



**2013  
First Lady's Outstanding  
Community Service Awards Luncheon**

*Celebrating Nebraska's Volunteer Spirit*



**Nebraska First Lady  
Sally Ganem**

Presented at the  
Kearney Country Club  
2800 19th Avenue  
Kearney, Nebraska  
April 12, 2013

**2013 FIRST LADY'S OUTSTANDING  
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

**PROGRAM CEREMONY**

**WELCOME**

*JAMESENA MOORE  
COMMISSION CHAIR, SERVENEBRASKA*

**GREETINGS**

*FIRST LADY SALLY GANEM  
HONORARY CHAIR, SERVENEBRASKA*

**MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES**

*JAMESENA MOORE*

**LUNCHEON SPEAKER**

*MARION McDERMOTT, KEARNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

*FIRST LADY SALLY GANEM  
GERRY OSBORN, SERVENEBRASKA AWARDS CHAIR*

\* \* \* \* \*



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- ◆ First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards

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# CONGRATULATIONS!

*To All Honorees & Nominees*



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# PRESENTING

## NEBRASKA FIRST LADY SALLY GANEM

Nebraska First Lady Sally Ganem is the Honorary Chair of Serve Nebraska, Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, a member of its Executive committee and an inspiring leader for community service and service learning in Nebraska. She is an enthusiastic ambassador for the Commission.

The First Lady is the former principal of Howard Elementary School in Fremont, Nebraska. She was born and raised in Omaha and graduated from Omaha South High School. She later received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Sally is active in the Fremont community as a member of the Low Income Ministry Board and the Social Sciences Advisory Board of Metropolitan Community College. She is a past president of both the Fremont Area United Way and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She has been an American Heart Association volunteer and a John C. Fremont Days volunteer, where she started the children's activities portion of the celebration. In February, Sally received the Voices for National Service State Leadership Award, for leadership and innovation in leveraging national service to meet state needs.

Sally is involved in several educational organizations, including serving as an officer and on committees in the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA). She also participates as a member of the Read Aloud Nebraska Board of Directors, and regularly spends time traveling around the state to read aloud to school groups.

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## FIRST LADY'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD JUDGES

GERRY OSBORN, AWARDS CHAIR, AINSWORTH  
NANCY FABER, AWARDS VICE CHAIR, ELKHORN

DEB EGGLESTON, SCRIBNER  
DALE HAFFER, DUNNING  
PATRICIA HOEHNER, KEARNEY  
SHARON JOSEPHSON, SEWARD  
JO LOWE, LINCOLN  
KORLA KELLER, BASSETT  
MITCH KUBICEK, DORCHESTER  
KYLE MCGOWAN, CRETE  
CAROL PLATE, AINSWORTH  
DWAYNE STRASHEIM, HASTINGS

## SERVE NEBRASKA —

### THE NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMMISSION

#### COMMISSIONERS

FIRST LADY SALLY GANEM  
HONORARY CHAIR  
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LOIS WINE, VICE CHAIR, OMAHA  
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CAROL SPEICHER, COLUMBUS  
ANGELA SEATON, LINCOLN  
KEVIN WARNEKE, OMAHA  
ROSE WHITE, OMAHA  
SARA WOODS, OMAHA

#### STAFF

JERRY L. SELLENTIN, PhD  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
GREG DONOVAN  
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER  
JANET SCHMIDT, CGMS  
FISCAL/OPERATIONS OFFICER  
KIMBERLE HALL  
TRAINING PROGRAM OFFICER  
CATHLEEN PLAGER  
AMERICORPS/DISABILITY PROGRAM  
OFFICER

