



July 2020 Sioux Empire Volunteer of the Month



The Helpline Center congratulates Pat Flittie on being named the July 2020 Volunteer of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by the Helpline Center.

The Senior Companion Program is one of South Dakota's most successful programs for the elderly. As a Senior Companion, Pat Flittie provides supportive services that enable adults who need some assistance to maintain independent living. She provides weekly, scheduled visits to individuals living in their homes or apartments. Depending on client needs, Pat may provide assistance with activities that might include: shopping and errands, trips to the library, light household tasks, reading, making phone calls, assisting with mail, transportation to doctor appointments and most importantly – conversation, listening and companionship. Clients receive these services free of charge regardless of income.

Since beginning the Senior Companion Program on October 21, 2015, Pat has volunteered over 3,500 hours and received the Gold Presidential Award in 2016. She serves 15 hours each week with her 6 clients that range in age from 57 to 106. All of her clients live independently!

Simply stated by one of Pat's clients, "She is the answer to my prayers!" Other clients remark how nice Pat is and that she is very accommodating and always with a smile. Pat's 106 year old client shares that she helps her in so many ways. "She is my secretary, my shopper, and well....my everything and I don't know what I would do without her! Pat is very punctual. She is here each week at 1:00pm on the dot!" She shares that she used to enjoy going along with Pat to shop and run errands but is not always up to it these days.

Another client shares what she appreciates the most is the little things Pat does for her. She opens the car door for her and makes sure she gets in and out safely before getting into the car herself. She walks with her at the store and makes sure she can reach things and if not she gets it for her. "She always asks if there is anything or anywhere else I need to go before we head back. I've appreciated all my Companions, but Pat is the BEST one I've ever had!"

The Helpline Center is pleased to present Pat with a framed certificate and a letter of appreciation from Mayor Paul TenHaken. We will honor her again at the Spirit of Volunteerism Awards Luncheon on May 11, 2021.