

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Cody Village Board Chair Receives Governor's Points of Light Award**

**Lincoln, Neb.** – John Johnson, Chairman of the Village Board of Cody received the Governor's Points of Light Adult Award from Governor Dave Heineman on May 11, 2011 at a ceremony in Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln. The awards are sponsored by ServeNebraska and presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities.

Stacy Adamson nominated John because he has worked tirelessly in helping to create a student run grocery store in the village. Teachers at Code Kilgore United Schools received a grant to create a student run grocery store and business incubator. However, location became an issue and threatened to derail the entire project. John stepped in and refused to let the project die, and worked with the Center for Rural Affairs and the USDA. John was able to secure a second grant to fund a straw building to house both the grocery store and an entrepreneurship center. John is the main force behind the floor plan, surveying the land, creating a site map, and securing permission from Nebraska Game and Parks to utilize their land. He is passionate about his community and most importantly the youth of the community. This project has created a partnership between the students, the school board, and the village board. Progress is being made daily and construction began this spring. Even though the store is not yet completed, the students involved have learned hands-on business skills, and once the store opens their learning will compound. The straw bale building will be built by the community and will resemble an old-fashioned barn raising. This experience will be a great unifying experience for all involved. John Johnson is a difference maker in the village of Cody. His work on this project over the last two years has united much of the community and gotten the youth excited about the future of their town.

Also recognized at the ceremony and receiving the Youth Award was Mohit Jain a junior at Millard South High School in Omaha for his volunteer efforts in the area of public health which has had an impact on his community and that state at large. The Group Award was presented to the Heartland Council of Pioneers in Omaha for their dedicated and continued support to many community projects throughout the Omaha Metropolitan area, as well as throughout Nebraska and the United States.

Each quarter, a panel of judges from across Nebraska reviews award nominations and make final recommendations to the Governor. The Points of Light awards are sponsored by Woodmen of the World.

To nominate individuals and groups for the Governor's Points of Light Awards who have made a difference through volunteerism, visit the ServeNebraska website at [www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov) or call Kimberle Hall 800-291-8911 or 402-471-6228. The next nomination deadline is June 15, 2011.

ServeNebraska pursues its mission of mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.

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