



2024

HONOREE

INFORMATION

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center



SPIRIT OF  
VOLUNTEERISM  
AWARDS

**Delilah Anderson & Brittaney Rawlings**

**Girl Scouts of Rapid City**

**Group**

Brittaney and Delilah together have dedicated 360 hours to the Girl Scouts. They have generated revenue of \$5K in proceeds for the troops to support the animal shelters in need. Fostering entrepreneurship skills amongst the young girls helping them explore their strengths. They have fostered a community of giving, by donating to food pantries, cleaning city playgrounds, and advocating for positive change at council meetings. Their efforts have cultivated, teamwork, and empowering girls to discover their potential and abilities.

**Sue Anderson**

**Multiple Agencies**

**Shining Bright**

Sue Anderson is \*legendary\* in Hill City for all of the love she gives away by her humor, her presence, her dedication, her time. She initiated The Hill City Purse Project rounding up hundreds of purses filled with toiletries, necessities for the Cornerstone Women’s Shelter and WEAVE each year for the past several, and by creating quilted best-selling "flower pins" for several years, has also raised several thousand dollars in contributions to various causes. Active in her church and all of Hill City, she is the first responder to help and often, the last to leave. Sue is Love itself.

Sue volunteers at: Purse Project for Cornerstone Shelter Women's Program; Chamber Events (Easter Egg Hunt, Children's Boo Bash & Pumpkin Festival), HC Arts Council; HC Quilt Guild; HC Ambulance; HC Senior Citizens; SD State RR Museum and many more.

**Mhycho Baraya**

**RCAS—Central NHS and JROTC**

**Youth**

Mhycho is an NHS officer (our secretary) as well as an active member of CHS’ JROTC. He has encouraged his friends to apply, helped students navigate problems, and shows up to a majority of our volunteer opportunities. He keeps everyone involved and does it with a giving heart.

Mhycho sets aside time to help others every day. He volunteers without being asked and enjoys giving back without reward. His integrity allows him to be fully committed to his community and his drive makes others better. He sees the impact of helping others and does it with no inhibition.

**Marilyn Bates**

**Black Hills Works**

**Shining Bright**

Marilyn Bates shows her appreciation for Black Hills Works’ mission, and the admiration she has for the people we support, one stitch at a time. An experienced and prolific quilter, Marilyn has donated many beautiful handmade quilts. In past years, she made pillowcases, a gift that inspired her sister, Barb, and late -mother, Gladys, to also get involved. Together, they put together nicely wrapped, personal and useful gifts for people supported who would otherwise go without.



**Charles Beatty**

**Love INC of the Black Hills**

**Up & Coming**

Charles started volunteering with Love INC in high school and has continued after graduation. He is always willing to serve in his regular volunteer position also help fill holes left when other volunteers are absent. One of his best qualities is consistency.

**Pat Bilek**

**Fork Real Community Cafe**

**Shining Bright**

Pat comes every Thursday and spends her day with us. She also helps with Catering events outside of her normal schedule. We love spending time with Pat. She always has a smile ready, and a humble spirit to get down to business and help her community in whatever way she can. We wouldn't know what to do without her!

**Black Hills Works**

**The Salvation Army**

**Corporate/Business**

Black Hills Works volunteered over 70 hours for The Salvation Army during the holidays. They raised a total of \$3,270.56 during the Christmas campaign volunteering to ring bells at multiple locations. 100% of funds raised will go into helping local families in need. Thank you, Black Hills Works, for making a difference in our community and helping us "Do the Most Good".

**Black Hills Works**

**Fork Real Community Cafe**

**Corporate/Business**

BH Works has been volunteering with us for many years! even though the people and faces may change, we ALWAYS know when they come to volunteer, they will have smiles on their faces, and hands that are ready to serve! Our friends at BH Works come once a week, and spend a couple of hours with us, serving our customers and building community! They are a bright spot in our week, and we love having them with us!

**Jim Books**

**Love INC of the Black Hills**

**Shining Bright**

Jim volunteers in the Thrive bike shop helping Love INC participants to learn about basic bike maintenance and repairs while he and other volunteers help them earn a refurbished bike for transportation. Jim has taken ownership of the "Vision Bike" program by helping structure their experience when coming to earn their bike. He also builds relationships with the individuals by praying for them and offering help when their bike may need repairs in the future. Thrive has seen the Vision Bike program more than double the # of bikes earned in 2023!

