



2024

HONOREE

INFORMATION

helpline
center



SPIRIT OF
VOLUNTEERISM
AWARDS

Alyssa Albrecht

Eat Well Sioux Falls Mobile Market

Up & Coming

Alyssa is an amazing volunteer with the Mobile Market and has helped with many sale stops as well as door-to-door distributing flyers and even has donated reusable shopping bags for the Mobile Market. She always has a smile on her face and is a joy to be around!

Allstate

VOAD GreaterGoods

Corporate/Business

We deeply appreciate the time, energy, and expertise that Allstate Insurance consistently contributes to Volunteers of America, Dakotas' GreaterGoods. Their commitment to serving those in need enriches the lives of countless individuals and families, and we are honored to have them as a valued partner. Their volunteer service not only lightens our workload but also brings a sense of community and unity to our efforts. They exemplify the power of collaboration and remind us that when individuals and organizations come together for a common purpose, incredible things can be achieved.

Peggy Baney

The Community Outreach

Lifetime

Peggy has been a crucial volunteer with our Sharing Christmas Store program for many years. She jumps in wherever she is needed, whether it is pricing gifts, organizing the Store, helping families shop, or organizing a toy drive, her passionate and humble spirit has helped make Sharing Christmas Store a blessing to hundreds of families each year.

Kade Baumberger

St. Francis House

Youth

Kade has been a loyal volunteer at St Francis House for years. He and his friends serve dinner to our guests multiple times a month. Kade also picks up and delivers bread from local businesses every week. Kade's dedication to service is an inspiration to the guests at St Francis House.

Ben and Katie Beitelspacher

Lifeline Children's Services—Harbor Families Ministry

Group

Ben and Katie are volunteer host families through Lifeline's Harbor Families ministry. Host families provide temporary respite care for children while their parents navigate a crisis (medical emergencies, joblessness, financial struggles). Host families receive no state or federal funding assistance, but instead care for children in their own home with their own resources. Beginning in November 2022 through December 2023, Ben and Katie provided respite care for two young children while their mother battled cancer. This ensured that these kids were cared for in a safe, loving home and could be near their mother.

Bowling Volunteer Group

Butterfly House & Aquarium

Group

The Bowling Volunteer Group is made up of youth in our community who gather together to volunteer for nonprofits - AND they all love bowling together, too! They are hard workers, as they have helped out at the Butterfly House & Aquarium campus by pulling weeds and beautifying our outdoor spaces. We are so lucky to already have them on the schedule again to serve for 2024! Thank you, Brooklyn, and the Bowling Volunteer Group!

Cora Boysen

Dakota Academy of Performing Arts—Washington Pavilion

Youth

Since 2021, Cora service has been crucial for the success of the Dakota Academy of Performing Arts youth theatre programs at the Washington Pavilion. Not only is Cora a backstage expert whose tech theatre skills bring stage productions to life during the school year, but she also dedicates several weeks of her summers to assisting younger peers during Pavilion-led musical theatre camps. Cora's composure, positive attitude, and creative problem-solving skills keep students happy and engaged during their camps, which couldn't provide such positive experiences for area youth without volunteers like Cora.

Marlene Broek

Ransom Church—The Closet at Ransom Church

Shining Bright

Marlene has led the whole team of volunteers to assist guests in need of clothing. Sometimes that can be up to 15 appointments a month with up to three families at each appointment. Her humble leadership has led to relationships with our guests because they feel so welcome, heard, seen and cared for! Guests leave with not only the clothing they need but also increased dignity because of the intentionality her team takes to love them well.

Richard Burns

Siouxland Heritage Museums

Lifetime

Rich Burns volunteers multiple times a week with Siouxland Heritage Museums, serving as a wonderful ambassador of history and our community to everyone who visits the museums. He gives engaging and informative tours of the Pettigrew Home, helps visitors find the perfect souvenir in the Old Courthouse Museum store, serves on the Museums Alliance board, and helps with a wide variety of programs and events. Whatever he is doing, Rich radiates warmth and kindness, creating an inviting, inspiring atmosphere for everyone at the museums.

Citi

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls

Corporate/Business

We love having Citi part of our community and our mission. We have employees from Citi that are on our volunteer sites, part of our board, and on our committees. Citi volunteers have helped many families in our community have a safe, affordable Habitat for Humanity home. To our Partner Families it means the world to them. It affects that family for generations to come.

