

# Connecting Volunteers

NEWSLETTER FOR DARTS VOLUNTEERS

## Volunteers Matter

Welcome to our new column, *Volunteers Matter*. We want to use this space to help us all stay connected – to DARTS, to one another, and to the impact you have on the lives you touch as volunteers.

It's easy for me to tell you that in 2007, 505 volunteers served DARTS on an ongoing basis and another 1,121 helped with a special event or a one-time seasonal project. And I could tell you that in 2007, DARTS volunteers served 24,623 hours. Those statistics may surprise you, but really,

would it matter any less if there were 502 ongoing volunteers or 1,098 one-time volunteers or if our volunteers served 22,653 hours?

*"...every volunteer and every minute affects the lives of those who turn to DARTS for help."*

Well, it would matter to Agnes who says, "Thanks to DARTS, I am less afraid." It would matter to the teacher in Inver Grove Heights who says, "Both the students and I are blessed to have such a caring volunteer to come and work with us each

week." In fact every volunteer and every minute affects the lives of those who turn to DARTS for help. It would matter to the daughter in Burnsville who said of her respite volunteer, "I wouldn't trust anyone else with my mother."

DARTS volunteers may not change the world, but for some people, they mean the world. Please enjoy this new column as we connect each of us to the very real and very wonderful impact our work has on our community.

**Colleen Fritsch**  
Director of Volunteer Resources



## Volunteer Opportunities

**Be a DARTS Greeter.** If you enjoy a friendly atmosphere, DARTS' main office is looking for you. Be the first person to greet and direct community guests in our building. Three-hour shifts, one day a week, are available. For more information, contact **Barb Tiggemann** at 651-455-1560 or [barb.tiggemann@darts1.org](mailto:barb.tiggemann@darts1.org).

**Join the DARTS Quilters.** Help create the next work of art that DARTS will raffle off to support our volunteer services. **The Quilters meet at DARTS on Tuesdays around 9:30 AM.** They chat and stitch by hand until about 2:30 in the afternoon. If you'd like to join them for all or part of the day, you'd be most welcome. Just stop in at DARTS any Tuesday.

**Help with Fundraising Activities.** We have two dedicated volunteers who sell quilt raffle tickets at retail stores and civic gatherings throughout the summer and fall, but we could use your help. Contact **Colleen** at 651-234-2222 or [colleen.fritsch@darts1.org](mailto:colleen.fritsch@darts1.org) if you are interested. Even if you're only available one or two weekends, we could use your help!

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*The 2008 quilt is underway!*

# We are DARTS!

For more than 30 years, DARTS' legal name was Dakota Area Resources and Transportation for Seniors (DARTS). In 1997, our mission expanded to include "all generations," and our role in the community evolves year after year. **Because DARTS is our most recognized name, we have legally simplified our name to just DARTS.** To us, our name represents our staff and volunteers and all the things we do:



- **We provide** information, home-help services, transportation, and volunteer connections that **create meaningful possibilities** for older adults and families in Dakota County and beyond.
- **We support** family caregivers with coaching, respite, support groups, and eldercare seminars in the community and workplace.
- **We connect** generations to engage in, and build, community.
- **We partner** with others toward innovative, aging-friendly goals.

*We help, we care, and we provide solutions.*  
With your help, DARTS will continue to be a trusted household name!

## What's Happening?

**We have a new and wonderful DVD that showcases DARTS volunteers and the people we serve.** We will be showing it to organizations and businesses to let community members see the rewards of volunteering and the types of volunteer opportunities available.

We are anxious to show the DVD to various groups, so if you participate in a community organization or business that might enjoy learning about volunteerism, contact **Barb Tiggemann** at 651-455-1560 or [barb.tiggemann@darts1.org](mailto:barb.tiggemann@darts1.org).

## Volunteer Opportunities

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**Be a Learning Buddy.** Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that's fun, flexible, and will help keep you healthy and young? The DARTS Learning Buddies program needs volunteers to spend 1-2 hours a week working with elementary students on reading, math, or science skills. Orientation will be held in September. Call DARTS at 651-455-1560 for more information.



*There are nine schools looking for Learning Buddies volunteers. Call DARTS to find a school in your area!*

## Volunteer Tip

Are you ever asked "where do you volunteer and what is the organization all about?"

If you'd like some informational materials to share with interested community members, stop by the DARTS office in West St. Paul or call us at 651-455-1560 and we can mail information to you. **We have business cards, DARTS service cards, and volunteer brochures available.**

