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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lincoln, NE – January 5, 2012- The Johnsonites 4-H Club from Nemaha County has been selected as the 4-H Club of the Month for the month of December by the Nebraska 4-H Ambassadors and Nebraska 4-H Foundation. 4-H clubs from throughout the state of Nebraska nominated themselves by explaining why their club should be Club of the Month. Stories about community service projects, trips to museums and other fun activities were shared.

The Johnsonites 4-H Club embarked on a new club project this year thanks to a tip from their club leader, Jelayne Clark. Mrs. Clark founded the “Kissing Pillows” service project. These pillows are distributed through local chapters or groups to soldiers and their families to serve as a reminder of their family members as they are apart. “The soldier being deployed kisses a pillow for each loved one and gives the person the pillow to hold onto during the lonely times ahead. The loved one kisses a pillow for the soldier to take on their tour of duty.” This project taught the club members basic sewing skills, about citizenship, and also gave them an opportunity to experience community service worldwide. The Johnsonites’ completed pillows will be submitted to the State Chapter of Soldier Kissing Pillows and distributed to Nebraska soldiers who are serving our country away from their families. The Nebraska 4-H Foundation and Nebraska 4-H Ambassadors are proud to call the Johnsonites the 4-H Club of the Month for December 2011.

The Nebraska 4-H Ambassadors together with the Nebraska 4-H Foundation provide the 4-H Club of the Month program to all Nebraska 4-H clubs throughout the state. Clubs can nominate themselves by telling why their club should be chosen as Club of the Month. A different club will be chosen each month and will be awarded with a certificate and \$50 cash card. For more information go to the Nebraska 4-H Foundation website at <http://www.ne4hfoundation.org/events/4-h-club-of-the-month> or e-mail ne4hambassadors@unl.edu.

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