**Kanin Booth**

**Multiple Agencies**

**Youth**

Kanin has made both a broad and substantial impact to the community. This includes his efforts in fighting homelessness, which has resulted in increased awareness of youth homelessness within the community. He has participated in several food drives to prevent hunger, resulting in hundreds of pounds of food donations for local families in need. He has sought to improve K-12 education through his participation in student voice forums. Finally, he has presented the National Colors at several events to promote patriotism and honor our Country. Kanin Booth has dedicated over 100 hours of service to community this school year. Kanin volunteers at: RCAS JROTC, FBLA, Student Voice Forum; Rapid City Youth City Council, Youth Taskforce of the Homeless Coalition

**Sierra Borland**

**The Salvation Army**

**Youth**

Sierra and Daniel Borland volunteered for The Salvation Army during Christmas at the Angel Tree toy shop. They are outstanding young volunteers. They were only scheduled for one day but ended up skipping out on a family fun day to come and volunteer for the second day of distribution. They brought many smiles to the families they helped.

**Daniel Borland**

**The Salvation Army**

**Youth**

Sierra and Daniel Borland volunteered for The Salvation Army during Christmas at the Angel Tree toy shop. They are outstanding young volunteers. They were only scheduled for one day but ended up skipping out on a family fun day to come and volunteer for the second day of distribution. They brought many smiles to the families they helped.

**Darlayne Buchli**

**Monument Health Hospice**

**Shining Bright**

Darlayne is a volunteer with Hospice. She is kind, compassionate and skilled at working with our patients and families. Darlayne and her husband Myron also volunteer with Meals on Wheels. Darlayne's warmth and compassion just ooze out of her. She has volunteered with Hospice for 14 years. I am fortunate to work with her as a volunteer and a dear friend. She is a gift to all who encounter her.

**Victor Burckhard**

**Community Connect Events**

**Shining Bright**

Victor, at 87 years old, has helped with the Community Connect Events for the past four years. We hold 2-4 events/year. Victor helps set up the Regifting Store and tables and chairs for our agencies that join us. Victor breaks down boxes, hauls garbage, and transports both to the dump at the end of the event. He helps run the registration table, where he welcomes participants to the event. Victor is one of the hardest workers and most committed volunteers we have at this event. We could not do it without him. He always has a great attitude, and his work ethic makes him a role model for everyone.

**Patrick Butler**

**Literacy Council of the Black Hills**

**Shining Bright**

Patrick volunteered over 400 hours last year (100 already this year!) tutoring adults striving to improve their English literacy skills and serving on the Literacy Council of the Black Hills Board of Directors. Patrick tutors because improving the literacy of adults in the Black Hills area is an investment in the future of our community.

**Caan Family**

**Fork Real Community Café**

**Group**

Laura and her kids, Lukas and Molly spend Thursdays with us! This year, they added delivering school lunches to Zion Elementary School for us as well! They are such humble helpers, and Bless us and the community by what they do!

**Joan Struble & Carol Bailey  
Group**

**Black Hills Works**

For several years, Carol and Joan have shared their pet therapy dogs with Black Hills Works. Reina and Crunchy visit weekly, and you can see the smiles that accompany their visits.

"You can see the comfort while they play, and the improvement of eye-hand coordination," shared Carol. Joan shared, "It touches my heart to see their hearts connect with Crunchy. I get to have relationships with the people supported through Crunchy, so we have lots of friends to visit!"

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints    The Salvation Army  
Group**

The Salvation Army collects toys through our Angel Tree program from local businesses during Christmas, to help local families in need. The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints, Black Hills Ward of Rapid City came to the rescue with a group of amazing volunteers during Christmas. We had 8000 toys that had to be counted and sorted before we could distribute them, which would have taken us at least 2 weeks. The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints brought around 30 amazing volunteers and completed the project in one night. We were so thankful for all the wonderful help.

**Cathy Connor    Rapid City Area Right to Life  
Shining Bright**

Cathy Connor is the current President of the Rapid City Area Right to Life Chapter and handles her position with a flare of excellence. She is a remarkable lady with a passion for protecting all innocent human life from conception to natural death. Cathy is grace-filled and loving to all whom she meets and as a result is highly respected by all who are fortunate enough to call her their friend.

