



Volunteers

We Want You!

Reading

Buddies

Volunteers Needed



Due to the overwhelming popularity of the Reading Buddies program, we will at least double the number of schools involved in the program this next school year. We need your help! Think about becoming a Reading Buddies volunteer or referring a friend to the program for the 2001-2002 school year. Please contact Jason at (651) 455-1560 to reserve your place. As a Reading Buddies volunteer, you will have a very powerful impact on the children of your community and help improve their literacy.

2001 is the International Year of the Volunteer. We are honoring DARTS volunteers in various ways throughout the year. Each *Connecting Volunteers* newsletter this year will profile a DARTS volunteer. Other volunteers will be profiled on the DARTS web site at www.darts1.org.
Thanks for all that you do for DARTS!

Volunteer Keeps Pushing the Grocery Cart!

Elizabeth McDonough, known by all as Lib, started volunteering as a grocery shopper for DARTS 8 years ago and is still pushing that cart! In fact, she continues to help the senior she originally shopped for 8 years ago.

After retiring from a nursing career, Lib decided to volunteer as a way to "give back." As a volunteer, she enjoys both taking the senior along to shop for groceries or simply shopping for them. The only challenge when the senior isn't along is deciphering the handwriting on the shopping list!

Lib considers volunteering a part of her life and would recommend it to others as a way to enjoy something you've chosen to do. As she says, "it's just rewarding and something positive you do in your life."

When accepting a volunteer assignment from DARTS, Lib finds it helpful that she gets some information about the person she'll be assisting. She enjoys learning new things that can improve her volunteer work, and would like to see DARTS host an information session on privacy and ethical issues related to the senior/volunteer relationship.

DARTS is lucky to have such a dedicated volunteer who has been part of the DARTS family all these years. Thank you Lib!

Check Out These Perks for Volunteers!

1) Want to join a credit union?

Credit union membership is now available to all DARTS employees AND volunteers! Representatives from the Hiway Federal Credit Union will be here in June and July to present information about how a credit union membership may benefit you.

WHAT: Credit Union Information Meeting
WHERE: DARTS Transportation Building, lower level training center
WHEN: June 20, June 27 and July 11
TIME: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

If you'd like to attend, please RSVP to Darlene at 651-455-1560 before Friday, June 15. Lunch will be provided, courtesy of the Hiway Federal Credit Union.

If you're interested in joining the credit union, but can't attend one of the meetings, call the Hiway Federal Credit Union to get your membership application today: (651) 291-1515 or (800) 899-5626. Mention that you are a volunteer for DARTS. The credit union is located at 111 Empire Drive, St. Paul.

2) Like going to movies?

DARTS is offering volunteers discount movie tickets to Mann Theaters. The tickets cost \$4.50 each, a savings from the going rate today. Stop by DARTS to buy your tickets.

What's Happening?

→ June

→ 26 Orientation for New DARTS Volunteers, 6:30 p.m., Galaxie Library, Apple Valley

→ 27 Orientation for New DARTS Volunteers, Noon, DARTS, West St. Paul

Contact Barb Koenig at 651/455-1560 for more information.

"The greatest good we can do for others is not to share our riches, but to reveal theirs."

Author Unknown

Volunteer Opportunities

Friendly Visitor

If you're interested in aviation, there's a great opportunity for you to share your interest by visiting a senior in Eagan.



James has Parkinson's disease, which limits his mobility. He would most welcome a visitor to share his love for airplanes and anything to do with aviation. He has done a lot of traveling and, at one time, had his own business selling aviation magazines.

Volunteer Tips: Visiting

1. Think of some open-ended questions you might ask to start the conversation. Such questions require more of a response than "yes" or "no." An example would be "Where did you live when you moved to the Twin Cities?"
2. Respond positively. Give feedback by making caring, appropriate comments that encourage the person to continue talking.

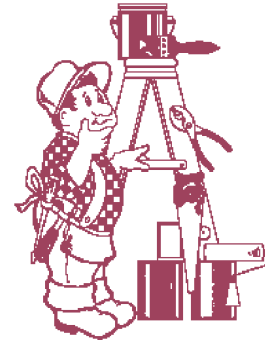
Phone Receptionist

If you enjoy greeting people, have that friendly voice for answering phones, and would like to work with DARTS staff, think about being a volunteer receptionist. Hours are from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. You can volunteer once a week or on-call as needed.



Check out our caregiver web site for "information and help that caregivers of seniors can trust." www.caregiverMN.org is a multifaceted, easy-to-use site that features:

- Care Pages on topics critical to caregivers
- Confidential assistance from an online advisor
- Descriptions of publications and other resources
- Links to other valuable web sites
- Bulletin board for caregiver sharing and support



Help with Outdoor Chores Available

DARTS is pleased to offer outdoor chore assistance. Seniors who need some help with chores like yard clean-up, raking, garden assistance, staining/painting a deck or fence, planting, organizing the garage, or moving can call our youth chore program for help.

Small groups of youth, accompanied by an adult supervisor, are available to come to your home to help with chores. Dakota County Corrections has ordered these youth to perform volunteer work for minor offenses such as disorderly conduct, curfew violations, or tobacco possession.

If you could use help with outdoor chores and would like to participate in DARTS' youth chore program, please call Nick or Jason at 651-455-1560 to schedule an assessment of your chore and time required to complete it.