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BOOKSHELVES ACROSS NEBRASKA NEED YOUR HELP

SEWARD, NE – Organizations across Nebraska are becoming community sponsors for the Cornhusker Community Book Drive. This coordinated, state-wide event is collecting new and used books for distribution to worthy local causes.

Event Spokesperson, *New York Times* bestselling author Victorine Lieske, is excited about what this event can do to promote literacy across the state.

“From a preschooler’s backpack to a nursing home’s library you can encourage reading at all levels by getting involved in this project,” Lieske said.

Lieske is currently soliciting donations from fellow authors and publishers for sites across the state, but says the majority of donations need to come from individuals in the community. Initial response has been enthusiastic, with groups in Fairbury, Kearney, Lincoln and Scottsbluff signing on as the effort’s first local sponsors.

Collection sites will be accepting donations throughout April and early May. Books will then be distributed on May 7, coinciding with Join Hands Day, a national event designed to target and build relationships between youth and adults through neighborhood volunteering.

“Building relationships across generations restores confidence, trust and respect for each other and creates a sense of community,” touts the joinhandsday.org website.

The Join Hands Day annual event is sponsored by America’s Fraternal Benefit Societies, a grouping of non-profit organizations involved in charitable outreach. The Cornhusker Community Book Drive was developed by council of AmeriCorps Members serving across Nebraska, and is being coordinated by AmeriCorps members through ServeNebraska, the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission. This event is open to all participants, regardless of affiliation.

“Every Nebraska community is encouraged to participate, regardless of size,” said Lieske’s husband Charles, AmeriCorps member and Project Chair. “Our main goal is for youth and adults to work together on an equal basis to plan, organize and implement the effort. Whether you collect a hundred books or ten thousand, you can make a difference in your area.”

Organizations interested in becoming a local sponsor and individuals wanting to locate donation sites should log on to www.serve.nebraska.gov for more information.

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The Lieskes are available for interviews, including in-studio time. Contact Charles for scheduling. Vector art of logos is available upon request.