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Nebraska ranks 2nd among states for volunteering

Lincoln, NE – Tuesday, July 28, 2009 – For the fourth straight year, Nebraska has the second highest rate of volunteering in the nation, according to a government survey. Nearly 40 percent of Nebraskan’s volunteered during 2008. Nebraska ranks behind only Utah for the percentage of its population that says it volunteers. Nebraskans are also ranked among the top 5 in a variety of specific volunteerism categories.

Notable Nebraska statistics include:

- Second in the nation with volunteer rate of 38.9 percent
- Second in the nation with 49.3 volunteer hours per resident
- Second in the nation with a 78.6 percent volunteer retention rate
- Third in the nation with 39.2 percent of older adults who volunteer
- Second in the nation with 45.7 percent of “Baby Boomers” who volunteer
- Overall, 528,100 Nebraskans contributed 66.9 million hours of service
- The total value of Nebraska volunteerism is \$1.4 billion

In addition to traditional volunteers, there are more than 17,000 people participating in national service each year through 49 projects and programs. In 2009, the Corporation for National and Community Service will commit more than \$6,000,000 to support Nebraska’s national service initiatives.

The survey also includes data from 50 large and 75 mid-size cities, of which Omaha was included. Omaha ranked 20th among mid-sized cities with an average volunteer rate of 34.8 percent, considerably higher than the 2007 national average of 27 percent. The city also had an average of 41.1 volunteer hours per capita.

The Corporation for National and Community Service released its annual *Volunteering in America Report* on Tuesday, July 28. The report looks at volunteering trends across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The full report is available at www.volunteeringinamerica.gov

About ServeNebraska

ServeNebraska pursues its mission of mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs. For more information please visit serve.nebraska.gov.

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