Volunteers can make a difference

The Lawrence Story
History

1883

1956
Go forward with what you’ve got
Effective Volunteer Activities

Lawrence, KS Amtrak Ridership, FY05-FY14

[Chart showing ridership increase from FY05 to FY14]

[Image of a train at a station]

[Image of a conductor speaking to a group of people]

[Image of a crowd enjoying music at a station]

[Image of a dog and its owner at the station]
Support from diverse stakeholders make a difference

- Community Center for Volunteer Activities
- Amtrak regulars
- Train buffs
- East Lawrence Neighborhood Association
- Lawrence Preservation Alliance
- City of Lawrence
- Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
- Depot Redux
- Downtown Lawrence
- US Representative Dennis Moore
The Challenges

- Caretakers
- Naysayers
- Vandalism and Theft
- Failed Grant Submissions
- Ownership Transfer
- Threat to Amtrak’s SW Chief
All things come to she who waits ...and works
ADA: When Amtrak is happy, everybody’s happy
Criteria for success of volunteer program

• program must be well organized with effective leadership

• volunteer work must be meaningful, fun, not too demanding.

• volunteer pool must be adequate for tasks at hand.
Your depot speaks volumes about your community.

Keep it vital!
Thank you
• Deleted slides follow
What good is an Amtrak station if the train stops running?

State and local Congressional Representatives defend the SW Chief
Sources of volunteers:

- train buffs
- Amtrak regulars (passengers)
- retirees
- depot neighbors
- Community Center for Volunteer Activities
- historic preservation group
- media coverage and speakers’ bureau
  stir interest
Celebrate
Depot Redux
A diversified board of Trustees
Enhancing passenger amenities
What was it about Lawrence and this station that made the project successful?

Patience
Persistence