

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Presents aWholeBunchofPeople.org with Prestigious Points of Light Award

Lincoln, Neb. – aWholeBunchofPeople.org (www.awholebunchofpeople.org) is a group organized to encourage and facilitate service and volunteerism. This formed group has had an incredible impact in the first year of its existence. From the inception of the group, individuals have worked singularly and in concert to impact Nebraska communities. The group was formed around the tragic loss of Jessica Lutton Bedient, an inspiring individual who made a significant impact before she passed away last October. The lesson she taught through her 26 years was an important one – “one person really can make a difference”.

aWholeBunchofPeople.org has helped to inspire individual volunteerism among a generation that has otherwise seemed to lose track of giving back. Individuals have become involved in their communities in ways they themselves would have never imagined. The website created to document the movement uses testimonials and opportunities to provide a call to action that has appealed to many. The corresponding face book page has 1800 followers – a humbling number of which are doing much more than just following, they are getting involved, and helping others. Those who have joined the movement have volunteered numerous hours, donated food and clothing to the needy, organized supplies, worked for clean water, raised awareness for causes, brought love to the lonely, and much, much more.

The acts of many individuals have now grown to include monthly, organized activities throughout the entire state of Nebraska. Ongoing activities have centered around others’ unmet needs: a coat drive providing 400 coats to shelters in Lincoln and Omaha; a blood drive resulting in 176 donations; a Valentine’s Day request providing supplies for celebrations in classrooms in high-poverty areas. A year of involvement will culminate with a Day of Service held next, and every, October. These activities have created a tangible and exciting way to show what comes from aWholeBunchofPeople doing good.

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 Adult Award was Kelly Jolkowski of Omaha and founder of Project Jason, (www.projectjason.org), assistance for families of the missing. Since Kelly’s son disappeared in 2001, she has helped thousands of families across the country, including more than 100 in Nebraska with tactical and emotional support.

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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