

Keep Iowa Beautiful®

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

April 2026 Newsletter



Photo Credit: "Crawling Through the Corn," Dave LaBelle of Dyersville

1st Place Iowans in Action

[16th Annual Keep Iowa Beautiful Photography Contest](#)

Celebrating those who make Iowa great!

In this issue, we celebrate the winners of our Annual Awards and scholarships, recognizing individuals, businesses, communities, and organizations that simply shine when it comes to improving Iowa communities. We will showcase the 2026 Paint Iowa Beautiful grant recipients, whose plans to transform their communities will create visible hometown pride. We will also celebrate our staff and board for some incredible honors!

There's a famous line we all know well: "Is this Heaven? No, it's Iowa." These remarkable individuals, towns and organizations across our state are making sure that difference stays hard to spot. We are reminded that a beautiful Iowa doesn't happen by accident. It happens through the dedication of residents like you who believe that our environment is worth protecting and our communities are worth perfecting.

With gratitude,

The Keep Iowa Beautiful Team



2026 Annual Award Winners



**Keep Iowa Beautiful
Service Award - 25 Years**

Mike Richardson



**Donald F. Lamberti
Hometown Pride Vision Award**

Shawna Jayne



**Robert D. Ray
Community Award for Excellence**

City of Lake View
(Hometown Pride Community)



**Robert D. Ray
Community Award for Excellence**

City of Bondurant



**Keep Iowa Beautiful
Corporate Award for Excellence**

Fareway



**Keep Iowa Beautiful
Organization Award for Excellence**

Iowa Area Development Group

Photo Credit: Brent Isenberger Photography

2026 Scholarship Recipients



Luke Boyle
Peosta, Iowa



Madie Deutmeyer
Ryan, Iowa



Max Trujillo-Garcia
Guthrie Center, Iowa

To read more about Keep Iowa Beautiful Award scholarships, [click here!](#)

Iowa Rural Development Council Award

Celebrating Keep Iowa Beautiful!

We are proud to be the recipient a Rand Fisher Rural Business Leadership Award by the Iowa Rural Development Council! The award was presented recently in Dubuque at the Iowa Rural Development Council's annual conference, the Iowa Rural Summit.

The Rand Fisher Rural Leadership Award, sponsored by the IADG Community Foundation, recognizes individuals and organizations for their leadership and impact on small towns across the state.

Read Keep Iowa Beautiful's [recent press release](#) to find out more about this award and the statewide efforts that garnered our nomination!



Pictured, L-R: Bruce Nuzum, Liesl Seabert (board chair), Andy Frantz (executive director), Lorin Ditzler (associate director), Rand Fisher

Congratulations Liesl!



**Keep Iowa Beautiful Board Chair
Receives High Honor**

Keep Iowa Beautiful is proud share that Liesl Seabert, board chair, has been selected as a member of the Des Moines Business Record 2026 40 Under 40 class!

The honorees—nominated and selected by past award recipients—exemplify what it means to balance a high-achieving career with a dedication to community engagement.

Congratulations Liesl! We are so proud of you and couldn't be happier to have you as our leader!

[Click here](#) to read more about Liesl's history and accomplishments.

2026 Paint Iowa Beautiful Grants Awarded

Celebrating Partnership

Diamond Vogel is turning 100!
To celebrate their centennial, we have awarded **100 Paint Iowa Beautiful grants** this year!



For over two decades, this partnership has provided free paint for volunteer-led projects that revitalize our communities. From historic libraries and schools to local parks and community centers, these grants help Iowans take pride in their public spaces.

To date, this initiative has supported over 1,600 projects, covering more than five million square feet of Iowa's landscape. We can't wait to see what these latest 100 winners accomplish! To learn more about Paint Iowa Beautiful or see a full list of 2026 grant winners, [click here!](#)

Thank you Diamond Vogel for this longstanding, amazing partnership!



Pictured above are two 2025 Paint Iowa Beautiful projects.

Shelby County Wellness Alliance (L), Villisca Community Betterment Association (R)

Host a Pick-Up Iowa Event

Celebrate Your Community!

What better way to celebrate your community than to keep it beautiful!

Pick-Up Iowa runs April through June and is for everyone! Schools, service clubs, businesses, families, and volunteer groups all play a role in keeping Iowa beautiful.

This year, since we are also celebrating America's 250th birthday, we have set a goal to get **2,500 volunteers collecting 2,500 bags of litter** between April and June.

Participation is easy:

- ✓ Choose your cleanup date (April–June)
- ✓ Gather your team
- ✓ Select your location
- ✓ Register your event online



Pictured above are two Hometown Pride communities participating in Pick-Up Iowa 2025.

From top to bottom: Preston Hometown Pride, Lost Nation Hometown Pride

[Register Your Pick-Up Iowa Event Today!](#)

2025 Annual Report

Celebrating a Beautiful Iowa

Keep Iowa Beautiful is proud to release our 2025 Annual Report, commemorating another year of transformative community impact. Through your dedication, we've beautified communities and fueled local economic growth.

In 2025, our programs engaged more than 4,000 volunteers, supported 353 community improvement efforts and directed more than \$4 million dollars for the betterment of Iowa communities.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, volunteers, and partners. Your support ensures that Iowa remains a vibrant, clean place to call home.



[Read the 2025 Annual Report Here](#)

PS - The 2025 Annual Report has something BRAND new we are celebrating (and unveiling soon). See if you can figure out what it is!!!

Your Support Matters!



From painting the state beautiful to instilling civic pride in our communities, the programs we provide are thanks to donations from supporters like you!

Consider giving to Keep Iowa Beautiful to help us continue our work improving Iowa communities!

[Donate to Support Iowa Communities](#)

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