CorTrust Bank

St. Francis House

Corporate/Business

CorTrust Bank donates their time the first Thursday of every month to serve breakfast and lunch at the St. Francis House. For breakfast they prepare and serve blueberry pancakes, grape juice, and purple yogurt. During lunch service we always make sure there is a special cake, or cupcakes decorated with their signature purple color.

Chad David

Life Defense Fund

Shining Bright

Humble is the word that best describes Chad. He has consistently volunteered with Life Defense Fund for the humblest of tasks from making signs, packing and unpacking supplies, bringing food and water to other volunteers, setting up and taking down booths before sun up and standing on the front lines educating the public. His help does not go unnoticed! Chad has been a courageous volunteer and his presence has made an impact on our community.

Douglas DeGroot**Project CAR****Lifetime**

Doug DeGroot joined the board of directors for Project CAR in early 2020, and was elected chair for 2022, 2023, and 2024. His far-reaching network of relationships built over decades of volunteer service in the community has nourished Project CAR's work in countless ways. He goes above and beyond the role of a board chair to help as many people as he can improve their wellbeing with his kindness, compassion, and commitment to bettering our community.

Ellen Doerr**Eat Well Sioux Falls Mobile Market****Up & Coming**

Chef Ellen has been volunteering since day 1. She helps with our Thursday stops and even has helped with keeping the Mobile Market sustainable by providing us with discounted, ready made meals that we can sell for a markup. Her Facebook Live videos help to increase the public awareness of our project which is amazing.

Deacon Jon Eckrich**St. Francis House****Shining Bright**

Deacon Jon is an extremely loyal volunteer at St. Francis House. He and his wife Lori always arrive with warm smiles, ready to serve dinner to our guests. His unwavering faith, and dedication to service, embodies the true essence of selflessness and compassion.

Alexandra Emerson**Volunteers of America, Dakotas GreaterGoods****Youth**

Alex Emerson is a high school senior at Lincoln High School. Along with going to school, and preparing for college, she has a part-time job. Despite her busy life, she takes time to come and volunteer at GreaterGoods every week. She is a hard worker and will do anything that is asked of her. She does everything from sorting and organizing to building. We are forever grateful for the work and dedication that she has shown. Alex is part of Volunteers of America, Dakotas' GreaterGoods' family and we are excited to celebrate her!

Glen and Linda Erickson**Feeding South Dakota****Group**

Glen and Linda have served in a few different areas at Feeding South Dakota. They come in with a kind smile and get right to work. Recently, they have started fulfilling our pantry orders for our local wellness pantries. They are attentive to the special requests from the schools, and when they are done they even help sort donations in the sort room. Glen and Linda are volunteers that we are always looking forward to seeing.

First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard**Junior Achievement of South Dakota****Corporate/Business**

Not only does First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard participate in Junior Achievement special events that provide over 1,200 students with JA programming, but they have the largest number of JA volunteers from one organization across the state, with 113 associates participating impacting 2,483 students in the 2023-24 school year! This year, they were the first to partner with JA to launch JA Finance Park, a new program for middle and high school students. PREMIER Volunteers will be taking the lead on two of the five simulation launch days, guiding students as they develop and commit to a personal budget.

**First United Methodist Church
Group**

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls

First United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls has been regularly volunteering on New Construction sites on the second Saturday of every month for over 10 years! This group has helped on every task of the building process from foundations to trim work. They have helped many families in our community have a safe affordable home! We great enjoy having them part of our mission and our community! Thank you for all you have done!

**Faith Genzlinger
Youth**

Sanford Health

Faith has been a student volunteer at Sanford Health for almost one year and has generously volunteered for over 120 hours. Faith drives over an hour each way to Sioux Falls each week to volunteer! That is dedication! Faith started volunteering in our Critical Care Unit. She then wanted to explore a new role and has been a volunteer in our Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit, helping our patients and staff. Recently, we asked for help from volunteers to serve at Ava's Hospice House, and Faith was the first to answer the call for helpers! As Faith is very involved in her own school and community, she also shows wonderful courage and commitment to developing skills that will help her when she goes to college and explores her future career in healthcare. This bright young woman has made an impact at Sanford!

**Doug Goeken
Shining Bright**

Lunch is Served

Doug has been volunteering at Lunch is Served every Wednesday since January of 2022. He stamps lunch bags, takes out recycling, and has packed several thousand lunches! He has made a huge impact at Lunch is Served with the work he has accomplished and the friends that he has made! He is a joy to be around and makes everyone smile! We are grateful for his service and hope to have many more years working together with him!