## 2013 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER NOMINEES

ANNIE JEFFREY VOLUNTEERS  
NORMA BERNASEK  
BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE  
BONNIE BLAIR  
BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION  
FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS  
ADRIAN BORCH  
BOYS TOWN HIGH SCHOOL MENTORS  
BOYS TOWN VOLUNTEERS  
BVCA AMERICORPS  
CEDAR BLUFFS ELEM & H.S. & CRISIS  
CENTER FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE  
CHILD SAVING INSTITUTE GUILD  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH ACTIVITY &  
NUTRITION COMM. ENGAGEMENT  
COMPLETELY KIDS—  
NORRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ANDREW CROW  
ALEXIS DUERMYER  
PATTI DUNAWAY  
SIGRID EIGENBERG  
F STREET COMMUNITY CENTER—  
DOROTHY SKORUPA, JERRY TAYLOR &  
RICK LINGARD  
F STREET RECREATION CENTER—  
CARLEST JOHNSON & MELANIE ALLEN  
FAIRBURY YOUTH INVOLVEMENT CENTER  
MIKAYLA FLOTT  
RAE FULTON  
GENEVA EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH  
JESSIE GOTSDINER  
AMANDA HARROUN  
GAVIN HARSH  
HEARTLAND CASA VOLUNTEERS  
HILDEGARD CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
"HEROES" GROUP  
INTEGRATED LIFE CHOICES  
AKANSHA JAIN  
COL. JAN KAUFMAN  
EMILIE KONOLD  
ROGER LANSMAN  
LATINAS, TABACO, Y CANCER GROUP  
ROBERT LEDDY

CHRISTOPHER LEET  
LINCOLN POLICE UNION CHARITIES  
LINCOLN YOUTH VOLUNTEERS  
LINDSAY LIMBACH—BELMONT ELEM  
LITZENBERG HOSPITAL AUXILLARY  
LOW INCOME MINISTRY  
LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE—  
AMERICORPS PROGRAM  
TINA MCLAIN  
JUDY MEYER  
MISS AMAZING, INC.—JORDAN SOMER  
DEBBIE MITTAN  
TYLER MULKEY  
JERRY MURPHY  
NEBRASKA CAMPUS COMPACT  
TRAISLYNN NICHOLSON  
WILLIAM (BILL) S. OLSON  
STEVE PAGE  
PAPILLION-LA VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COOPERATION BEST  
LAUREN PETERSON  
PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT AT  
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY  
YESENIA RODRIQUEZ  
SACRED CIRCLE SERVICE LEARNING  
PARTNERSHIP  
SACRED HEART HELPING HANDS—  
LINDA KIRKENDALL  
BARB SCHMIDT  
DAVE SNAVELY  
SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
MARCIA STEPHENS  
RON SUNG  
MEGHAN SULLIVAN  
WAYNE SVOBODA  
U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILLARY  
JOHN VANBROCKLIN  
CINDY VO  
JENNY WYSOCKY  
YOUTHBUILD OMAHA—  
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES  
RUSS ZEEB

## 2013 FIRST LADY'S OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD HONOREES

### NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD:

**JESSIE GOTSDINER & JENNY WYSOCKY, OMAHA**

### OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR:

**ANNIE JEFFREY VOLUNTEERS, OSCEOLA**

### OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:

**COL. JAN KAUFMAN, LINCOLN**

### DEBRA HARTMANN AWARD:

**WAYNE SVOBODA, LINCOLN**

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM:

**SACRED CIRCLE SERVICE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP, OMAHA**

### OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER:

**MIKAYLA FLOTT, OMAHA**

### OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION:

**F STREET COMMUNITY CENTER, LINCOLN  
DOROTHY SKORUPA, JERRY TAYLOR & RICK LINGARD**

### OUTSTANDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

**COMPLETELY KIDS, NORRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL, OMAHA**

### OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT:

**MISS AMAZING, INC., PAPILLION**

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

**WILLIAM "BILL" S. OLSON, OSHKOSH**

## **NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD**

**JESSIE GOTSDINER & JENNY WYSOCKY, OMAHA**

**NOMINATED BY: LAURA SCHABLOSKE**

Jenny Wysocky and Jessie Gotsdiner are AmeriCorps members and serve as Senior Coaches with College Possible at Omaha South Magnet High School and Benson Magnet High School in Omaha. As Senior Coaches, they work with College Possible seniors to achieve three goals, 1) apply to 4-year colleges; 2) apply for scholarships and financial aid; 3) achieve acceptance, readiness, and enrollment. The 69 seniors are low-income, first-generation students, with an average of a 3.0GPA and an 18 on the ACT. 83% are students of color and 95% qualify for free and reduced lunch. The 5% would qualify, if their parents applied.

