



August Volunteer of the Month Celebrated



L to R: Dennis Peterson, Feeding Brookings Volunteer; Joanne Matthees, Volunteer of the Month; Duane Matthees, Feeding Brookings Volunteer and Husband of Joanne; Bill Alsaker, Feeding Brookings Volunteer

The Helpline Center congratulates Joanne Matthees on being named the August 2021 Volunteer of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by the Helpline Center and First Bank & Trust.

Volunteering with Feeding Brookings since 2011, Joanne Matthees has been an integral member of the organization for over a decade. In 2018, Joanne took on a new role as the main volunteer coordinator of the organization. She monitors and oversees all aspects of Feeding Brookings. Giving many hours of her time each week, Joanne orders food from multiple vendors, communicates with agencies and donors, monitors budgets, writes grants, organizes the weekly grocery distribution, and much of the administrative work - all while acting as the
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liaison and spokesperson of Feeding Brookings. She is the go-to person for putting out whatever metaphorical fire may occur. She also helps with the physical work each week of unloading truckloads of food and packing the boxes for guests. Joanne's service to the organization and community does not go unnoticed.

Volunteers with Feeding Brookings state "Without Joanne, over 200 families in the Brookings area would not get groceries from Feeding Brookings each week. She is working the equivalent of at least a part time job, just as a volunteer. I am not sure how many hours a week she works. She would probably have trouble telling you for sure, because a lot of what she deals with is stuff that comes up spontaneously - phone calls, emails, etc.- in addition to the planned things like receiving deliveries, overseeing the distribution, etc."

Congratulations, Joanne, on being our much-deserved August Volunteer of the Month!

For information on volunteer opportunities or the Volunteer of the Month program, please contact Allison Schmitt at bkvol@helplinecenter.org or call 211 for more information.