**Mike and Masako Gould
Group**

The Outdoor Campus—Sioux Falls

Masako Gould has been volunteering at the Outdoor Campus since 2004. Her husband, Mike began volunteering in 2013 Throughout their tenure at the Outdoor Campus-Sioux Falls, the couple has helped with dozens of outdoor education classes and special events and has spent hundreds of hours working at the welcome desk. This year, Masako surpassed 5,000 hours, and Mike hit 2,000 hours of volunteer service at the Outdoor Campus. It's challenging to put into words what Mike and Masako mean to the staff and other volunteers at the Outdoor Campus. A few words and phrases that come to mind when thinking of the Goulds are kind, generous, helpful, loyal, inspiring, and role models.



Gordon Hansen**Avera McKennan Hospital****Lifetime**

Gordon, a dedicated volunteer at Avera McKennan Hospital since March 2003, has contributed nearly 8800 hours of service. As a Patient Escort, he showcases kindness and commitment, consistently surpassing expectations. His unwavering dedication, even during many holidays, showcases his impact awareness. Gordon is a highly valued team member on Mondays and Thursdays, recognized for his exceptional have a service to patients and visitors.

Fred Henry**Butterfly House & Aquarium****Lifetime**

Fred volunteers as a Docent (pronounced "doh-cent") with the Great Plains Zoo. Since 2021, Fred has faithfully greeted, shared educational materials, and helped guests enjoy their visits to the Zoo. Fred loves to engage kids in conversation, and he even stood in as Santa during the Butterfly House & Aquarium's Holiday Bash in 2023. Fred makes sure that every guest has the opportunity to ask questions and receive a warm welcome. Thank you, Fred!

JoAnne Herman**Sanford Health****Lifetime**

Joanne is so special, and we often comment that we wish we could clone her! She is been a volunteer at Sanford Health for about 15 years and has generously given over 2,371 hours of service. She always arrives to the Sanford Gift Shop with a smile and jumps in to do whatever needs to be done. Her positive attitude is contagious. Joann is always willing to help train our new volunteers if they come in on a Thursday. She has a wonderful personality, and she is loved by many. She has the talent of being equally funny, thoughtful, helpful, and spunky, which is wonderful in a healthcare setting. She is helpful and empathetic to our customers and has developed great friendships with the employees. Thursdays are just not as sunny when she is away!

Dawn Hieb**LifeScape****Shining Bright**

Dawn is one of those people who truly optimizes the role of Volunteer Friend. She lives the LifeScape Mission: "Empowering people to live their best life." She empowers, every event, to encourage students at LifeScape, the LifeScape Girl Scout Troop, and staff to stand by their values that make LifeScape a community of successes. She holds integrity and values, to motivate students to try new things. In addition, she takes pride in leading/teaching the bi-monthly LifeScape Girl Scout Troop meetings. She is creative, resourceful and keeps safety and wellbeing, and fiscal responsibility at the top of her priorities.

Elly Hohn**Feeding South Dakota****Up & Coming**

When Elly comes to volunteer, she focuses on the project until the very end of the shift and does so while crack-ing jokes and having fun with others. She has a great work ethic and attitude whenever she comes to volunteer.



Luke Jerstad

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls

Youth

Luke is a valuable part of our Volunteer Team! He has spent time working on foundations on New Construction and he has also spent many hours in our ReStore. We appreciate all the hours he has dedicated towards our mission!

Jesus Cares Program

DakotAbilities

Group

Pastor Greg and Jacob have volunteered their time and talents at DakotAbilities since 2012. They come to the Longfellow Center every other week throughout the year. The mission of the Jesus Cares Program is to provide faith and fellowship to people with disabilities. Each week, they are sharing faith, fellowship, singing, and teaching the scripture. People at DakotAbilities love Jesus Cares and are very excited each week to participate! Not only are they learning about the love of Jesus, they have built relationships with Pastor Greg, Jacob and the Zion Lutheran Church. They love to sing and dance together!

Lil Johnston

Church on the Street

Shining Bright

Pastor Lil is a full-time volunteer who gets the things folks need, including everything from shoes to beds and pallets of food. She even stores towers of totes in the storage unit she rents. She is always willing to help in the office, at Laundry with Love, during worship, and at special events, often organizing others to help from her home congregation, Spirit of Joy. No job is too big or small for Pastor Lil.

