



Thank you to everyone who gave their time and talents during Volunteer Sioux Falls 2011! Over 1,235 people helped make Volunteer Sioux Falls 2011 a resounding success! Your accomplishments made an incredible impact in Sioux Falls!

Over 50 Volunteer Sioux Falls projects took place in 2011, with volunteers giving over 3,852 hours of service to this effort! This compares to 1,112 volunteers last year, who gave a total 3,187 hours in 2010.

The Volunteer Sioux Falls Lead Sponsor **Home Federal Bank** helped the HELPLINE Center with the Volunteer Sioux Falls Rally on September 23. The Home Team assisted with everything from set

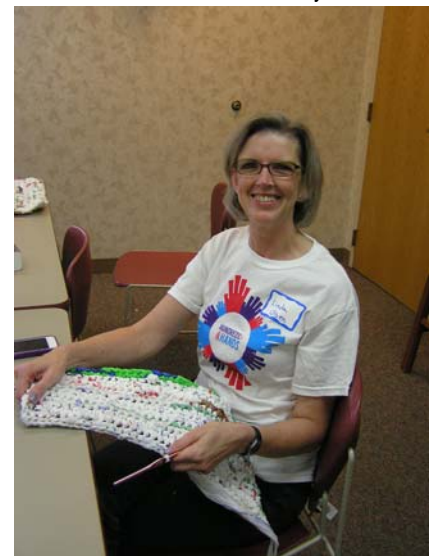
up to clean up, including working with an art show for non-profits, serving food and helping Homer, their mascot, greet children at the event. Those cheering on the volunteers at the team-themed rally included vocal artist Elisabeth Hunstad, Miss South Dakota Anna Simpson, Rachel Gage, Mayor Mike Huether and HELPLINE Center Board President Colleen Moran.

"One Day. One Community. Hundreds of Hands." Volunteers from all walks of life came together to combine their efforts and change their community during this day of service, proving the power of volunteerism. These photos and testimonials prove with a united community, everyone achieves more.

**Team Leader Adrienne Mckeown** and her co-workers at Citi revitalized the yard of an elderly woman served through Workers on Wheels. They cleaned up lots of overgrown/dead bushes, trees and other foliage around the woman's yard. The group also trimmed dead branches, cut back plants, pulled out volunteer trees, raked the yard, picked up trash, swept her tool shed and washed down outdoor equipment. Through tears of joy, the woman said she could hardly believe this was her yard!

**Co-Team Leaders Allen Kjesbo and Kyle Johnson** of The Point Is To Serve Church led their congregation in a volunteer project to benefit Be Free Ministries. This is the fourth year the group has participated in Volunteer Sioux Falls, and they worked to renovate the older home where Be Free Ministries clients stay.

**Team Leader Alan Wieskamp** & coworkers at TSP helped with fall clean up at the South Dakota Achieve gardens. They painted the tool storage shed, completely organized a shed's tool contents, dug out old plants and prepared the soil in all four raised planting beds for next spring. They also transplanted all strawberries to one location, transplanted the perennial flowers to a new planting bed and helped dig out vegetables.





**Team Leader Alison Eden** welcomed 41 volunteers to The Outdoor Campus Speed Volunteer Site, where people could help for up to 30 minutes with a fast volunteer project. The group, which included many young kids, painted jump rope handles, made plarn, prepared craft projects and colored Halloween cards.

**Team Leader Amy Smolik** of the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce collected new and gently used books for the Boys & Girls Club, the Teddy Bear Den and Children's Care Hospital & School. This project helps promote literacy, especially among young children, getting books into the hands of kids in need.

**Team Leader Andrine Stricherz** invited her friends from Active Generations CATS and the Active Generations Spanish Class to play bingo with residents at Good Samaritan Society Luther Manor. The group also led the Good Samaritan residents in a sing-a-long!

