

The Volunteer



Spring 2011

BHSU RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A Note from Nancy

Is it spring, yet? Although the weather doesn't show it, spring is on the way, which means we soon will be traveling again. Vicki Anderson will be heading out to Lemmon, Faith, and Buffalo. Chris and I will be tackling Kadoka and Custer. If you know of anyone in Custer or Kadoka that might be interested in volunteering, please let us know. We will be doing various events in these areas and would be happy to send out personal invitations.

March 31st marks the end of our current grant year, which means reports will be due. Please be sure to get your timesheets in as quickly as possible that first week of April to get your time counted.

National Volunteer Week is quickly approaching. RSVP will be getting information to the area newspapers to promote all of the great service you do. It's our way to say thank you for all the hours you've contributed!

Happy National Volunteer Week and Happy Memorial Day from RSVP!

RSVP

Lead With Experience



National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week

April 10th - April 16th

National Volunteer week is quickly approaching. Many organizations like taking a little time during this week of recognition to give a special shout

out to all of the volunteers who selflessly give so much to their organizations. BHSU RSVP will once again be sending gift certificates to all active members. For more information on National Volunteer Week, please go to: www.handsonnetwork.org.

RSVP

Lead With Experience

Nancy Wietgreffe, Program Director
Chris McCurdy, Coordinator
Vicki Anderson, Outreach Coordinator
Millie Cundy, Volunteer Staff
Shirley Jones, Volunteer Staff
Laiken Arguello, Student Intern

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Welcome New Volunteers!



Volunteer	Start Date	City
2/4/2011	Asmussen, Marc	Lead
2/2/2011	Burton, Diane	Nisland
2/2/2011	Burton, Vern	Nisland
1/20/2011	Durick, Patricia	Lemmon
2/10/2011	Sausser, Gloria	Sturgis
1/20/2011	Ulmer, Norma	Lemmon
3/2/2011	Wade, Francine	Belle Fourche
12/27/2010	Weaver, Ivan Michael	Belle Fourche

Welcome New Stations!



Station	Date Signed
Country Place Senior Living, Belle Fourche	12/1/2010
Spearfish Kiwanis Club	12/20/2010

BHSU RSVP is now located at 1120 University Street in Spearfish—across from the BHSU Student Union (right next door to our previous location.)



Congratulations!

We received quite a few MOU packets back from our stations before our March 8th deadline (the deadline was extended from March 1st due to a mailing glitch.) From those stations, we have drawn ten lucky winners for the \$50 stipends.

If you have still not returned your packet to RSVP, we still need them back ASAP. Unfortunately, stations that do not complete and return the packets will be inactivated as RSVP members. Please call or write us if you have any questions or concerns about the MOUs or addendums. These are mutable documents and we will make whatever accommodations we can to keep you as an active members. We will try to call or otherwise notify all stations that are in danger of being inactivated. Thank you for your cooperation!

Raffle Stipend Winners
Belle Fourche Area Community Center
Black Hills Mining Museum, Lead
Faith Community Action Team
Grace Balloch Memorial Library, Spearfish
Lemmon/Bison Community Food Pantries
Meade County Senior Center
Philip Area AARP/RTA
Spearfish Public Schools
Sturgis Kiwanis Club and Pantry
The Storehouse, Custer

We're Impressed!

We sent them out on Friday, and by the following Friday, we already had over 250 returned! RSVP members have been phenomenal in their response to our "Volunteer Information Sheet" survey, and we want you to know we appreciate it! These documents are incredibly important for our files, and your prompt attention to them is making our job much easier.

As special thank you to our volunteers, we will be raffling off 30 BHSU tote bags for the volunteers that get their signed Volunteer Information Sheet back by the April 30th deadline. The tote zips up into an easy to carry package (see photo).

If you have any problems completing the form, please give us a call. The form is primarily to confirm the stations at which you serve and the jobs that you do for each station. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN THE FORM BEFORE RETURNING IT TO US.

