



VOLUNTEERS

June 2003

Volunteer tip:**Ways to stay informed and be involved with DARTS**

- Visit our website at www.darts1.org for the latest information and happenings at DARTS
- Stop by and browse the DARTS' library for books and videos on caregiving, aging, chemical dependency, and self-inspirational topics. Books and videos can be checked out for free!
- If you haven't visited our administration and transportation buildings, give us a call for a tour at 651-455-1560.
- Stop by for a cup of coffee and visit with staff.
- Attend our special events and educational sessions.
- E-mail Barb Koenig at barb.koenig@darts1.org about ways to improve your volunteer experience or simply share a story or set up a time to visit.

Volunteer Opportunities

Be part of DARTS' **Volunteer Visiting** program. You'll have a meaningful experience while providing companionship to a senior who feels isolated and alone. Volunteer yourself or bring your family along and share the experience.

Accompany a senior on a DARTS bus and be their **Bus Escort**. You'll bring some comfort as the senior rides to an appointment. When there's a need, we'll call you to see if you're available. Bus escort volunteers are needed for all areas in Dakota County.

Enjoy gardening? If you or you and a friend love to nurture a garden, we welcome volunteers to keep DARTS' perennial garden weed free.

Contact **Barb Koenig** at **651-455-1560** if you're interested in any of these volunteer opportunities or want more information on other ways to be involved at DARTS.

Dear DARTS Volunteers,

I've been privileged to work for DARTS for the past 5^{1/2} years, and throughout those years I've made many new friends. DARTS has allowed me to expand my knowledge in volunteer



services. DARTS' leaders have given me many opportunities, and I've used the opportunities to better position DARTS as a premier place to volunteer. DARTS' staff and volunteers made my job the best job at DARTS. I was able to brag about the great things you volunteers do, and tell folks they need to become involved with this great organization. Loving my job as much as I do made the decision to move on extremely difficult.

However, I've reached a point in my life where I need a new challenge and new opportunities. I am leaving behind many friends and a terrific organization that I will continue to volunteer for and be a spokesperson for. I fully respect the leadership at DARTS, and I'm proud to have been part of this organization. DARTS is truly one of a kind, and I will miss everything about it.

I will never say good-bye – only good luck and keep up the great work you do. You are very important to many many people and very important to me. Whether you are assisting a senior with a difficult task, visiting someone who needs a friend, helping a young student read, or doing any other wonderful volunteer opportunity DARTS offers, you are MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!

Jason Sanders

Being a DARTS Volunteer Greeter is Both Social and Full of Activity

What does nice handwriting, clerical tasks, and socializing have in common? Why, **Dorrine Spatafore** of course! **Dorrine** has been a DARTS' volunteer for over 9 years. She started volunteering when one of her friends, a volunteer at DARTS, recruited her to help with some bulk mailings. She enjoyed working with the other volunteers and DARTS staff, as well as the socializing that came with it. For special mailings, **Dorrine** would take envelopes home to hand address – she continues to be known at DARTS as one of the volunteers with “beautiful handwriting.”

Over the years, **Dorrine** has supported staff in DARTS' administrative building with duties such as putting informational packets together, handling small mailings, and doing photocopying. **Dorrine** appreciates the warm welcome she gets from staff and the chance to meet interesting people who visit DARTS. She even belongs to the DARTS Staff Book Club – she's truly part of the team here.

Currently, **Dorrine** volunteers as a DARTS' greeter on Tuesday mornings. She greets visitors to the DARTS campus and makes sure they feel welcome by offering a cup of coffee and directing them to the right meeting room or staff person. Tuesdays are a special day because, for several months, quilters from Clark Memorial Church are at DARTS working on their annual quilt.



Dorrine greets a visitor

When **Dorrine** retired as a teacher's aide at Cherokee Heights Elementary School 10 years ago, keeping active was her main goal. DARTS is very fortunate she decided to spend some of her retiring years with us!

If you'd like to learn more about being a volunteer greeter at DARTS, call Barb Koenig at 651-455-1560.

What's Happening?

→ June

- 24 **Burnsville CyberNeighborhood Picnic** for participants and volunteers. Contact Kristen Lund, 651-234-2236, for more info.
- 26 Independent Living Program volunteers are invited to an **Appreciation Party**. Details in invitations being mailed.

→ July

- 22 **Volunteer Tea** for clerical support volunteers, greeters, and thank-you callers. Details in invitations being mailed.

→ August

- 5 **National Night Kick Off Luncheon** for seniors in West St. Paul. Sponsored by DARTS and West St. Paul Police Department. Watch for flyers!

Top Ten Reasons to Volunteer as a Family

10. Spend quality family time together
9. Meet real community needs
8. Teach children the value of service and community involvement
7. Spread positive energy and hope
6. Learn new skills
5. Meet new people and establish friendships
4. Develop family communication
3. Make the world a better place
2. Enrich family relationships and encourage family unity
1. It's fun!

DARTS' offers family volunteering opportunities in your community – ranging from volunteering once a week to once a year. Contact Barb Koenig at 651-455-1560 for more information.