



NEWS RELEASE

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Spirit of Volunteerism Award – Adult Shining Bright: Patti Graber

SIOUX FALLS – Patti Graber is the 2017 EarthBend Spirit of Volunteerism Award winner in the Adult Shining Bright category. Graber 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.

Graber gives more than 100 hours each month as a Hotline Advocate at the Alpha Center, where she has volunteered for the past 20 years. In addition, she gives 16 hours a month as a Daytime Client Advocate.

As a Hotline Advocate, Graber answers calls that come through on Alpha Center's phone lines on evenings and weekends. She takes the responsibility of answering the calls no matter what time it is or what she is doing. "She gets calls in the middle of the night, while she's making meals and when she's spending time with family on holidays. She has continued to volunteer her time in this capacity for the past 20 years, knowing that her daily schedule will be interrupted, because she understands the importance of having someone available to talk to a client that may call in a crisis," wrote the Alpha Center.

Graber began training as a Daytime Client Advocate last summer, adding that to her hotline volunteer service. As a Daytime Advocate, she meets with clients for a variety of services. In both capacities, Graber is a listening ear for those who feel they have nowhere else to turn.

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.