

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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28th ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS PRESENTED Local Volunteer(s) Recognized

[NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP] of **[CITY, STATE]** received a Governor's Volunteer Award from Governor Terry E. Branstad during a special recognition ceremony held **[JUNE 24 IN MARION / JUNE 24 IN WATERLOO / JUNE 30 IN PLEASANT HILL / JULY 6 IN STORM LAKE]**.

The Governor's Volunteer Awards (GVA) program was created in 1982, with inaugural awards presented in 1983. The program has grown from a small program only available to state agencies to its present function of providing all Iowa nonprofit, charitable, and government organizations with an easy and effective way to honor their volunteers with a prestigious state-level recognition award.

Volunteers may be nominated for an award in one of several categories: Individual, Group, Length of Service, or Disaster Volunteer. More than 700 volunteers were selected for awards in 2011.

[NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP] was honored with a[an] **[INDIVIDUAL / GROUP / LENGTH OF SERVICE / DISASTER]** Volunteer Award by **[NOMINATING ORGANIZATION]** for **[DESCRIPTION OF VOLUNTEER'S ACTIVITY]**.

"Iowa is currently ranked second in the nation for its state volunteerism rate, which is most certainly a direct result of the devotion of Iowa's volunteers," said Governor Branstad. "I am honored to have this opportunity to personally thank this year's award recipients for donating their time and talent to help their fellow Iowans and make a tremendous difference in our state."

The annual "Volunteering in America" study, released each June, details the millions of hours that volunteers in Iowa collectively contribute. The estimated annual economic impact of that service is well over \$1 billion. The entire report can be viewed at www.volunteeringinamerica.gov.

The Governor's Volunteer Award program is coordinated by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and the Governor's Office. For more information, visit www.volunteeriowa.org or call 515.725.3094.

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A complete list of 2011 award recipients and an electronic copy of this press release are available at www.volunteeriowa.org/awards. Electronic photographs will be available approximately one week following each ceremony and may be requested by sending the individual's or group's name and which ceremony they attended to icvs@iowa.gov.