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Warrensburg's Emerson Elkins Awarded Missouri Main Street Connection's Volunteer of the Year Award.

Missouri Main Street Connection Inc. (MMSC) presented downtown revitalization awards recognizing revitalization excellence during Missouri's Premier Downtown Revitalization Conference in Kansas City on August 5, 2022. The event was hosted at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown.

Missouri Main Street Connection is the leading statewide nonprofit organization devoted to preservation-based economic development. Through the Main Street America™ movement and our partners, we empower community revitalization by celebrating, supporting, and sustaining Missouri historic commercial districts in both rural and urban settings.

MMSC is proud to announce that we have been celebrating one billion dollars in public and private investment in Missouri Main Street districts. This milestone was reached at the end of 2021. In addition, Missouri Main Street communities have created 5,069 net new jobs and 1,068 net new businesses from 2006-2021.

The ceremony Friday night honored communities, individuals, businesses, and organizations from across the state that have completed exemplary work in downtown revitalization. Competitive nominations were submitted for projects, activities, and individuals in 16 different categories that covered aspects of design, economic vitality, organization, promotion, and other efforts in downtown revitalization.

Volunteer of the Year Awarded to Emerson Elkins of Warrensburg.

Emerson and the Elkins family are residents of downtown Warrensburg. Emerson frequently walks in downtown with his family and often visits the Farmers' Market and the Main Street events. On one of these walks, he started to notice an increase in trash downtown especially during the winter months. The Main Street organization

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spied Emerson doing his part to keep downtown beautiful and vibrant by taking it upon himself to pick up trash on his frequent walks downtown. He can be seen on his battery powered gator driving around the streets of downtown picking up trash in the alleys, parking lots, and Main Street. Emerson is doing his part to keep his community and the downtown clean and tidy for all residents and visitors. The best part is that Emerson is only four (4) years old and the youngest Warrensburg Main Street volunteer!

For more information on this award contact Warrensburg Main Street's Executive Director Jill Purvis at 660-429-3988 or director@warrensburgmainstreet.org.