



**211 HELP!Line • Child Care HELP!Line • Volunteer HELP!Line • Suicide Prevention HELP!Line**  
*Strengthening individuals, families, and community by bridging people with resources and support.*

**Public Service Announcement  
For Immediate Release**

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**Volunteer Sioux Falls Date & Plans Announced**



The HELP!Line Center announced plans recently for Volunteer Sioux Falls 2011, a community-wide day of service that will take place on Saturday, Sept. 24 with over 1,500 area residents participating.

This initiative strengthens the Sioux Falls community by promoting volunteerism and providing volunteers with hands-on opportunities to serve. Individuals, groups, companies, churches, civic groups, groups of friends, hobby groups and families are all welcome to plan a Volunteer Sioux Falls project for September 24, and can contact the HELP!Line Center by dialing 211 for more information. Companies that allow employees to volunteer during the week are encouraged to consider holding a Volunteer Sioux Falls

project between the dates of September 19 to September 23, as are schools with classes that only meet on weekdays.

Non-profit organizations, schools and community organizations that want to host a Volunteer Sioux Falls project should also contact the HELP!Line Center at 211 to request help from Volunteer Sioux Falls groups.

The HELP!Line Center also announced significant changes to the annual Volunteer Sioux Falls Kick Off Rally at today's press conference. Rachel Gage, a volunteer of the HELP!Line Center who has led projects for the Volunteer Sioux Falls initiative in the past, outlined the changes.

"This year's rally will have a team theme, because it truly does take a team to build a strong, vibrant community. We have invited members of local sports teams to appear at the rally, talking to fans and signing autographs. Dakota Spirit, a local cheer team, will provide entertainment. Miss South Dakota, Anna Simpson, whose platform at the Miss America pageant will be volunteerism, will be on-hand to thank volunteers. There will also be free food, a volunteer pledge wall, opportunities to learn about local volunteer needs, freebies for all who attend, face painting, and a special appearance by Homer, the mascot of our Lead Sponsor, Home Federal Bank. We understand Homer will be wearing a special outfit, made just for the rally," Gage told the audience.



Gage also introduced all of the Volunteer Sioux Falls Team Leaders who have already committed to leading projects for Volunteer Sioux Falls. Those individuals include:

The Volunteer Sioux Falls lead sponsor **Home Federal Bank** will have their staff involved with projects and helping with the Rally on Sept. 23. **Co-Team Leaders Allen Kjesbo and Kyle Johnson** of The Point Is To Serve Church will lead their congregation in a volunteer project to benefit Be Free Ministries.

**Team Leader Alan Wieskamp** & coworkers at TSP will participate in

Volunteer Sioux Falls for the fourth year in a row and are currently selecting a project to benefit a local non-profit. **Team Leader Alison Eden** invites those wanting to help with a speed volunteer project to The Outdoor Campus from 11 to 2 on Sept. 24. This is perfect for families with young children who want to get involved in a 15 to 20 minutes project!

**Team Leader Amy Smolik of the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce** will return again this year to lead her friends, family and coworkers in a Volunteer Sioux Falls project.

**Team Leader Andrine Stricherz** will invite her friends from Active Generations CATS and the Active Generations Spanish Class to play bingo with residents at Good Samaritan Society Luther Manor.

**Team Leader Anelis Coscioni** and the Soroptimist Club will make and donate health snacks for the children and teens served by the Bowden Youth Center.

**Team Leader Belva Kurtz & the St. John Youth** will clean buses and help with indoor cleanup at the Good Samaritan Society Luther Manor.

**Team Leader Betsy Homan & Rotary South** will paint and do fall clean up at Family Connection & Family Visitation Center.

**Team Leader Carmen Toft** and the Sioux Falls Up & Coming will help with a River of Hope project, giving cancer patients a peaceful place to heal.

**Team Leaders Chelle Nemeck of Siouxland RSVP & Kristin Fox of Senior Companions** will partner for a project with Lutheran Social Services School Based Mentor Program for a craft prep project in honor of National Senior Corps Week.

**Team Leader Chrissy Spoo** of the Empire Mall will host the She Gives volunteer event at the Empire Mall from 4 to 6 pm Sept. 24. Women are encouraged to sign up and help with a variety of projects.

**Team Leader Colleen Moran** of the Sioux Falls City Attorney's Office will serve at Night Watch for the Salvation Army, feeding the area's struggling men, women & children.

