

July 2021
Sioux Empire Volunteer of the Month
Dale 'Barney' Blauwet



L to R: Susie Ryks, Helpline Center; Dale 'Barney' Blauwet, July Volunteer of the Month; Dawn Stephens, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of SD; Becky Sluiter; LifeScape.

The Helpline Center congratulates Dale 'Barney' Blauwet on being named the Sioux Empire July 2021 Volunteer of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of SD.

Barney volunteers each year, during the spring and summer, as his farming schedule allows. He has volunteered weekly assisting with a variety of projects in the past 4 years. Last year with COVID changing everyone's life, Barney was still dedicated to the LifeScape gardens starting in May and assist multiple times a week until harvest in September. Barney's farm to table experiences provides healthy food options and low food costs for all at LifeScape. Barney comes in 2-4 times a week, with at least one day during each summer weekend to ensure the gardens have water. He's the only person at the agency on the weekends. That's dedication and shows his love for others at LifeScape!

A staff from LifeScape commented, "Although a quiet man, his actions speak volumes and impact over 200+ people supported by LifeScape. Every day that Barney volunteers, he comes in with a great big smile, his bucket of gardening tools, and his coffee. Barney's smile, good humor, thoughtfulness, hard work, friendship, and dedication to helping people live healthy and empowered lives through gardening and healthy food options makes him the best of the best! His friendship means the world to us."

The Helpline Center are pleased to present Barney with a framed certificate and a letter of appreciation from Mayor Paul TenHaken. For information on volunteer opportunities please call the Helpline Center at 211 or visit volunteer.helplinecenter.org.