

For Immediate Release

Local Volunteers Receive Governor's Volunteer Awards

Thirty-one individuals and four groups who volunteer for Siouxland Aging Services received the Governor's Volunteer Award from Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds at a special recognition ceremony at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake for their outstanding service on Wednesday, July 6, 2011. The presentation at Storm Lake was one of four throughout the state to honor volunteers. The majority of these volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors in Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Plymouth, and Woodbury counties. Others assisted with meals and activities at congregate meal sites, represented the seniors in their communities and counties on the Board of Directors or Advisory Council, or assisted with the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program educating their peers about Medicare fraud, scams and identity theft. The Governor's Volunteer Awards 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.

"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 Brandstad. "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.

Siouxland Aging Services assists older Iowans, ages 60+, to live with maximum independence, well-being, and dignity in Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Plymouth and Woodbury counties. For more information about Siouxland Aging Services or volunteer opportunities, contact us at 1-800-798-6916 or www.siouxlandaging.org.

Honorees nominated by Siouxland Aging Services include:

Individual Awards: Meals on Wheels – Sioux City

Dick Akins
Douglas & Diane Anderson
Theresa Bokemper
Richard Boyle
Ron Counter
Larry Fuller
John & Sandy Grasser
Kathy Gunderson
Dennis Hawks
Barbara Huser
Rod Kuchta
James Kuhl
Paul McGuirk
Joseph Morrissey
William Peterson
Everette & Juanita Posey
Anita Stansell

Individual Awards: Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Volunteer

Connie Malloy-Sioux City

Group Awards: Meals on Wheels – Sioux City

Scheels Sporting Goods-Sioux City

Opportunities Unlimited-Sioux City
North Star Services-South Sioux City, NE

Group Awards: Congregate Meal Site Volunteers providing activities
Onawa Methodist Church – Onawa

Individual Awards: Congregate Meal Site Volunteers

Doug McCorkell-Akron

Betty Heyl-Akron

Sharon Collier-LeMars

Don Wankum-Merrill

Doug Prewitt-Merrill

Elbert & Dorothy Sargent- Sergeant Bluff volunteer site managers

Individual Awards: Advisory Council Representative
Shellie Dannenberg – Anthon

Individual Awards: Board of Directors

Connie Haack-Marcus

Glenda Wiggs - Sloan – posthumous award