

2014 Community Service Awards

Winner Area RTA

Northern Hills RTA

Pierre Area RTA

Our RTA Units continue to give more and more valuable volunteer service hours to those benefiting Adults. Many units have yearly on-going projects but several units this year tried to “think outside the box” and reimagine better possibilities for their seniors. This unit tried to reimagine a more eye appealing and cheerful atmosphere at meal time for the elderly at two living centers in their area. Members made over 60 coffee mug centerpieces for the dining tables. The colorful coffee mug arrangements were received with lots of gratitude and big smiles making the elderly feel not only special but loved. It is my pleasure to present this Life Reimagined With Adults Award to the Winner Area RTA. Jo Haffield, President and Betty Dvorak, Community Service Chair.

Another unit is most proud of a project that they did to enhance literacy in their communities. They shared their September meeting with authors from the Festival of Books which would be held in Deadwood later that month. Featured speaker for the meeting was Charles Rogers from Sioux Falls who presented his book *South Dakota’s Challenges Since 1960*. Other authors shared from the book *What Makes A South Dakotan* which is published by the South Dakota Humanities Council and Joanne Jones shared information from seventh grade students from the book *A Journey Through Time: Whitewood Schools in 1888-2013*. RTA members later participated in the 2014 Big Read Program sponsored by the Spearfish Center for the Arts as well as volunteered for the Festival of Books in Deadwood. It is my pleasure to present a Life Reimagined Community Service Award for Adults to the Northern Hills RTA. Joanna Jones, Gwenn Vallery and Janelle Jones Co-Presidents with Joanna Jones also serving as Community Service Chair.

Another RTA Unit is most proud of serving older adults in their community. Their Life Reimagined services for assisting older adults this year consisted of trying to assure a better quality of life for the elderly and making their golden years more enjoyable. RTA members visited the elderly in nursing and assisted living homes, helped with monthly birthday parties, delivered Meals on Wheels, served meals at the Banquet, helped serve and clean up at weekly Senior Center potluck dinners as well as line up weekly entertainment for the potluck dinners, provided assistance with the SHINE and Prescription Part D enrollment, provided income tax assistance as well as offered a hand to the less fortunate seniors by filling 1200 food boxes at Feeding South Dakota the first Thursday of each month. These boxes were then distributed throughout 26 counties in central South Dakota. This unit states the personal rewards were many as they helped older adults enjoy their daily lives to the fullest. It is my pleasure to present this Life Reimagined Community Service Award Benefiting Older Adults to the Pierre Area RTA. Judy Rapp and Carol Pickering, Co-Presidents and Lynell Asher, Community Service Chair.