

February 2025 Sioux Empire Volunteer of the Month Carrie Materese

The Helpline Center congratulates Carrie Materese on being named the Sioux Empire February 2025 Volunteer of the Month. Volunteer of the Month is an area-wide award program sponsored by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of SD. Carrie is nominated by the Washington Pavilion.

Her nomination states, Carrie volunteers for the Washington Pavilion's Spotlight Theatre Company, the organization's in-house youth theatre program that presents six fully staged musical theatre productions during the school year. Of Carrie's many behind-the-scenes talents, she has taken on the role of lead volunteer costumer for many plays, some of which her daughter is in the cast, working directly with each play's costume designer and using her talents to bring characters and stories to life.

Carrie began volunteering in 2022 and assists at least 15-20 times a month in rehearsals and performances during the run of a play (this doesn't include any at-home costume-making wizardry that is also likely happening!). Carrie is a critical player who helped ensure the success of at least five recent Spotlight Theatre Company productions, including "The Wizard of Oz," "The Sound of Music," "Beauty and the Beast," "The Lightning Thief," and "Willy Wonka."

Carrie's efforts help create memorable experiences for hundreds of young actors, dozens of backstage technicians, and thousands of audience members each year. She is an unsung hero who dedicates herself to enriching the lives of young artists and elevating the cultural heart of the region.

The Helpline Center is pleased to present Carrie 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.