**Team Leader Carol Shuckhart** and the Soroptimist Club spent the afternoon at the Bowden Youth Center making snacks for the children and teens served by the drop-in care facility. The Soroptimists made granola, packaging it up and leaving it for the 70+ kids who eat at the facility each weekday!



**Team Leader Belva Kurtz** & the St. John Youth did double duty! The group helped with face painting at the Volunteer Sioux Falls Rally. They also cleaned a bus and washed under tables at Good Samaritan Luther Manor, showing youth can make a

difference when they work together for a good cause!



**Team Leader Bev Oliver** & the Edison AfterSchool Program had twelve student volunteers (plus six adult leaders) who spent 8 hours creating 37 handmade, blank greeting cards, which were donated to Good Samaritan Luther Manor for activities staff to use for residents. The group hopes to volunteer at Luther Manor in the future!

**Team Leader Betsy Homan** & Rotary South split into two groups to benefit two non-profits for Volunteer Sioux Falls. Half of the Rotary team painted the front desk and basement bathrooms for Family Visitation Center. The other half of the Rotarians did fall yard clean up at Family Connection.



**Team Leader Carmen Toft** and the Sioux Falls Up & Coming helped with a River of Hope project, giving a cancer patient a peaceful place to visit. A reflective pond was installed in the woman's yard, giving the patient a place to enjoy tranquil time in a beautiful setting. The group also did a wide variety of yard clean up jobs for the homeowner, allowing the family of the cancer patient to concentrate on helping her through this difficult time.



**Team Leaders Chelle Nemec** of Siouxland RSVP & **Kristin Fox** of Senior Companions partnered with the LSS School Based Mentor Program for a craft prep project in honor of National Senior Corps Week. 18 volunteers from Senior Companions and RSVP, along with 3 staff, created and assembled three different craft kits for the mentors to use in the school system.



**Team Leader Chrissy Spoo** hosted the She Gives volunteer event at the Empire Mall for Volunteer Sioux Falls, giving women a chance to volunteer for two hours, making a difference for a large variety of agencies. About 70 women pre-registered, and about 160 women showed up to help! The women worked on projects for the Ronald McDonald House, NAMI, LSS, the HELP!Line Center and more!

**Team Leader Colleen Moran** of the Sioux Falls City Attorney's Office served at Night Watch for the Salvation Army, feeding the area's struggling men, women & children. Her group was able to provide a meal for 178 people, and also gave all who ate that evening food to take home for an additional meal.

**Team Leader Connie Gilbride** and the members of Memorial Lutheran Church made Bottles of Hope and painted the box office at the Washington Pavilion. The church had a total of 36 volunteers at the two sites, as well as some member of their congregation who helped at the volunteer speed site and She Gives that same day.

**Team Leader Dan Westphalen** of Meta Payment Systems and 41 of his co-workers gave a total of 146 hours, helping with an outdoor clean up and window washing for Good Samaritan Society, painting at the Sertoma Butterfly House, assisting with adult day care activities at Active Generations, painting at The Good Shepherd Center and sorting clothes at Volunteers of America Thrift Store.

**Team Leader Deonne Nettinga** of Target National Bank and a group of 17 volunteer co-workers (some even drove down from headquarters in Minneapolis to help!) spent 1.5 hours cleaning up litter and garbage at Sertoma Park. This is the first year the group has participated in Volunteer Sioux Falls. Congratulations on an incredible inaugural year!

**Team Leader Pastor Dennis Thum** and over 75 University of Sioux Falls students packed over 15,000 meals for Kids Against Hunger as part of Volunteer Sioux Falls. And they didn't stop there. About 25 students helped serve breakfast at The Banquet the next week, too!

**Team Leader Emily Connolly** and the Junior League spent the day making salsa with members of the Boys & Girls Club. The kids harvested their garden for many of the needed food items, and the members of Junior League helped the kids learn to make and can salsa. Many of the kids had not made salsa before, and the members of the Junior League provided positive role modeling while teaching a useful skill.

