

NOVEMBER 2001



VOLUNTEERS

News from Jason:

Recognizing Volunteers

Many thanks to all of you who attended the DARTS open house on September 23. Besides seeing the renovated space, I hope you noticed what it offers you and all DARTS supporters. We have a wonderful atrium with a fireplace where you can relax and read a book or visit with someone at a nearby table and have a cup of coffee. Our new training room has already been host to several meetings and social events – it's receiving compliments as the perfect room to hold a workshop or training for up to 50 people. We'd love to have you stop by. When you do, a staff person or volunteer will gladly give you a tour of our Community Resources and Transportation buildings.

We continue to look at new ways to recognize our volunteers. Here are some worth noting:

- **Discounted movie tickets to Mann Theaters.** Each ticket is \$4.50, a savings from the going rate these days. Stop by DARTS to buy your tickets and enjoy a cup of coffee in the atrium.
- **Membership in the Hiway Credit Union.** All DARTS volunteers are invited to join this credit union. Call 651-291-1515 or 1-800-899-5626 to get a membership application. Mention that you volunteer for DARTS.
- **Discounts at The Hearing Aid Doctor.** Mark Rother, BC-HIS, the Hearing Aid Doctor, is extending a 25% discount off Beltone hearing instruments to all DARTS volunteers. Call 952-808-9079 to schedule a FREE hearing screening and consultation. Again, just mention that you volunteer for DARTS.

Jason Sanders
Director of Volunteer Resources

Volunteer and WWII Vet Reminisce and Share



When local businessman Ed Kueppers saw "Volunteer interested in World War II wanted for visits with senior" in the paper, he quickly responded with a call to DARTS. As a WWII buff (especially aviation history), Ed is the perfect match for Grant, a WWII veteran who served in the 129th Army Division.

Ed has been involved with the 8th Air Force Historical Society since 1981 and is an avid collector of photos, films, stories, and orders

documentation. When Ed and Grant get together, Ed gets a "big high" hearing Grant's own stories and enjoys showing Grant all his memorabilia. By knowing Grant, Ed has been able to connect to other veterans and collectors as well. Besides their visits, Ed takes Grant to the Richfield VFW every couple of weeks for lunch and story sharing with other vets. They also attend local Air Force shows.

For Grant, the chance to share and reminisce with Ed and others "fills his heart with joy." For Ed, honoring the senior generation and veterans is something he believes we all should do to pay homage and learn first-hand about their role in history.

This match is a perfect example of two people sharing a common interest and learning from one another. But, even more important is the reality that volunteering provides giving and receiving rewards for both the volunteer and senior. All you need to do is look at the smiles on Ed and Grant's faces when they're together.

Help bring some companionship to a senior

You can help break up a senior's day by providing socialization and an occasional outing for a few hours a week. Seniors in neighborhoods from West St. Paul to Apple Valley are waiting for daytime volunteers. Think about being a visitor and brighten a senior's day. Contact Barb Koenig at 651-455-1560 for more information.

Be Part of Our Growing Reading Buddies



Reading Buddies

The Reading Buddies program is now in 22 Dakota County elementary schools. Surely one is close to your home! We need your help in either becoming a Reading Buddies volunteer or referring a friend to the program this fall. Please call Jason (651-455-1560) to reserve your place at the school of your choice. We especially need volunteers in Burnsville, Eagan, and Inver Grove Heights. Join us in making a powerful impression on the children of your community.

What's Happening?

November

- 27 Orientation for new DARTS volunteers who serve seniors , 6:30 p.m., Galaxie Library, Apple Valley
- 28 Orientation for new DARTS volunteers who serve seniors, 12 noon, DARTS, West St. Paul
- 30 Completed DARTS Volunteer Program Evaluations are due. (Evaluations and a postage-paid envelope are included with this newsletter.)

December

- 13 Join us at DARTS to hear about the 8th Air Force, the largest in existence during WWII. There will be a video, stories, and memorabilia for all you WWII buffs. Presented by DARTS volunteer, Ed Kueppers. Held from 2 to 4 p.m. Please RSVP if you plan to attend; call DARTS at 651-455-1560.

No orientation for new volunteers in December.

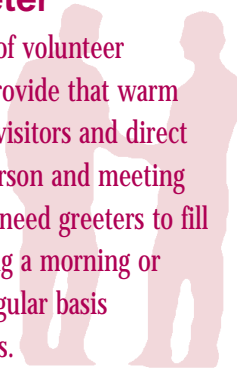
Volunteer Opportunities

Respite Volunteer

A caregiver living in the Lakeville area would like some respite from 24-hour caregiving on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The person you'd spend time with enjoys antique cars and can get around with the assistance of a walker.

DARTS Greeter

Join our new group of volunteer greeters! Greeters provide that warm welcome to DARTS visitors and direct them to the right person and meeting place. Currently we need greeters to fill in occasionally during a morning or afternoon or on a regular basis Wednesday mornings.



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 has profiled a DARTS volunteer. Other volunteers are profiled on the DARTS web site at www.darts1.org. Thanks for all that you do for DARTS!

Volunteer Tips:

Contact your senior client's Service Coordinator:

- If your client has a major life change, such as being hospitalized, going to a nursing home, moving, or a major change in service needs.
- To report any concerns you have about the senior's well-being or your relationship with him or her.
- When you are taking extended time off or can no longer volunteer for that senior (he or she might request a substitute to fill in while you're gone).
- To share a story about your volunteer experience.

Contact Colleen at DARTS, 651-455-1560, if you need reminding about who your client's coordinator is.

Service Coordinator phone numbers

Lynn Cibuzar: 651-234-2248, Tammy Koehler: 651-234-2247, Karna Turnquist: 651-234-2249
Jackie Johnson: 651-234-2241, Sue Skinner: 651-455-7350 or 455-7125

THANKFUL

Thankful for simple things:
for the roof over head,
for food upon the table,
for togetherness
of family and friends,
for splendor all around.

**Have a Joyous
Thanksgiving!**