



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
DATE: June 26, 2019

CONTACT: John Farmer de la Torre
Director of Communications
mobile: 417.425.2587

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri in Springfield to show off gardening operation that won volunteer national award

On Thursday, June 27, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., 424 East Monastery Street, Springfield, Mo., 65807, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) will show off its gardening operation that earned former school teacher Jana Hukriede of Springfield the Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) 2019 Volunteer of the Year award.

CCUSA awards one volunteer its top honor out of a pool of 300,000 volunteers from across the nation. CCUSA is comprised of 167 social service agencies. CCSOMO is a member agency. Hukriede was nominated to compete against fellow volunteer nominees from across the nation for the top prize. This year's award recognizes Hukriede for outstanding and innovative work in gardening that feeds the residents of LifeHouse, CCSOMO's crisis maternity home. Hukriede operation depends upon fellow volunteers she calls "gardening friends," who are of many faiths.

Hukriede and her gardening friends will be on hand Thursday, June 27, at 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. to discuss community gardening, interfaith cooperation, and Hukriede's award for outstanding service to Springfield and vulnerable mothers. Volunteers from Disciples of Christ are helping at sites around Springfield all week and are scheduled to work with Catholic volunteers at this time.

CCSOMO serves the 39 counties of Southern Missouri and thousands of individuals and families each year. CCSOMO is a faith-based 501 (c)(3) corporation operating with an annual budget of more than \$7 million (2019 budget) and nearly 100 employees in nine offices. CCSOMO was established July 24, 2009.

###