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## ServeNebraska Celebrates 20 Years of Volunteerism

(Lincoln, Neb.) Today, ServeNebraska, the Volunteer Service Commission, is marking 20 years of volunteerism and service to the state with an anniversary celebration gala at the Center for People in Need, Lincoln beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Governor Dave Heineman will present the 20th anniversary proclamation and First Lady Sally Ganem and honorary chair of ServeNebraska will preside over the event. The gala will include the following speakers: Shannon Cofield, Senior Advisor External Affairs Office of the President, Drake University; and Wendy Spencer, CEO, Corporation for National and Community Service. All proceeds from the event will benefit national service and volunteer programs throughout Nebraska's communities.

"For the past two decades, ServeNebraska has been the heart of service in the Cornhusker State, empowering citizens to tackle important issues in their community," said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "The people of Nebraska have a tremendous commitment to service. I'm honored to join them in marking the 20th anniversary of ServeNebraska, and celebrate 20 years of volunteers and national service members making a difference for the state."

"The impact of public private partnerships in support of National Service could build a generation that strengthens our communities and country into the future," said Shannon Cofield, Senior Advisor External Affairs Office of the President, Drake University.

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

Each year, ServeNebraska hosts a week of volunteerism with Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem serving as Champions. ServeNebraska Week works to inspire Nebraskans to seek out creative ways to serve their communities. ServeNebraska Week is a statewide effort that encourages families, students, congregations, employees, and individuals of all ages and backgrounds to volunteer their time in giving back to their communities.

ServeNebraska mobilizes Nebraskans to build a culture of service in their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs. In 2014, ServeNebraska granted more than \$2 million in federal funds for national service and volunteer programs and activities that benefit local communities. ServeNebraska funds 13 AmeriCorps programs across the state which engages a total of 250 AmeriCorps members providing community service.

Led by volunteer Governor-appointed Commissioners and managed by a small skilled staff, ServeNebraska works to grow the strong spirit of service in Nebraska. To learn more, visit [www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov).

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