



Public Service Announcement

July 15, 2016

Contact: Lynn Taylor Rick

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

For Immediate Release

**Helpline Center & Black Hills Urgent Care name local teen
July Volunteer of the Month**

RAPID CITY - The Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care are pleased to announce that Jessica Benson has been named July 2016 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.

Benson was nominated by Teen Up, a youth engagement organization in the Rapid City Area Schools District. Benson has served as a Teen Up Ambassador leader and served the community in a number of ways, from assisting in the coordination of the Senior (55+) Prom to helping coordinate the Holiday Mail for Heroes through the Red Cross.

As a Teen Up Ambassador, Benson has put in more than 50 volunteer hours in the past year alone, wrote Kristin Kiner of Teen Up. In addition, Benson has given 75 to 100 hours to the Teen Up Take ACTION group, another 25 for the YELL Leadership project and at least 20 hours to the senior prom.

"I feel that Jessica should win this award not only because she is a dynamic volunteer doing great things, but because of her ability to inspire others to serve along with her. I credit much of the growth of Teen Up to the dedication and creativity of Jessica's work. She is truly an amazing young leader and her impact felt by many," said Kiner.

Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care presented Benson with a framed certificate, gifts from Black Hills Urgent Care and a letter of appreciation from Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender.

The Helpline Center will also recognize Benson at the Spirit of Volunteerism Awards banquet on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at the Best Western Ramkota.

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



Pictured are Kristin Kiner of Teen Up; Jessica Benson, July Volunteer of the Month; Kathy Lees of Black Hills Urgent Care; Lori Simon, superintendent of the Rapid City Area Schools; and Lynn Taylor Rick of the Helpline Center.