Thank you all for giving us your time on this!



Roundtables Return!



Wednesday, April 20th, 2011

at

8:30 am

BHSU Student Union, Trump Room

This year, we will be concentrating on volunteer management practices. In April we will be looking at "Orienting and Training Volunteers." Attendees are invited to bring their ideas and "best practices" to the discussion.

As always, Roundtables are free and open to anybody who is interested in volunteer and non-profit management. Parking vouchers will be provided.

Awesome refreshments will be provided!

Intergenerational Fun!!!

Finally! We now have a great volunteer opportunity for creative people of all ages to come together and share their skills and knowledge.

The Spearfish Community Coalition's **9-99** program is up and running and open to all. The program is a forum for people of all ages to share their sewing, knitting and crocheting skills with others that want to learn these skills.

When: 1st Thursday of every month
3:30 to 5:30 PM

Where: Spearfish Community Rec Center

Attendees are encouraged to make items that will be donated to Special Olympics and the Free Clinic.



RSVP SPOTLIGHT

New BHSU RSVP Staff Member

If any of you have questions about the ability, character and determination of our nation's younger generations, you need look no further than to the newest member of the BHSU RSVP team, Student Intern, Laiken (pronounced Lake-un) Arguello. Still in her twenties, she has taken on a schedule that would be challenging for the best of us, and does so while being a mother to a six year old son and a three year old daughter.

Laiken is currently a junior at Black Hills State University and is working on a degree in Human Services and Sociology. After she graduates, she has set her sights on a Masters Degree in Leadership from BHSU. Beyond that, she is exploring many career possibilities.

But wait, there's more! Laiken also works part-time at Premiere Bankcard. She also has a passion for volunteer work and has given her time to the Black Hills Ski for Light and the Artemis House. In her spare time (really?), Laiken enjoys spending time with her mom, playing with her kids, cooking, making jewelry, and gardening.

Laiken tells us that she looks forward to learning more about RSVP and looks forward to making new friends. In turn, RSVP staff hopes to learn much from her. We plan on taking advantage of her education and experiences to help RSVP find new and interesting ways to reach out to our communities. As a matter of fact, you can find a newsletter contribution from Laiken on this very page!

Kadoka Nursing Home

By: Laiken Arguello

If you are interested in volunteering, the Kadoka Nursing Home is looking for volunteers for a variety of needs.

The Kadoka Nursing Home, which used to be the local hospital in town, has been in operation since the 1960's and is always looking for someone to give their time and uplifting attitude. Some of the possible volunteer needs would be to help read mail to a resident or visit with them, work on crafts or puzzles together, help with field trips with the residents, or even come and play the Wii for a little while! Days of the week and hours of the day are somewhat flexible. These residents deserve to have your helping hand in many different ways.



Kadoka Care Center Nursing Home

According to the Rapid City Journal, in January, Governor Dugaard proposed \$127 million in cuts for the fiscal year 2011. Education and Medicaid, the two biggest portions of the budget, would face the largest cuts. Nursing homes rely heavily on Medicaid funding. The Kadoka Nursing Home itself has nearly 63% Medicaid recipients of the resident population. The help of volunteers may help the quality of life for South Dakota's nursing home residents who may be affected in other ways by potential cuts in Medicaid. This "gateway to the Badlands" town is no exception.

Anyone that is interested in volunteering is welcome to try it out. If you enjoy your volunteer service and would like to continue, that's great! If not, we will find another opportunity for you that better suits your needs. There is no obligation, just give it a try!

—It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference (Tom Brokaw)

Paying it Forward

At least twice every year, BHSU RSVP appeals to its members to consider volunteering in service to America's youth. Particularly, we ask that you consider mentoring or tutoring children in the schools, afterschool programs, organized youth groups and in community events. So why do we keep pushing this volunteer activity? Because despite having an enormous potential to succeed, many of America's youth do not have the consistent, positive presence of an adult in their lives needed to transition into adulthood. This coupled with dwindling resources and larger class sizes make volunteer involvement more important than ever.



