



VOLUNTEER VOICES

JULY 2025

Thanks to many of you, we reconnected with our community in-person, over the phone, through handwritten messages in packaged thank-you gifts (premiums), and through the ever-popular Nine PBS tour! Thank you for supporting your local PBS station, ensuring that we remain strong to provide trusted content for everyone in our region.

Service Anniversaries This Month

Thank you for spending all these years with Nine PBS!

13 Years - Nancy Katich, Sandy Weis, Diane Woepke
12 Years - Jeri Neumann, David Shaw, Ann Tucker, Christa Wolf
8 Years - Susie Berger, Liz Merz, Anna Skidmore
7 Years - Canna Wisdom
6 Years - Sandy Howell
3 Years - Abigail Murphy, Joe Niemoeller
1 Year - Sheila Rosenfeld

Welcome to Kelsey Bergman, Hannah Frisch, Sofia Inshirah-Fernandez, Jack Schelp, Janice Shaw, and Eleatha Surratt! You're in great company.

Volunteer Projects in July

- Tower Grove Farmers' Market Table
- Membership Engagement
- Premium Packaging
- Office Organization
- Tours

Nuggets of Information

- There are 160 volunteers with "active" status at Nine PBS, and 75 of you are members. Thank you for your generous donations in addition to the time you give! If you've been curious about membership, please visit ninepbs.org/support/
- In case you haven't seen it, our [Year in Review and Annual Content and Services Report to the Community](#) is online!
- A colleague at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting sent some inspiring thoughts to our CEO after Congress defunded PBS. They appear on page 3 of this newsletter.

Impact

Volunteer presence at the Tower Grove Farmers' Market on July 12 made a great impact on the community! The energy and friendliness of everyone involved helped us make connections. About 600 people interacted with the Nine PBS booth, 190 Protect My Public Media yard signs were handed out, and 73 people gave us an email address to either further discuss the Young Neighbors program, get information on programs, or stay updated on events.

The big effort this month was in Membership. Staff started making outgoing calls to members without email addresses, making sure that members knew that Nine PBS Magazine ceased publication with the July/August issue. When volunteers got involved, progress increased dramatically. You have helped us reach so many supporters and enabled us to update so many records. We are now aware of new addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and members who are deceased. We are also implementing your suggestions; the postcard recommendation was great, and it is scheduled to be mailed to members without an email address by the end of August. Thank you all so much for helping Nine PBS connect with members!

Value of Volunteer Time this Month

\$4,952.12

Being able to calculate the value of your time is essential to our grant-writing process! Having an accurate number shows how involved our community (which includes you!) is with Nine PBS, which leads to better support.

NOTE: When recording your time in VicNet, we recommend including travel time as it more accurately shows how much of your free time you are giving to Nine PBS.

Feel-Good Story



Last week, an anonymous donor arrived unannounced, dropped off a can at the front desk and said, "I hope this helps. It's about \$50 in change." She left quickly to remain anonymous.

Get To Know Roy Fechter

It's Roy's 10th year of volunteering!

Q: Do you collect anything? If so, what is it?

A: I'm a crafter and make greeting cards. So, I have a big collection of stamps, paper cutting dies, stencils, and inks.

Q: Where is the coolest place you've traveled to?

A: I have two favorite places: London and Venice. I always take my camera to document my memories.

Q: What is the best meal you've ever eaten?

A: I really enjoy eating at Brasserie by Niche. My favorite meal there would be a Bibb lettuce salad, French onion soup, and for dessert, a floating island.

Q: Do you have a fun story relating to Nine PBS?

A: I love giving tours of Nine. During one tour, production staff was setting up Studio A and a camera was punched up in the Control Room so kids could see themselves on the monitor. They were thrilled!

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“Hey You Guys!” — What Happened, America?

A colleague at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

“Hey you guys!”

If you heard that in your head just now—in a booming voice—you’re part of a story that stretches back generations. It’s the sound of The Electric Company, calling kids across the country to come learn, laugh, and discover together. It’s one of the many voices that made public media more than programming—it made it a public good.

And now, that good has been gutted.

Congress has eliminated federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

With it goes the quiet infrastructure that sustained thousands of hours of educational content, local journalism, emergency communications, and trusted programming for children and families in every corner of America. This wasn’t just a budget cut. It was a break in a public contract—an abandonment of the idea that some things should belong to everyone.

But let’s be clear: this did not happen because people stopped caring. Quite the opposite.

Millions of Americans—parents, teachers, station leaders, rural and urban residents, Republicans, Democrats, Independents—stood up and said, **DON’T DO THIS**. They called their elected officials. They wrote letters and op-eds. They flooded social media with stories of how public media shaped their lives, educated their children, and connected their communities.

They spoke with clarity and conviction.

And still, a growing disregard for the common good prevailed.

The result? A profound and far-reaching loss. Fewer kids will have access to free, high-quality content that sparks curiosity and supports learning. Local stations will close or cut essential services. And families without broadband or paid subscriptions—often the ones who rely on public media the most—will be left with fewer options, and less support.

This is about more than TV or radio. It’s about what

kind of country we want to be.

Public media was never about ratings or profits. It was about trust, service, and access. It was about reaching every home, whether in a big city or a remote town, with content that informed, uplifted, and inspired. It was about the idea that learning and truth should never be gated by wealth or geography.

Losing CPB funding is heartbreaking. But it’s not the end of the story.

Because those millions of voices? They haven’t gone quiet. They’re still here. We’re still here.

And yes, many of us are angry. We’re disheartened. We feel robbed of something we know is valued.

So maybe we turn to Fred Rogers—someone who helped build this very system—and ask his wise, steady question:

“What do you do with the mad that you feel?”

You pause.
You breathe.

And you look for a way to turn that feeling into care—for others, and for the world we share.

We continue to serve our communities in big ways and small, not for recognition, but because it’s what the moment asks of us. We tell stories that bring light. We create spaces where children feel seen, where neighbors feel connected, and where truth has a place to grow.

Public media was never just a government program. It was, and still is, a civic promise—one rooted in service, in trust, and in the quiet belief that we owe something to one another.

That promise hasn’t disappeared. It lives in the work we choose to do next.

So, now I ask, “What’s next, America?”

Let’s make sure the answer is one our children can be proud of.