Both Jessie and Jenny met their students for the first time in September 2012. This was a major challenge as both groups worked with different AmeriCorps members during their junior year. In a mere 5 months, they bonded with the students and achieved amazing outcomes. They work with students after-school, but also before school, during lunch, and in the evening online to help students achieve their dreams.

As testament, 100% of the 69 seniors have applied to college and 75% have been accepted so far. They are waiting on many colleges to make their decisions. The students have received over \$120,000 thus far in scholarships, including three winners of the statewide Horatio Alger competition. Currently, students are applying for the Buffett scholarship, other scholarships, and completing the FAFSA to ensure college affordability.

Beyond these numbers, Jessie and Jenny have inspired the students to believe in themselves and that they can attend college and be successful. The students also know that a College Possible coach like Jessie and Jenny will walk with them in their college journey. Through their tireless work with students, including many late nights of essay editing and walking students through submissions, Jessie and Jenny have truly made College Possible for these wonderful students and future college graduates.

## **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

**BILL OLSON, OSHKOSH**

**NOMINATED BY: PAULA SISSEL**

Bill Olson has been a longstanding community volunteer in Garden County for the past fifty years!

Bill was instrumental in establishing the Garden County Community Foundation and the founder of a local beautification award that is given annually to deserving community members.

Mr. Olson is a charter member of the local Municipal Golf Course, planting flowers and maintaining the flower beds for over 25 years and waters daily throughout the growing season. He paid for and installed fencing all around the country club parking lot, this project took several weeks to complete.

Bill personally paid for the demolition of a blighted dwelling across from the city auditorium, then he further developed a small park in that location. He purchased the fencing for that area around the park and was one of the primary donors to the auditorium's renovation.

Bill paid for the design, construction, and installation of a sign on Highway 26 prior to the Centennial celebration and financed a facelift of the oldest building in town, which is now a daycare.

He wrote and paid for news articles in the local newspaper about the local history and Union Pacific railroad in the county, which took at least 25 hours to complete and publish.

Bill has provided substantial contributions to the recent renovations of the Garden County Health Services' for the hospital, nursing home, and Oshkosh swimming pool reconstruction.

"I have lived in Garden County my entire life (for the last 78 years) and when it comes to getting something done in this community for the 'good of others', Bill Olson is by far #1 in my book! Bill lives to help other people and not himself," said Paul D. Robinson.

**OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT**  
**MISS AMAZING, INC. (JORDAN SOMER), PAPILLION**  
**NOMINATED BY: KIMBERLY SOMER**

In 2007, Jordan Somer founded Miss Amazing Inc. at the age of thirteen. The mission of Miss Amazing Inc. is to build confidence and self-esteem in girls and women with disabilities in a positive environment through the skills learned in pageantry. Jordan has worked tirelessly for this organization (never taking a salary) for the past seven years. Her hard work, along with many other volunteers, has helped to grow the organization and it is now located in 24 states.

A message constantly heard from parents in reference to options for their children is "I wish they truly did more for the kids" "I really wish there was SOMETHING." Miss Amazing Inc. strives to help fill this void.

The foundation event is a pageant in each state. Participants are involved in an interview, introduction on stage, and demonstrate poise in evening gown. All are awarded with a crown and trophy and six are selected to represent her peers. The only cost is five cans of food, which are donated to a charity in each state. Proceeds from the final program and a silent auction contribute to the mission of Miss Amazing Inc. and a portion is donated to charity (2013 estimate donation 3600 lbs. of food and \$12,000 nationwide). In addition to the annual pageant, the organization holds workshops, mother/daughter teas, and is expanding to other activities.

