

With Our Youth Awards 2013

Aberdeen Area Retired Teachers, Lois Sollie, CS Chair

Huron Area Retired Teachers, Bev Erdahl, CS Chair

Awards For Community Service for 2012-2013

By Marrietta Catlin

Sixteen RTA Units across the state sent in their community service reports to me this year. With the theme of “Volunteers aren’t paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless” This year our members turned in a **total of 43,115 hours** of volunteer service with **6,873 hours for With Our Youth** and **36,242 hours With Adults**. The national estimated amount used by charitable organizations to show the value of volunteer service per hour for 2012 was \$22.14. Our members made a big difference sharing their time and talents with others by giving an estimated \$954,600 (nine hundred fifty-four thousand six hundred dollars) back to their local communities. Even though that estimated dollar amount may not be realistic in South Dakota, it is a tool used to show the valuable services provided by South Dakota Retired Teachers.

With Our Youth Awards

Aberdeen Area Retired Teachers, Lois Sollie, CS Chair

Huron Area Retired Teachers, Bev Erdahl, CS Chair

WITH OUR YOUTH AWARDS

This RTA Unit provides service to the youth of their area as well as adults. However, the project this unit is most proud of is their History Camp for youth at Dacotah Prairie Museum. This museum at the Brown County Fairgrounds consists of many older buildings one of which is an old school house. This camp runs for a week with daily sessions consisting of 20 different children each day. The children take part in activities like reading and old craft activities like making candles and ice cream which impacts the youth in a positive way as they learn about the early history of their area. It is my pleasure to present an Outstanding WOY Award to the **Aberdeen Area RTA**. Lois Sollie, CS Chair

Another RTA Unit that provides much needed volunteer services to both their youth and families in their community share that they are most proud of their Helping Hands Project for Families. A thrift store and food pantry were started in this area to sell donated clothing, furniture, toys and the like to provide funds for the needy and the immigrants moving to their area the past few years. Feeding South Dakota donations and money and sales from the thrift store are benefiting many families in need in this community with these services. It is my pleasure to present another Outstanding WOY Award to the **Huron Area RTA**. Bev Erdahl, CS Chair