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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2014

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Attention News Editors: As a way to localize coverage of this event, ServeNebraska can provide you with the names of registered individuals or groups in your coverage area who are participating. Contact Kimberle Hall at the number and email listed above.

Nebraskans Encouraged to Join Statewide Volunteering Initiative

Nebraskans from Otoe County to Dawes, Kimball to Burt and everywhere in between, are encouraged to get involved and give back during ServeNebraska Week, April 20-26. ServeNebraska Week is an annual event to promote volunteerism in the state. The week-long service effort will provide Nebraskans of all ages with flexibility as to when they volunteer and for how long. ServeNebraska has developed a resource toolkit to assist those who wish to participate. ServeNebraska has volunteer ambassadors in all 93 counties who can suggest opportunities for volunteering.

Nebraskans may register their volunteer activity for ServeNebraska Week by visiting www.serve.nebraska.gov. Individuals or groups may participate. Following the week of service, ServeNebraska will release data on the scope of participation and the volunteer impact across the state.

ServeNebraska Week will provide Nebraskans with an opportunity to show their volunteer spirit while benefiting their communities', schools, nonprofits, churches, parks and more.

“We know that Nebraskans are quick to step forward to help those in need. We know that Nebraskans work diligently to improve the quality of life in their state and communities. And we

know our state is a better place because its residents know the importance of volunteerism,” said Jamesena Moore, chairwoman of ServeNebraska.

According to the recent Volunteering and Civic Life in America Report, Nebraska ranks in the top 5 in volunteerism among the 50 states and Washington, D.C. In 2012, 500,000 Nebraska residents volunteered. They donated over 50 million hours of service worth \$900 million of service contributed.

Governor Dave Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem are once again serving as honorary champions for ServeNebraska Week. The First Lady is a ServeNebraska volunteer commissioner and serves as honorary chair. “Volunteerism in our state is one thing that sets Nebraska apart. Nebraskans are quick to step up to help others. Dave and I are honored to once again be a part of this effort to encourage everyone in the state to lend a hand,” said First Lady Ganem.

ServeNebraska’s mission is to mobilize Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.

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