



December Volunteer of the Month Celebrated



The Helpline Center congratulates Paula Tursam on being named the December 2020 Volunteer of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by the Helpline Center and First Bank and Trust.

Paula is involved with many local organizations and loves to serve the community of Brookings in everything she does. For several years, she has been involved with the Bienvenidos Brookings group. As a former teacher, she enjoys working with students. Her passion continues with this program as she helps with English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in both Elkton and Flandreau. She listens to students and works with immigrant families to help them learn the English language. The pandemic has made the group switch gears, but Paula continues to assist students online and is enjoying every minute of it. Another part of this program allows Paula to assist the Brookings Area United Way in coordinating students for the Dental Van Program.

Not only is Paula significantly involved with Bienvenidos Brookings, but she also gives of her time to many other organizations. Paula is a member of Ascension Lutheran Church's Community Team and has been making phone calls to members since March to check in on them. She is an administrative volunteer for Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program and made many calls and assisted them with other clerical work. Lastly, she is active with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and has served on their planning committee to find programs and help line them up for the last 5 years.

Congratulations, Paula, on being our much-deserved December 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.