

## NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

**Tues., November 12, 2019**

### **Omaha Area Law Enforcement and Churches Honored for Keeping Community Safe**

*Project Extra Mile to honor advocates at recognition dinner*

**OMAHA, NEB** – Project Extra Mile will be honoring individuals and organizations from across the state for their efforts in preventing alcohol harms at the organization’s recognition dinner on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Champions Run in Omaha.

The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office and Ralston Police Department are being recognized for their commitment to Project Extra Mile’s mission through their efforts to create a Douglas County DUI Task Force and regular participation in underage drinking enforcement operations.

Omaha Police Officer Mike Bossman will receive the organization’s Law Enforcement Officer award for his thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the tragic death of Elkhorn teenager George Gervase. As a result of his diligence, the individuals and business involved in procuring that alcohol were held accountable for their actions.

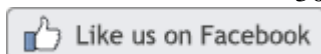
Pastor Jon Lucas and Reverend Portia Cavitt of Omaha, NE will be awarded the Community Advocate Award for their involvement in protesting multiple liquor license applications in their neighborhood. Lucas and Cavitt organized their congregations and the wider community so that there was a strong community voice at both the city council and Liquor Control Commission hearings.

Those being recognized include:

- Community Advocate Award: Pastor Jon Lucas and Rev. Portia Cavitt of Omaha, NE
- Going the Distance Award: Lanette Richards of the Monument Prevention Coalition of Scottsbluff
- LaVon Crosby Public Policy Award: Senator Tom Briese of Albion
- Law Enforcement Agency Award: Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, Ralston Police Department
- Law Enforcement Officer Award: Omaha Police Officer Mike Bossman
- Media Award of Excellence: Brian Mastre of WOWT
- Young Leader Award: Monument Prevention Coalition Youth Advisory Board of Scottsbluff
- Marty Conboy Public Advocate Award: Frank LaMere of South Sioux City, NE
- Leon Dappen Award of High Distinction: Fred Zwonechek of Lincoln, NE

Project Extra Mile is a network of community partnerships working to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms in Nebraska. Each year, the dinner is held to honor advocates that have devoted their time and energy to improving public health and safety by embracing evidence-based strategies to prevent excessive alcohol consumption and its harms.

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**Mission: Advocating for evidence-based alcohol policies and practices to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms.**