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Governor to Honor Points of Light Award Winners

Lincoln, Neb. – Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy and First Lady Sally Ganem presented the Nebraska Governor's Points of Light Awards at a proclamation ceremony on behalf of Governor Dave Heineman on Wednesday, August 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln. The awards are presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities. This quarter's winners:

YOUTH: Angela Washington – Lincoln, NE

Angela Washington is an intern who began serving in the Marketing Department at the People City's Mission in September 2009. She works tirelessly on developing and coordinating People's City's Mission projects that impact the lives of the families that reside in the mission's Family Shelter. An example of her success is the "Amazing Grace Food Drive" she developed and coordinated. To advance this effort, she recruited 100 volunteers to collect food on four college campuses. She also coordinated the Halloween Food Drive, recruiting 30 volunteers for that effort. Through these food drives, significant progress was made towards meeting the food needs of those residing in the mission shelter.

ADULT: Corliss Dixon – Pleasanton, NE

Corliss Dixon has a vision for the Pleasanton community. Retired after teaching for 36 years in the community, she continues to work with students and community members to develop projects that make a difference. Over the past six years, she has recruited many students to become involved in writing grant proposals, community volunteer projects, recycling, and the local railroad depot restoration and Klein Park projects. The railroad depot restoration project received full funding because of the efforts of student and community collaboration which Corliss facilitated. She guided the grant writing process and nurtured student-led multi-media presentations to an architect firm, community groups and area agencies. Mobilizing former students, she obtained a recycling grant enabling the community to regularly recycle plastic, paper and aluminum. She has provided leadership and physical labor to complete the Klein Park project that includes a children's splash water feature, landscaping with flowers and trees as well as the construction of a gazebo. Through her diligent efforts, her vision of creating a strong bond between students and their community has become a reality.

GROUP: Eastern Nebraska Emergency Response Team (CERT) AND Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – Omaha, NE

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) joined forces to provide volunteer support at the Douglas County Health Department's H1N1 mass vaccination clinics. Volunteers from these organizations contributed a total of 1,536 service hours in staffing 20 vaccination clinics held from November 5 to December 31, 2009. At these clinics, more than 41,000 doses of vaccine were administered to community members. The CERT & MRC volunteers provided additional manpower which was absolutely essential to the effective and efficient operation of the clinics. Volunteers screened and greeted people; coordinated parking; provided behavioral health crowd control, helping reduce stress by talking to people waiting in long lines; assisted with paperwork; kept vaccination stations stocked with supplies; helped parents/guardians with children who were scared or crying; monitored the exit area to answer questions about the vaccine and to watch for adverse reactions; and assisted with the set-up and break down of the clinics. Their participation enabled Douglas County Health Department to focus on vaccinating as many people as possible, protecting the health of those who live in the Omaha community.

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