



May Volunteer of the Month Celebrated



L to R: Allison Schmitt, Helpline Center; Keith Corbett, City of Brookings Mayor; Dhwani Kharel, Volunteer of the Month; Heidi Gullickson, BAUW Executive Director; Brianna Doran, BAUW Director of Communications and Impact

The Helpline Center congratulates Dhwani Kharel on being named the May 2021 Volunteer of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by the Helpline Center and First Bank & Trust.

Dhwani has served as a volunteer for Brookings Area United Way, helping in many capacities. She gathered data for the Resilient Communities and the Community Development Block Grant that will help grow the food programs and nonprofit outreach in the Brookings area. Dhwani started volunteering for BAUW through her university's grant, taking the initiative to find volunteer opportunities while home during the pandemic.

Jumping in right away, Dhvani helped remotely, creating manuals for the Brookings Domestic Abuse Shelter and assisted with various other volunteer opportunities. She also assisted in installing the Born Learning Trails to make early childhood education more accessible. She also helped deliver food boxes from the Food Pantry and filled in wherever needed with any of United Way's network.

Staff expressed their gratitude for all of Dhvani's help. Heidi Gullickson, BAUW Executive Director, stated "I'm so grateful for Dhvani's willingness to jump in anytime and help with any project. Her self-starter attitude helped our staff stay focused during the pandemic and allow our organization to explore new opportunities to serve our community. Her caring attitude and kindness were very appreciated and welcomed."

Congratulations, Dhvani, on being our much-deserved May Volunteer of the Month!

For information on volunteer opportunities or the Volunteer of the Month program, please contact Allison Schmitt at bkvol@helplinecenter.org or call 211 for more information.