Navaeh Keenan

Butterfly House & Aquarium

Youth

Nevaeh volunteers as a Docent (pronounced "doh-cent") with the Butterfly House & Aquarium and Great Plains Zoo. In 2023, Nevaeh dedicated over 60 hours (in 6 months!) to helping make sure that patrons visiting our facilities have the best experience. Nevaeh is committed, reliable, and she frequently jumps in to volunteer for new experiences and events. Thank you, Nevaeh!

Michael King

Call to Freedom

Lifetime

Mike always answers the phone for any staff or client need, no matter the size! He is eager to help with projects like hanging decor and fixing toilets. He is also our go-to for any mechanical issues. Mike goes out of his way to research how to fix any problem, and we are so thankful for his time and talents!

Bridget Knapper

Life Defense Fund

Shining Bright

Bridgett has been fully committed to volunteering with Life Defense Fund this past year. She has given up her weekends, both day and night, to educate the public. Bridgett is truly a rock star volunteer! She is always willing to give of herself and her time for the benefit of others. People love being greeted by her cheerful smile and beautiful face. Bridgett has always displayed the trait of humility while volunteering. South Dakota is a better place with her in it!

Knights of Columbus

Group

Dan Dwire is part of the Knights of Columbus group in Sioux Falls that helps coordinate parking and traffic control at the Cinco De Mayo Fiesta each year. This is a huge undertaking as 10,000 people attend the event. We are so very thankful to them for making this event a success, as it is the main fundraiser for Caminando Juntos, the Hispanic Ministry of the Presentation Sisters.

Presentation Sisters

Shelby Kommes

Up & Coming

Shelby Kommes brings a vibrant and git-er-done energy to her volunteer work with Sioux Falls Thrive. She represents the city health department on three key collaborative groups: the Food Security Action Team, the Food Security Community Network, and the Advisory Board for the Eat Well Sioux Falls Mobile Market. Shelby's passion is in the world of public health. Everyone deserves the same opportunities for access to healthcare, nutritious foods, and a healthy lifestyle. Sioux Falls Thrive and the Eat Well Sioux Falls Mobile Market are grateful for her commitment to the health and well-being of all people.

Sioux Falls Thrives

John Kunnari

Lifetime

John has a servants heart and giving of his time and talents for others is how he lives life. He has spent countless hours waking up before the sun comes up and being out all day to volunteer with Life Defense Fund. John is a man of exceptional character and lives life as Jesus has taught. While volunteering, people who encounter John will be left with a feeling of joy. John is a staple of our community, the kind of person that is always willing to lend a hand and make our community a better place.

Life Defense Fund

Rebecca Lange

Up & Coming

Rebecca Lange has volunteered at Lunch is Served since January of 2022. She brings Doug Goeken from Lifescape to volunteer. Rebecca has done every duty there is at Lunch is Served! She is the epitome of positivity and professionalism! She is willing to take on any task with a smile. She is encouraging and supportive of Doug. Together they make a huge difference in the workload at Lunch is Served. We hope that they continue to volunteer at Lunch is Served for many years to come!

Lunch is Served

Walter Leyse

Lifetime

Walt has been volunteering with the Furniture Mission since 2009! He works in our shop repairing furniture for the families we serve! We are so grateful for his dedication to our community and organization.

Furniture Mission of South Dakota

Sharon Loudenberg

Shining Bright

Sharon is a reliable, hardworking, and fun volunteer who can be trusted with any project or task. She lights up the office when she comes in, and has become someone the staff and volunteers alike get excited about seeing.

Feeding South Dakota



Lavin Maddox

Sioux Falls Christian

Youth

Lavin Maddox has stepped up voluntarily as a strong leader within our school. Lavin leads, creates and organizes student led projects and programs throughout our the middle and high school on a consistent basis. Lavin is very creative and driven to make an impact for Christ by leading other students to join her to impact our school community and to extend compassion beyond our walls into the Sioux Falls community.

Sheryl Marckstradt

Center of Hope

Lifetime

Sheri Marckstadt has been a faithful weekly Certified Nurse Practitioner volunteer at the Center of Hope Free Evening Clinic providing medical care to people without health insurance.

Crystal McKnelly

Church on the Street

Shining Bright

Crystal volunteers in the front office at Church on the Street, greeting people and managing the donations as they come up to four days a week. She also assists with worship. Her crafts and generous spirit bless many! She works hard to reach her goals and loves serving the community!