**Team Leader Jason Wierenga** and 28 people from Raven Industries came out to volunteer for a litter pick up. They were able to clean from 6th Street to Falls Park Drive, on both sides of the river. Everything collected weighed about 85 pounds. Raven employees also helped with the Face It Together walk that morning.



**Team Leader JD Cotton** and seven volunteers from the Downtown Lions spend 25 combined hours with 11 boys from McCrossan Boy Ranch. The group went canoeing together and enjoyed a grill out. This effort is part of a long-term effort to support the youth served by the ranch through positive role modeling.



**Team Leader Jen Abels** led 69 SALSA members in scraping and painting a home through the the Brushes with Kindness program. The Brushes with Kindness project was the first SALSA experience of the new school year, and perhaps first volunteering experience ever, for over half of the 69 SALSA student volunteers!

**Team Leader Kathi Herreid & Daybreak Kiwanis** made 19 fleece tie blankets for Children's Home Society. This is the second year in a row the group has provided warm, comfy blankets to those in need. They will continue the project throughout the year.

**Team Leader Kari Hybertson** and her co-workers at Security National Bank helped with clean up, inside and out, at the Bowden Youth Center. Security National Bank had 14 volunteers who spent a combined total of 28 hours washing chalkboards, cutting back bushes, cleaning windows, weed whacking and more!

**Team Leader Kevin Topolinski** and Sertoma Midtown helped at Kids Against Hunger, packing meals for children locally and globally. The group

was happy to be a part of this effort that not only went to help families in Haiti, but also helped families in Sioux Falls.

**Team Leader Laura Bonacker** and the Avera McKennan Hospital NICU Unit Council and staff nurses collected sanitary pads for the women in Sioux Falls who cannot afford them. They were able to donate over 100 packages of feminine hygiene products to The Banquet. The group hopes to do this project again next year!

**Team Leader Lesa Jarding** and her Wells Fargo teammates made meals and treats for families, children and adults staying at the Ronald McDonald House and Casa De Carlitos. 18 volunteers prepared and froze the following dishes: Tater Tot Casserole, Lasagna, Chicken Enchiladas, Chocolate Chip Cookies and Monkey Muffins.

**Team Leader Lisa VandeVoort** and her coworkers at Architecture Incorporated partnered with Sioux Falls Construction to help an elderly person with home repair projects through Workers on Wheels. The 20 volunteers did the following: Removed two sides of a shed attached to the client's garage and replaced and painted the new sides; Added new handrails to the client's ramp and secured the surface boards of the ramp to make the ramp safe and sturdy for him to walk/drive his motorized scooter on; Relocated his mailbox to the end of his driveway by providing a new mailbox post and attaching his mailbox and paper box; Cut back bushes and shrubs.



**Team Leader Luanne** of Life 96.5 collected 250 warm clothing items for kids, including many accessories and even winter boots. Many adult-size items came in, as well as some general clothing items. All of the items were checked, sorted and bagged before being delivered to the Sioux Falls Ministry Center.

**Team Leader Mary Hintzman & Face It Together Sioux Falls** held the March Into the Light Walk at Falls Park. 325 people participated in the event, which raised more than \$30,000 to enhance recovery support, advocacy and awareness programs in the Sioux Falls area. Participants showed their pride in recovery by wearing personalized buttons and using glow sticks to represent the many lives in our community that are touched by the disease of addiction.



**Team Leader Mesa Groen** led youth from Children's Care Hospital & School in making treats for the animals at the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society. The staff helped students dip the dog bones into an almond coating. The treats will be enjoyed by dogs at the humane shelter waiting for permanent homes!

**Team Leader Micah Luke** gave art created from the past year at Battle For The Arts events to local non-profits during the Volunteer Sioux Falls Rally. Places like Family Visitation Center, Good Shepherd Center and SD Achieve all took art for display. Micah also held an Art Battle as part of the She Gives entertainment, donating the art from that event to The Furniture Mission.

