

Governor's Points of Light Service Awards 2013 Honorees



The Governor's Points of Light Awards are presented *quarterly* and recognize Nebraska volunteers (youth, adult, and group) who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities. Nomination deadlines are the 15th of each quarter (March, June, September, December). All Points of Light nominations are valid for one year.



February 2013 – Youth Award ***Hung Vo, Lincoln***

Hung Vo is actively involved in YouthInspire, Upward Bound and the Governor's Youth Advisory Council. He strives to promote youth awareness in community and government. Hung has volunteered for over ten nonprofit organizations, and logged more than 600 hours in service.

(Hung is pictured with Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem)



February 2013 – Adult Award ***Kelly Souder, Omaha***

Since 2008, Kelly Souder has been instrumental in managing teams of 30 volunteers to paint homes through BrushUp Nebraska Paint-a-Thon. A community-based volunteer program that paints the homes of low-income elderly and disabled homeowners to maintain their property, increase energy efficiency, and beautify the community. In 23 years, 2,400 homes have been painted.

(Kelly is pictured with Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem)



(Pictured L to R, Robert Lorenz, Howard McNiff, Tom Hamer, Bobbie Meints, Governor Heineman, Alan Richard, Mary Kruger and First Lady Sally Ganem)

February 2013 – Group Award ***Five Rivers Resource, Conservation & Development, Tecumseh***

Since its inception in 1992, the Five Rivers Resource, Conservation & Development volunteers have assisted rural communities in natural resource conservation programs, economic and community development, as well as recreation and tourism projects. In 2012, Five Rivers received a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to host Household Hazardous Waste collections in 9 southeast Nebraska cities. The collections resulted in 450 households disposing of 26,559 pounds of potentially hazardous materials.



May 2013 – Youth Award ***Carrie A. Largen, Creighton***

Carrie Largen, a senior at Creighton Community Schools, is the quarterly Youth Governor's Points of Light Award honoree for her service as an FCCLA officer and efforts with the Creighton VFW, Creighton Goldenrod Hills food pantry, Gifts of Joy, Orphan Grain Train, and Creighton Chamber of Commerce. Carrie has collaborated with at least 10 different Creighton community organizations and has logged over 230 hours of volunteer service.

(Carrie is pictured with Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem)



May 2013 – Adult Award
Alicia O'Donnell, Trumbull

For her service with the Trumbull Community Foundation and to her hometown, Alicia O'Donnell is recognized as the quarterly Adult Governor's Points of Light Award recipient. Alicia spearheaded the village's 125th anniversary celebration, History Book project, and other initiatives, logging 900 hours of volunteer service. A Trumbull native, Alicia returned to her hometown from Washington DC in 2010.

(Alicia is pictured with Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem)



May 2013 – Group Award
Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols

The Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols provided more than 12,000 hours of assistance to their neighbors through neighborhood patrols and other efforts to keep their communities safe. The group works closely with police & sheriff departments and has initiated the Rapid Response Team to help locate missing children or vulnerable adults. For their outstanding service members are honored with the quarterly Group Governor's Points of Light Award.

(Patrol members are pictured with Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem)



August 2013 – Youth Award
Yesenia Rodriguez, Omaha

Yesenia Rodriguez credits her upbringing in influencing her desire to volunteer and serve. She faced two obstacles growing up, poverty and a language barrier. With the help of the Dual Language program at Omaha South Magnet High School, Yesenia overcame the language barrier and now volunteers three nights per week during the school year to help others. She also serves other low-income individuals by volunteering at the library two hours each Saturday.

(Yesenia is pictured with ServeNebraska Commission Chair, Jamesena Moore, Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem)



August 2013 – Adult Award
Charles Lieske, Seward

Charles has served over 3,000 hours as an AmeriCorps Nebraska member for the Nebraska Probation Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE) program. In his service, Charles took a basic outline and created an evidence-based curriculum for adult and juvenile probationers that is used statewide. Charles was instrumental in coordinating the Cornhusker Community Book Drive to support literacy statewide. He is a leader in service and is passionate about helping people learn and gain new skills.

(Charles is pictured with ServeNebraska Commission Chair, Jamesena Moore, Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem)



August 2013 – Group Award
Clinic with a Heart-Clinic Operations Group, Lincoln

Since 2003, Clinic with a Heart has provided health care to patients without insurance or who are underinsured. The Clinic Operations Group coordinates up to 65 volunteers each month to help staff the clinic and assure that they maintain the clinic's values of hospitality, dignity and grace. Between July 2011 and June 2012, the operations group assisted with the following: over 3,400 visits to the clinic for 3,000 patients; 41% of patients said without Clinic with a Heart they would seek care at the ER, resulting in savings in uncompensated ER visits of \$1.2 million; and 600 plus volunteers donated over 10,000 hours of service.

Clinic Operations Group members, beginning with woman in white: Carolyn Minster, Peg Schainost, Jamesena Moore, ServeNebraska Commission Chair; Governor Dave Heineman, Teresa Harms and First Lady Sally Ganem. Second row: Shirley Foster, Suzanne Geist, Laura Dilworth, Deb Caudill and Heather Weihe

November 2013 – Youth Award
Heidi Miller, Lyons



Heidi Miller, a senior at Lyons-Decatur High School, started working with Dresses for Haiti three years ago to help children ravaged by the devastation in Haiti living in substandard conditions. Heidi didn't just work on it herself; she made it a community project for the entire county and northeastern Nebraska. Heidi also actively volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train, 4-H, girls' softball, church and has an entrepreneurial lawn mowing business. Through all these activities she is a strong role model to others while maintaining a high grade point average.

(Heidi is pictured with Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem)

November 2013 – Adult Award
Michael DeBolt, Papillion



Lt. Colonel Michael DeBolt is a strong supporter of diverse community causes. After learning that his sister was diagnosed with Huntington's, he worked diligently with Huntington's Disease Society of America to create an Omaha Chapter. A 5-time cancer survivor, Mike also actively supports the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. Currently Mike is raising funds and awareness for the Benson High School JROTC cadets who've been invited to Normandy, France in June 2014 to represent the State of Nebraska in the 70th Anniversary D-Day Parade.

(Mike is pictured with Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem)

November 2013 – Group Award
Annie Jeffrey Volunteers, Osceola



The Annie Jeffrey Volunteers are an energetic group of women who give their time, talent and energy to help Polk County Nebraska build a stronger community. They launched a Thrift Shop in Osceola to support their local hospital. Since opening in 1995, they have been able to donate almost \$100,000 to the health center for the purchase of much needed equipment.

(Annie Jeffrey Volunteers are pictured with Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem)