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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE GOVERNOR'S AWARDS

DUBUQUE, Iowa – On June 4 and 11, 2015 David Temple of Ames, Sr. Emily Devine of Cedar Rapids and Ken Blackburn, Tim Duggan, Steve Gulyash, John Mauss, Sr. Sara McAlpin, Maurice Neimer, Sr. Mary Agnes O'Connor, Paula Postel, and Karen Zeckser of Dubuque, Iowa were all honored with a group Governor's Volunteer Award for their outstanding commitment and service to the Catholic Charities' Jail & Prison Ministry, each of them having dedicated over five years of service to the program.

"Iowa is recognized as a national leader in volunteerism and service because of the steadfast devotion of our volunteers," stated Governor Terry E. Branstad. "I am pleased to have an opportunity to personally thank this year's Governor's Volunteer Award recipients for contributing their priceless time and talent in ways that make an enormous difference in our state."

"The people selected for these awards have gone well above and beyond what's expected in their quest to help others," said Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds. "Their hard work and dedication have encouraged other citizens to become more engaged, which makes stronger communities."

The Governor's Volunteer Awards (GVA) program was created in 1982, with inaugural awards presented in 1983. What began as a small program for state government agencies, has expanded over the years and now provides all Iowa nonprofit, charitable, and government organizations with an easy way to honor their volunteers with a prestigious state-level award. Hundreds of volunteers are recognized each year with awards in one of four categories: Individual, Group, Length of Service or Disaster Volunteer.

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Recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Award do not necessarily need to live in Iowa, but their service must have benefited Iowans or an Iowa organization. Award criteria include an individual or group who has:

- demonstrated exceptional commitment to volunteerism by helping with a special project or ongoing activities
- demonstrated exemplary leadership, creativity, cooperation and hard work in their service to others
- made an outstanding contribution to state or community through volunteer service

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.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque was founded in 1931 as a non-profit, social service organization. The organization serves 30 counties in Northeast Iowa and is part of a national social services network through Catholic Charities USA, working to reduce poverty, strengthen families, and empower communities, responding to persons in need, of all faiths. For more information or ways to get involved visit www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org or call 800.772.2758.

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