

Smile for the Vermillion Food Pantry

Employees at Sanford Vermillion opted to smile for a Christmas portrait in exchange for a free-will offering to the Vermillion Food Pantry. The project resulted in a generous gift and a large selection of food items donated.

Virginia "Virg" Von Haden, clinic receptionist, loves to take pictures and is known for capturing fun and creative shots of employee events and gatherings at Sanford Vermillion.

Knowing the annual Employee Christmas celebration was coming up, Von Haden had the idea of being available at the party to take holiday portraits of attendees for a free-will donation to the food pantry.

The Sanford Vermillion employee PRIDE Committee loved the idea and decided to sweeten the pot. The decision was made to match every dollar raised through Von Haden's efforts.

Couples, friends and families were excited to have their picture taken and were especially generous when told how the photo fees would be used. For those not able to attend the party, Von Haden continued to snap the festive photos the following week at the medical center and

was successful in raising \$500.

This combined with the PRIDE Committee match resulted in a \$1,000 donation to the Vermillion food pantry.

"Sanford Vermillion employees recognize how important the Food Pantry is for the community and are committed to supporting their ongoing needs," said Jill Christopherson, PRIDE Committee member, Sanford Vermillion.

"We are thrilled to start off the new year with this kind of support," said Mary Berglin, food pantry coordinator.

The Vermillion Community Food Pantry offers food supplies to low or moderate-income Clay County families. They helped to feed 4,000 persons in 2011, more people than they have ever served before.

Sanford Medical Center Vermillion, a medical facility including a family medicine clinic, 25-bed acute care hospital, 66-bed nursing home and 23-unit senior living apartment complex in Southeast South Dakota, is a member of Sanford Health, a non-profit, integrated health system headquartered in Fargo, ND and Sioux Falls.



Mary Berglin (left), Vermillion Food Pantry coordinator, accepts a \$1,000 check and food drive donations from Virginia Von Haden, Sanford Vermillion.

Dozens of USD students go 'AWOL' for community-service

More than 50 students from the University of South Dakota traveled during their winter break to the southeast United States, central Minnesota and Central America to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, spend time with children in need, and assist Ecuador farmers with the planting and harvesting of their crops.

As part of USD's Alternative Week of Off-Campus Learning (AWOL) program, 17 students repaired homes destroyed by tornadoes in Birmingham, AL.; 11 students worked with the LeBonheur's Children's Hospital and the Hope House in Memphis TN; 11 more students worked with community organizations in Minneapolis, including local soup kitchens and Meals on Wheels; and 17 students traveled to Ecuador, where they learned about conservation and forest preservation best practices.

Birmingham, AL
"I speak for our whole group when I say that this trip made a huge impact on our lives in many ways," said USD student Jessica Sundleaf of Sioux Falls, who spent a week in Birmingham working with Habitat for Humanity.

In 2011, a tornado devastated homes in the Birmingham area and throughout the South. Sundleaf and other students learned how to install insulation, use a nail gun and put up siding.

Additional trip volunteers from USD included Katie Beckman of White Lake, SD, Kayla Brower, Monique Ellefson and Daniel Price of Sioux Falls, Melissa Kutil of Hartford, SD, Kaylee Bahr and Ashley Miller of Aberdeen, Rachel Blake of Centerville, Kara Fischbach of Mellette, SD, Amos "A.J." Meyer of Williams, IA, Paige Moser of Rapid City, Jonathan Schreiner of Remsen, IA, Emma Smith and Megan Waldner of Huron, Nick Weinandt of Yankton, and Learning Partner Danielle Hollmann of Estelline, SD.

Memphis, TN
Many of the families that worked with USD students in Memphis were amazed that the volunteers were giving so much of their time while receiving nothing in return.

However, Brooke Decker of Huron disagreed. "In all reality, I felt that we weren't gaining anything but everything," she said.

Students partnered with both the LeBonheur's Children's Hospital and the Hope House, a learning center for children who have at least one family member that is HIV/AIDS positive. Throughout the week, students divided their time between the two organizations and interacted directly with the children and their families making crafts, distributing hot cocoa, playing games and more.