**Deb Daly    Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board  
Shining Bright**

Deb has volunteered at GPTLHB monthly sobriety and healing events that we have held in the community over the past several years. She has helped to serve food, greet relatives and assists in any way that she can. She is always willing to help out in the community and has been a positive presence. Rain or shine, you can see her helping to feed our houseless relatives at the Memorial Bandshell with the Oyate Kin Can'te Wast'epi organization. You will also find her volunteering at Oaye Luta Okolakiciye, Feeding South Dakota, RCAS school events, Woyatan Church, and many other non-profit agencies.



**Department of Revenue**  
**Corporate/Business**

**Black Hills Works**

For the past several years, staff at the Department of Revenue have fulfilled the role of Secret Santa for people supported by Black Hills Works that have no family or informal support system. On average, they purchase and wrap gifts for 30-35 people a year and are thrilled to help out in this way! They make the holidays so special for those with no families by letting them know they are loved during a difficult yet magical time of year.

**Haley Derr**

**Sergeant Colton Levi Derr Foundation**

**Up & Coming**

Haley has been one of the key founders and leaders of the Sergeant Colton Levi Derr Foundation for the past twelve years. The foundation is committed to supporting our brave veterans who suffer from PTSD, an invisible wound that is difficult to fight alone. Haley has dedicated countless hours of service to our veterans, becoming a leader of hope and comfort for those who have gone through unimaginable challenges while serving our country.

**Josephine Dirkesen**

**Sergeant Colton Levi Derr Foundation**

**Up & Coming**

Josephine has devoted innumerable hours to providing support to veterans who struggle with PTSD. Her tireless volunteer work has shown the way to healing for countless heroes, demonstrating compassion and resilience. Her steadfast dedication not only pays tribute to our veterans but motivates our community to embrace empathy and take action. We are immensely grateful for Josephine's transformative impact and heartfelt service.

**Bobbie Jo Donovan**

**Junior Achievement of South Dakota**

**Shining Bright**

Bobbie Jo Donovan worked with Junior Achievement to grow programming in the Rapid City Area School District over the past two years. She has stepped up and joined the Rapid City Champions group for JA to make sure that as many Rapid City students are impacted by JA as possible. She wants to ensure that students are set up for success when they graduate and partnering with JA to expand programming is just one of the ways she does this. JA is grateful for their partnership with the Rapid City Area School District and Bobbie Jo!

**Taylee Dupree**

**Fork Real Community Cafe**

**Up & Coming**

Taylee comes every Saturday to Volunteer with us. She has been a consistent volunteer for many years, and she brings laughter and brightness to the cafe. She is our Salad Bar master, and we greatly appreciate her skill and devotion to serving our community through her skills with food.



**Karin Eagle**

**Great Plains Tribal Leader's Health Board**

**Shining Bright**

When it became below zero in January 2024, this individual sprung into action and began coordinating resources, transporting unhoused relatives, and volunteered their time out of the goodness of their heart to help others, accepting donations and helping with food and hygiene supplies.

**Raymond Ehnert**

**Box Elder Volunteer Fire Department**

**Shining Bright**

Since moving to the area in the middle of 2023, Ray has been one of our most dedicated volunteers dedicating well over 1000 hours of his time to training, assistance around the station, and responding to over 750 calls for service. Ray truly enjoys providing time to his community and expects nothing in return but a hug or a smile. Additionally, Ray volunteers time with the Rapid City Catholic School system.

**Freedom Church Youth Group**

**Cornerstone Apartments**

**Group**

Catie and the youth group at Freedom do an Angel Tree at Cornerstone Apartments they have been for the last 9 years.

**Debra Friedrichsen**

**OneHeart**

**Shining Bright**

Debbie has volunteered an estimated 100 hours in support of OneHeart's dining services since April 2023. She volunteers every Wednesday morning at OneHeart (and sometimes additional days of the week), helping to manage the food rescue items OneHeart receives from local grocers and retail stores. She is of great assistance to Chef Sarah Luke, who stays plenty busy providing 3 well-balanced meals each day (averaging more than 1,300 meals/month in 2023) to OneHeart guests. Debbie's volunteerism plays a big part in Chef Sarah's goal to "heal people through healthy food."

**Jennifer Heidepriem**

**TeamMates Mentoring Program**

**Shining Bright**

Jennifer is consistent with her visits, cares about mentee, and very intentional on focusing on what her mentee enjoys. She's reliable, friendly, goes above and beyond by choosing unique activities to enhance the relationships and experience with her TeamMates match.

