



NEWS RELEASE

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Spirit of Volunteerism Award – Adult Lifetime: Jean Beddow

SIOUX FALLS – Jean Beddow is the 2017 First Premier Bank Spirit of Volunteerism Award winner in the Lifetime Volunteer category. Beddow received the award Thursday at the Spirit of Volunteerism Luncheon, an annual event that honors Sioux Empire volunteers for the impact they make on the community. The event is a project of Helpline Center. 2017 marks the 35th year the Helpline Center has presented volunteer appreciation awards.

For the past 20 years, Beddow has volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). The CASA organization recruits, trains and supports citizen-based volunteers to advocate in the best interest of abused and neglected children in the Sioux Empire.

In her two decades as a CASA volunteer, Beddow has been appointed 14 cases, giving a voice to 50 children. In her role as a CASA volunteer, Beddow becomes the “eyes and ears” for the judge who has to make difficult decisions about the future of the children. Beddow often takes on the most complex cases through CASA, spending an average of 18 months with a child and family. She has given more than 3,000 hours to the community’s most vulnerable children. In addition to her work as a CASA volunteer, she has become an integral part of new volunteer training classes.

In addition, Beddow is active with the Salvation Army, serving on its Advisory Board for the past 27 years. She also coordinates Christmas Toy Town and Prison Toy Lift each holiday season. Jean spends as many as 30 hours a week during the months of November and December ensuring Christmas morning is memorable for area children

The Spirit of Volunteerism awards are made possible through the generous support of Midco, Independent Insurance Agents of Sioux Falls, Children’s Dental Center and Parkway Orthodontics, The First National Bank in Sioux Falls, First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard, EarthBend, MetaBank and Citi.

The Helpline Center’s Volunteer Connections Program provides the community with ways to connect with volunteer opportunities as well as offer non-profit organizations volunteer recruitment assistance and support for volunteer managers. To learn more go to volunteer.helplinecenter.org or dial 211.