This event typically involves over 75+ volunteers in each state. The volunteer base includes students and adults, many whom have never worked with individuals who have special needs. Each state director and his or her committee spend hundreds of hours yearly to plan and host an event.

The first national pageant will be held in Nebraska over Labor Day weekend in 2013 bringing together the nation to celebrate the abilities of those with disabilities.

**OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR**  
**ANNIE JEFFREY VOLUNTEERS, OSCEOLA**  
**NOMINATED BY: SUSAN CHRASTIL**

You should meet the AJ Volunteers! They are an energetic group of women who give their time, talent and energy to help Polk County Nebraska build a stronger community!

On September 22, 1994, a group of women met at Annie Jeffrey Health Center to organize what is now known as the Annie Jeffrey Volunteers. They came up with the idea of raising money for the hospital by opening a thrift shop, so on November 15, 1995, the Thrift Shop opened at its present location, 451 Hawkeye in Osceola, NE. Presently, there are approximately 60 volunteers, with most of them working at least once or twice a month at the shop. Since its inception, the AJ Volunteers have donated over \$93,000 to Annie Jeffrey Health Center with proceeds from the shop.

Before the AJ Volunteers organized and opened the Thrift Shop, Polk County did not have anywhere to take or purchase gently used clothing, household appliances and furnishings. The Thrift Shop is also where needy families can go to get clothing for their families at little or no cost.

Besides operating the Thrift Shop in Osceola and donating the proceeds to the hospital, the AJ Volunteers are dedicated to helping with other community and hospital activities, such as helping at the health fairs and assisting local nursing homes with community projects such as preparing Easter eggs for kids.

The AJ Volunteers Board of Directors holds monthly meetings to learn of hospital volunteer opportunities, update the Thrift Shop schedule, authorize purchases for the hospital, and donate excess merchandise to other organizations. They also plan a theme for the Thrift Shop window and decorate accordingly to coincide with local promotions. They are a dependable and active retailer involved in all community events.

The AJ Volunteers actively recruit new members from local churches, senior centers and newly retired individuals. The collaboration between the hospital, local businesses, City of Osceola, Polk County and the area churches has encouraged those who have never volunteered to join the AJ Volunteers and enjoy the gratification that comes from community service and volunteering.

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

**COL. JAN KAUFMAN, LINCOLN**

**NOMINATED BY: BEATTY BRASCH**

Col. Jan Kaufman has spent the last two decades playing secret elf for tens of thousands of Lancaster County children from low-income families. In 1991 she volunteered to start a fundraising auction for Santa Cop, a philanthropy project of the Lincoln Police Union Charities. Santa Cop provides toys every Christmas for thousands of children living in poverty in Lancaster County. Captain Kim Kolach founded the program in 1980, but it wasn't until Jan got involved that it really took off. Jan applied her professional auctioneering skills, asking businesses and individuals for donations of products and services to make each year's auction a success.

"There might not be a program without Jan Kaufman," Kolach said, because police officers were not able to serve many children with the little money they were able to raise. Since Jan stepped in, over \$500,000 has been raised, thanks to the auction and her efforts.

For the last several years, clients at the Center for People in Need have benefitted from Jan's boundless heart. The Center gives gifts to 8,000 - 10,000 children from low-income families each year at its Toyland for Kids Special Event.

"After all of the effort she puts into the auctions, Jan comes to the Center and volunteers to help distribute gifts to the kids," says Deb Daily, Director of Operations. "We couldn't do it without Jan Kaufman and the Santa Cop program."

Although illness forced a stop to her Santa Cop participation after the 2011 auction, Jan still raised over \$2,000 on her own in 2012 to buy more toys. Her only goal for her efforts is for every child to have a toy for Christmas. "I'm always worried we're not going to have enough money," Jan says. "I want to make sure there's enough so no child will be left out."

## OUTSTANDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

**COMPLETELY KIDS, NORRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL, OMAHA**

**NOMINATED BY: JULIE DIERBERGER**

Norris is home to a tremendous school volunteer program called Redbird 108. This program was created through a service learning project at the school, which was a collaborative effort between the school, Completely KIDS and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. This effort, which began in the Fall of 2012, has become an essential asset to the school community.

