



Public Service Announcement

June 15, 2021

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For Immediate Release

**Helpline Center & Black Hills Urgent Care name
June 2021 Volunteer of the Month**



Pictured left to right: Kathy Minnick of Black Hills Urgent Care & Surgical Hospital, Hannah Churchill June 2021 Volunteer of the Month, and Audrey Nordine of Helpline Center

RAPID CITY - The Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care are pleased to announce that Hannah Churchill has been named the June 2021 Volunteer of the Month. Hannah was nominated by Teen Up of Rapid City Area Schools.

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.

Hannah has been actively involved in a variety of volunteer and leadership roles for the past five years. Initially her involvement was mainly volunteering in projects such as Feeding South Dakota Backpack Program and Kids Against Hunger meal packs. She was always willing to serve others and get involved in church and community projects that were offered. As she experienced more uncertainties in how young people's needs were met and as she gained more knowledge about the needs of the community, she developed a stronger passion in advocating for community solutions. She started to serve in more advisory and leadership roles with a variety of projects.

Hannah has served as the Senior Citizen Prom Planning Co-Chair for the past 3 years. In this role, she engaged her peers in the event planning and supported open communication with community partners and adult mentors in the execution. Her kindness and compassion shined through in planning the afternoon of fun for senior citizens in our community.

Hannah has served as a member for the Homeless Coalition Youth Taskforce for the past 3 years. She has volunteered with a variety of awareness projects, joined efforts of the Youth Action Board, and most recently attended the Youth Mental Health training. The Youth Action Board (YAB) is a group that advocates, educates, learns, uses, and gains resources to create positive change in the community for young people experiencing housing challenges. In her Taskforce and YAB roles, she has shared on local and statewide platforms about the ongoing work in our community.

The project that stands out the most with Hannah is the creation of a Youth City Council. Hannah's dedication and determination are what brought the Council to fruition. As a freshman, she and a couple of upperclassmen created a proposal and presented it to the Mayor. There was no forward movement with the proposal at that time. The other two students graduated, but Hannah did not want to give up on creating a platform for youth voice within our City's government. With her continued professionalism and determination, she found additional support in moving the proposal forward in the fall of 2019. The first Youth City Council meeting was in January of 2020 and she was selected by her peers to serve as Chair of the Youth City Council during their inaugural year. Many great things have been created through this youth voice platform that has proven to be beneficial to our community and leaders of our city government.

Kristin Kiner of Rapid City Area Schools Teen Up Program says, "She is a true leader in the sense of how she empowers those around her to get involved, share their voice and be part of the solution. Hannah has created a legacy for Rapid City by creating the Youth City Council. This platform has opened up the eyes and ears of community decision makers in a way that appreciates and values youth voice in community work. Our community has been lucky to have Hannah Churchill share her talents with us and I am extremely proud of what she has done!"

Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care and Surgical Hospital presented Hannah with a Volunteer of the Month certificate, a letter from Mayor Allender, and gifts from Black Hills Urgent Care and Surgical Hospital as a thank you for her volunteer service.

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