

SDRSP COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT 2017-2018

Submitted by Joanna Jones

National Volunteer Week was April 15-21, 2018. Currently, 63 million Americans per year volunteer their time, talents and effort to improve people's lives. Within South Dakota, the SD Retired School Personnel volunteers made incredible contributions to their communities. At this convention, we recognize how our members have volunteered.

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 the hours volunteers provide in their local communities. The hourly wage for this year is \$24.69 nationally; SD is \$21.30. With the reported hours from our units, we had 11,843.5 hours that members worked with our youth and 26,524.75 hours members worked with adults. The total hours were 38,368.25 for a value of \$947,312.09. The South Dakota Retired School Personnel make a difference in the lives of their communities.

Community Service for 2017-2018

WITH OUR YOUTH

Vermillion/Southeast Area Retired School Personnel – Members volunteered as Friends of the Library who sort, price and shelve donated books from patrons and discarded books from the library. We staff Edie's Book Shop every first Friday and Saturday of the month. The money raised is used for the youth summer reading program and for other youth library projects. This project encourages youth literacy. The retired volunteers who participate in this project enjoy working together and meeting other readers who buy the books.

Pierre Area Retired School Personnel – PARSP once again participated in the Back Pack Program. Once a week for a month, small groups gather to assemble approximately 350 grocery sacks of food for at-risk elementary school students. Each bag contained 10-12 items, including easy-to-prepare meals, snacks, and fruit. Some of the members were also involved in the delivery of the Back Packs to the schools. Many of the members also made monetary or food donations to this cause.

The purpose of the Back Pack Program is to ensure that ALL children in our community have a source of food for the weekends when there are no other free breakfast or lunch programs available. Not only does this sustain the children's nutritional needs, but it enhances their overall sense of well-being.

TO BENEFIT ADULTS

Watertown Area Retired School Personnel – Members write personal notes to ALL the Watertown School staff, from superintendent to bus drivers. Each personal note is delivered with homemade treats or a sack lunch. Our members have been thanked many times by the school employees for those notes. The school staff is thankful that we continue to notice the time, effort, and caring they put into their jobs.

Sioux Falls Area Retired School Personnel – FOOD! Serving and making treats is what our members do often and do well.

We packed lunches for Lunch Is Served and served meals at the Banquet, the Ronald McDonald House and the Bishop Dudley House.

We made treats once a month for a Veterans group and made treats on 9-11 for firemen, policemen and highway patrolmen.

All of these activities mean so much to the participants and the recipients of our community. Serving and making food meets the needs of the hungry and made the recipients feel appreciated.

Milbank Area Retired Teachers Association – Several times this year, MARTA has collected and donated items to the Grant County Food Pantry at the courthouse. Many low income families and individuals in our community use the Food Pantry to supplement their grocery list. It seems like this program is often in need of donations and we are glad to be able to be a part of feeding Milbank and the surrounding areas of the community.

Madison Area Retired School Personnel – MARSP has taken responsibility for the library at Prairie Village. Members clean it and provide staffing during the jamboree held each August. Our work helps preserve early history of the area and serves an educational purpose for the many visitors as well as the school children who visit in May.

Winner Area Retired School Personnel – We are proud of all the projects our crew continues to work on, some are on-going throughout the year.

One of the most inspiring whole group projects this year was making valentines for the Winner Regional Long Term Care Facility. At our January meeting, we all contributed materials to design and construct the cards. We had an abundance of lace and glitter and glam. After our business meeting, we proceeded to have as much fun as students with a classroom art project. We each delighted in making at least 5 valentines, some being feminine frilly and others with a masculine touch.

The completed Valentines were put on a huge bulletin board at the facility for the residents to enjoy and later were given to residents to have in their room. The cards were accepted with great appreciation for our thinking of them. We were pleased to have brought a bit of cheer into their lives.

We continue to work on other projects that are on-going throughout the year and look forward to the future.