**Tyler Highland**

**Black Hills Works**

**Up & Coming**

For the last year, Tyler has volunteered at one of our residential homes. He enjoys playing card games and socializing with some of the residents there. During his time at the house, he has done an amazing job with getting one person supported in particular, to socialize with her peers more and join in on group activities. The people supported light up when Tyler arrives, and they can't wait to hang out and play UNO with him.



**Coach Holt**

**Stevens High School Girls Soccer/Activities**

**Shining Bright**

Coach Holt went above and beyond in volunteering for Stevens High School. Not only did he help coach the girls soccer team, he also has taken the initiative to organize our trophy cases throughout the building. He does this out of pure kindness to honor our students in academics and athletics. He exemplifies what it means to be a Stevens Raider.

**Colby Johnson**

**SHIFT Garage**

**Up & Coming**

Colby has been an invaluable addition to the SHIFT team. He has unmatched knowledge on almost any vehicle repair that comes through the garage. In the last 3 years, Colby has volunteered over 500 hours and repaired hundreds of vehicles. His free labor has saved many families thousands of dollars in repair bills and kept them on the road to stability. SHIFT could not make the impact it does without Colby

**Hunter Johnson**

**RCAS and Feeding South Dakota**

**Youth**

Hunter has stepped up to being a manager of the RCAS Food Pantry. With out even being asked he found a way to give back and quickly took the initiative to lead. Hunter shows amazing leadership and compassion to all when volunteering, and he has been exploring other ways to be involved in our community.

**Lily Knopp**

**Love INC, RCAS Student Voice Forum, Central Env. Club**

**Youth**

Lily has served as the Student Voice Forum chair by working closely with Superintendent Swigart. She leads the youth led platform in a way that empowers everyone to contribute to the discussion. She has also led the Recycle wars project at Central. The project has inspired people to recycle and participate in school clean-ups during Earth Week. In summer of 2023, Lily also created her own photography project at Love, Inc. where she taught practical applications from mobile photography. Lily leads by example and empowers those around her to become leaders. We appreciate all she has done within our community.

**John Kor**

**Multiple Agencies**

**Shining Bright**

John is a magnificent human-being; always willing to lend a hand and often taking no credit for all his hard work. Although he never officially volunteers, he is steadfast in his support of his wife, Steph, and her volunteerism efforts. Without fail, he shows up alongside her - does heavy lifting, runs errands, hauls heavy loads, and is always willing to offer a hug or lend a listening ear. He never complains, and rarely says no to helping someone in need. This lovely man deserves credit for his wonderful humor, optimism, and accountability. He makes the world better every day.





**Life INC Van Drivers (Mark, Lori & Dave)****Love INC of the Black Hills****Group**

There are many barriers to development and self-advancement in poverty. The Life INC volunteers make it possible for many people from our community to attend Life INC class with their families, share a meal and have free kids ministry. For the winter quarter classes, Mark, Lori and Dave drove a church van weekly to pick up and drop off participants of the Life INC classes. It's because of them that many were able to benefit through their selfless support.

**Dodey Manley****The Humane Society of the Black Hills****Shining Bright**

Dodey Manley has been volunteering with The Humane Society of the Black Hills since December of 2022 and has put in over 250 hours of service since. She has walked dogs, cleaned kennels, attended events, and been an enormous help in every area she has offered aid. Last summer, she headed the ticket booth sales at the 8th Annual Wags & Waves fundraising event at the Sioux Park Pool, helping hundreds of people and dogs through the gates to enjoy the day! Dodey has been an enormous help on the Morning Cleaning Team at the shelter, spending many hours scrubbing kennels, washing dishes, and making the dogs as comfortable as she can. From all the staff at The Humane Society of the Black Hills, thank you, Dodey, for all your hard work!

**Euana Matute****RCAS NHS; Rapid City Youth City Council****Youth**

Euana is a fun and active member of NHS and does not hesitate to get involved. It is clear from the fun photos she's submitted during her Youth City Council activities that she is a leader and very involved student. Just since January, she has logged 26 hours of time helping others as part of YCC. I know that she is also a busy, successful student as well as a kind and supportive friend to her peers. She is a great example to so many students around her.

