



Public Service Announcement

July 25, 2018

Contact: Susie Ryks

Contact Number: Dial 211 or (605) 274-1407

For Immediate Release

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



Left to Right: Cheree Pederson of Western South Dakota Senior Services, Meals on Wheels program, Heidi Bell Gease with Helpline Center, July Volunteer of Month Chris Boyle, and Kathy Lees from Black Hills Urgent Care and Surgical Hospital.

RAPID CITY - The Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care are pleased to announce that Chris Boyle has been named the July 2018 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.

Boyle was nominated by Western South Dakota Senior Services, Meals on Wheels program, where he has volunteered on two occasions, first in 2007, and starting again two years ago in 2016.

As a Meals on Wheels volunteer, Chris's activities involve picking up meals from the Meals kitchen, delivers meals to homebound seniors' homes and provides social interactions and a wellness check. When Chris came back to deliver for Meals on Wheels he was a floater (filling in for other drivers), until a permanent route came open. Chris now delivers twice a week, two different routes, averaging between 12 to 14 stops per route, plus taking additional routes when asked. Many times Chris takes others interested in volunteering for the program on routes with him and is always willing to train new volunteers. He rarely misses delivering his routes. Chris

always counts the food coolers before he leaves to make sure his seniors get their full meal and has purchased additional ice cream for those that don't feel it is served enough. Chris has a very generous and big heart, on one occasion a new participant on his route living in a motel with very little, had no way to keep his food from spoiling. Chris took him a refrigerator.

Chris jokes about his seniors liking to hug and being okay with it, but likes it when they stick to the 1 Mississippi 2 Mississippi rule. Chris's wife was asked why Chris volunteers, she states "He has a big heart for everyone around him...he feels very blessed and wants to share. He enjoys sharing the participant's stories with others and takes an interest in their lives, past and present."

Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care presented Boyle 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 Boyle at the Spirit of Volunteerism Awards banquet on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center.

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