



**Public Service Announcement**  
**March 8, 2019**  
**Contact: Susie Ryks**  
**Contact Number: Dial 211 or 274-1407**

### **March Volunteer of the Month**



**L to R: Peggy Whitney, MetaBank; Susie Ryks, Helpline Center; Carol Everetts, March Volunteer of the Month; Dickens, Therapy Dog; Jennifer Woslager, Sanford Health; Becca Conner, Sanford Health.**

The Helpline Center congratulates Carol Everetts on being named the March 2019 Volunteer of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by the Helpline Center and MetaBank.

Carol has been spreading smiles at Sanford over the past 10 years with not just one, but four precious Therapy Dog International Certified Golden Retrievers. Disney, Dandy, Davy, and Dickens, have served the patients, families and staff at Sanford faithfully. Carol comes three times a week to Sanford for visits. The departments she serves include: Main Lobby, Cancer Center, Children's Hospital, Emergency Department and Inpatient Rehab.

Carol not only shares herself and her dogs at Sanford, but also with Avera, the VA, all the Hospice facilities, Good Sam Centers in Sioux Falls, Canton and Brandon, Tail Waggin' Tutors and more!

In a typical week Carol racks up at least 20 hours of volunteer time. (To keep the dogs from becoming too tired, visits are usually only about one hour at a time - so that makes for MANY separate trips, and living out of town means lots of miles on her car too). Three of her dogs have earned the TDI "Gold Award" which signifies 500+ therapy visits each.

Carol said, "I love sharing my wonderful Golden Retrievers as therapy dogs with all who may need a cheerful smile, a nudge for a pet, and a wagging tail to lift spirits for a little while along this journey called life. Best reward of all is to create a little bit of happiness on our way to the Rainbow Bridge."

The Helpline Center and MetaBank are pleased to present Carol with a framed certificate, a gift from MetaBank, and a letter of appreciation from Mayor Paul TenHaken. We will honor her again at the Spirit of Volunteerism Awards Luncheon on May 9, 2019.

For information on the Helpline Center's Volunteer Connections Program please call the Helpline Center at 211 or visit [www.helplinecenter.org](http://www.helplinecenter.org).