**Teresa McDevitt****TeamMates Mentoring Program****Shining Bright**

Teresa is an outstanding TeamMates mentor for so many reasons but a big one is her effort to engage in a variety of activities with her mentee including but not limited to stamp inking collage, holiday cards, bracelets and even a FaceTime when she was in New York. Teresa shows-up each week to share meaningful connections with her mentee. Her warm energy is a safe experience for the other students who observe her and her mentee meeting and she adds sparkle to General Beadle with her support & care for her mentee.

**Dr. Rich Meyer****TeamMates Mentoring Program****Shining Bright**

Rich has been an integral part of Rapid City TeamMates both as a committed mentor and board member. His passion for recruiting mentors to make a difference in the lives of our young mentees if unmatched and he has made a huge impact on growing the program.



**Lambert Miller**

**Family Connections Center Inc.**

**Shining Bright**

Lambert, Cofounder, Vice President, and unpaid volunteer who has dedicated more than 40 hours a week over the past several years in order to help keep costs down at The Circle Youth and Young Adult Drop-In and Transitional Housing Centers, all while working another full-time position. From doing buildings maintenance, repairs, upgrades, remodels, or assisting a youth with transportation support, meeting food insecurities or whatever is needed to support youth and young adults, Lambert volunteers where there is impact, and need. Lambert is the glue that keeps the organization running smoothly, and a greatly appreciated volunteer.

**Karla Mitzel**

**Working Against Violence, Inc.**

**Shining Bright**

Karla Mitzel is a member of the hospitality team at Calvary Lutheran Church where she prepares meals and delivers them to our shelter at WAVI every Thursday and has done so since 2021. Karla embodies the compassion, selflessness, patience, and love that truly define humanity. Everyone at WAVI looks forward to seeing Karla's beautiful smile on Thursdays.

**Alexa Morin-Baxter**

**RCAS—NHS; Rapid City Community Black Hills Clean Up**

**Youth**

Alexa assisted in coordinating the Black Hills Cleanup this year and have organized monthly trash pickup opportunities for NHS students to make the environment in Rapid City nicer. She communicates well with all students volunteers of the group. It's great for building community among NHS kids and is such a gift to wherever they choose to do the clean-up. Alexa has led the group, and been a positive and fun organizer. Not only did she DO work, she organized it which is impressive for a student! Alexa also volunteers in other places, like with Special Olympics Basketball.

**Joan Myers**

**TeamMates Mentoring Program**

**Shining Bright**

Joan is fully committed to the TeamMates program and her role as a mentor to her mentee. She does a tremendous job with activities with her mentee, and they are always engaged with each other and having great conversation as well as building a great relationship with each other. It brings a smile to my face to see both of them in the room laughing and smiling with each other.

**Ariley Ortiz**

**Rapid City Arts Council**

**Youth**

Ariley has been a youth leader at the Rapid City Arts Council Education Center located in the Dahl Fine Arts Center. She mentors younger youth artists, networks with peer artists, and collaborates on initiatives to promote the arts in the Black Hills. Ariley has a free and generous spirit when it comes to creativity and positive reinforcement of others. I see her as a future leader in the Arts in the Black Hills of South Dakota and possibly beyond. I am so proud of her bravery and growth as a person as she serves our community.



**Miriam Ostler**

**RCAS– Stevens Library**

**Youth**

Miriam comes to the library every day to volunteer, she has organized the library LS room which is used by the entire school. Miriam has devoted daily hours since August 2023 to organize books and make it accessible for all. Without her time and effort, this room was not easy to use. Miriam is devoted, innovative, and assists in any way possible. She is a role model for all that use the library and has even recruited her younger sister to help out in the library too. She has the most positive attitude and very caring.

**Shannon Paikos**

**The Club for Boys**

**Shining Bright**

Shannon is a recent empty nester who has quickly adopted our teens at The Club for Boys by teaching them cooking skills every Wednesday. She has many skills which have benefitted our special events and is now furthering her involvement by joining our board of directors because she just can't get enough of our members.

**Jagur Parks**

**RCAS—NHS; Rapid City Youth City Council**

**Youth**

Jagur has logged many hours all year, and over 23 hours just since January. He is a great role model to younger students and takes the time to get involved without hesitation. He speaks at NHS meetings and encourages others to get involved in service organizations, especially Youth City Council. He is busy and active and maintains a rigorous class load as well. In the hallways, I see that he is kind and friendly to all and makes any environment a more positive place.