**Team Leader Dan Westphalen & Meta Payment Systems** will participate in 5 projects in the week leading up to Volunteer Sioux Falls day, helping at Daybreak, Good Samaritan Society, Sertoma Butterfly House, the Volunteers of America Thrift Store and the Good Shepherd Center.

**Team Leader Emily Connolly** will lead Junior League in a done-in-a-day project, making salsa and donating it to the Boys & Girls Club as a health snack for kids.

**Team Leader Jackie Thoms & the Student Association of SESHM** are working to develop a project for 10 of their members.

**Team Leader Jackie Fink** will lead Globe University staff & students in painting a home through Habitat for Humanity.

**Team Leader Jason Wierenga** and the team from Raven Industries will help with a litter clean up in their company's area of downtown Sioux Falls, north of 6th street to the falls and back on both sides of the river.

For the fourth year in a row, **Team Leader JD Cotton** will lead the Downtown Lions in a canoe outing with a group of youth from the McCrossan Boys Ranch.

**Team Leader Jen Abels** will work with the members of the Serve & Learn Student Association to engage teens in a Volunteer Sioux Falls service project.

**Team Leader Kathi Herreid & Daybreak Kiwanis** will make fleece tie blankets for Children's Home Society and Children's Inn.

**Team Leader Kari Heckel** and her co-workers at Security National Bank will help keep their community beautiful by picking up litter at a local park.

**Team Leader Laura Bonacker** and the Avera McKennan Hospital NICU Unit Council and Staff Nurses will be collecting sanitary pads for the women of Sioux Falls who cannot afford this need. They hope that it can bring some dignity to them and take away a worry of how they were going to afford this basic women's need.

**Team Leader Lesa Jarding** and her Wells Fargo teammates are once again planning to spend Volunteer Sioux Falls helping at a local non-profit organization.

**Team Leader Lisa VandeVoort and her coworkers at Architecture Incorporated** will once again partner with Sioux Falls Construction to help an elderly person with home repair projects through Workers on Wheels.

**Team Leaders Luanne & Suzanne** of Life 96.5 will hold a gently used and new cold weather clothing drive to benefit local child and adults in the Sioux Empire.

**Team Leader Mary Hintzman & Face It Together Sioux Falls** will start Sept. 24 at dawn with the March Into the Light Walk at Falls Park honoring National Addiction Awareness Month locally, with the community invited to participate.

**Team Leader Mesa Groen** will lead youth from Children's Care Hospital & School in making treats for the animals at

the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society.

**Team Leader Micah Luke**, a local artist, will promote the arts at the Volunteer Sioux Falls She Gives event by providing unique artistic entertainment for volunteers.

**Team Leader Nona Bixler** & Sanford Health will invite members of the community to their Cancer Center to make Bottles of Hope for Sanford patients undergoing cancer treatments.

**Team Leader Superintendent Pam Homan** & Sioux Falls School District leadership team will make fleece blankets for Lutheran Social Service Refugee & Immigration Center clients.

**Team Leader Patrick Gale** and his co-workers at Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation will paint a game room at the YMCA.

**Team Leader Phuong Pham & Good Samaritan Society** will host a new and gently used book drive for the Teddy Bear Den, Children's Care Hospital & School and the VA Medical Center.

**Team Leader Rob Rezek** and his co-workers at Mitel DataNet will partner with the South Sioux Kiwanis to hold a donation drive for the Boys & Girls Club of the Sioux Empire.

**Team Leader Sarah Jennings** hopes to partner with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre again this year for a project that will promote the arts locally.

For the fourth year in a row, **Team Leader Stephanie Becker** and a group of friends will knit caps for local school children in need. Knitters will include the Tuesday night Barnes & Noble knitting group, the Saturday morning Kaladi's knitting group, and knitters from Athena Fibers.

**Team Leader Tim Homan** will work with a group of wrestlers to once again help the Furniture Mission by delivering beds to families in need.

**Team Leader Tim Olson** & coworkers from NorthWestern Energy will spend the day with youth at Children's Care Hospital & School making crafts and enjoying time together.

**Team Leader Tina Hyde**, her family & her friends will once again serve at the St. Francis House, helping move people from homelessness to hope.

**Team Leader Val Mickelson** & the PEO Chapter CZ in Sioux Falls will serve together at Y's Buys sorting clothes and pairing shoes, benefiting the Sioux Falls YMCA.