

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2011

CONTACT:
Kimberle Hall, 402-471-6228
kim.hall@nebraska.gov

Governor Heineman Honors United Methodist Committee on Relief for Disaster Aid Efforts

Lincoln, Neb. – Reverend Lyle Schoen of Falls City First and Rulo United Methodist Churches accepted the Governor’s Points of Light Group Award on behalf of the thousands of Nebraska United Methodists from hundreds of churches, who help fill a semi-trailer each year – some years twice – with relief supplies for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The award was presented by Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem at a special ceremony on August 17, 2011 at the State Capitol with several key volunteers present.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the Nebraska United Methodist Churches conduit for many activities including providing cleaning buckets, health kits, sewing kits, school kits and birthing kits sent to aid in disaster relief efforts. Reverend Schoen has been instrumental in leading volunteers and organizing drives to collect the kits that get distributed to disaster areas around the world, and in Nebraska. One key volunteer, Mr. James Taylor of Soucie Trucking of Cambridge, Nebraska, has donated his time and company resources for this project that is now three years strong. United Methodists across Nebraska have assembled kits that were picked up by Soucie Trucking starting in Ogallala and several points in between, ending in Omaha and then hauled to Baldwin. Most recently, the semi-trailer was parked at the United Methodist Annual Conference at St. Marks in Lincoln. Many churches throughout the state participate in the United Methodist Committee on Relief by challenging each other. The Kimball Church offered a "challenge" to any church to provide the cost of 10 Flood Buckets as Kimball did (\$550). Waverly met that challenge and gave \$50 for shipping as well (total from Waverly: \$600). Madison Trinity UMC delivered 23 Cleaning Buckets - a great effort from them. Johnstown UMC is celebrating their 125th Anniversary this year, and set a goal to send 125 Health Kits this year and delivered 139 Health Kits. The United Methodist Committee on Relief provides a huge need in Nebraska and overseas. All the volunteers who make this project significant are to be commended for their service.

Also recognized at the ceremony and receiving the Adult Award was Michael J. Gallagher for his volunteer service to the Boy Scouts and devotion to Omaha Troop 395. The Youth Award was presented to Asmini KC, junior at Millard West High School for her volunteer efforts in her community, school and kids in other countries.

Each quarter, a panel of judges from across Nebraska reviews award nominations and makes final recommendations to the Governor. To nominate individuals and groups for the Governor’s Points of Light Awards who have made a difference through volunteerism and service, visit the ServeNebraska website at www.serve.nebraska.gov or call Kimberle Hall 800-291-8911 or 402-471-6228. The next nomination deadline is September 15, 2011.

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

- ### -