

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Community volunteer Diana Failla receives Governor's Points of Light award

Lincoln, Neb. – Diana Failla whose volunteer efforts and hours supersede several fulltime positions as she oversees numerous community programs, chairs various decision-making boards and attends countless meetings to better her neighborhood, community and the city of Omaha.

Governor Heineman recognized Diana for her community involvement on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 with the Governor's Points of Light adult award at a ceremony in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol. The awards are sponsored by ServeNebraska and are presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities.

Diana currently serves as president of Midtown Neighborhood Alliance (MNA) consisting of 17 historic district neighborhoods in the most densely populated areas of Omaha, and in a rapidly growing Urban Development area. She is the voice and advocate for residents and business owners within the neighborhoods. She volunteers over 50 hours a week, to recruit, train and maintain a strong volunteer pool. One example where she uses volunteers is with the Midtown ReTree Program and the only one of its kind. Under her leadership, 450 trees have been planted to maintain the tree canopy in midtown Omaha. The ReTree Program is designed to replace diseased trees, trees that have gone down in storms and trees in the city's right-of-way for beautification and streetscape urban design. The goal is to plant 1000 trees by 2017.

Nancy Murphy, chair of Dodge Street landscape committee said, "Diana tackles issues by talking to everyone from neighbors to city officials and spends a great deal of her time doing so. She has been diligent in getting to the best resolution possible in a given situation. She has developed many resources and contacts for our neighborhood. Those efforts have better connected our neighborhood to other neighborhoods, city resources and grant monies from various entities."

Diana serves as a commissioner for the Landmark Preservation Heritage Commission and spends countless hours hearing cases of infill development projects within historic districts as well as national registry nominations. She also serves on the University of Nebraska at Omaha board of directors for the Criss Library using her expertise to determine how to best use donor donations for media center development, book discussions and distinguished staff and volunteer awards.

Most recently Diana was nominated as a candidate for the National Neighborhood USA (NUSA) board of directors. Omaha has submitted a bid to host the National Neighborhood USA conference in 2017. As an active community volunteer, Diana works hard every day for the betterment and beautification of the local neighborhoods throughout the city of Omaha.

To nominate individuals and groups for the Governor's Points of Light Awards who have made a difference through volunteerism and service, visit the ServeNebraska website at www.serve.nebraska.gov. The next nomination deadline is June 15, 2014.

ServeNebraska pursues its mission of mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.

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