

# NEWS RELEASE

*May be published when received.*



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603 West Park Street, Sheldon, Iowa 51201  
Phone 712-324-5061 or toll free 1-800-352-4907, Ext. 105

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## **Northwest Iowa Community College Students and Employees Complete Over 50 Acts of Community Service for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Northwest Iowa Community College is holding its fourth annual *Days of Thunder* celebration October 25 – 29. Days of Thunder is a weeklong homecoming celebration that is held each year in October. One of the keynote events this year is *50 Acts of Community Service*.

John Hartog, Vice President - Student & Academic Services, explained, “As we celebrate 50 Years of Success at Northwest Iowa Community College, it is only fitting that we should acknowledge what our instructors, staff, and students do on a daily basis and highlight “community” as our College’s middle name. Toward this end, the Days of Thunder Planning Committee set a goal at the beginning of the year for the college community to accomplish 50 Acts of Community Service between January 1, 2016, and the end of the Days of Thunder week in late October, 2016.”

Service learning has always been a very strong component of NCC’s curriculum, but has increased even more over the past 10 years. Jan Snyder, Vice President - Institutional Advancement & External Affairs, pointed to the change in NCC’s General Education Statement, “...Northwest Iowa Community College will encompass not only program-specific learning outcomes, but also general education learning outcomes in the areas of Personal Development, Global Perspective, Critical Thinking, Written and Oral Communication, and Math. These learning outcomes are taught and assessed in classes, labs, field experiences, and other co-curricular activities.”

For example, NCC’s Charitable Chariots program. The Charitable Chariots Program is a service learning component of NCC’s Diesel Technology and Automotive Service Technology Programs. Students from the two programs join together along with Iowa based businesses to repair and service automobiles for the purpose of donating back to area families in need. Families that receive the donated vehicles are selected by area social service agencies.

Charitable Chariots was started with the first vehicle donated to charity in 2009. To date, seventeen vehicles have been donated to area needy families. One of the instructors involved in NCC's Charitable Chariots program Mark Steinle, NCC Automotive Instructor, stated, "The instructors in many of NCC's programs want to stress to their students that they not only participate in community service, but community service in their given professions. When our students graduate we want them to be well-rounded professionals and that includes giving back to their communities. So, many of NCC's instructors have added a service learning component into the curriculums of their programs."

NCC is proud to announce the completion of over *50 Acts of Community Service*:

1. Kiwanis "Ditch Walking" – Sheldon
2. Kiwanis Tree Project – Sheldon
3. Teaching fitness classes to High School students – Sheldon
4. Teaching fitness classes to Elementary students – Sheldon
5. Free Mind Body Day – Sheldon
6. Teaching yoga to library programs this summer – Sibley, Sanborn, Sheldon, & Hospers
7. Winter Athletic Enhancement Session – Sheldon
8. Sheldon Home & Design Expo – Sheldon
9. SCAT Dinner/Health Fair – Sheldon
10. Relay for Life – O'Brien County
11. Color Run – Sheldon
12. Sheldon Rec Trails Bike Ride
13. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site
14. Food Drives – Various locations within our 4 ½ county region
15. Teddy Bear Drive – local hospitals and ambulance crews
16. Souls4Soles – Village Northwest Unlimited distributes the shoes
17. Habitat for Humanity – Hattiesburg, MS
18. Charitable Chariots
19. Beecin Hospice Chaplain, Sanford – Sheldon
20. Bloodmobile – Community Blood Bank
21. The Banquet – Sioux Falls
22. The Shepard's Table – Sheldon
23. Ronald McDonald House - Sioux Falls
24. Angel Tree at Christmas – Sheldon
25. Hope Food Pantry – Sioux Center
26. Helped move and adjust school desks – Sheldon Christian School
27. Helped spread out mulch on the playground – Sheldon Christian School
28. Special Olympics – Sioux City
29. Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Registration – Sheldon

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30. Meals on Wheels – Spencer
31. The Denim Project –Haiti
32. Gospel Mission – Sioux City
33. The Garage Sale – Milford
34. Birthright – Sioux City
35. Justice for All – Rock Valley
36. Village Northwest Unlimited Treasure Chest – Sheldon
37. Beacon of Hope – Fort Dodge
38. Wisdom Inspired by Learning Differences (WILD) – Sioux Falls
39. Cherish Center – Milford
40. Day Care Centers – Various locations within our 4 ½ county region
41. Nursing Homes – Various locations within our 4 ½ county region
42. Relay for Life – Dickinson County
43. PEO member – Sibley
44. Good Friday Passion Play – Sibley
45. Sheldon Cross Country Event
46. Sheldon Rec Trails Labor Day Ride
47. Operation Gratitude – Deployed Troops
48. Volunteer Camp Nurse – Inspiration Hills
49. Military Care Packages
50. Mary’s Choice – Sioux City
51. Melisa’s Hope Chest – Sioux Center
52. Atlas – Lyon & Sioux Counties
53. Backpack programs – Various Schools within our 4 ½ county region
54. 196<sup>th</sup> MEB (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade) – Sioux Falls, currently deployed in Kuwait
55. Hawarden Big Sioux River Days – Help organize the parade

Finally, as part of our community service activity #56 for Days of Thunder, NCC students and employees will be donating traditional-sized Campbell’s Soup cans for a six foot, four-tiered, “can-structed”, 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake to be debuted during the Applied Technology Building Ribbon Cutting celebration on Friday, October 28 at 9:30am.

Hy-Vee, Sheldon, kicked off the donation drive by donating six hundred and fifty Tomato and Chicken Noodle Soup cans.

The Student Government Association (SGA) will also have collection boxes during the month of October for non-perishable food to be collected for local food pantries in NCC's service area. After Days of Thunder are over, we will be donating all the soup cans and all the other non-perishable food items that we have collected to eleven food pantries located in our 4 ½ county service area. This is perfect timing, since we will be able to help people who are in need during the upcoming holiday season.

The public is invited to donate nonperishable food donations during the week of Days of Thunder, October 24-29. Please come to NCC and use one of our many collection boxes located around campus.

Area Food Pantries that will receive food:

1. Seasons Center, Sheldon
2. Inwood Food Pantry, Inwood
3. The Bridge Transitional Housing, Orange City
4. Community Food Pantry, West Sioux Community School District (Chatsworth, Hawarden, Ireton and the rural areas)
5. Sioux Center Food Pantry, Sioux Center
6. Hope Food Pantry, Sioux Center
7. St. Patrick's School Food Pantry, Sheldon
8. MidSioux Opportunity, Sioux Center
9. Promise Community Health, Sioux Center
10. Upper Des Moines Opportunity Inc., O'Brien and Osceola counties
11. Marcus Food Pantry, Marcus

\*An attempt was made to reach out to all food pantries in our service area. If you do not see a food pantry listed please contact us at [contactus@nwicc.edu](mailto:contactus@nwicc.edu) in order for us to add them to our food pantry list.

For the most up-to-date information and announcements about all the *Days of Thunder* events please go to [nwicc.edu](http://nwicc.edu) and click on the *Days of Thunder Information* link in the Announcement Box, call 712-324-5061, or email [contactus@nwicc.edu](mailto:contactus@nwicc.edu) for more information. NCC – Your Success is Our Story!