



VOLUNTEERS

October 2005

Volunteers give more than just time...

DARTS has received wonderful financial contributions from volunteers through their workplaces. Many thanks to retirees and employees of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, 3M Retirees, and ADC Telecommunications for participating in the "Dollars for Doers" programs. DARTS benefits twice – once from the volunteer's contribution of time and talent and again from a donation in recognition of the employee's or retiree's service. Dollars for Doers and alumni programs support their employees and former employees by making a cash donation to the nonprofit where they volunteer. What a great thing for the employee and, of course, for DARTS!

What's Happening?

Volunteer Orientation

Orientation for new Direct Service Volunteers is October 25 and 26. Postcard reminders will be sent out to new volunteers. For more information, contact Barb Koenig at 651-455-1560.

Director's Notes:

I asked Dick Graham to share some thoughts with us. Here are his reflections:



I have a garden, and in the days of late summer there is a new glow. The golds and bronzes express the pride of surviving the hot summer. The fall bloomers are relishing in their new found appreciation. The greens are beginning a new dance with the cooler evenings and darker nights. Their new shades of color remind us that the busy season of growth is turning into a new time of returning to the earth to rest and ponder next spring.

I have a very common type of tall, bushy, daisy/cornflower (no fancy name that I know of) that fills all the spaces and unifies the whole garden. It has no special needs. It just enjoys the sun, appreciates any watering and, in return, creates great cascades of color and pleasure right up to the very moment of frost. I would call this jewel "Miss Loyalty."

There is only one challenge with Miss Loyalty – she loves to volunteer! (For non-gardeners, a volunteer is a



plant that makes its appearance, in the spring, in the most unexpected places.) It goes where the wind and sun take it. If it had its way the whole world would be

its home. And, that would make for a beautiful world! It's the gardener's privilege and honor to be a partner with nature to create an ideal place to thrive.

Gardens are great teachers. As many of you know, I'm retiring from DARTS this year. The seasons of my life

– continued –

and the seasons of my years find inspiration from planning, planting, tending, enjoying, resting, and renewing.

It has been my honor and pleasure to have known so many Miss (and Mister) Loyalty volunteers in DARTS' garden too! The partnership between DARTS and people who call on us to help them find the place to make the world more beautiful is very much like creating a garden, or little paradise, in our own back yard. DARTS is what it is today because it is a volunteer-based organization. Our heart, our values, and our beauty spring from that and it is the foundation for our future.

Thank you for all you do for DARTS and the community. It has been my honor to have been associated with you.

Deid Graham

Something new:

Become a DARTS Volunteer Ambassador!

As a DARTS volunteer, you're one of our best ambassadors out in the community. We'd like to help you learn more about DARTS to spread the word about our services and volunteer opportunities. Would you like to move to the next level of volunteering by becoming a DARTS Volunteer Ambassador?

We invite you to a session where you can:

- Get better acquainted with all of DARTS
- Have fun mingling with other volunteers
- Learn key phrases for questions like "What is DARTS?"
- Help people get to know DARTS better
- Better express the value you see in DARTS each time you talk with someone in the community

We're holding a session at DARTS on Thursday, October 27, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. or Thursday, November 17, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Call Barb Koenig at 651-455-1560 for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities

Spread the word to friends and family about ways they can help with current volunteer needs:

Respite Volunteer

Provide a much-needed break to a family caregiver once a week for 4 hours or provide some help occasionally for a special time request. You'll supervise and socialize with the senior needing care.

Volunteer Driver

Give a ride to a senior who needs transportation assistance to medical appointments and can't easily use the DARTS bus. Volunteer schedule is determined by hours and days available.

Many other volunteer opportunities are available. Check them out by visiting www.darts1.org. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Barb Koenig at 651-455-1560 or barb.koenig@darts1.org.

DARTS Volunteers are eligible for Hiway Federal Credit Union membership



All DARTS employees, volunteers, and their families are eligible for membership in the Hiway Federal Credit Union.

Hiway Federal is a not-for-profit organization that serves over 49,000 member-owners in the metropolitan area. Nationally ranked among the best in the financial services industry, members receive lower loan rates, higher savings rates, and fewer and lower fees.

Visit www.hiway.org for current rates, product information, or to open an account. Or, call Member Services at **651-291-1515** today. Be sure to tell them you're a DARTS volunteer!