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News Release

For Immediate Release

Extended Nomination Period for Gift of Time

The people of the Ozarks are known for many things. One of those things is the spirit of helping one another, particularly in times of need. This past year, crises in southwest Missouri, while devastating, brought out the best in people. Whether it was tornadoes in Joplin or a fire at the Missouri Hotel, people came from near and far to help. The Gift of Time Awards recognizes the contributions of all kinds of volunteers. The time to nominate is now.

This year, 10 nominees will be selected as Volunteers of the Year and will be announced and recognized for their efforts during the Gift of Time luncheon, Thursday, June 21, 2012, at the Ramada Oasis Convention Center. Their portraits will be displayed on the Rosanna Bradshaw Memorial Wall of Fame in the Busch Municipal Building throughout the upcoming year.

The key portion of the nomination process is a short essay of 500 words or less about the nominee's recent contributions and service to the community, as well as any organizations with which he or she is involved.

The deadline for submitting nominations has been extended to noon, May 7, 2012.

Nominations may be submitted online at www.springfieldmo.gov/giftoftime, or by mail to: Gift of Time, PO Box 3947, Springfield MO, 65808-3947.

Sponsors of the Gift of Time Awards include: the Council of Churches of the Ozarks; 417 Magazine; B & E Printing; City of Springfield; CoxHealth; Dan Emrie Photography; Ramada Oasis Convention Center; Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce; Southwest Missouri Association of Volunteer Administrators; and Wickman's Garden.

For more information, contact: Sharon Bradford or Paula Austin with the Council of Churches of the Ozarks, (417)862-3586.