**Kiya Pavlicek**

**Multiple Agencies**

**Youth**

Kiya is an outstanding volunteer who selflessly assists others with kindness, compassion, empathy, and a positive attitude. She is devoted to making special education students feel included and valued at school while teaching them the importance of advocating for their rights. Her generosity and dedication extend beyond helping her mom events and to several other nonprofits and assisted displaced elderly individuals during the Spearfish floods. As Kiya prepares for college, we will miss her giving spirit and dedication. Kiya volunteers at: WAVI, Club for Boy's, Front Porch Coalition, YFS and more.

**Linda Rabe**

**Fork Real Community Cafe**

**Shining Bright**

Linda Spends her Wednesdays at the Cafe with us. She serves food, and makes sure our Salad Bar is always full and ready to go! She has a humble spirit and loves our Community so much! We're privileged to have her as a volunteer and are grateful for her time and Community Focus.

**Rapid City BMX Board**

**Rapid City BMX**

**Group**

The track sits in Robbinsdale Park, everything beyond the fence is because of this selfless board. Nov- Mar the team puts in a minimum of 40 hours a month in community participation, advertising, program development and construction improvements. During April/May just in construction/facility prep the team will have close to 100 hours, if not more. June-Oct this team averages 4-6hrs a night 3-4 nights a week & one weekend a month. This board could not emphasize fostering a community more than their selfless dedication. This provides the community all-inclusive a safe place promoting healthy activeness, and build relationships.

**Brittaney Rawlings****Rapid City Girl Scouts****Up & Coming**

Brittaney is a troop co-leader and cookie manager for the Rapid City Girl Scouts. She manages \$37K generating a revenue of \$5K in proceeds for the troops to support the animal shelters in need. She has dedicated over 300 hours fostering entrepreneurship skills among the girls helping them explore their strengths. They have fostered a community of giving, by donating to food pantries, cleaning city playgrounds, and advocating for positive change at council meetings. Her efforts have cultivated, team work, and empowering girls to discover their potential and abilities.

**Kevin Schoepf****The Salvation Army****Shining Bright**

Kevin volunteers in several different areas of service for The Salvation Army. Kevin is an Emergency Disaster volunteer; he is ready to help when we get called on a disaster. Kevin also helps pack our emergency food boxes to help local families in need. During Christmas Kevin volunteers for our Angel Tree program, picking up Angel Tree toys from over 100 locations. Kevin has been a huge asset to The Salvation Army this year.

**Melissa Schweiss****Feeding South Dakota****Shining Bright**

Since May of 2018, Melissa has been a regular presence in the warehouse helping with anything and everything from sorting sweet potatoes to packing food boxes donating a total of 538 hours. She always arrives with a smile and a desire to make a difference not only to our neighbors in need but to other volunteers and staff. We know that when Melissa is in the warehouse, things will go smoothly as she is willing and able to step into any project and help. Even through the pain of a broken foot Melissa showed up and made a positive impact!

**Roman Slack****Youth & Family Services; RC Youth City Council; The Club for Boys****Youth**

Roman has engaged in a variety of Youth City Council activities during the past year. He helped to coordinate parking lot pickups at both Central and Stevens. His advocacy about a walkability study created additional opportunities for young people to share their voice and provide insight for community planning. Roman created a coding boot camp. He worked with the YFS and the Club for Boys in recruiting 10-20 students to participate in the project. He created a website, flyers, and registration materials to market the project. Through Roman's dedication and leadership a full day of learning and inspiration was created.

**Alan Snorteland****Monument Health Hospice****Shining Bright**

Alan is a volunteer with Monument Health Hospice. Alan is a very versatile volunteer who works with our bereavement groups and also does the bereavement mailings. Alan also visits patients in their homes providing respite for caregivers and companionship to patients. Alan gives so freely and selflessly of his time and of his heart. Alan truly cares for people and shows it through his work with Hospice.



**Joan & Crunch Struble****Monument Health Hospice****Shining Bright**

Joan and Crunchy are a pet therapy team that volunteer at Monument Health Hospice. They volunteer to visit and provide comfort and care to patients and families not only in the Hospice House but have also gone to where patient's reside. They have selflessly participated and passed extensive formal pet therapy training and are a certified pet therapy team. I have watched the amazing work that this team does and the care and compassion they share with patients and families at a very difficult time.

