diagnosis, and suicide risk. Recognizing the unique challenges veterans face, HVAF stands ready to serve veterans and families facing crisis.

Started in 1993 as a small housing agency, with enough beds to house five veterans, HVAF has grown over the years to holistically address the needs of veterans in Indiana. Currently, HVAF operates 103 transitional housing beds, 62 units of permanent supportive housing, and provides rental assistance to 500+ veteran families each year. All HVAF housing programs are supportive housing programs, with dedicated case managers working with veterans to remove any barriers to self-sufficiency. In addition to housing programs, HVAF's Workforce Development Team provides critical employment assistance, either helping veterans obtain jobs quickly or providing training to assist in obtaining a better career. Lastly, HVAF's Mental Health Team provides important peer support and individual and family therapy for Hoosier veterans.

HVAF's Colonel Donald W. Moreau, Sr. Veterans Community Center houses a food, clothing, and hygiene pantry, open twice weekly to serve veterans facing food insecurity. Serving nearly 250 veterans each month, last year, over 105,000 pounds of food and clothing were distributed to veterans in need.

For more than 30 years, HVAF's mission has been to end veteran homelessness in our community. With your help, we are making progress toward that goal! The most recent Point in Time Count, just released this summer, reported that veteran homelessness decreased 26% this year in Indianapolis. This achievement is a powerful testament to the dedication and collaboration of organizations like HVAF of Indiana, alongside state and local partners, in addressing the housing needs of our nation's heroes, marking another step forward in our collective mission to ensure every veteran has a safe and stable place to call home. §

### Help Wanted!

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in Kappa? We are looking for members to serve as III Vice President and as Long-Range Planning Committee Chair.

Reach out to the National Office or [president@kappagammapi.org](mailto:president@kappagammapi.org) for details.

## A Message from KGP's National President

**One hundred years.** Founded on June 30, 1926, by the Conference of Catholic Colleges for Women of the National Catholic Educational Association, Kappa Gamma Pi was the first society specifically organized for women to acknowledge their achievements both academically and in leadership capacities.

Delegates attending the first KGP National Congress at Seton Hill College in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in August 1929 selected the name *Kappa Gamma Pi* and adopted *Faith and Service* as their motto. Without a doubt, these members could not have foreseen all the changes this organization would undergo in 100 years.

Originally, there were 29 affiliated Catholic colleges that nominated lay women honors graduates to membership in Kappa. In 1967, KGP extended membership to members of religious orders and graduates of various faith commitments. In 1982, men graduating from affiliated institutions with honors were eligible for nomination to Kappa for the first time. More recently, KGP's nomination criteria has expanded to include honor graduates who were ineligible for membership at the time of their graduation, graduates of master's and doctoral degree programs, and one administrator per year from each affiliated college or university. More than 59,000 graduates of 143 Catholic institutions have become Kappas.

KGP's 100-year milestone is thanks to the commitment and service of generations of Kappas and their dedication to KGP's legacy of *Faith and Service*.

**Save the Date: Saturday, June 27, 2026, for a virtual event celebrating Kappa's centennial year!**  
10:00 a.m. PT | 1:00 p.m. ET

This two-hour Zoom event will bring together Kappas from across the country and across the decades for a conversation about the traditions that unite members and the diversity that enriches our community. I invite you to join us and welcome your ideas and suggestions for this special gathering.

To Kappas everywhere: May your New Year be filled with the blessings of love, family, friends, and joy.

In Faith and Service,

*Anne Dunlap Kahren*



**Anne Dunlap-Kahren**  
Holy Names University, CA, '88  
Kappa Gamma Pi National President  
[president@kappagammapi.org](mailto:president@kappagammapi.org)

## Convention from page 1

Ed.D. (*Lourdes University, OH, '05*), Maumee, OH; II Vice President **Carl Cain**, Ed.D. (*Niagara University, NY, '06*), Niagara Falls, NY; Recording Secretary **Kate Coulihan Ficke** (*Dominican University, IL, '75*), Huntley, IL; and Treasurer **Anne F. Simon** (*D'Youville University, NY, '94*), Buffalo, NY. The position of III Vice President remains vacant.

The Convention Program on July 19 featured a trio of excellent speakers – all members of Kappa.



*Holland Haiis presenting at the KGP National Convention.*

**Holland Haiis** (*Loretto Heights College, Colorado, '83*) is an internationally recognized business strategist and leadership expert who specializes in professional development programs, executive coaching, and corporate retreats that elevate performance, inspire engagement, and help transform workplace culture. Holland's keynote presentation titled *A Century of Celebration: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future – How We Celebrate Ourselves, Uplift Others, and Strengthen Our Legacy* offered a powerful look at the lasting relevance of Kappa's values of Faith and Service, how celebrating milestones yields profound benefits for mental health and wellbeing, and how shared celebration builds community and connects people across generations and diverse backgrounds. Check out her website: [www.HollandHaiis.com](http://www.HollandHaiis.com).



