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Nebraska's First Lady honors Donna Moore as volunteer of the year

(Lincoln, Neb.) Donna Moore received the 2014 First Lady's award for Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. This award is presented to an individual who improves the lives of neighbors, friends, community or a faith community. The service may be innovative, exceptionally dedicated or accomplished despite significant obstacles.

Nebraska's First Lady Sally Ganem presented Moore with her award on April 11, 2014 during the annual First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards luncheon at The Thompson Center on the University of Nebraska Omaha campus.

Small towns are dependent in many ways upon volunteers who keep the community alive, volunteers like 80 year-old Donna Moore who has volunteered countless hours over a 25-year period. Her most recent accomplishments include:

Volunteering at United Blood Services, she calls donors to make appointments; finds contributors for orange juice, homemade cookies, and bottled water. She finds volunteers to help and writes article for the Crawford Clipper, summarizing the day's efforts and thanking those who help.

Donna also keeps busy at the Post Playhouse at Fort Robinson. She arranges for volunteer ushers for 75 performances every summer, often ushering herself when people forget. She gets to know all the actors personally and arranges birthday parties for them while they're away from home, and shares her produce with them.

She additionally mans the Crawford RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) office, organizes the toy drive, assists with the food pantry, and coordinates the giving tree at Christmas, including pick-up, distribution, and delivery to needy families.

Donna also volunteers at the tourism information booth—putting in twelve-hour days in the summer. In addition, to all of this, she visits and plays cards with the residents at the nursing home; volunteers at the Crawford Historical Museum; and helps with activities at the Senior Center.

Donna has always volunteered generously and consistently, taking minimal time off to deal with health issues. Without Donna's dedication, dependability, and commitment, many of these activities would cease to exist in Crawford. RSVP Volunteer Extraordinaire, Donna recently called from her hospital bed after having some serious health issues, and said to the RSVP Director: "You will have to make your own coffee for the coffee social on Friday, but you can leave the trash...I'll take care of it when I get home."

For more information about the First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards, visit ServeNebraska at www.serve.nebraska.gov.

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