**Team Leader Nona Bixler** & Sanford Health exceeded its goal to have volunteers make 100 Bottles of Hope on Sept. 24. The volunteers, who worked in shifts, made 177 bottles for people battling cancer. The volunteers decorated the bottles with polymer clay. Each bottle features the word "Hope" on the front, and serves as an inspiration for people battling the disease.

**Team Leader Superintendent Pam Homan** & the Sioux Falls School District leadership team made fleece blankets for Lutheran Social Services Refugee & Immigration Center clients. 15 people worked in teams to make the blankets, spending about 20 combined hours making 18 warm blankets for people new to the United States.

**Team Leader Patrick Gale** and co-workers at Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation painted a YMCA game room. The project didn't take long with several volunteers helping, but the game room underwent a wonderful transformation that will be appreciated by the youth and adults who spend time at the YMCA.



**Team Leader Phuong Pham** & Good Samaritan Society employees hosted a new and gently used book drive for the Teddy Bear Den, Children's Care Hospital & School and the VA Medical Center. Luther Manor collected 90 books, Prairie Creek collected 280 books, Village collected 309 books, Hearthstone Assisted Living collected 499 books and Sioux Falls Center collected 1,726 books, for a grand total of 2,904 books!

**South Sioux Kiwanis and Mitel DataNet** partnered to hold a donation drive of gently-used office equipment for the Boys & Girls Club of the Sioux Empire. The items will be used by both the staff and kids who spend quality time together at the newly opened facility.



**Team Leader Samantha Contarino** of Upward Bound at South Dakota State University led youth in two projects. Fifteen of the youth painted 20 podiums for the Special Olympics. The other 15 teens cleaned the Bowden Youth Center's gym, several bathrooms and outdoor spaces.

**Team Leaders Sarah Jennings and Patrick Pope** hosted a set shop clean up day, preparing for the upcoming Sioux Empire Community Theatre's season of shows. The cleanup will allow SECT to be more productive with the volunteers that show up to help with set builds.

For the fourth year in a row, **Team Leader Stephanie Becker** and a group of friends knit caps for local school children in need. The group also spent the day cutting plastic bags into strips and stringing them together to make balls of plarn. The plarn was then crocheted into sleeping mats for the homeless at the speed volunteer site and She Gives.

**Team Leader Tim Homan** and a group of wrestlers once again helped the Furniture Mission by delivering beds. The furniture went to families who otherwise would not have a warm, comfortable place to sleep at night. This is the fourth year the group has participated in Volunteer Sioux Falls.

**Team Leader Tim Olson** & coworkers from NorthWestern Energy spent the day with youth at Children's Care Hospital & School, providing care and companionship as a group. The volunteers read books to children, rocked children, colored with children, and played catch with children, giving kids living at the facility the chance for one-on-one adult interaction.

**Team Leader Tina Hyde**, her family & her friends served at the St. Francis House. The team was there for approximately 4 hours and helped by shredding old paperwork, writing thank you letters, addressing envelopes, making Monday night's dinner (tuna casserole), making name tags and doing lawn work.

**Team Leader Val Mickelson** & the PEO Chapter CZ in Sioux Falls assisted at Y's Buys, sorting clothes and pairing shoes to benefit the Sioux Falls YMCA. The group bundled shoes together for recycling and sending off to other countries, and tore up old books for recycling. They also helped organize donations out in the store.



In addition, several individuals volunteered to help the HELPLINE Center with a variety of projects, including Jackie Thoms of St. Dymas, Whitney Fretham, Katie Fritz and Thea Miller Ryan who all helped at She Gives, as well as Downtown Lion Stephanie Weber, Downtown Lion Sunshine Cady and Jackie Fink of Globe University who helped with the Brushes with Kindness project.

To learn more about Volunteer Sioux Falls, or to connect with 350 ways to volunteer all year long, dial 211 or visit [www.helplinecenter.org](http://www.helplinecenter.org).

**Watch for the Volunteer Sioux Falls movie, coming soon to [www.helplinecenter.org](http://www.helplinecenter.org)!**