

SMP Spotlight: Volunteer Appreciation

Each month, the SMP National Resource Center Facebook page spotlights one SMP project or topic. The topic of volunteer appreciation was featured in April 2018. Below are the posts, written by SMPs from Georgia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Dakota.

April 2 – Introduction

SMP National Resource Center

Volunteers are an invaluable asset to each SMP. They take on many roles in making an SMP project run more efficiently and effectively by assisting with office work, manning booths at fairs, making group presentations, handling complex interactions, and so on. April is the month to take some special steps to really appreciate and recognize all the great work volunteers do. This month's spotlight is designed to showcase SMP project's efforts aimed at recognizing their volunteers.



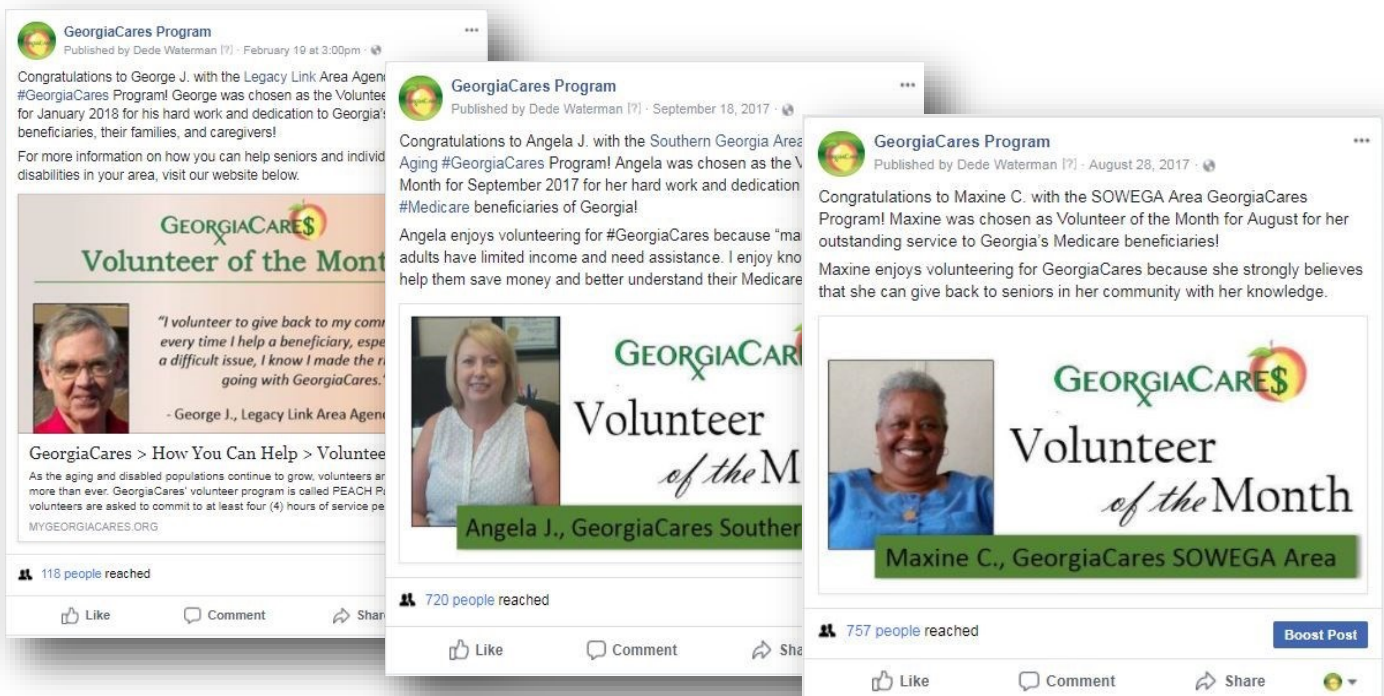
April 5 – Georgia

Patsy McDoodle, SMP director

GeorgiaCares selects one volunteer to recognize as the GeorgiaCares Volunteer of the Month. The recognized volunteer gets their photo and quote explaining why they volunteer posted to Facebook. Recognizing volunteers on social media allows Georgia Cares to reach an average of 333 people. The intent is to celebrate the meaningful and fulfilling work completed by the GeorgiaCares volunteers.

In addition:

- The post links to the agency's volunteer page
- Tags the local SMP or SHIP grantee to increase the post's reach
- Post is shared with family and friends



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April 10 – Ohio

Anne Fredrickson, SMP director

The Ohio SMP recognizes volunteers yearly in September with a luncheon and gift card. A keynote speaker is invited and many of our honored volunteers have attended the SMP National Conference. Our volunteers desire and really appreciate being provided updated Information. This event has been effective for increasing our volunteer's commitment to the SMP Program.

April 19 – Pennsylvania

Ariel Rabinovic, SMP Advocate

The Pennsylvania SMP routinely uses Facebook to feature the achievements of our volunteers. For example, we posted a photo of one of our veteran volunteers (10 years with SMP!) receiving the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from state Senator Bob Casey. The hope is that these posts help with volunteer recruitment but more importantly, it definitely boosts the morale of our current volunteers and the PA SMP community.



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April 24 — North Dakota

Linda Madsen, SMP director

The North Dakota SMP has been focusing on increasing Facebook followers and featuring volunteers at events. Suzanne, one of our volunteers, created a video featuring the SMP volunteers for Volunteer Appreciation Month and recently shared it on Facebook.

To watch the video, visit www.facebook.com/northdakotaseniormedicarepatrol/videos/1678321018922323/



To read more from these contributors about volunteer appreciation, please view this [article](#) from the May 2018 Sentinel.