



From the Office of Secretary of State

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**For Release**

June 3, 2013

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### **Sec. Gale to make presentation, tour Nebraska homeless shelter**

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale will tour a homeless and domestic abuse shelter in North Platte on Saturday, June 8. The purpose of the visit to The Connection is twofold. Sec. Gale will be there to talk about Nebraska's Address Confidentiality Program. In addition, Sec. Gale and his wife, Carol will present a variety of items created and collected by the Nebraska Legislative League.

"I'm pleased to be returning to my hometown of North Platte and have the opportunity to visit this vital community program," said Sec. Gale. "The shelter provides housing to hundreds of people annually. In addition to providing a place to stay and meals, the shelter also offers counseling to help clients break the cycle of homelessness."

Gale says Nebraska's Address Confidentiality Program is designed to help individuals and families who may find themselves in need of the services offered through The Connection. "Simply, it's a program through which we create a substitute address to be used by victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. They can use that address when working with state and local agencies, rather than disclose their actual address, providing a level of protection from their abuser."

Thirty-three states have Address Confidentiality Programs. In Nebraska, it is managed through the Secretary of State's office. There have been 377 enrolled participants since enrollment began in 2004. One hundred and four of those participants remain active.

"We try to get the word out about this program as much as possible. Participants must apply through one of the designated victim assistance centers in Nebraska. Currently, there are around 50 such centers in the state," explained Gale.

A complete listing of those centers can be found at the Secretary of State's website: [http://www.sos.ne.gov/business/acp\\_menu.html](http://www.sos.ne.gov/business/acp_menu.html).

"My wife Carol and I are also pleased to be at The Connection to donate items on behalf of the Legislative League. They usually designate an organization to give their homemade quilts, pillows and other items to, and this time, they opted to make their donation to The Connection," said Gale.

Founded in 1913 in Nebraska, the Legislative League is an organization open to spouses of current and former state senators, state officers and justices of the Supreme Court. The group gathers weekly to make the quilts and other items that are donated.

"We'll also be bringing along some children's books and stuffed animals. We know that these items will be of great use to the clients of The Connection," said Gale.

Sec. Gale will be at The Connection at 10:00 a.m., June 8. Members of the media are invited to take part in the tour. Sec. Gale will be available for interviews following.

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