Taran McLain

Butterfly House & Aquarium

Up & Coming

Taran volunteers as a Husbandry Aide with the Butterfly House & Aquarium. She is very motivated in advocacy for unwanted and mistreated animals, and she works hard to fulfill her passions. At the Butterfly House & Aquarium, Taran works behind the scenes with our Aquarists to prepare food, care for animals, and maintain the aquatic exhibits.

Mike and Corrine Mlnarik

Furniture Mission of South Dakota

Group

Corrine and Mike volunteer at the Furniture Mission 1-2 days per week. Mike works in the shop building nightstands, tables, and coffee tables. He also build's our toddler beds at home in his free time! Corrine volunteers at our front desk taking phone calls, scheduling, and greeting our clients! They are great volunteers, demonstrating our mission treating each client and family with grace and dignity.

John Nelson

Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science

Lifetime

John serves as the Kirby Science Discovery Center's go-to volunteer for supervising interactive mobile demonstration carts and is the backbone of the volunteer team during the Pavilion's Free First Friday events. John manages to be brilliant, personable, energetic, and witty all at the same time and embodies the Science Center's mission to promote learning under the guise of play. John is essentially the Bill Nye of the Pavilion, a magnetic educator with a kinetic personality who sparks curiosity in the minds of those who are lucky to partake in his live experiments and demonstrations.

Maddie Neuschwanger

The Outdoor Campus—Sioux Falls

Youth

Madison has been volunteering at the Outdoor Campus for a little over one year. She has already donated over 100 hours of service to the organization. Maddie is an asset in every class she helps with. We can always count on her to bring her A-game and an awesome attitude!

Shirlyn Nickelson

Life Defense Fund

Lifetime

Shirlyn has been an amazing volunteer for Life Defense Fund. She has spent countless hours, often five days a week, educating the public about the proposed pro-abortion constitutional amendment. Hot or cold, rain or shine, Shirlyn has shown up with a smile on her face and a polite and positive demeanor. She spoke with hundreds of South Dakotan's on the sidewalk, brightening their day with her presence and educational information. Shirlyn has a heart of gold.

Patty Nohr

Dakota Academy of Perform Arts—Washington Pavilion

Shining Bright

Since 2018, Patty Nohr has been an indispensable behind-the-scenes volunteer for youth theatre productions through the Dakota Academy of Performing Arts at the Washington Pavilion. Patty's organizational skills, thoughtfulness, and calm demeanor, coupled with her trusty clipboard and radio, help theatre productions run smoothly from the first rehearsal to the final performance. Wearing the many hats of stage manager, props master, and company manager, Patty crafts props, doles out band-aids, decorates theater lobbies, supervises backstage antics, and so much more – all with a smile!

Steve Noyes

Avera McKennan Hospital

Lifetime

Steve is a very caring, compassionate, and humble volunteer. He has volunteered at Avera for over 9 years for approximately 3000 hours as a Patient Escort. Steve is always willing to come in for extra shifts, he displays a can do attitude and always with a smile on his face. He works with enthusiasm and always has a positive attitude and is eager to help. He represents Avera in a positive light and always puts the guests 1st.

Yvonne Oppold

Laundry with Love

Shining Bright

Yvonne has been coming to the Laundry with Love for 5-6 hours twice a month for the past 6 years. While she is there she not only manages the chaos of checking people in to do free laundry, but she takes the time to visit with individuals, listens to their stories and as she is a semi-retired doctor, she even helps them with their medical questions. She has been known to bandage a wound, wrap an ankle and encourage doctor visits. She is no longer allowed to bring cash into the laundromat because she can't help but give it away!

OSL Funeral Food Ministry Group

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Group

The OSL Funeral Food Ministry Group has been together for about 10 years, preparing and serving meals at more than 1,000 funerals at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. This passionate and energetic group has been humbly serving OSL's families through food and fellowship in celebration of lost loved ones and valued members of our congregation and community.

Faith Oygard

Furniture Mission of South Dakota

Up & Coming

Faith volunteers in the Furniture Mission warehouse each Friday and Saturday. She walks clients/families through the warehouse and helps them to pick out their items and records outgoing inventory. Her dedication to helping improve our community is outstanding!

Mark Pappadackis

Eat Well Sioux Falls Mobile Market

Lifetime

Mark is a great volunteer and goes above and beyond. He has dropped everything to help us out when we were in a pinch and he does it with a smile. Not only does he volunteer weekly with us, he also volunteers at Feeding SD.