Kadoka School Volunteer, Marilyn Paulson

While BHSU RSVP has empirical evidence of the impact volunteers are having on our children, we also regularly receive anecdotal evidence from our volunteers themselves. But, rather than us telling you about our volunteer's experiences, we thought we'd let our volunteers tell you themselves:

Listening to the students read and helping them with their schoolwork is a joy. The students are willing workers and often show that they are grateful with a spontaneous "thank you" or even a little hug which brightens the day. . .Volunteering is an investment in a child's life and an investment in the future of our community.

— Marilyn Paulson, Kadoka Elementary School Volunteer

I've volunteered for a couple years in 2nd grade for Kristi Friedel, a wonderful woman and dedicated teacher at Bear Butte Elementary. Kristi has given me the opportunity in retirement to continue to share my teaching experience. As a former 2nd grade teacher, I relate to the challenges Kristi faces. I can give advice or just listen, understanding her frustrations and achievements as a teacher. I enjoy helping her out with the eternal teaching chore of checking papers. (Think dirty dishes, or dirty laundry...as soon as you finish one load, another appears in it's place....that's exactly what checking papers is like!)

I love to read to children and watch their expressions as they become caught up in the story. Their comments and questions are sometimes surprising, sometimes funny, and sometimes leave me searching for an answer. I'm able to slip into the Grandma role of just listening to students"Life's not fair"... "My Mom's so busy with the new baby. I don't think she loves me anymore"... "This is hard! I just don't get it!"

How I wish I could help each one to be brighter, more successful and always happy! If they only knew what a priceless gift of worth they've given me through their hugs and friendship. I'm thankful to RSVP for placing me with such a wonderful teacher, and giving me something to do in retirement that is so rewarding!

—Margie LaDue, Sturgis Elementary School Volunteer

Whether you call it mentoring, or tutoring is often irrelevant. As you can tell with Margie's experience, when you work with children you often can't do one without doing the other. No matter what you call it, the impact of this service on our children and our volunteers is priceless. Won't you consider giving one or two hours a week to helping a child? Call RSVP today for opportunities in your area.



Serving Those Who Serve Us

It's all too easy these days to become mired in the enormous issues that face our country today. All of us are struggling to make sense of what's going on socially, politically, and economically on just about every level of our existence. But despite the tendency in these times to draw within ourselves and focus on our own problems, we should look to the thousands of Americans that are sacrificing so much for the good of our country. We should remind ourselves of the men and women who are currently serving in the United States Armed Services with unwavering dedication, and who continue to do so despite their nation's tendency towards distraction. They're still in harm's way. They're still coming home faced with tremendous hurdles— mental, physical, and financial. And, they still need our support.

We know that many of you are already giving much of your time and resources to helping vets and their families. Many of you would undoubtedly like to help more, but have not yet found the avenue to do so. In our last newsletter, BHSU RSVP asked our volunteer members to share the many ways in which they give back to our veterans. We hope that sharing these experiences will inspire others to find ways that they can serve those who serve our country.

Gold Star Volunteer: Turning Tragedy into Hope

Last April, BHSU RSVP's member, Jo Kallemeyn lost her son, Major Randall Voas, when the CV-22 he was piloting crashed during combat operations near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Jo and her family experienced firsthand the type of sacrifice that we all talk about, but that so few of us will ever know first hand.

This February, Jo shared with us how she is turning her loss into a positive endeavor to benefit veterans and their families. Jo has joined forces with other South Dakota Gold Star mothers to start a South Dakota chapter of the **American Gold Star Mothers**, a national organization for mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of our country.

American Gold Star Mothers has a history that stems back to WWI when grieving mother, Grace Darling Seibold, decided to redirect her mourning over her fallen aviator son into something positive. She focused her efforts on reaching out in friendship to other grieving mothers, and helping injured veterans. Eventually, she formed the American Gold Star Mothers Organization dedicated to that purpose.

