



## VOLUNTEERS

## volunteer tip:

**“Volunteer time share” to fit volunteering into your busy life**

We have a volunteer time solution for you! Share a volunteer commitment with a friend, co-worker, family member, or a small group. Sharing a volunteer experience can:

- **Ensure a senior gets the groceries they need**  
You and your volunteer partner(s) can choose the week and day that works best for each of you.
- **Be a day brightener for a senior**  
You and your volunteer partner(s) can take turns visiting, going out for lunch, or taking a drive with an isolated senior.
- **Provide a much-needed break for a caregiver caring for a loved one at home**  
You and your volunteer partner(s) can share weekly visits by signing up in advance for the weeks that will work best for your schedules.
- **Help a senior keep their yard tidy**  
You and a group of friends can adopt a senior needing help with lawn mowing, raking leaves, or snow shoveling.

We have many other suggestions for fitting volunteering into your busy life. For more information, contact Barb Tiggemann at 651-455-1560 or [barb.tiggemann@darts1.org](mailto:barb.tiggemann@darts1.org).



## Director's Notes

**It's the Growing Season**

Long days, hit-and-miss rain, pleasant breezes, tornadoes, sunshine, bug spray...this must be Minnesota! With summer finally here, some special things begin to happen at DARTS. First, our Learning Buddies volunteers get to put their feet up and enjoy the satisfaction of another school year well done. You buddies are wonderful, and the effects of your work will last for generations.

Also during the summer, volunteers Vi and Eileen hit the road to grocery stores, banks, and craft fairs to sell chances to win one of three beautiful, hand-made lap throw quilts. Thanks, as always, to our quilters Mary, Bess, Rose, Nancy, Charlene, and Joan for their gifts of warmth and beauty...and the quilt proceeds in support of DARTS.

And then there is our Outdoor Chore Program. After a spring of serving over 50 seniors who needed help with yard clean-up, Mary Richardson and her team of volunteers and on-call staff are providing routine lawn service and special outdoor projects. Some 200 volunteers participated this past spring...they were amazing! As we settle into the summer, we're starting to plan for the fall chores.

The rest of our army of volunteers is helping us keep it all together here at the office or serving in a senior's home or high-rise apartment. DARTS just keeps on growing stronger, and with your service, our communities are strengthened too.

Wow, isn't summer grand? Thanks for your help.

*Colleen Fritsch*

Director of Volunteer Resources



## Volunteer Opportunities

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

**Be a learning buddy to a child.** Volunteer in a Dakota County elementary school once a week during the school year and work with children on reading, math, or science skills.

If this sounds like you, contact **Sherry Patterson** at 651-455-1560 or [sherry.patterson@darts1.org](mailto:sherry.patterson@darts1.org).

**Give someone a break; be an on-call respite volunteer.** Volunteer occasionally as a substitute volunteer or handle a one-time request from a caregiver caring for an older loved one. Your role is to supervise and socialize with the senior needing care.

For more information, contact **Barb Tiggemann** at 651-455-1560 or [barb.tiggemann@darts1.org](mailto:barb.tiggemann@darts1.org).

### ***Please, Please Turn in Your Volunteer Service Hours!***

Volunteer hours are reported to our funders, so they will continue to fund our services. Monthly time sheets help us accurately report volunteer hours. You can easily track your hours on the sheet and mail it in or you can complete the form and e-mail back to us. If you need more time sheets or want the form emailed to you, contact **Barb Tiggemann** at 651-455-1560 or [barb.tiggemann@darts1.org](mailto:barb.tiggemann@darts1.org).



## Volunteer Profile: *Exploring the Internet Bridges the Age Divide*

Nick Nauman, a junior at North Lakeville High School, wanted to do some volunteering to fulfill service requirements for participating in the National Honor Society. Meanwhile, a senior approached DARTS with a request for a volunteer who could teach him basic computer skills. The timing was perfect to match Nick with the senior, Earl.

Since November, Nick has been helping Earl on a weekly basis, when his busy schedule permits. Early on, Earl was nervous just trying to turn the computer on and push the right keys to make it work. Because of Nick's help, Earl is now comfortable and confident in using his computer.

Earl also has a strong interest in jazz music and the saxophone, so Nick introduced Earl to the Internet video site, YouTube. Earl can type in a jazz artist's name and then listen to, and view, a video of his favorite artists, such as Nat King Cole. Earl has quite a collection of jazz music on CDs, and Nick would like to show him how to put some of the music on his computer.

Earl now uses his computer savvy to explore the Internet, watch music videos, and read the news. As for Nick, he has earned his service hours for the National Honor Society, has learned a little history, and has gained an older friend.