Annie Paredes

Senior Companion Program of SD

Shining Bright

Annie started volunteering in September 2019. She has volunteered over 3400 hours to date. Currently, she has 6 clients and puts in at minimum 15 hours of week and over 300 miles per month taking her clients to medical appointments, the pharmacy, shopping, and for various errands. Annie puts in extra effort to ensure her clients get the help they need. Most importantly, Annie provides supportive conversation and companionship for those who are socially isolated. Each client has expressed gratitude for her generosity and support.

Barbara Parker

HorsePower

Shining Bright

Barbara is always willing to help out whenever she is asked. She is outstanding with our clients and horses. Every week Barbara bakes homemade chocolate chip cookies for her fellow volunteers and they always disappear quickly! Barbara's kindness and dedication is what makes her an irreplaceable volunteer.

Pathward

Center of Hope

Corporate/Business

The Pathward groups blessed the Center of Hope by working in our Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry, cleaning our building, writing encouragement cards for our guests, and assisting in our Clothing Ministry in our Care Center.

Kassie Peterson

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls

Up & coming

Kassie has been a regular volunteer at Habitat for Humanity for 5 years! You can usually find Kassie as the ReStore Cashier on Saturday mornings, but she has also been on our New Construction and Neighborhood Revitalization sites! We appreciate Kassie's smile and her kindness towards staff, customers and other volunteers! Thankful to have her a part of our mission and her years of dedication.

POET

Feeding South Dakota

Corporate/Business

POET regularly has employees come to volunteer, and it's always a great group of people. We know that when POET is in the building, the tasks will be completed correctly, efficiently, and everyone will have fun while doing it.

Mary Poppenga

Sioux Falls Thrive

Lifetime

Longtime Bible School teacher Mary Poppenga is known by generations of children from the over 50 years of children's programming. Mary was among a core group of volunteers who committed to the Sioux Falls Thrive neighborhood-based initiative, Kid Link Terry Redlin, during the 2022-2023 school year. With the help of people like Mary, Kid Link has become the after-school programming prototype for the new Community Learning Center model by the Sioux Falls School District. Mary continued to serve Terry Redlin families in the fall of 2023 by launching a food pantry in Terry Redlin Elementary School.

David Quinn

Feeding South Dakota

Lifetime

David is a soothing presence. He makes other volunteers feel welcome and included, and even drives a special volunteer home when she needs it. David is hardworking and brings a stability to every volunteer shift he is a part of.

Don Rieck

HorsePower

Lifetime

Don started helping with Special Olympics South Dakota back in the early 1990's. He was a key member of the organizational group that started Equestrian for Special Olympics athletes in South Dakota. He has only missed one State Equestrian Event in over 29 years. Somewhere in there he became a key volunteer at multiple other sporting events including basketball, bocce and softball. Don's involvement is not limited to his volunteering as he also shares his woodworking talents by creating beautiful wood replicas for fundraising events as well as cornhole boards. Don is one of a kind and one of the most loyal and supportive volunteers for Special Olympics South Dakota Athletes!

Monica Melenez Rosales

Caminando Juntos

Up & Coming

Monica has been sitting on the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta planning committee, which takes place every May at Falls Park. It is the main fundraising event for the Caminando Juntos Hispanic Ministry Center, which is a ministry of Presentation Sisters in Sioux Falls. In her second year, Monica has been very engaged by helping to coordinate all the vendors that register to be part of the fiesta. Monica brings great energy and fresh ideas to committee meetings. Her insights have been invaluable. We appreciate her contributions as we create a family fun fiesta each year.

Abbey Roth

Sanford Health

Up & Coming

Abbey has been a Pediatric Companion since August 2022. She has given over a 100 hours of volunteer time, while also studying at Augustana University, majoring in Biology and Psychology. During her volunteer time, you can find Abbey spending time with the kiddos in the Children's Hospital or helping the Child Life staff. She is always up for doing any activities with the kiddos, such as doing any crafts for special occasions. She is so helpful to the Child Life staff and is willing to help out with different tasks when the census is low or families are around to be with their children. Abbey brings a positive attitude and helps to create a comforting environment to the kiddos. We, along with the patients and staff at the Children's Hospital, are so appreciative for all that Abbey does!

Barbara Sabella

St. Francis House

Shining Bright

Barbara's dedication to serving others shines through her monthly visits to serve lunch at the St Francis House. Barbara also shares her musical talents with our guests. With her gentle strumming, she creates a comforting atmosphere that uplifts spirits and fosters connections among guests.



