

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor recognizes AmeriCorps member Charles Lieske for community service commitment

Lincoln, Neb. – As a fourth year AmeriCorps member, Charles Lieske has served over 3,000 hours for Nebraska State Probation, as a Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE) program specialist. The goal of the RISE program is to reduce recidivism through improving education and employment opportunities for adult and juvenile probationers. Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem presented Charles with the Governor’s Points of Light adult award at today’s ceremony in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln. He is an asset to the RISE Program and service statewide and is passionate about helping people.

Charles started his enrollment in 2009 and then served two years in Seward helping probationers in need of employment and educational skills. From the beginning Charles was driven to do more and involved himself in every service opportunity available. Charles created the juvenile school support workbook for the RISE program which also included a parent handbook to help parents get involved in the program. He moved his focus to the probation administrative office as the RISE program specialist in 2011 where his leadership skills and support for a successful program continued to grow.

He served on the AmeriCorps Nebraska InterCorps Council, coordinating the statewide Cornhusker Community Book Drive since 2011. This event started as a small effort and due to Charles’ leadership he was able to help other AmeriCorps members grow as leaders and tripled the amount of books collected this year. “Charles has been a key reason for this event’s extraordinary success and is a devoted worker to the worthwhile cause of uniting Nebraskans to promote reading and increase literacy across this great state”, said Katie Rea, RISE program specialist.

Charles also created the RISE program website and continues to promote the program. He mentors and helps new and current RISE program specialists, trains at all RISE Program events and is a trained trainer. Charles continues his efforts with ongoing projects to promote service and volunteerism including the ServeNebraska Blog and Yearbook.

The Governor’s Points of Light awards are sponsored by ServeNebraska and presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities. To nominate a youth, adult or group who have made a difference through volunteerism and community service, visit the ServeNebraska website at www.serve.nebraska.gov. The next nomination deadline is September 15, 2013.

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

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