

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2011

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Kelly Jolkowski Founder of Project Jason is Recipient of Governor's Points of Light Award

Lincoln, Neb. – A news report of someone disappearing is over in a few short minutes but the nightmare has just begun for the person's family. Fortunately, families of missing persons can turn to Kelly Jolkowski, president of Project Jason (www.projectjason.org), for assistance. Since her own son disappeared in 2001, Kelly has helped thousands of families around the country, including more than 100 in Nebraska, with tactical and emotional support to better the chances of finding their loved ones alive.

Her work is so noted that in 2010, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder presented Kelly with his Volunteer for Victims award at a special ceremony in Washington D.C.

Kelly is one of the most highly trained individuals outside of law enforcement working with this cause. While her skills have national impact, she also helps the community in which she lives: her work has led to the safe recovery of several Nebraskans; she has sponsored a number of Nebraska law enforcement officials to attend out-of-state special missing persons trainings, and brought a special training from out-of-state to Omaha; she and her organization have distributed more than 5,000 family identification kits at numerous Nebraska events; she hosts annually in Nebraska the world's only coping skills retreat for families of both missing adults and children (several Nebraska families have attended); and she was the force behind Jason's Law (2005), which established the Nebraska Missing Persons Clearinghouse for creating awareness among the public of missing adults as well as children.

Upon her national Volunteer for Victims award, Ernie Allen, president of The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said: "We applaud Kelly Jolkowski, whose outstanding work on behalf of the missing and their families resulted in this deserved honor today. We are proud of her, and fortunate to benefit from her knowledge, her talents, and her dedication."

Also recognized at the ceremony and receiving the Youth Award was Andy Chase, a freshman at Hastings High School for his volunteer efforts in the community and at the YWCA Zone after school program. The Group Award was presented to aWholeBunchofPeople.org (www.aWholeBunchofPeople.org) in Lincoln as a tribute journal of volunteerism and engagement dedicated to the life and memory of Jessica Lutton Bedient.

Each quarter, a panel of judges from across Nebraska reviews award nominations and make 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, 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 December 15, 2011.

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

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