*Kate Ficke presenting at the KGP National Convention.*

**Kate Coulihan Ficke** (*Dominican University, IL, '75, MBA, '83*) is a super-active Kappa who has served multiple times as National Recording Secretary and attended just about every biennial Convention since she was nominated to KGP. Last June, her *alma mater* honored Kate with the O'Keefe Outstanding Volunteer Achievement Award at her 50th anniversary class reunion. Kate shared *The Joy of Service*: a snapshot of her volunteer efforts with many causes and organizations over the years and the experiences that energize her to continue her endeavors.

**Luonna Lancaster** (*Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, IN, '21*) works as the state opioid response grant outreach manager for the Division of Mental Health and Addiction at the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. Luonna shared a video presentation she created for the Kappa Convention titled *Advocating for the Human Spirit* that detailed a compelling personal experience to explain her motivation and dedication to making a difference for others through public service.

In recognition of their hard work and support for the 2025 Convention, many kudos and sincere thanks to:

### Constitution Revisions Committee - San Francisco East Bay Chapter

- Chair Joseph Devney (*Holy Names, CA, '93*)
- Alene Finn Griffin (*Mount St. Mary's University, CA, '66*), KGP President 2005-2009
- Betty Bloom Hopkins (*Holy Names, CA, '61*)
- Rondi Persaud Pacheco (*St. Catherine University, MN, '08*)
- Theresa Rush Woo (*Holy Names, CA, '85*), KGP President 2001-2005

### Awards Committee

- Chair Susan Smith Jaros (*Lourdes University, OH, '90*), KGP President 2019-2023
- Alene Finn Griffin (*Mount St. Mary's University, CA, '66*), KGP President 2005-2009
- Katie Pease (*St. Catherine University, MN, '10*), KGP President 2017-2019
- Elizabeth Shortle (*Ursuline College, OH, '88*)

**Susan Smith Jaros** (*Lourdes University, OH, '90*) for her leadership to Kappa as National President 2019-2023, for more than a decade of service as a member of the National Board, and for her dedication overseeing countless details in planning for both the 46th and 47th biennial National Conventions.

**Katie Pease** (*St. Catherine University, MN, '10*) for

## Convention *continued*

preparing an *in-memoriam* video tribute honoring the Kappas who have passed away since the 2023 National Convention.

**Kelly Haden Guillory** (*University of Holy Cross, LA, '98*), KGP President 2013-2017, for chairing the Nominating Committee and working to secure the slate of officers for 2025-2027.

**Michelle Chesney**, National Office Administrator, for her many hours of support planning and meticulous preparations to ensure that everything in Indianapolis went smoothly from start to finish, and for her efficient management of the National Office and direction of KGP's daily operations.

### Recap: 2025 Convention Resolutions

The delegates participating in the KGP National Business Meeting on July 18, 2025, processed six resolutions. Delegates considered and voted on three proposed changes for the KGP Constitution; a proposal to host a centennial celebration event in summer 2026 to commemorate Kappa's official founding date of June 30, 1926; an option for KGP to hold a National Business Meeting in 2026 (if a meeting is needed); and a resolution recognizing the many contributions of Past President **Susan Smith Jaros** (*Lourdes University, OH, '90*).

The proposed changes for the Constitution included an amendment for Article XI - Dissolution that would offer another mechanism for determining the dissolution of Kappa as a national organization, a recommendation to revise Article V - Organization Structure to reduce the number of members required to serve on temporary convention committees, and a suggestion for Article VIII - Financial Activity to omit specifying the exact dollar amounts of annual dues and nomination fees.

#### **Resolution #1: Motion to Amend Article XI of the KGP Constitution - Dissolution**

This resolution proposed adding a new section to Article XI: "If fewer than ten delegates, not including National Board members, are registered for a National Convention sixty (60) days before the Convention begins, the event shall be canceled, and Kappa National shall be dissolved on July 1 of the following year. Any assets remaining on that date shall be handled as described above." This proposal was first suggested by a former National Board officer. The Constitution Revisions Committee worked extensively to make the proposal and the associated timeline as practicable as possible. Discussion during the Business Meeting

centered around the fact that currently there is just one active KGP Chapter: San Francisco East Bay. With the lack of chapters, attendance has decreased at Conventions for several years. The very specific verbiage suggested to be added to the current Article XI was felt to be too severe and arbitrary, however. Vote: Nays have it. Resolution failed.

#### **Resolution #2: Motion to Amend Article V - Organization Structure - Section 7. Committees**

This resolution proposed changing the number of members recruited to serve on temporary Convention committees from a requirement of five members to a minimum of three members and a maximum of five members. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Resolution passed.