Sarah Sailer

SculptureWalk Sioux Falls

Shining Bright

Sarah Sailer is SculptureWalk's most dedicated and dependable volunteer who hikes out multiple mornings each week to refill brochures and collect ballot entries from SculptureWalk's brochure boxes. Sarah is the primary reason SculptureWalk looks great and things stay organized downtown and she is essentially the driving force that makes SculptureWalk's People's Choice Award program successfully happen each year. In addition to her diligent check-ins, Sarah replaces sculpture labels, repaints pedestals, and performs other related upkeep on the actual sculptures as an in-the-trenches curator for the beloved outdoor art exhibit.

Sammons Financial Group

Junior Achievement of South Dakota

Corporate/Business

Junior Achievement is grateful for the support Sammons Financial Group provides in helping inspire students to succeed! Their associates' participation in special events provided funding for 500 students to participate in the JA program and 36 associates have extended time to volunteer directly in the classroom. In addition to their annual corporate investment, this year, Sammons Financial Group stepped up to support JA Finance Park, an immersive program for personal financial planning and career exploration for middle and high school students. At JA Finance Park, Sammons volunteers will guide students as they develop and commit to a personal budget.

Lori Santella

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls

Shining Bright

It is hard to sum up in a few sentences what Lori does for our mission. She is such an important part of our Neighborhood Revitalization program. She helps cook food for the quality of life framework forums, she has painted houses, and decks Been downtown for Citizen Taco. She is also always a phone call away when we need her.

Sandy Sherman

Lunch is Served

Lifetime

Sandy Sherman has been a volunteer for Lunch is Served for 12 years! She has held board positions and is our liaison with Emmanuel Baptist Church. Most uniquely is that she volunteers every Monday and Wednesday preparing everything for the group packings that includes setting up the kitchen and organizing the packing line with lunch bags, spoons, napkins, pudding cups, chips, granola bars, and inspirational notes for 500-700 lunches per week. She coordinates the packings for the executive director when she is on vacation. Sandy is the ultimate supporter of Lunch is Served! She donates so much time, talent, and treasure! We hope that Sandy stays with us for many years to come!

Kathie Smith

Active Generations

Lifetime

Kathie has volunteered for 7 years helping welcome new members, teach classes, instruct members on wii bowling and fitness equipment within two facilities. She volunteers 3-4 times a week and is always available to help with special events and fundraising.



St. Katharine Drexel Knights of Columbus St. Francis House

Group

Every Tuesday a dedicated group from the St Kathrine Drexel Knights of Columbus diligently prepares delicious breakfast tacos at St Francis House. Their commitment to serving the community shines through their weekly culinary efforts, bringing warmth and nourishment to those in need.

Dawn Stenberg

Call to Freedom

Shining Bright

Dawn volunteers with the kids at Marissa's House - Call to Freedom's safe house for survivors of Human Trafficking. While the mothers attend bible study, Dawn comes prepared with creative activities and games for the kids. When she arrives the kids are always excited to see her, and multiple moms have also shared how much their kids enjoy Dawn! In addition to serving the clients at Marissa's House, Dawn also serves on Call to Freedom's board of directors and is happy to help in any way we ask.

Therapy Dogs International Chapter 200

Avera McKennan Hospital

Group

Therapy Dog International Chapter 200 have 72 volunteers. These volunteers bring joy to our community. They volunteer at many places such as schools, libraries, nursing homes, and Avera. We treasure the time they spend with our employees and guests. The volunteers and their dogs walk into a room and its like they are magnets, people come from every direction. We have called upon them for "special" visits such as National Pharmacy day. They participated in a research study that proved how much stress they alleviate by just being present. We are so blessed to call them part of our team.

Ted Thie

St. Francis House

Lifetime

Every first and third Friday Ted arrives at St Francis House ready to whip up his famous French toast for our guests. He creates a comforting breakfast that brings joy to the guests' morning. Ted's dedication to volunteering and spreading kindness through his culinary skills makes him a beloved figure at St Francis House.

Lauren Thum

Call to Freedom

Up & Coming

Lauren has shared her time and talents with Call to Freedom to serve survivors of human trafficking. We have seen an increase in Spanish-speaking clients, and Lauren is a huge asset as a bilingual mentor. She is willing to step up and serve in so many different ways, and we greatly appreciate her!

