

Connecting Volunteers

NEWSLETTER FOR DARTS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers Matter

One goal of this column is to portray how the lives you've touched as DARTS volunteers have been affected...how your time and volunteer spirit impact the people we serve.

Throughout the year, DARTS surveys our riders, our clients, and our volunteers. We use this information to evaluate our programs and make changes, when needed. Additionally, survey information helps us tell our donors the story of how we respond to, and meet, community needs.

We've interviewed many clients, and want to share some of their comments about our volunteers. It's a wonderful glimpse of how your service impacts their lives.

"Having a DARTS volunteer has made me believe in the goodness of people."

"DARTS volunteers have allowed me to remain in my home."

"I am a full-time caregiver and could not do this without all your help."

"My yard would be a total loss if not for your help."

"I didn't have to worry about getting a ticket (from the city) for not removing my snow. It was wonderful knowing I had people to depend on for help. Your organization is super and so are your volunteers."

"My volunteer does a great job and I trust him."

"My volunteers are beautiful people."

"She's a love; helpful and friendly."

Could you hear the voice of the person you serve? I bet you could. DARTS provides supportive services to older adults and families experiencing life transitions. As you can tell from their comments, people who turn to DARTS have learned to count on you. Without a doubt, DARTS volunteers matter.

Colleen Fritsch
Director of Volunteer Resources

Volunteer Opportunities

Help with Fall Yard Clean-up.

Sign up with your family, your friends, your softball team! Gather a group of any size and spend a fun half day or full day helping older homeowners with fall yard clean-up chores like raking leaves, cleaning first story gutters, washing windows, cleaning out flower gardens, trimming shrubs, and tidying up garages. Dates and times are flexible. Last fall, DARTS volunteers helped over 40 homeowners with their outdoor chores.



Help Remove Snow from Sidewalks, Driveways this Winter. Volunteer to take care of the snow removal needs of an older neighbor for the entire winter season. We need to line up volunteers NOW, so we are

– continued –



Volunteer Opportunities

– continued from front –

ready well before the first snowflakes fall. This is the perfect opportunity for you and your friends or family to volunteer together. Help clear away the snow and keep the driveway and sidewalk safe for an older homeowner in your neighborhood.

To find out more about these volunteer opportunities, contact Mary Richardson at (651) 455-1560 or mary.richardson@darts1.org

Volunteer Tip

Many of you are volunteering for someone who has experienced a loss in their life, such as the death of a family member or friend or the loss of independence. We all respond to losses in different ways. Here are a few suggestions to support someone dealing with a loss:

- Give the person permission to repeat his or her story
- Avoid saying, "I know how you feel"
- Don't try to fix it... acknowledge the loss
- If you don't know what to say, that's what you should say
- Allow for both tears and laughter
- Offer your companionship
- Acknowledge that a change has occurred



*We're here to care,
we're here to help,
we're here to provide solutions.*

Meet JoLynn Bucki

We're very pleased to introduce JoLynn Bucki as our new Learning Buddies Coordinator. JoLynn comes to us as a former middle school science teacher and as a volunteer coordinator at her children's elementary school, where she coordinated our Learning Buddies program on behalf of the school. The DARTS Learning Buddies program places volunteers in elementary schools to help children with their math, science, and reading skills.



JoLynn is very excited about joining DARTS and says, "I feel lucky and honored to be supporting the Learning Buddies in their volunteer efforts."

What's Happening?

A reliable way to communicate with DARTS staff is through e-mail.

If you haven't yet shared your e-mail address with us, or if it has changed recently, please submit it to Barb Tiggemann at barb.tiggemann@darts1.org. What an easy way to connect with DARTS!