This program, initially targeted for youth that were disengaged and chronically absent as a method of getting students involved, has grown into creating service as a way Norris "Redbirds" identify themselves – with a strong sense of community pride and desire to give back.

The heart of the program is the addition of a community resource room located within the school in room 108. This resource room was established to be a place for partnering agencies and other school staff to serve the students and their families. The resource room also serves as the home of the student volunteer program. It houses the Redbird Closet, which is a student-led volunteer group that provides much needed clothing items to the school community. This volunteer group also provides support to students and their families who are struggling with specific needs. One current project is providing financial assistance to a Norris student who is undergoing surgery out-of-state. Additionally, the community resource room houses the Completely KIDS's sponsored Youth Attendance Navigator (YAN), who works with students and families in regard to truancy. This year the program has grown, and the goal for every student is to complete 40 hours of service is well on its way. Currently students have served over 600 hours!

Although this student volunteer program is relatively new, it has flourished within the school community. The program has actively engaged many students, school administrators, teachers and staff, as well as Norris parents and other Omaha community partners. The success of the program is driven by student leadership opportunities. It is truly a school community effort that is designed to embrace the needs of the school and spark proactive student engagement.

**OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP  
IN EDUCATION**

**F STREET COMMUNITY CENTER, LINCOLN  
DOROTHY SKORUPA, JERRY TAYLOR, RICK LINGARD**

**NOMINATED BY: DEB BUCKMAN & MELISSA LINDEMAN**

F Street Community Center Director, Dorothy Skorupa and Assistant Directors, Jerry Taylor and Rick Lingard are committed to creating a safe, fun, education and recreation-based environment where children, adults and senior citizens can come together. They strive to provide services and programs that strengthen family unity, personal growth, and community awareness. Dorothy oversees and supports the Community Learning Centers at Everett and McPhee Elementary schools along with the after school program at F Street Community Center.

Through participation with AmeriCorps and a strong sense of teamwork the Center Directors have been able to increase the education, fitness and nutrition programs available for at risk youth in the community. These programs help to encourage youth to stay focused, stay healthy and in school. Over the years AmeriCorps Members under their guidance have become a valuable resource for providing fundamental active living and youth development. Through partnerships with other community organizations F Street seeks to strengthen services for youth and impress the importance of education for their future.

F Street is a hub of activity; seniors playing cards and pool during the day, adults dropping in and shooting basketball, afterschool programs for elementary kids, middle and high school drop-in youth who become engaged in programs, literacy classes, neighborhood food distribution, meals served to seniors and youth, artists and writers on the edge, and let's not forget the fitness track and weight room that are always busy!

Dorothy, Rick and Jerry treat everyone with respect as they walk through the door and check in to make sure things are okay with everyone. If there are things they can do to help, maybe provide food, hot coffee or just to shoot the breeze they will take an extra moment to connect.

**PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT TO SERVICE—  
DEBRA HARTMANN AWARD**

**WAYNE SVOBODA, LINCOLN**

**NOMINATED BY: DAN BAUERLY**

Wayne Svoboda is the former Executive Director of Volunteer Partners where he served since its inception in 2002. Under his leadership, Volunteer Partners has thrived in carrying out its mission: "Promote and support volunteerism to connect volunteers with non-profit agencies in Lincoln, Lancaster County, and Nebraska." As the agency's lone full-time employee, Wayne carried out this mission by successfully implementing several specialty programs within Volunteer Partners to include: Youth Volunteer Program, Emergency Volunteer Program, Corporate Volunteer Council, Board Diversity and Training, and Business Professional Volunteers. Each program serves the community in a unique way.

Over the past 10 years, Wayne has provided Volunteer Management training to local agencies to assist them with managing their volunteers, which involves strategies in recruiting, evaluating, and recognizing.