Students volunteering in Memphis included Abby Wolf of Jordan, MN, Jessica Colburn of Aurora, NE, Chelsea Zaragoza of Ruthven, IA, Abigail Hubbling of Fulda, MN, Christine Brown of Watertown, Joshua Rogers of Fort Pierre, Brett Lorenz of Aberdeen, Mattea Stokke of Platte, SD, Molly Larson of Sioux Falls and Learning Partner Tyler Miller of Mitchell.

Minneapolis, MN
Working in a homeless shelter was a real eye-opener for students who spent time in Minneapolis with several community outreach

organizations.

"I had always thought that I knew a lot about this city," said Jake Renze, the trip learning partner who lived in Minneapolis for several years, "but I was humbled very quickly."

Participants on this trip focused solely on the issue of homelessness and poverty working closely with community-based Families Moving Forward, Habitat for Humanity, Community Emergency Service and Meals on Wheels.

Student volunteers included Alexa Walker of Vermillion, Eric Schlingen of Rapid City, Tim Nelson of Council Bluffs, IA, Andrew Fick of Quimby, IA, Amy Sandhurst of Sioux Falls, Lindsey Jones of Burke, SD, Kelly Turner of Rochester, MN, Allison McEntee of Lennox, SD, Rebecca Molsberry of Algona, IA, and Alicia Karn of Tea.

Ecuador
"It is amazing to see what people from other cultures do to support their families," said Casey Kelly of Omaha, who was one of 17 volunteers from USD that spent a week in Ecuador working with the organization

Jatun Satcha.

While in Ecuador, volunteers focused their efforts on learning about conservation and forest preservation taking place along coastal Ecuador. Students worked with local farmers and residents on many projects, including crop planting and harvesting, helping with mangrove reforestation and repairing homes in the community.

Ecuador trip participants included Dan Davies of Vermillion, Alyssa Day and Mary Galvin of Sioux Falls, Anna Hyronimus of Brandon, Kendall Schneider of Aberdeen, Hanna McElroy of Sioux City, IA, Caitlin Blumer and Emily

Struck of Yankton, Kyle Kirby of Salem, SD, Michelle Corio of Elk Point, Heather Allemang of Neligh, NE, Leah Akland of Beresford, Brent Olinger of Emery, SD, Marisol Lopez-Munoz of South Sioux City, NE, Audrey Flatgard of Arlington, SD, and Learning Partner Karl Reasoner of Sioux Falls.

Housed in the Center for Academic Engagement, AWOL offers students the opportunity to combine community service with education during academic breaks. The AWOL program is in the eighth year on campus and the program has continued to grow. Prior to departure, students participate in six weeks of educational training.

By utilizing experiences and education, AWOL enables students to become active citizens, whose community becomes a priority in their everyday life and provides them with avenues for continued

community involvement and learning.

More information is available at www.usd.edu/engage/service-learning/awol-alternative-breaks.cfm.

Blackburn Basement Systems
Waterproofing & Repair
Basement & Foundation Specialists™
Wet Basement? Basement Wall Bowed?
Foundation Settling?
*Free Estimates *Financing Available
Toll Free 1-800-392-3389
www.blackburnbasementrepair.com

"Why Democrats Should Vote Republican This Year"
Friday, February 10 • 7:30 PM
Valiant Vineyard Winery
1500 West Main, Vermillion
An Evening with Dr. Sam Clovis
Chair of the Department of Business Administration and Economics at Morningside College & Host of "Impact with Sam Clovis" on KSCJ 1560
Dessert and Coffee served. Donations Accepted.
Presented by the Clay County Republicans
For more information call 605-624-4819



Health and healing

Dedicated to the work of health and healing. It's our mission at Sanford Health. And we want to share it with the people whose lives we impact.

Join us for a Community Health and Wellness Fair

Saturday, Feb. 11
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Lee Medicine Building, USD Campus

Take part in:

- Shake the Shaker cooking demonstrations 10 a.m. and noon.
 - Learn to reduce your sodium today.
- Know your numbers.
 - Blood pressure. Blood sugar. Body mass index. Many screenings available throughout the day.
- Gather health information throughout the fair
- Kids take part too! Supervised activity room is available during the fair.

Lee Medicine Building, Clark St. and Dakota St., Vermillion, SD

sanfordvermillion.org



In collaboration with the University of South Dakota Health Professions Program students



SANFORD
Vermillion