

September Volunteer of the Month



L to R: Peggy Whitney, MetaBank; Jen Nuncio, Good Earth State Park; Dean Mertz, September Volunteer of the Month; Susie Ryks, Helpline Center; Jim Henning, Good Earth State Park

The Helpline Center congratulates Dean Mertz on being named the September 2019 Volunteer of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by the Helpline Center and MetaBank.

Dean is one of the outdoor volunteers at Good Earth State Park and was the lead in transforming our new playground area. Starting last winter, Dean spent countless hours removing invasive buck-thorn and preparing the area for the new playground. This included removing old fence posts, digging stumps and clearing rocks and other debris.

Dean has volunteered for 18 months at Good Earth State Park. He has logged over 300 hours in that time, with 97% of this time being spent outdoors all year round.

A colleague of Dean's stated, "Dean is a very hard working man who gives with his whole heart. He is always smiling and is kind to all who come to the park. What Dean does is hard work and his dedication to our new playground gives a huge reason for him to be recognized. Dean performed work that if not done, would have delayed our playground being built. He does not need supervision and works efficiently and whole heartedly. Dean also helps with other projects without hesitation. We truly appreciate all his hard work and so will families who visit our new playground years from now."

The Helpline Center and MetaBank are pleased to present Dean with a framed certificate, a gift from MetaBank, and a letter of appreciation from Mayor Paul TenHaken. We will honor him again at the Spirit of Volunteerism Awards Luncheon on May 12, 2020.