

May 2021
Sioux Empire Volunteer of the Month
Mike Gross



L to R: Tom Foster, St. Francis House; Mike Gross, May Volunteer of the Month; Lori Clausen, Wellmark; and Susie Ryks, Helpline Center.

The Helpline Center congratulates Mike Gross on being named the Sioux Empire May 2021 Volunteer of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of SD.

Mike Gross has been serving at the St. Francis House for over four years. He volunteers at least four times a month. He has provided nearly 500 hours of service. Mike primarily serves noon meals at the St. Francis House. Mike also volunteers doing other duties such as moving furniture, using his drone to provide social media footage, mentoring guests by sharing his life stories, serving occasional evening meals, playing games and visiting on Christmas day plus so much more.

A staff from St. Francis House commented, "Mike volunteering goes beyond our walls. Mike serves as a Brandon volunteer firefighter, he also spends time volunteering with

the Sioux Empire Boys & Girls club, coach's youth baseball and softball leagues among many other volunteer opportunities. Mike is all about serving and giving back. Though he serves with openness, grace and good humor, Mike's impact in volunteering at the St. Francis House goes far beyond volunteering. Given his past and his present, he is a living example for guests of our message of hope."

The Helpline Center are pleased to present Mike 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.

