

September Volunteer of the Month



L to R: Becky Sluiter, LifeScape; Katie Schoon, September Volunteer of the Month; Susie Ryks, Helpline Center;

The Helpline Center congratulates Katie Schoon on being named the September 2020 Volunteer of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by the Helpline Center.

Katie is a long-time volunteer friend to LifeScape and directly impacts LifeScape's mission on a weekly basis. Katie has volunteered with LifeScape since 2012 with over 1,500+ volunteer hours. Katie continues to add additional special volunteer days according to student's needs and LifeScape's needs. Katie volunteers every Monday and Wednesday throughout the year, as LifeScape's Specialty School goes year-round. Katie offers to help out with special events or fundraiser events for LifeScape, as she is available.

Katie began her volunteer journey within LifeScape's dorms, with children with disabilities, ages 5-21yrs. Katie then requested to assist within LifeScape's Specialty School to fit her time needs and to be able to continue to inspire students with disabilities. Katie has been instrumental within LifeScape's Specialty School in Class I's PE Swim classes helping students who use wheelchairs for mobility. During swim class, Katie provides one-on-one support to a student to be able to swim and/or float freely. After swim class, Katie quickly gets herself changed and then heads up to the classroom to help students with learning, reading, communication, and social goals. Katie knows each student and what specific skill sets they are working on. Katie enthusiastically encourages students to work towards goals as well as slips in fun conversations and laughter.

LifeScape staff commented, "Katie volunteers weekly at LifeScape, works and is very active in her church. Katie balances her life and always thinks of others before herself. Katie is instrumental in helping children with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives by being a positive mentor. Katie is always seen with a smile on her face, a listening ear, and ready to include everyone. Katie is a hard worker, takes time to get to know students with disabilities for their individual likes and dislikes, is responsible, timely, easy going, fun-loving, and truly wants to make a difference in people's lives. Katie is an all-star volunteer every month of the year! Katie is truly deserving of this recognition."

The Helpline Center is pleased to present Katie with a framed certificate and a letter of appreciation from Mayor Paul TenHaken.