



**Public Service Announcement**

**May 1, 2021**

**Contact: Audrey Nordine, Black Hills Program Coordinator**

**Contact Number: Dial 211 or (605) 274-1429**

**For Immediate Release**

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



***Pictured left to right: Kathy Minnick with Black Hills Surgical Hospital & Urgent Care, Maria Soccoro May Volunteer of the Month, and Audrey Nordine with Helpline Center.***

RAPID CITY - The Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care are pleased to announce that Maria Socorro has been named the May 2021 Volunteer of the Month. Dawn was nominated by The Literacy Council of the Black Hills

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.

Maria has been volunteering for Literacy Council for over 7 years. The Literacy Council has a special partnership with Blessed Sacrament Church that is facilitated through Maria. Her passion for literacy and desire to serve have blessed these 35 students and their families. Her selfless service has not only helped these people improve their English, but also opened doors to other opportunities. Without Maria, the council couldn't have reached so many Hispanic speaking students so successfully.

After Maria improved her own English through Literacy Council's program, Maria saw the need of growing Hispanic community in the area, she built "Overcoming the Language Barrier", a partnership between her local parish and the Literacy Council. Maria became the student outreach liaison around 2013 and has continued in that capacity. She truly cares about the people in her congregation and advocates for them. She advocates and assists anyone who needs help, whether they are in her congregation or not.

Besides referring students to Literacy Council, Maria looks out for bilingual potential tutors. Just in the month of May of 2020, Maria referred 3 potential tutors all of whom have decided to become tutors. Maria follows up with the students and provides us with feedback. If tutors have trouble communicating with a Spanish-speaking student, Maria can reach out to them because she is bilingual and culturally sensitive.

Helpline Center and Black Hills Urgent Care presented Matea with a Volunteer of the Month certificate. National Volunteer Week gifts, and gifts from Black Hills Urgent Care and Surgical Hospital.

For information on volunteer opportunities, please call the Helpline Center at 211 or visit [volunteer.helplinecenter.org](http://volunteer.helplinecenter.org)