#### **Resolution #3: Motion to Amend Article VIII - Financial Activity**

This resolution suggested omitting the mention of exact dollar amounts for annual dues and nomination fees from Article VIII. Historically, this Article has not specified the dollar amount of the nomination fee and annual dues, nor has an amendment been added each time the amount changed. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Resolution passed.

#### **Resolution #4: Centennial Anniversary**

This resolution simply states that Kappa Gamma Pi will hold some sort of celebratory event, either hybrid or virtual, in the summer of 2026 to celebrate the organization's 100th anniversary. A suggestion was made that some sort of timeline be presented to the members in anticipation of this. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Resolution passed.

#### **Resolution #5: 2026 National Business Meeting**

This resolution suggested that a National Business Meeting might be needed during the event celebrating Kappa's 100th anniversary in summer 2026 if the National Board were to vote to initiate the process for dissolution of Kappa Gamma Pi. Brief discussion that this resolution is not necessary as Resolution #1 had failed and thus the possibility of a dissolution before the next biennial National Convention in 2027 is not accurate. Resolution had no support and therefore a vote was not even called: Resolution was tabled.

#### **Resolution #6: Recognition for Past President Susan Smith Jaros (Lourdes University, Ohio, '90)**

This resolution thanked Past President Susan Smith Jaros for her years of dedication and support of Kappa Gamma Pi and recognized her contributions in various Board positions and Convention planning. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Resolution passed. §

## Announcing Our 2025 Cornaro Scholars!

The Cornaro Scholarship is a prestigious scholarship only available to Kappa members for use toward graduate expenses at an accredited university. The Cornaro Scholarship Committee selected two recipients this year: **Martina Croce** (*Georgian Court University, NJ, '25*) and **Erika Rey** (*Gannon University, PA, '24*).

2025 Cornaro Scholar Martina Croce was born and raised in Milan, Italy, where her passion for growth

and global connection inspired her to leave her home country to pursue higher education and athletics in the United States. She began her academic journey at Harford Community College in Maryland where she earned her Associate of Arts degree in Political Science and International Relationships. Her time at Harford laid a strong foundation for her as a



*Martina Croce*

student and athlete but most importantly as a person. This is where she discovered her true calling to work in International Affairs and dedicate her career to supporting humanitarian efforts around the world. After two formative years at Harford, she made the decision to transfer to Georgian Court University, which shaped her commitment to serving others with joy and unwavering dedication.

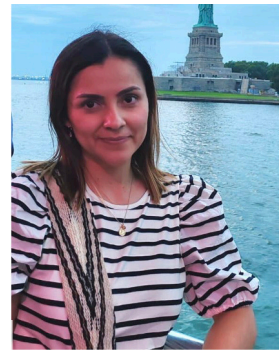
During her time at Georgian Court University, she became deeply involved in volunteer work, first through the Hunger Awareness Task Force and then with Catholic Relief Services. Martina worked as an advocacy intern with Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity where she witnessed the transformative power of community and advocacy in securing fundamental human rights such as the right to safe housing.

Outside of academics and her volunteer work, Martina was also a student athlete. Through volleyball her team showed her how teamwork and service can bring comfort, hope and happiness to those in need. The lessons she learned from her fellow teammates she has carried forward in every aspect of her life.

Martina now embarks on her next chapter and will be pursuing graduate studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs. She is driven by a clear purpose to help shape a global political landscape that places people first. She believes genuine progress happens

when we uplift marginalized communities and ensure equal opportunities for all. Through her education and future work, she is determined to contribute to a world where serving others is not an afterthought but the cornerstone of a prosperous and just future.

Our second Cornaro Scholar is Erika Rey who is a social worker with master's degrees in Public Policy and Public Administration (MPP, MPA). She has profes-



*Erika Rey*

sional experience in the Colombian public sector, where she worked on programs supporting women and victims of the armed conflict. Her work has focused on designing, implementing, and evaluating social initiatives that support women and victims of the armed conflict, particularly in contexts of displacement, and inequality. She has collabor-

ated with a nonprofit organization providing information to Central American families navigating the family reunification processes in the United States.

Formed in a Catholic family, Erika's faith journey began through her involvement in the Pontifical Missionary Childhood of her parish where she was introduced to the joy of serving others. As a university student in Colombia, Erika participated in mission trips to rural communities where she shared her faith through catechesis, joyful witnessing, and service rooted in solidarity. While pursuing graduate studies in the United States, she lived at the Kirk House, an interfaith campus ministry residence, where she helped facilitate dialogue among students of diverse religious backgrounds and served as sacristan in the university's chapel.

