

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 17, 2011**

**CONTACT:**  
Kimberle Hall, 402-471-6228,  
[kim.hall@nebraska.gov](mailto:kim.hall@nebraska.gov)

## **Governor Presents Andy Chase with Points of Light Award for Volunteerism**

**Lincoln, Neb.** – Andy Chase began volunteering through the Hastings YWCA Zone after-school program 4 years ago. Youth at the Zone may participate in 4 service learning projects during the year. During 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Andy was the first to come forward and volunteer for all 4 service projects. Andy discovered that he loved helping individuals and the community. He helped with the Spouse Abuse Sexual shelter's No Violence Day of Recognition, collected food for local pantries and helped to cook and hosted a soup supper. Andy has also baked bones for the Hastings Animal Shelter. He visits assisted living facilities on Valentine's Day and assists in cleaning up area parks. By the beginning of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Andy had completed 150 hours of service. Andy has become a leader by example in demonstrating what volunteerism means to the younger kids at the Zone.

Most recently Andy served 60 hours in August to assist with the Summer Food Program. With the help of local churches and agencies, the YWCA/Zone operates a summer food program for three weeks when schools close down to clean for the upcoming year.

Andy is currently a freshman at Hastings High School and volunteers at the Zone after school with middle school youth. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth have connected with Andy. "Andy is a wonderful mentor and, with his positive attitude and encouragement, I believe we have more Andy's in the making," Jennifer Lewis, YWCA Executive Director.

Also recognized at the ceremony and receiving the Adult Award was Kelly Jolkowski of Omaha and founder of Project Jason, ([www.projectjason.org](http://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. The Group Award was presented to aWholeBunchofPeople.org ([www.aWholeBunchofPeople.org](http://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](http://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.

- ### -