



*Contact* Samantha Turnquist  
*Telephone* 605-692-4979  
*Email* Samantha@brookingsunitedway.org  
*Website* Brookingsunitedway.org

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## TEAM ADVANCE JUNE VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Brookings Area United Way congratulates Team Advance on being named the June 2023 Volunteer of the Month, an award program sponsored by First Bank & Trust.

ADVANCE is a private non-profit organization that supports more than 100 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Brookings community. Of these 100 people, there are very few that would say no to any opportunity to give back to the community that they love!

ADVANCE has a long history of participating in a variety of volunteer and fundraising opportunities. Throughout the years, they have dubbed themselves "Team Advance" for many events. Yearly, Team Advance contributes toys for Project Joy and school supplies for the Brookings Family Back 2 School Project. For years, they raised funds for the March of Dimes. They also helped deliver totes of food for the Brookings Backpack Project. If the service entails kids, there is sure to be a huge turn out of support! Other opportunities that this group has supported have been helping at the Brookings Marathon, Ringing the Bells for The Salvation Army, and of course supporting the local Special Olympics team!

This compassionate group also supports the Brookings Regional Humane Society and volunteers their efforts weekly. They have done different drives to support them in their day to day needs. They also recently did a drive for the Sioux Falls Regional Humane Society and took a trip to deliver the items and volunteer there.

Looking to the future, Advance is always exploring opportunities to expand efforts to make a positive difference in the community. Advance will be volunteering with the Game Fish and Parks Department and Habitat for Humanity. The Self Advocacy Group also has a goal to bring Disability Awareness front and center in the Brookings community by collaborating with different partners and offering opportunities to provide education and open up a positive conversation about disabilities.

Thank you, Team Advance, for your contributions to the Brookings Community! ###