

Public Service Announcement March 31, 2017 Contact: Lynn Taylor Rick

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For Immediate Release

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

RAPID CITY - The Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care are pleased to announce that Leon Lunders has been named April 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.

Lunders was nominated by Catholic Social Services, where he has volunteered for the past three years, giving more than 20 hours each month. He has spent a "lifetime volunteering at his church and with other Catholic Church organizations," wrote nominator Mary Garrigan of CSS.

"Leon performs highly skilled interior and exterior maintenance tasks at the Catholic Social Services building in downtown Rapid City, including plumbing, electrical and HVAC maintenance issues, as well as snow removal and outdoor maintenance. He also maintains a fleet of six vehicles used by the CSS staff, which typically drives nearly 1,800 miles weekly to offer services at its satellite offices throughout western South Dakota," she writes.

"He also volunteers his time and labor on special renovation/remodeling/construction projects that are funded through CSS's Pope Francis Fund. He easily gives 20 or more hours each month of skilled labor to CSS's building and car maintenance needs alone, which makes it possible for the agency to save the cost of employing a maintenance worker on staff. For a small non-profit organization that owns its own building, that is a significant financial savings."

In addition, Lunders also volunteers with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, RSVP, Knights of Columbus and the Diocese of Rapid City.

Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care presented Lunders 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 Lunders at the Spirit of Volunteerism Awards banquet on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at the Best Western Ramkota/Minervas.

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



Pictured are Leon Lunders, the April Volunteer of the Month, Kathy Lees of Black Hills Urgent Care and Lynn Taylor Rick of the Helpline Center, and Mary Garrigan of Catholic Social Services.