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Press Release

Carol Groen, Sac County mentor, receives prestigious Excellence in Mentoring Award.

Sac City, Iowa, January 27, 2015: Carol Groen, a mentor with New Opportunities' Sac County Mentoring 'Give Me Five' Club, was one of only five mentors from across the state to receive the annual Excellence in Mentoring Award from Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds at a ceremony in the Capitol on January 22.

Carol has been a mentor with New Opportunities' Sac County Mentoring since its inception nearly eight years ago. In that time she has continued on with the same mentee and now includes her mentee's younger sister as well. She's been an advocate for mentoring in the Sac community, often volunteering alongside her mentees.

Carol and the girls often participate in Random Acts of Kindness throughout Sac City such as helping to bag items at the store, serving out lemonade for free, purchasing items for families in need, and more.

She explained, "I feel like I have made a difference with the girls, but I also feel like they have changed my life so much, too!"

"We've been incredibly fortunate to have Carol and other mentors like her in our program," said Jayne Wilhelm, Mentoring Coordinator. "We've seen a tremendous amount of growth in her matches over the years, and we know the sky is the limit with them!"

The ceremony was hosted by the Iowa Mentoring Partnership, a division of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service dedicated to ensuring that each of the 58,000 children in Iowa who have need of a mentor have access to one.

The mentoring club, a New Opportunities program, facilitates youth development through mentoring in the East Sac Community School District and across the county with three key programs: community-based mentoring, after-school mentoring programs, and peer-to-peer mentoring matches hosted in the schools.



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