



**Pictured are Vanessa Mader of Bethany Christian Services; Ashley Handcock, September Volunteer of the Month; Kathy Lees with Black Hills Urgent Care and Lynn Taylor Rick of the Helpline Center.**



**Public Service Announcement  
August 28, 2017  
Contact: Lynn Taylor Rick  
Contact Number: Dial 211 or (605) 274-1429  
For Immediate Release**

**Helpline Center & Black Hills Urgent Care name  
September Volunteer of the Month**

RAPID CITY - The Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care are pleased to announce that Ashley Handcock has been named the September 2017 Volunteer of the Month.

The Volunteer of the Month program is sponsored by the Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care, a division of Black Hills Surgical Hospital. Volunteer of the Month recognizes outstanding individuals who make the community stronger through volunteerism.

Handcock was nominated by Vanessa Mader of Bethany Christian Services – Safe Families for Children.

Handcock is a volunteer family coach for Safe Families for Children, which is an alternative to foster care. A child in foster care is placed in a home by the courts, and foster families receive compensation for their care. Host families in the Safe Families for Children program receive no compensation, and parents voluntarily place their children with the families. The goal of the Safe Families for Children program is to provide support in a time of need in order to eventually reunite children with their families in a stronger, more stable home environment. As a family coach, Handcock “comes alongside host families during a placement and supports them and the children who are transitioning into their home,” wrote Mader.

“Ashley is one of the most reliable volunteers I have had the pleasure of working with! I can always count on Ashley to fulfill her duties as a family coach. She is quick to engage with families, letting them know she is always available to assist them with their placement however she can. Ashley is more than willing to go above and beyond what her role as a coach entails,” wrote Mader. Handcock has served as a family coach since January 2016.

Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care presented Handcock with a framed certificate and Helpline Center T-shirt, gifts from Black Hills Urgent Care and a letter of appreciation from Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender. The Helpline Center will also recognize Handcock at the Spirit of Volunteerism Awards banquet on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at the Best Western Ramkota/Minervas.

For information on volunteer opportunities, please call the Helpline Center at 211 or visit [www.helplinecenter.org](http://www.helplinecenter.org)