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Governor Honors Points of Light Award Winners

Lincoln, Neb. – Gov. Dave Heineman presented the Nebraska Governor's Points of Light Awards at a proclamation ceremony Wednesday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m. 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:

ADULT Category: Annette McClure – Aurora, NE

Annette McClure is a dedicated member of the RISE AmeriCorps program. The Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE) AmeriCorps program sponsored by Nebraska State Probation provides education and employment guidance to those on probation in rural and frontier Nebraska. In her service role, Annette has supported and reinforced probationers' desire to change their lives for the better. As a result of her efforts, 12 individuals have graduated from the RISE program. Of those 12, five are employed, two are attending college and one is participating in an English Language Learner (ELL) program. Annette also recruits area business and community leaders asking them to volunteer to conduct mock interviews and to consider hosting a probationer to complete 20 community service hours that will increase their work experience and build community support. Currently, five volunteers from the community have stepped up to conduct mock interview experiences for the probationers with whom Annette works.

YOUTH Category: Shelby Seier – Omaha, NE

Shelby, a senior at Duchesne Academy, has made a real impact in the lives of children with disabilities. Shelby's volunteer work with the Rose Theater in Omaha has been a primary focus during her last three years of high school. She serves as a teacher's assistant for two drama classes for children and teens with autism each Saturday. In this capacity, she works one-on-one with children needing support, making it a positive experience for the youth involved. Shelby is a gifted actress and has given many out-standing performances in high school productions. In addition, she mentors younger girls in her school. Shelby was also fund raising coordinator for the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in 2008. Through Creighton University and ILAC, students raise money for a project in the Dominican Republic and then travel to that country to volunteer during the summer to complete the project. Shelby headed up 10 fund raising projects to raise money to refurbish an elementary school and traveled with a group to the Dominican Republic to finish the project.

GROUP Category: Mid-Nebraska Food Rescue Volunteers (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) – Kearney, NE

The partnership between the Mid-Nebraska Food Bank and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) developed when surplus perishable food at the Food Bank was at risk of being thrown away because it could not be distributed before it expired. This was troubling since Food Bank staff knew that there were many individuals in the community who were in need of the supplemental food. A group of RSVP volunteers accepted the challenge to distribute the food weekly. Since the partnership began in May 2009, 28,232 pounds of food have been distributed to individuals from housing authority residences and senior centers – many of whom live on fixed incomes -- located in Buffalo and Kearney counties.

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