Wayne's expertise in volunteer management fits the mission of "promoting and supporting volunteerism". Through Wayne's leadership, Volunteer Partners annually recognizes volunteers from local non-profit agencies in the community during National Volunteer Week at a recognition celebration. This event, which draws the support of public officials, and corporate and community groups across the country, is a celebration of people doing extraordinary things through service and the impact of volunteerism as an integral aspect of civic leadership. This celebration recognizes over 150 nonprofit agencies who in 2011 reported over 184,000 volunteers serving Lincoln and Lancaster County with more than 3,600,000 hours of service to these agencies.

Wayne's leadership played an important role in introducing and supporting current ongoing relationships among these individuals, organizations, and the community. Through his dedication and commitment as Executive Director of Volunteer Partners, Wayne has been a true ambassador of community service to the Lincoln Community.

**OUTSTANDING SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM**  
**SACRED CIRCLE SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT, OMAHA**  
**NOMINATED BY: JULIE DIERBERGER**

“Sacred Circle” is an outstanding service-learning program with a strong focus on mentoring that promotes the American Indian culture by bringing together University of Nebraska at Omaha Native American Studies students with Native American students at Omaha South Magnet High School. Each Tuesday for the past three years, students from UNO have come to South High to share a snack, mentor, talk about their lives, serve the community, and participate in structured activities to foster pride in Native American culture.

These relationships weren’t easy to build; developing trust the first year was essential. Now every week students learn and serve together to plan pow wows, create art pieces representing themselves and Native American culture, make moccasins, and serve the community. Currently, UNO students participate even when they are not enrolled in the Native American Studies course. They come to see the South High students, support their dreams, and encourage them to apply to college. Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills came to Omaha to inspire the students to strive for success and overcome obstacles in their own lives.

Sacred Circle has seen significant outcomes to the community and increased student leadership. This sustainable program has transformed how students collaborate in Omaha, inspiring relationships that give back to the community and individuals. Omaha South High School and UNO students have served 1,077 hours, developed mentor relationships that will sustain for years to come, given a greater connection to culture and tribal community, and impacted graduation rates of participants. Native American graduation rates are of the lowest in the Omaha area and second lowest in the state; this year five participants of this program will graduate high school and have applied to college ([http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/pg\\_PrintReport.aspx](http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/pg_PrintReport.aspx)).

**OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER**  
**MIKAYLA FLOTT, OMAHA**  
**NOMINATED BY: ANGELA FLOTT**

Mikayla aspires to make a difference in each life she encounters. Filled with boundless energy, she’s a take-charge person who welcomes challenges. Mikayla’s a successful achiever and her community involvement is substantial and diverse. Highlights of recent honors include: Governors Points of Light Award, TOYO (Ten Outstanding Young Omahans) Award, Heartland Hero nomination, National Honor Society Volunteer of the Year, Kiwanis and Ignatius of Loyola Service Scholarships, Creighton University’s elite 60 member Freshman Leadership Program and the Dean’s List.

In an environment of perpetual change, Mikayla credits her mentors for her island of stability and strength in her leadership style. Highlights for her include: Induction into Creighton’s Wareham for Women Who Lead and Emerging Leaders Programs, Delta Zeta fundraising chair and liaison for new members. She was recently appointed VP of Programming and Scholarship for the National PanHellenic Council.

Mikayla’s infectious spirit shines with perseverance while serving on Creighton’s New Student Orientation Board. She also continues her leadership and mentoring abilities as she represents her university as a C.U. Star (tour guide) and Birdcage Athletic member. She’s proud and honored to use her voice and knowledge as the Assistant News Editor on the Creightonian Newspaper.

Each service project presents the opportunity for Mikayla to mobilize and engage volunteers while showing her passionate empathy for others. Some of her volunteer service includes:

- Volunteered 1332 hours
- Key contributor in raising \$97,260.00 for her schools & community
- Collected/donated 1300+ lbs. of food, 120 coats, hats/gloves for Salvation Army, 110 pairs of shoes for Shoes for Souls
- Participated/raised money for American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Parkinson’s & Pancreatic Cancer Research, Nebraska Humane Society and Precious Memories Daycare.