



**Public Service Announcement**

**April 1, 2018**

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**For Immediate Release**

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



***Pictured (left to right) are Audrey Nordine, Volunteer Connections Coordinator with Helpline Center, April Volunteer of the Month Tom and Carol Lefler, and Kathy Lees with Black Hills Urgent Care***

RAPID CITY - The Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care are pleased to announce that Tom Lefler and Carol Lefler have been named the April 2018 Volunteers 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.

Tom and Carol Lefler were nominated by DeNean White of the Seventh Circuit CASA Program.

Tom & Carol visit with abused and neglected children they are assigned to on a weekly basis through the Seventh Circuit CASA program; they are a husband and wife team. They are a part of key events in the children's lives, including visits at school, foster placements, day care, counseling, and parental visits. During their visits they take time to have conversations with individuals that play a role in each child's life: family members, foster parents, teachers, counselors, attorneys, doctors, and Family Services Specialists. DeNean White of Seventh Circuit CASA says, "They advocate for any type of need the child may have such as therapy, parental visits, sibling visits, and educational needs. They attend various meetings, conferences, and activities that are based around the children's cases they volunteer for. They are supports for other volunteers and they also conduct a portion of CASA's new volunteer training."

The time, talent, and care Tom and Carol give to their role are immeasurable. Tom & Carol have been volunteering with the Seventh Circuit CASA Program since 2005, twelve and a half years. White tells us, "To date they have advocated for twelve different family groups serving 44 children who's ages have varied from infant to teenagers." Tom & Carol volunteer for two to three cases at any given time; some cases lasting longer than others, as long as five years. They have driven over 25,500 miles visiting the children who often get placed in various towns in South Dakota. They give of their time while they give their hearts to the children they advocate for; building a relationship with each child, while at the same time supporting them through some of the most difficult times in their lives. Tom and Carol's dedication to the children within our community and their commitment to the Seventh Circuit CASA Program as volunteers is admirable, they are the true definition to the word volunteer.

Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care presented each of the Lefler's 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 Tom and Carol Lefler at the Spirit of Volunteerism Awards banquet on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at the Best Western Ramkota/Minervas.

For information on volunteer opportunities, please call the Helpline Center at 211 or visit [www.helplinecenter.org](http://www.helplinecenter.org)