

# **SDRSP COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT 2015-2016**

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National Volunteer Week was April 11-15, 2015. The work of the SD Retired School Personnel volunteers is inspiring. At this convention, let us recognize how our members have volunteered in imaginative ways within their communities.

## **GRANDPARENT ESSAY CONTEST**

We want to thank all those members who participated in some way with the grandparent essay contest. Eleven units reported participating. We look forward to hearing the winning essay here at our convention.

## **VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

Each year the Independent Sector website gives a national estimate that charitable organizations can use to show a dollar value for service volunteers provide in their local communities. The hourly wage for 2015 was \$23.07. With the reported hours from our units, we had 16,984 hours that members worked with our youth. For 53,135 hours, members worked with adults. The total hours were 70,119 for a value of \$1,617,645.33. The South Dakota Retired School Personnel make a difference in the lives of their communities.

## **Awards for Community Service for 2015-2016**

### **WITH OUR YOUTH AWARDS**

**Milbank Area Retired Teachers Association** – Our unit sponsored and implemented a project in our elementary school that the school did not have. The project is Students of the Month. The students needed to be recognized for their classroom efforts.

Every month each teacher nominates a student from his or her class and writes a short paragraph on why this student deserves recognition. 21 students per month are recognized and their pictures and information are displayed on a bulletin board in the hallway. The students receive a certificate signed by the principal, the teacher, and the president of our unit.

This initiative has been a huge success. Students are excited about being honored. Teachers and parents are proud.

**Huron Area Retired School Personnel** – Believe Fest was a Youth Group Fund Raiser at Riverview Church. Revenues from the fest allowed adults, youth and 398 recipients to receive school supplies and back packs to the needy.

A unit volunteer served as co-chairperson on the planning committee, and baked 50 dozen cookies for the event. A HUGE thank you for all your work with our youth.

**Winner Area Retired School Personnel** – Weekend Bags feed needy children with healthy food for the weekend. Our community started this project last fall. Our unit packs the bags twice a month, gets the names of student recipients, and delivers the bags

to school children on Fridays. Hopefully, the results of this project help children return to school on Monday ready to learn.

**Pierre Area Retired School Personnel** – The Reading Buddies program builds confidence in children’s reading ability by offering valuable one-on-one assistance. Many of our members enjoy spending time with children. Adults are paired with students in the lower elementary schools within the area.

Members sit next to children, listening to them read, help sound out words, smile and laugh with the children at comments they make as stories are read. Hugs and tender words help children having a bad day. By the end of the year, strong connections were made with these leaders of the future, which is exactly why our help with this program is so important.

#### LONGEVITY AWARD for WITH OUR YOUTH

**Redfield Area Retired School Personnel** – For 25 years (1990-2015), the members of this unit have held the Redfield Area Spelling contest for grades one to eight. Students from five area schools participate.

#### TO BENEFIT ADULTS

**Watertown Area Retired School Personnel** – On Teacher Appreciation Day, every teacher the Watertown School District receives a personal, handwritten note thanking them for their work with our children. Unit members took several names and wrote the notes. From the positive feedback, the teachers truly felt appreciated.

**Yankton Area Retired Personnel** – Several of our members volunteered to help the local historical society work with the process of renovating a historical building into a new museum. The volunteers clean, file, and photograph several items that will be moved to the museum. Volunteers also welcome guests to the museum, help with mass mailings, and organize displays.

**Sioux Falls Area Retired School Personnel** – Our unit collected greeting cards which were repackaged into gift bags and delivered with Meals on Wheels at Christmas time. 250 bags contained 8-10 cards each. The shut-ins that received these packs of cards were able to use the cards to send to their family and friends. The cards included Christmas, birthday, sympathy, thank you, blanks, and note pads. The unit members also included a bag of goodies for each of the 250 clients. These bags contained such items as a packet of hot chocolate, tea, snack bars, small toiletries, and notepads.

**Madison Area Retired School Personnel** – This unit has responsibility for the oldest library in South Dakota which is located at Prairie Village. Through fund raising, they have kept the inside and outside building appearance intact. New siding and windows

were purchased with a matching grant. Within the building, the members maintain the books and other historical documents.

During the Prairie Village Celebration in August, members volunteer to tell the history of the building and point out some of the rare books. Children enjoy seeing the old books, cloth books, primers, and early South Dakota history books. Dakota Territory land maps show the development along the Missouri River. Plat maps show family homesteads. The members are glad to be a part of preserving the history.

## INSPIRATIONAL VOLUNTEERING AWARDS

**Northern Hills Retired Teachers Association** for their excitement to provide water to 8000 of the one million motorcyclists who attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Rally in the northern hills. A month later, they provided 400 bottles of water to the MS Walk.

**Philip AARP and Retired Personnel** – The members have cleaned, recorded, and posted signage for the Philip Masonic Cemetery. Now visitors and local area people can more easily find the plots of their loved ones.

## MENTORSHIP in VOLUNTEERING AWARDS

**Oahe Area Retired Teachers Association** – Sometimes when the membership is actively involved in the community, no single project stands out. These retired teachers are instead being the helping hands in so many ways: board of education, art association, development corporation, regional council on aging, county economic development committee, community concerts, as well as local organizations like Red Hats, Lions, and the American Legion. But don't forget churches, the library and the museum.

**Black Hills Retired School Personnel** – They must have an unwritten motto of We Volunteer Everywhere. As they stated in their report, many of the activities and organizations where we volunteer rely completely on the help and expertise of volunteers. It wouldn't be possible to operate these groups if even some of the work was paid. As a unit, their membership recorded over fifty activities and organizations where they helped this year.

## HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS

**Brookings Area Retired Teachers Association** – The unit members help with book storage, filling back packs, and supporting the United Way.

**Southeast Area Retired Teachers Association** – The unit members help in many ways within their community.

## DETERMINATION AWARDS

**Mitchell Area Retired Teachers Association** – We have a strong school system and good people, we need to become active again.

**Aberdeen Area Retired Teachers Association** – They have restarted their organization.