

November 2023 Sioux Empire Volunteer of the Month Irene Mehlhaff

The Helpline Center congratulates Irene Mehlhaff on being named the Sioux Empire November 2023 Volunteer of the Month. Volunteer of the month is an area-wide award program sponsored by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of SD. Irene is nominated by Sanford Health.

Her nomination states, "Irene has been a volunteer for Children's Miracle Network and the Sanford Foundation for almost 22 years. She has served over 3,730 hours of time in this role alone! In her role, she has helped to keep the database up-to-date, organize prizes and activities for CMN, and lots of "Other duties as assigned."

Irene volunteers once a week, and she has been a Sanford Volunteer for almost 22 years. She has generously given 3,733 hours of volunteer service to date. She has talked about retiring from volunteering this November, when she turns 86 years old.

During Irene's time as a volunteer, the Sanford Foundation (including Children's Miracle Network) has moved locations 4 times. Irene has stayed with us through it all. She might spend her time folding t-shirts for event volunteers, prepare gift bags for Expo events, put together promotional packets, and a big one more recently - helping us find missing data in our systems. She has stated before that she loves volunteering "to ease the load of others". Irene is so dependable! She shows up week after week to support our staff so they can make the biggest impact on those who are going through medical issues and healing in our community. Irene has done a lot of behind the scenes work, and it is likely that each event, volunteer gift, and staff person managing the important work of keeping a current database - has been made better because of Irene's weekly service."

The Helpline Center is pleased to present Irene with a framed certificate and a letter of appreciation from Mayor Paul Ten Haken.



For information on volunteer opportunities, please call the Helpline Center at 211 or visit volunteer.helplinecenter.org.