

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Nominations now open for the 2014 First Lady's Community Service Awards

Lincoln, Neb. – ServeNebraska announced today that nominations are now open for the 2014 First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards. This annual ServeNebraska statewide event serves to inspire Nebraskans by honoring amazing individuals, schools, organizations, and companies who are making an impact in their local communities through volunteering and service.

"The Good Life we enjoy and the high national volunteerism ranking we honor will only continue if the ethic of service and commitment to community we all have is continued in future generations of Nebraskans," First Lady Sally Ganem.

Nominations will be accepted in the following categories:

- **Lifetime Achievement in Volunteer Service**
Honors an individual, who over the course of his/her lifetime has made significant contributions to the State of Nebraska through volunteer efforts.
- **Outstanding Volunteer of the Year**
Honors an individual who improves the lives of neighbors, friends, community or a faith community.
- **Outstanding Volunteer Group of the Year**
Honors a group that strives to make their community a better place to live through a variety of activities.
- **Outstanding Service-Learning Program**
Honors service-learning programs and projects that demonstrate development of outstanding youth leadership.
- **Outstanding Community Partnership in Education**
Honors partnerships that demonstrate cooperation and combining resources, bringing significant advantages to volunteer service in education.
- **Outstanding Business Support for Education**
Honors demonstrated community involvement by encouraging employee volunteerism and active participation in a school or district.
- **Outstanding Student Leader**
Honors a student leader who holds a leadership position in a student organization and demonstrates exemplary leadership skills.
- **Outstanding Community Service Project**
Honors a community project that has impact and long-lasting value building youth commitment to volunteering.

- **Outstanding School Volunteer Program**
Honors a school or district that demonstrates community involvement by encouraging and supporting student volunteerism through service clubs, service-learning, civic engagement or other activities.
- **National Service**
Honors an outstanding national service member or group of members currently serving in an AmeriCorps, VISTA, Senior Corps, Foster Grandparents or RSVP program and whose efforts have increased the quality of life in one or more Nebraska communities.
- **Professional Commitment to Service: Debra Hartmann Award**
Honors an individual in a professional position in the area of community service.

The deadline to submit a nomination for a First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Award is February 15, 2014. To make your nomination, please visit http://www.serve.nebraska.gov/awards/awards_first_lady.htm.

The First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards will be presented at an awards ceremony on Friday, April 11, 2014 at The Thompson Alumni Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The 2013 First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Award Honorees:

- Lifetime Achievement in Volunteer Service – **Bill Olson, Oshkosh**
- Outstanding Volunteer of the Year – **Colonel Jan Kaufman, Lincoln**
- Outstanding Volunteer Group of the Year – **Annie Jeffrey Volunteers, Osceola**
- Outstanding Service-Learning Program – **Sacred Circle Service Learning Partnership, Omaha**
- Outstanding Community Partnership in Education – **F Street Community Center, Lincoln**
- Outstanding Student Leader – **Mikayla Flott, Omaha**
- Outstanding Community Service Project – **Miss Amazing, Inc., Papillion**
- Outstanding School Volunteer Program – **Completely KIDS, Norris Middle School, Omaha**
- National Service – **Jessie Gotsdiner & Jenny Wysocky, College Possible, Omaha**
- Professional Commitment to Service – **Wayne Svoboda, Volunteer Partners, Lincoln**

About ServeNebraska

ServeNebraska coordinates and supports community involvement by Nebraskans that address the needs of our communities. ServeNebraska coordinates AmeriCorps programming, celebrates volunteer achievements through quarterly and annual awards, provides training and technical assistance, and works to ensure that those with a disability are fully involved. To learn more, please visit www.serve.nebraska.gov.

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