**Lila Tate Win Crosswhite****Rapid City Youth City Council****Youth**

Lila participated in the positive post-its project in partnership with Journey On, helped fold pink t-shirts for the Tough Enough to Wear Pink campaign, and also placed scarves on the Presidential Statues in the past year. Most recently, Lila has led the efforts of the community Teen Art Auction. Lila coordinated the sponsorship support and coordinated most of the marketing of the event. Because of her efforts, over 80 young artists shared their talents, 10-15 Stevens Jazz Band members performed, and hundreds of community members attended the event. \$2500 was raised for the Fed & Ready to Learn campaign.

**The Man Salon****Love INC of the Black Hills****Corporate/Business**

Haircuts are an easily overlooked budget item for those struggling in poverty. The Man Salon of Rapid City has donated free haircuts to Love INC participants through our Life INC classes in 2023 and for many years as helpful incentive to those attending and participating in the class. Their total value of donated haircuts in 2023 was over \$3000.

**Cyrisa Thompson****Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota****Up & Coming**

Cyrisa Thompson has volunteered with Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota since May 2021 delivering a route every Wednesday. Cyrisa volunteered 78 hours delivering meals in 2023 despite her busy career with First Interstate Bank. As a Treasury Solutions Officer, Cyrisa helped organize a \$22,250 donation from First Interstate Bank for our inaugural launch of our Adopt a Senior Campaign. Our senior participants always enjoy Cyrisa delivering their meals with a friendly smile.

**Dave & Ginger Thorsgaard****Meals on Wheels****Group**

Dave & Ginger Thorsgaard are members of the Blue Knights and have volunteered with Meals on Wheels for years helping with our emergency meals distribution and delivering Christmas food boxes for The Salvation Army. Dave and Ginger began volunteering to deliver meals to participants in October 2022. Dave & Ginger are always willing to help us out, delivering meals two to three times a week. In 2023 they volunteered an impressive 172 hours, always friendly and extremely dependable.



**Jim Trankle**

**Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota**

**Shining Bright**

Jim Trankle began volunteering with Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota in October 2022. Jim is always willing to help when we are short delivery drivers and deliver an extra day when needed. In 2023 Jim volunteered 120 hours of his time delivering meals to our senior participants. Jim enjoys getting to know the seniors on his route and will help them out in any way he can. Jim noticed how one senior couldn't keep up her yard as in years past and worked hard last summer mowing and trimming to make it nice once again.

**Ashlynn Wellman**

**Multiple Agencies**

**Youth**

Ashlynn has invested her time at Feeding South Dakota filling boxes and backpacks for those needing a helping hand. In 4-H she has placed wreaths at the BH National Cemetery for those who have passed after fighting for our country. In FBLA she put together a trunk for local kids to treat for Halloween. In Youth City Council she has cleaned up high school parking lots after hours, supported the homeless coalition, and help plan & pull off senior citizen prom in May. Ashlynn volunteers at: Feeding South Dakota, 4-H, FBLA, Rapid City Youth City Council.

**West River Electric**

**Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota**

**Corporate/Business**

West River Electric has been a valuable supporter of Meals on Wheels for over 8 years. Jared Stalley from West River Electric delivers a route every Tuesday. Jared is extremely reliable and is always cheerful and shows concern for the seniors on his route. Jared will always let us know if a welfare check or additional attention is needed for participants he serves.

**Amelie Wilcox**

**The Rocke Grace Foundation**

**Youth**

Amelie founded The Rocke Grace Foundation for Music and Medicine nonprofit 501(c)3. She raised \$15,000 and has donated \$11,000 to Monument Health for the research in autoimmune disease.

**Kelly Wrede**

**Feeding South Dakota**

**Shining Bright**

There aren't enough good things to say about Kelly. Kelly began volunteering with Feeding South Dakota in March of 2020 at the start of the COVID pandemic and has since donated 456 hours of her time. She is always willing to help anywhere there is a need and regularly volunteers in the warehouse as well as mobile distributions. Even when it's a last-minute request! Kelly exudes joyfulness and tends to sprinkle it around. Newer volunteers are drawn to her leadership, and she is very helpful in making everyone feel comfortable.

**Youth Action Board of SD**

**Multiple Agencies**

**Group**

Over the past several years, we have had many amazing young leaders who dedicated their time and leadership to help service providers, HUD, state and local government understand the challenges faced by youth in Rapid City as well as South Dakota at large, with a common goal of assisting other youth to overcome housing instability. The Youth Action Board of SD serves with: Family Connections Center, Inc., Wambli Ska, Journey on Steps, Lutheran Social Services and more.

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