

Press Release
For Immediate Release
To: Area Media
From: Chris Kuchta

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On Friday, February 5, Siouxland Aging Services will be hosting Tim Malcolm and Kirsten L'Orange of "The Civic Project". As ambassadors of volunteerism and to build awareness of community-based organizations, Malcolm and L'Orange will commit to a day of service at Siouxland Aging Services in Sioux City, Iowa as part of their quest to do 50 service projects in 50 states in 50 days. While at Siouxland Aging Services, these young adults will inspire volunteers from the community to help with the Meals on Wheels program that is in dire need of drivers. They learned that new drivers are needed to step up to their challenge, as many of the current drivers are seniors who either have difficulty getting around on the snowy and icy conditions or "snowbird" to warmer locales. They will assist with the Meals on Wheels program by helping to pack lunches, deliver meals to homebound seniors, and compile packets of information for Meals on Wheels volunteers. They will also assist with tasks for the SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol) that empowers seniors to prevent healthcare fraud and other forms of fraud. The SMP program, that also utilizes seniors to educate and advocate for their peers, will be offering training for new volunteers in March.

Malcolm and L'Orange's journey, now in its 33rd day, began on January 4 in New England. As they continue to cross the continental United States, they are volunteering at 50 distinct, community-based organizations. They opted for a good variety of organizations to demonstrate the multitude of diverse volunteer opportunities available. Some of the organizations who have and will benefit from their volunteer efforts have been, but are not limited to, visiting animal rescue centers, adaptive sports programs, food banks, homeless shelters, rape crisis organizations, soup kitchens, family centers, AIDS awareness organizations, and eco-restoration projects. Siouxland Aging Services, with a mission of enabling Older Iowans to live with maximum dignity, well-being and independence, opened their eyes to the multitude of home and community based options that allow seniors to age in place. A tour of Siouxland Aging Services allowed them to capture the diversity of programs available to seniors and their families, ranging from nutrition, case management, and housing to transportation, caregiver support and advocacy.

In addition to volunteering at each of the 50 organizations, Malcolm and L'Orange are determined to raise funds for each of the chosen organizations. Their goal of a total of \$16,200 is based upon the value of a volunteer (\$20.25) multiplied by the 800 hours they expect to donate during their journey. One hundred percent of these funds will be evenly divided between the chosen organizations. To donate or for more information about The Civic Project, visit their website at www.thecivicprojects.org. To find a volunteer opportunity at Siouxland Aging Services that fits your talents and schedule, or to make a donation to programs for Siouxland seniors, contact Siouxland Aging Services at 279-6900 or www.siouxlandaging.org.