Outside of her career in social work, since arriving in the United States Erika has enjoyed afternoons playing dominoes with friends and outings to local cafés. She considers good coffee essential to daily life.

Erika will pursue doctoral studies in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Nova Southeastern University. She aims to continue exploring the relationship between caregiving and income generation in communities rebuilding after violence. Her research focuses on the role of women as agents of resilience and peace in post-conflict settings. §

# REPORT OF THE NATIONAL TREASURER

## BALANCE SHEET Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2025

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
General Funds Checking.....	\$92,444
Money Market.....	\$0
Investments - Securities.....	\$177,773
Accounts Receivable.....	\$7,822
Petty Cash.....	\$200
Undeposited Funds.....	\$50
Total Current Assets.....	\$278,289
Total Assets.....	\$278,289
 <b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable.....	\$111
Payroll Liabilities.....	\$1,848
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES.....	\$1,959
Total Liabilities.....	\$1,959
 Equity	
Gain/Loss on Investments.....	\$48,534
Fund Balance - Prior Year.....	\$216,472
Retained Earnings.....	\$22,848
Net Revenue.....	(\$11,525)
Total Equity.....	\$276,330
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS.....	\$278,289

## PROFIT & LOSS Statement of Income, Expenses and Net Assets for the Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2025

<b>INCOME</b>	
Member Dues.....	\$20,190
Nomination Fees.....	\$23,525
Convention/National Board.....	\$610
Sale of Promotional Items.....	\$5,804
Investment Income.....	\$5,926
Other Income.....	\$1,700
TOTAL REVENUE.....	\$57,755
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Executive Secretary.....	\$31,827
Publication (Editor, printing, postage).....	\$12,101
Website.....	\$4,500
Promotional Item Purchases.....	\$3,497
National Office Expenses.....	\$1,356
Professional and Bank Fees.....	\$3,379
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	\$4,774
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$61,434
Net Operating Revenue.....	(\$3,679)
<b>OTHER REVENUES</b>	
Scholarship Donations.....	\$6,590
TOTAL OTHER REVENUES.....	\$6,590
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURES</b>	
Cornaro Scholarship Awards.....	\$7,000
Bad Debt.....	\$7,436
TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES.....	\$14,436
TOTAL NET INCOME.....	(\$11,525)

### In Loving Memory

- Dolores Badar (Ursuline College, OH, '55)
- Mount St. Joseph University, OH:
  - Julianne Foy Baechtold '75
  - Mary Lou Dulle Boylan '49
  - Margarita M. Brewer '93
  - Karen K. Curry '72
  - Kathleen Espelage Donohoue '74
  - Donald Glankler '02
  - Claire Kemme '53
  - Mary Sue Schafer Kues '63
  - Ronnie M. Rutherford '92
  - Sandra L. Warner '83
  - Frances Auer Zingales '61

If you know of a Kappa who has passed on, please send an email to [admin@kappagammapi.org](mailto:admin@kappagammapi.org).

### KGP National Board

- PRESIDENT **Anne Dunlap-Kahren** (Holy Names University, CA, '88), Sacramento, CA, [president@kappagammapi.org](mailto:president@kappagammapi.org)
- I VICE PRESIDENT **Dr. David W. Seeger** (Lourdes University, OH, '05), Maumee, OH, [firstvp@kappagammapi.org](mailto:firstvp@kappagammapi.org)
- II VICE PRESIDENT **Dr. Carl Cain** (Niagara University, NY, '06), Niagara Falls, NY, [cornaro@kappagammapi.org](mailto:cornaro@kappagammapi.org)
- III VICE PRESIDENT VACANT Email [president@kappagammapi.org](mailto:president@kappagammapi.org) for details.
- RECORDING SECRETARY **Kate Ficke** (Dominican University, IL, '75), Huntley, IL, [recordingsec@kappagammapi.org](mailto:recordingsec@kappagammapi.org)
- TREASURER **Anne F. Simon** (D'Youville University, NY, '94), Buffalo, NY, [treasurer@kappagammapi.org](mailto:treasurer@kappagammapi.org)

# KAPPA GAMMA PI NEWS



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Follow KGP:	 

Winter 2025

## KAPPA GAMMA PI NATIONAL DUES PAYMENT FORM

To renew your financial support for Kappa, please complete the form below, photocopy or mail this section (including your name and address information printed above) with your check made payable to KAPPA GAMMA PI to **1651 Kingsway Court, Suite E, Trenton, MI 48183-1959**. Your dues payment via credit card can also be made online at <https://engage.kappagammapi.org>.

National Dues for the June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026 fiscal year US \$50.

Cornaro Scholarship Donation \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Credit/debit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

*Please indicate any name or address changes here. To ensure that you receive KGP emails and the eNEWS, please provide your email address.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about your current volunteer endeavors.

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