



VOLUNTEERS

June 2005

volunteer tip:

Wondering When, What, and Who you should you contact if you have something to report, need some information, or simply want to share your volunteer experience?

- ❖ When you have any concerns about your senior client, their well-being, or your volunteer experience in general, contact your DARTS Service Coordinator.
- ❖ Contact DARTS Volunteer Resources if you have changes in your schedule that might conflict with your volunteering.
- ❖ To keep up to date on what's happening at DARTS, check out our website, www.darts1.org.
- ❖ If you have a friend who is thinking about volunteering or is in need of service, give them DARTS' phone number, 651/455-1560.

Director's notes:

“You volunteer for DARTS? What, you drive one of those buses?”

I know each of you has been asked this, at least once. It seems a lot of people in Dakota County still think of DARTS as a ride service, and that's it. I'm sure you remember telling people about your particular volunteer activity and watching the look of surprise on their faces.

To help spread the word that DARTS is “more than a bus,” we've been offering weekly, one-hour tours that showcase the variety of services we have to offer seniors and families throughout Dakota County. These are small-group tours that give people a look beyond our bricks and mortar. Folks get a glimpse of the services we offer and hear real stories about the people we serve.

Over 325 people have attended these tours throughout the past year and the majority walk away saying, “I didn't know DARTS did all of that!” – even those with long-time connections to DARTS.

I invite you to attend one of these tours to learn even more about the organization you are supporting with your gift of time. Just as important, bring along your spouse, child, parent, friend, neighbor and all those people who said, “You volunteer for DARTS? What, you drive one of those buses?”

For more information or to sign up to attend a tour, contact Joelene Evenson at 651-234-2221, or joelene.evenson@darts1.org.

Colleen Fritsch

Director of Volunteer Resources

Get to Know this Trusted Resource in Dakota County!

DARTS is changing lives!

You're invited to visit DARTS to see first hand how we're changing the lives of seniors. Dick Graham, President, and others will share real-life stories and guide you through a tour of DARTS' campus.

DARTS
1645 Marshall Lane
West St. Paul, MN 55118
www.darts1.org • 651-455-1560

Select a date and bring a friend!

TUESDAYS (8-9 AM)	THURSDAYS (3-4 PM)
JUNE 22	JUNE 17
JULY 6	JULY 1
JULY 20	JULY 15
	JULY 29

Enjoy a continental breakfast or afternoon refreshments during your visit.

Please RSVP to Dartene at 651-455-1560 or dartene.hanson@darts1.org.
Call for directions or visit www.darts1.org to view a map to DARTS.

**IT'S NOT TO LATE! MORE THAN A BUS TOUR DATES ARE
SCHEDULED JULY-SEPTEMBER!**

Volunteer Profile:

A “woman’s best friend” makes for a special volunteer

DARTS makes the most of what every volunteer “brings to the job.” This year, it includes some barking – literally. Julie Derry is a new volunteer visitor for DARTS and when she visits someone, she brings along one of her “best friends” – Kirby, a golden retriever. Julie became interested in using Kirby to volunteer with seniors when she saw how attached her dog and her uncle became when visiting her uncle in the hospital. Kirby would lay just close enough to her uncle that he could pet Kirby’s head from the hospital bed. Julie was awed by the comfort her dog brought to her uncle – it affected her enough to want to bring this same experience to others.

As Julie says, “It’s my hope that the two of us can bring a little hope and love to those we are blessed to visit. I get so much enjoyment out of visiting and spending time with people who need and want the visits.”



Kirby is a companion to both the senior and her dog, Peppy.

Right now, Julie is visiting a senior who has her own dog, Peppy. The two dogs play together while the two women visit and Julie learns a new card game, “Hand and Foot.” Since both Julie and the senior love dogs and love to play cards, this volunteer-to-senior match couldn’t be finer!

For Julie, volunteering has given her the gifts of tolerance, compassion, and patience. And the reward of making a new friend. Volunteering will always be a part of Julie’s life because she recognizes the need for people to get involved by using their time, expertise, and financial support. She says, “Volunteering is a time commitment like anything else, but for those things that become a priority in our lives, we tend to find the time for them.”

What's Happening?

Seminars for Family Caregivers of Elders

Few of us were really trained to provide care for an elderly loved one. Though strong on heart, we could well use up-to-date information on resources and practices. Eldercare seminars can help caregivers meet current needs and be better prepared for future ones. Seminars provide more options, a better sense of control, balance, and ability to cope.

DARTS’ eldercare seminars are available for community groups as well as the workplace. Call 651-234-2231 for information and a brochure or check out www.darts1.org.

Volunteer Orientation

Orientation for new direct service volunteers will be held **June 28, June 29, July 26, and July 27**.

For more information, contact Barb Koenig at 651-455-1560. Postcard reminders will be sent out.

Volunteer Opportunities

Let a friend, family member, or co-worker know about the following volunteer opportunities available.

Volunteer Driver

Give a ride to a senior who needs transportation assistance to medical appointments and can’t easily use the DARTS bus.

Daytime and Evening Respite Volunteer

Provide a much-needed break to a caregiver once a week for 4 hours or provide some support once a month. You’ll supervise and socialize with the senior needing care.

On-call Grocery Shopper

Fill in by occasionally shopping for a senior when their regular volunteer shopper is not available.