

**November 2020  
Sioux Empire Volunteer of the Month  
Beverly Johnson**



**L to R: Susie Ryks, Helpline Center; Lis Brunk, Sanford Health, Beverly Johnson, November Volunteer of the Month; Becca Conner, Sanford Health; Nona Bixler, Sanford Health**

The Helpline Center congratulates Beverly Johnson on being named the Sioux Empire November 2020 Volunteer of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by the Helpline Center.

Beverly Johnson has been a Sanford Volunteer for one year and has generously given 1,000 hours of volunteer time to Sanford Health. Beverly has sewn 500+ cozies for patient ostomy bags this past year. She uses fabrics of all kinds - for men, for women, for holidays, sports teams, etc. This helps bring dignity to these ostomy patients and lifts their self-esteem. Moreover, Bev has taught her 10-year-old granddaughter how to make these too. They often sew the cozies together! Bev taught her granddaughter the process of cutting, following the pattern, and sewing the fabric together. Sanford Health also have received ostomy cozies from Bev's sister who lives in Iowa. Bev is truly an advocate for this project, and Sanford is grateful for both her talent and her recruitment of new volunteers!

Bev has also been Sanford Health top sewer of cloth face masks, sewing over 3,500 masks!!! These were first made to make sure every employee at Sanford Medical Center had one when walking in and out of the building. Next came the charge to have them available for patients and

visitors that did not arrive with a mask. We know wearing a face mask dramatically decreases one's chances of contracting COVID-19. There were times when we were running very low on masks, and Bev saved the day by sewing quickly and beautifully. It is a gift that she is using this time of social distancing to make a difference in the medical community serving the most vulnerable in our community

A Sanford Health staff commented, "Beverly has filled a need for us in a very uncertain time. The COVID pandemic has dramatically changed our lives, both personally and at work. In the Medical Center, the need is great for us to do all we can to protect ourselves and our patients from getting sick. Bev has contributed in such a meaningful way by making so many face masks. She is so appreciated!"

The Helpline Center are pleased to present Beverly 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](http://volunteer.helplinecenter.org).