

## NEWS RELEASE

April 13, 2012

***For immediate release***

Contact: Myra Stoney, Director or Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator  
Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department 308-345-4223

[director@swhealth.ne.gov](mailto:director@swhealth.ne.gov) or [erc@swhealth.ne.gov](mailto:erc@swhealth.ne.gov).

### **Celebrating People in Action – National Volunteer Week April 15-21, 2012**

**McCook** - Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week has grown tremendously in scope each year since, drawing the support and endorsement of all subsequent U.S. presidents, governors, mayors and other respected elected officials.

National Volunteer Week is about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, in unison, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals. National Volunteer Week is about taking action, encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change—discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to foster positive transformation.



“We use volunteers in many of our preparedness planning committees and in implementing our preparedness plans. Volunteers are the backbone of our success in public health response, states Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator for Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department. “SWNPHD would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteers in their communities or with us in preparedness planning across the eight county health district. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the people in your county. Amidst the busyness of each day, we encourage everyone to seek out ways to serve and volunteer in small ways whenever possible. We appreciate our local heroes.”

SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> (1 block north of Arby's) in McCook, NE and is also on Facebook and Twitter. The health department serves Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

For more information on public health volunteer opportunities in your area, please contact SWNPHD at 308-345-4223.

###