

SDRSP COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT 2018-2019

Submitted by Joanna Jones

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. April 7-13 was that week of celebration this year. Currently in the US, 63 million Americans volunteer 8 billion hours of their time to their communities. At this convention, we recognize how our members have made a difference in South Dakota.

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Each year the Independent Sector website gives a national estimate that charitable organizations use to show a dollar value for volunteer service provided to local communities. The hourly wage including a 12% fringe benefit is \$25.43 US average and \$21.91 SD average. From our units we recorded 40,177 total hours for a value of \$880,278.07 in SD value. Of those hours, members worked "With Our Youth" for 8,671.5 hours and "To Benefit Adults" for 31,505.5 hours.

Since AARP has identified that the figures per unit represent probably only one third of service reported (AARP Bulletin 4-19 p. 44), then multiplied by three, SDRSP had 120,531 hours. Using my own unit, Northern Hills Retired School Personnel, we recorded 150 hours per person. That is about 3 hours per week. Therefore, with the total SDRSP membership of about 1000 people, the total volunteer time would be **150,000 hours or \$3,814,500.00 or 79 teachers** paid \$48,000 per year.

Recognition of Community Service for 2018-2019

WITH OUR YOUTH

Huron Retired School Personnel - In the fall when school supplies were abundant and on sale, our members purchased the supplies and brought them to our meetings. We kept them until January and then distributed the supplies to the local schools to be given to students who have lost, broken, or used all of the supplies that they started with in September. The teachers were very appreciative of this donation since more than 50% of the Huron Public School students are new to America and their parents do not always understand or cannot afford to purchase more supplies.

Sioux Falls Area Retired School Personnel – Each May, volunteer retired teachers host third grade students at Pioneer Lane located at the Sioux Empire Fair Grounds. 750 students from eight elementary schools listened to oral histories at each of the four buildings (log cabin, church, school, and depot.) Many questions were answered about the life and times of the pioneers. It's important that students who study South Dakota history see with their own eyes the history in order to form a better understanding of the struggles and lives of the pioneers.

Yankton Area Retired School Personnel - A member logged 978 volunteer hours with the American Red Cross who helped after Hurricane Florence. Another couple logged a total of 223 hospital volunteer hours.

Redfield Area Retired School Personnel – Our group prepared two baskets (1. a wine basket and 2. a sports basket for children) that were auctioned at a fund raiser for the Nutrition Mission Backpack Program at school. The money raised will help purchase food for the Nutrition Mission program which serves students who are in need of food for the weekends.

Milbank Area Retired Teachers Association – Treat Street on Halloween! MARTA gave out 1,000 little packs of candy with our “MARTA” name inside the mini-bag. This gave 1,000 children and their parents treats and positive feelings towards retired teachers who took the time to think about them!

During Teacher Appreciation Week and American Education Week, MARTA provided food, snacks, and notes of appreciation to all adults working in the Milbank School District including the transportation department.

Sisseton Area Retired School Personnel Association – There is a group of people in our community who enjoy painting rocks and placing them around town for acts of random kindness. This group has a Facebook page where people post their found rocks. A recent volunteer project involved SARSPA members helping children paint the rocks at the local library. The children painted the rocks with either encouraging words or their favorite objects. Then the children would place the rocks in places where people would smile and pick up the rocks to continue the random acts of kindness. During our last SARSPA meeting, members gave: a report on this project, recommendations for what they would do differently and a plan for the next year’s rock painting project. This project benefited SARSPA members, the children and our community.

Northern Hills Retired School Personnel – Within our group, a member made toys for kids who live in families that can’t give their children Christmas gifts. The toys were made by the Woodworkers Association of Rapid City SD and have 42 gifted members who build the toys. They made 3,600 toys last year. The toys were given to 20 organizations who distribute the toys to underprivileged boys and girls in the Black Hills, Native American children in SD and some toys were shipped to Sioux Falls.

TO BENEFIT ADULTS

Watertown Area Retired School Personnel - The Watertown Sandwich Ministry is an all-volunteer group of people who make anywhere from 150-200 sack lunches every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. These lunches are then delivered to the elderly, physically and mentally disadvantaged, and the financially disadvantaged citizens of Watertown. These meals are provided free to the individuals. The program runs on donations alone. Most of the volunteers of this program are retired teachers who feel the need to help reduce the number of hungry people in our area.

Pierre Area Retired School Personnel - Many PARSP members make a valiant effort to remain young by helping the elderly in our community!

For those seasoned citizens who still live in their own homes, we completed housecleaning, yard work, snow shoveling, chipping ice off sidewalks, bringing in meals, and just plain visiting.....because we wanted to.

In nursing homes and other senior living facilities, our members called Bingo, worked at potlucks, provided entertainment, helped with birthday parties, assisted with worship services....and again, visited those who could use a friend!

While some of our group delivered Meals on Wheels, others helped pack Senior Boxes each month (at Feeding SD) for those who are less fortunate.

Assistance was given concerning Part D enrollment and income taxes.

Our members' efforts are important to assure a continued quality of life and to help ward off loneliness experienced by some of these folks in their golden years.

Madison Area Retired School Personnel – Our major group project was the cleaning and upkeep of the Prairie Village Library. Our members staff the library during Prairie Village Days. This activity aids the preservation of the area history and contributes to the success of the annual celebration.

Winner Area Retired School Personnel – We are proud of all the projects our small group continues to work on. We believe the most rewarding project this year was making Valentines for the Winner Regional Long Term Care Facility. After our January business meeting, our group shared items they brought to decorate with and all members set to work creating original homemade cards for the residents. We made sparkly jazzed up cards. The completed Valentines were displayed on the hallway bulletin board at the facility. There were lots of compliments from the people there. Since there were so many cards, a volunteer changed them every week. Later the Valentines were distributed to the residents. We were please to have shared a bit of joy with them. We continued to work on other adult and children projects and look forward to the future of helping others.

Philip AARP/RSPA – One of the members goes to the senior citizens to make coffee in the morning so the coffee can be use as a fund raiser. We cooked a breakfast during the month of September and a lunch four other times during the year. We have pot luck once a month for a social activity.

Aberdeen Retired Teachers Association - One of our gals is 98 years old and helps to lead a gym class that is one hour long, 3 days a week. She does not do the whole thing but she volunteers about 300 hours a year. She stays active!

Oahe Retired School Personnel – Mobridge, Selby, Pollock - They are one busy group! They are one of the organizations that recorded over 5,000 volunteer hours.