In 1984, the Congress of the United States gave the organization its charter which outlines the group's current purpose as follows:

- Keep alive and develop the spirit that promoted world services.
- Maintain the ties of fellowship born of that service, and to assist and further all patriotic work.
- Inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State, and Nation.
- Assist veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and other strategic areas and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Veterans' Administration, and to aid in any way in their power the men and women who served and died or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities.
- Perpetuate the memory of those whose lives were sacrificed in our wars.
- Maintain true allegiance to the United States of America.



Grace Darling Seibold

- Inculcate lessons of patriotism and love of country in the communities in which we live.
- Inspire respect for the Stars and Stripes in the youth of America.
- Extend needful assistance to all Gold Star Mothers and, when possible, to their descendants.
- To promote peace and good will for the United States and all other Nations.

Jo Kallemeyn says that her chapter of the American Gold Star Mothers is still in the process of organizing. The group will establish specific projects and volunteer efforts once they get more established. For now, she says their biggest goal is to make sure that the rest of us continue to keep our American servicemen and servicewomen— and their families— in our hearts and minds.

If you, or somebody you know is a South Dakota mother who has lost a son or daughter in the service of our country, please let them know of this group. The group is actively seeking new members. Husbands and children of members of American Gold Star Mothers may also join as Associate Members. (Associate members pay no dues, hold no offices and may not vote.) The group will form geographic sub-chapters as their numbers warrant. Please call or e-mail the RSVP office for further information.

Volunteer Opportunities

C-Visn (Women of War Project), All Cities: The Women of War project is in need of a couple of volunteers to help with a couple of grant applications. The organization has all of the necessary information, but needs a good writer to put the information in the correct form. Volunteers can work on these grants directly from their home, or in the Belle Fourche office with the W.O.W. team (Need not live in Belle Fourche). Please call Nancy Pate at 605-723-8673, or e-mail at nancy.cvisn@hotmail.com.

Belle Fourche Community Action Team (C.A.T.), Belle Fourche: The Belle Fourche C.A.T. needs help Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm, and Fridays from 5 pm to 8 pm. If you can help them out, please call Barb Schon at 605-723-1956

Country Place Senior Living, Belle Fourche: This assisted living facility could use a musician or two to entertain the residents. The facility has a beautiful baby grand piano that could be used, or any musical instrument that somebody wanted to bring would be just fine. Music would be appreciated during supper times, but any time that is convenient for volunteers could be accommodated. Please give Activities Coordinator, Joy Norlin a call at 605-723-2000 for more information.

Sandstone Assisted Living, Spearfish: Volunteers are needed to play piano for the residents. Staff would prefer that piano players entertain for about 45 minutes at or around 3:30 pm in the afternoon. If you would like to tickle the ivories for this organization once or twice a month, please contact RSVP at 605-642-6540 / RSVP@BHSU.edu.

Heritage Acres, Sturgis: Heritage Acres Retirement Community, 2340 East Avenue is looking for volunteers to help provide entertainment and activities for residents. Specifically, they are looking for : a bingo caller at 3 pm any day of the week; a piano player any afternoon; and exercise leader at 9 am, any day of the week (30-45 minutes each time); and, Meals on Wheels volunteers to take meals from heritage acres to Hillsvie Highrise, 1220 Cedar Street, Sturgis. For more information, please call Teresa at 05-347-9017.

If you have any volunteer opportunities that you would like printed in our newsletter, please contact the RSVP Coordinator at ChristineMcCurdy@BHSU.edu. Although we can only accept volunteers 55 and older into RSVP membership, we provide volunteer opportunity information to all interested volunteers, regardless of age.

BHSU RSVP

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Mary Buchholz

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Harvey Cranfill

RSVP volunteer, Sturgis VIPS member

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