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NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S HOME RECOGNIZES INDIVIDUALS AT BANQUET

January 27, 2006 – On Thursday, January 26, 2006, Nebraska Children's Home Society (NCHS) hosted its 4th Annual "Celebration of Generations – Past * Present * Future" Banquet to honor and recognize those that have made a positive impact on children. The event began at 6 p.m. at Nebraska Children's Home Society in Omaha. Deborah Ward of KMTV was Master of Ceremonies and the Plattsmouth High School Swing Choir entertained the group of over 100 people at the annual banquet.

In addition to celebrating children and those who have a positive effect on children, the event formally honored David and Glenda Buss with the Harris Van Oort Friends of Children Award, First National Bank 2004-05 Mentee Group with the Randall Biart Philanthropy Award, and the Sandhills Stitchers with the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Harris Van Oort Friends of Children Award – David & Glenda Buss

David and Glenda Buss will readily admit, when they first came to Nebraska Children's Home it was because of their need to be called mom and dad. They both dreamed of the day when they would receive "The Call" and how they would have to race to Nebraska Children's Home the next day to pick up their new son or daughter as they have seen so many people do before them. After meeting with their caseworker Sheri Jelinek, she helped them truly understand adoption and helped them learn about the feelings of birth mothers and of adoptees. Dave and Glenda adopted their son Taylor, now five-years-old and enjoy the open relationship he shares with his birth mom. Dave and Glenda later adopted their daughter Kara from China and she will be four on Jan 31st.

Dave and Glenda live near Hastings. Dave is a farmer and Glenda is a full time mom to their two children. They continuously recognize and are inspired and motivated by the many people they have met through Nebraska Children's Home.

"Dave and Glenda were recognized last night because through their lives they have inspired so many people to act as they have acted and shown their amazing love for children and families," said Dr. Beth Ernst, NCHS Trustee.

Randall Biart Philanthropy Award – First National Bank 2004-05 Mentee Group

First National Bank of Omaha received the Randall Biart Philanthropy Award for their financial and volunteer support during Nebraska Children's Home's event – Sand in the City™. While the First National Mentee group took on multiple projects with various organizations throughout Omaha, during 2004-05 they chose the Nebraska Children's Home Society as the focus of their comprehensive project. With four Team Leaders, Jen Davis, Mike Sladek, Mark Spotanski, and Tammy Tusa, leading a team of 30 individuals, they were able to hold multiple events within First National to raise money for the Nebraska Children's Home. The six fundraising events ranged from

an all-day scrap booking crop, to jeans days, to even selling candles. In the end, the group was proud to donate \$7,736.64 to the Nebraska Children's Home Society Foundation, making them a corporate sponsor for Sand in the City™.

“First National Bank not only provided a team for Sand in the City, but also provided volunteers throughout the entire three-day weekend and in preparing for the event,” said Gay Emry, Co-Chair for Sand in the City™. “We were so impressed with the amount of support they provided to us.”

Volunteers of the Year – Sandhills Stitchers

The Sandhills Stitchers Club are being honored with the Volunteers of the Year Award for the continuous years of donations they have given to Nebraska Children's Home by sewing and auctioning quilts. The Sandhills Stitchers began in 1922 and has helped raise funds through an annual auction held in the fall. Some of the auctioned items include large quilts, small quilts, and sets of embroidered tea towels, pillowcases and infant bibs.

There are only seven active members in the club. They come from Holt, Valley, Loup and Garfield Counties in central Nebraska. They meet at least monthly to work together on items. Records show funds have been sent to Nebraska Children's Home since 1978. In 2004 the club sent \$2,000 to the Nebraska Children's Home. In 2005 \$3,000 was sent.

“The Sandhill Stitchers are very supportive of Nebraska Children's Home and a strong group we have been able to depend on for many, many years,” said Laura Schabloske, NCHS Foundation Director. “They are very deserving of this award for their years of service and continuous giving.”

Since 1893, Nebraska Children's Home Society has been providing loving and nurturing homes for over 20,000 of Nebraska's children. The statewide organization continues its dedication to providing statewide adoption services, unplanned pregnancy services, lifelong education and support services for birth parents, foster care for medically fragile children and specialized child care programs. For more information on NCHS, visit online at www.nchs.org or contact 402.451.0787.

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