



Public Service Announcement

April 1, 2019

Contact: Audrey Nordine, Black Hills Program Coordinator

Contact Number: Dial 211 or (605) 274-1429

For Immediate Release

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



Pictured L to R: Darcie Decker and Sharon Oney of Youth and Family Services; Audrey Nordine of Helpline Center; Janet Smith, April Volunteer of the Month; Kathy Minnick of Black Hills Urgent Care & Surgical Hospital; Prairey Walking of SDSU Extension

RAPID CITY - The Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care are pleased to announce that Janet Smith has been named the April 2019 Volunteer of the Month. Janet was nominated by SDSU Extension and Youth & Family Services.

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.

Janet started volunteering in the summer of 2017 for SDSU Extension. Janet is a local gardener and has volunteered hours in many community gardens including General Beadle Elementary Garden, Northern Heights Shire Garden, Lakota Homes Garden, and the many Youth and Family Services gardens including Fullerton Farm in Box Elder. She was an integral part in planning and executing the 2017 and 2018 YFS/SDSU Extension Harvest Festivals. Janet also has helped staff in completing site evaluations for potential new gardens such as Meals on Wheels and the City of the Summerset.

Janet does research, drafts garden layouts, and provides evidence-based information that she learned in her Master Gardener course. Janet has also helped SDSU Extension in writing grant proposals to improve community gardens. Janet isn't afraid to get dirty as she has helped unload many pick-up loads of compost!

She is also involved in the community by attending monthly Live Well Black Hills and North Rapid City Wellness Coalition meetings. She has also volunteered at Love INC by helping teach a gardening class and at Black Hills Works for a crafting class.

Janet has so much enthusiasm for gardening and local foods! She loves sharing her knowledge and is willing to help nearly anytime someone asks. She is dependable and gets the job done right. SDSU Extension and Youth & Family Services are so grateful for her ongoing help in working with community gardens.

Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care presented Janet 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 Janet at the Spirit of Volunteerism Awards luncheon on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center.

For information on volunteer opportunities, please call the Helpline Center at 211 or visit www.helplinecenter.org