

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Gov. Heineman Presents Nebraska Governor Points of Light Volunteer Awards

(Lincoln, Neb.) Gov. Dave Heineman will present the Nebraska Governor's Points of Light Awards at a proclamation ceremony Thursday, January 19 in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln. The awards are presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities.

This quarter's winners:

YOUTH CATEGORY:

Chelsea Wooten--Grand Island, NE

For the last two years, Chelsea has volunteered at the Grand Island Veterans Home. She helps escort members to and from recreational activities, and assists in conducting the activities. She has a calming effect on the members and spends a great deal of her time on the Special Needs/Alzheimer's Unit. Chelsea is compassionate and connects with the members well. She has volunteered a total of 314 hours at the Veteran's Home this past year. Chelsea is definitely a point of light in the lives of the Veteran's Home members and in the community of Grand Island.

ADULT CATEGORY:

Bev Prucha – Lincoln, Nebraska

Charlie Brown's Kids is a grief support group for children who have lost a parent and Bev Prucha is one of the original founders of the group. Bev is said to have a heart of gold and has put 30 to 40 volunteer hours a week into the program for over 20 years. She advocates for the group, recruits volunteers, writes grants and purchases supplies. Without her deep passion and commitment, Charlie Brown's Kids would not exist.

GROUP CATEGORY:

Chadron Middle School 8th Grade Class – Chadron, Nebraska

The Chadron Middle School 8th Grade Class collected 3,728 cans of food for the local food pantry in Chadron this year during the Chadron Caring Sharing Food Drive. This food drive helps the food pantry meet needs over the Christmas holiday and during the year for more than 129 needy families (including 170 children) in the Chadron area.

GROUP CATEGORY:

The Girls and Boys Town Volunteers and Mentors – Omaha, Nebraska

A dedicated group of over 100 volunteers serve in a variety of capacities. Volunteers work as docents who greet visitors that tour the Village of Girls and Boys Town. Other volunteers repair children's bicycles, assist in the schools' media centers, and maintain vegetable and flower gardens. Approximately 150 individuals serve as mentors that help

children build trust and positive relationships with adults. In addition, they coach the children in improving their reading and math skills. This group of volunteers and mentors are unquestionably points of light to the children in the Village of Girls and Boys Town and the Omaha metro community.

Each quarter, Commissioners from the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission review award nominations and make final recommendations to the Governor. The awards are sponsored by Woodmen of the World.

To nominate individuals and groups who have made a difference through volunteerism for a Governor's Points of Light Award, please visit <http://www.nvsc.ne.gov> to obtain a nomination form and instructions, or contact 402-471-6225 or (800) 291-8911 to request information.

The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission was established in 1994 to promote, mobilize, and support the efforts of all Nebraskans who are united in strengthening their communities, state and nation through volunteer and community service.

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