Robyn Tyler

Butterfly House & Aquarium

Shining Bright

Robyn volunteers as a Docent (pronounced "doh-cent") with the Butterfly House & Aquarium and Great Plains Zoo. Since 2018, Robyn has been committed, reliable, and excited to try new volunteer experiences at our facilities. Robyn is kind, easy to talk to, and makes each visitor feel seen and valued. Thank you, Robyn!



Christian Van Veldhuizen**Siouxland Heritage Museums****Youth**

Although a busy teen, Christian van Veldhuizen volunteers with a wide variety of programs with Siouxland Heritage Museums, helping bring history to life! Every summer, we can count on him helping with Pioneer Day Camp, doing everything from chopping vegetables to teaching old-school games to helping children fish. He also helps at the museum's Halloween Party and our Woodlawn by Lantern program. Whether working with children or people much older than him, Christian is mature, social, and willing to lend a hand with anything needed.

Christine Veldhuizen**Alpha Center****Shining Bright**

Christine has been a faithful volunteer to Alpha Center for the last 3 years, but has supported Alpha Center in various ways for nearly 20 years. She has always had a heart for protecting the sanctity of life and caring for children. Christine often drops off baby items for Alpha Center's education incentive programs, brings in snacks for Alpha Center's Tuesday evening Life Skills Group and helps at the Turner County Fair booth. She is also a part of Alpha Center's volunteer hotline team, taking client calls overnights, weekends and holidays. Christine is deeply appreciated by everyone at Alpha Center!

Voyage Federal Credit Union**Butterfly House & Aquarium****Corporate/Business**

The team from Voyage Federal Credit Union accomplished one of our first and dirtiest projects in 2023 – planting trees! This team planted around 20 trees – all over the Great Plains Zoo campus. In partnership with the Parks & Rec team, the Voyage team got the job done with smiles on their faces! Better yet, it was raining the whole time, and not a single person complained. Because of their intense manual labor, our Zoo campus continues to grow and be a beautiful space for our community to enjoy. Thank you, Nicole, and the team at Voyage Federal Credit Union!

Anne Weber**Sioux Falls Area Human Society****Lifetime**

Anne has gone above and beyond, contributing over 168 hours of her time this year alone. Her selflessness and tireless efforts to keep our laundry room manageable have not only made a significant impact on our organization's staff, but have also touched the lives of the animals we serve. It is worth noting that Anne's remarkable service extends beyond this year; since 2018, she has accumulated an incredible 1,200 hours of volunteer work. This remarkable milestone speaks volumes about Anne's passion for making a positive difference in the community, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for her outstanding contributions, and for her morning donut treats. Thank you, Anne, for your invaluable service and for embodying the spirit of volunteerism in such an inspiring way.

Wesley United Methodist Church**Sioux Falls Thrive****Group**

Wesley United Methodist has served hundreds of families at the Terry Redlin Food Pantry since launching Nov. 2023. Wesley secured a grant in January 2024 to provide the Terry Redlin Food Pantry with a fridge they keep stocked with 35 gallons of milk each week. In addition, Linda Kropennske, Nila Westall, Karen Renken, Dawn Armstrong, Carmen Britt, Judy Kiepke, Laura Borman, and Mary Poppenga receive the food donation, stock the shelves and coolers with food, and open the food pantry for an hour each week.



Elizabeth Whalen

Children's Home Society of South Dakota

Lifetime

Elizabeth has been a valuable member of our preschool and kindergarten classroom for 16 years. She provides comfort by rocking with each child during quiet time and teaches them about animals on Friday afternoons. Elizabeth has been a great help with our annual Christmas programs and has given each student a birthday, Christmas, and welcome gift. Her dedication to our classroom has made a significant difference in the lives of our students at CHS. She sets a great example for the community on how to make a positive impact on children's lives.

Wireless World

Call to Freedom

Corporate/Business

Wireless World is a wonderful supporter of our community. They support Call to Freedom in various ways, including by volunteering to put together 50 freedom bags for survivors and overcomers of Human Trafficking.

Deb Yoder

Dow Rummel

Lifetime

Deb had a long career with Sioux Falls Public Libraries and has been instrumental in organizing our library in the past year, with creation of catalog of library books available, and assisting in the creation of policies and procedures for the library. She also volunteers for social events, pouring wine, or assisting with decorating and clean up, and planting seasonal decorative containers around the campus. She is a positive personality in her interactions with other residents and staff at Dow Rummel Village.

Thank you to our sponsors!

