



NMM Participates In Blue Star Museum Program

VERMILLION — The National Music Museum, in Vermillion, South Dakota, is pleased to participate again in Blue Star Museums, offering free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve and their families.

The program runs through Labor Day: Sept. 7, 2015.

The program is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America. Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. A complete list of participating Blue Star museums is available at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

The National Music Museum's summer 2015 exhibit also happens to coincide with the Blue Star program this year. The exhibit, "Banding Together — The American Soldier's Music Arsenal," will showcase rare historic instruments issued to or used by U.S. soldiers throughout American military history. It will also feature rare wartime photos, posters, sheet music, uniforms, and many other previously un-displayed artifacts from the Museum's extensive holdings.

Besides the National Music Museum in Vermillion, South Dakota, regional Blue Star participants this year include the Prehistoric Indian Village, in Mitchell, South Dakota; The Railroad Museum, in Sioux City, Iowa; and the Joslyn Art Museum, in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Blue Star free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty U.S. military — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps - and up to five family members.

The National Music Museum's summer hours through Labor Day, are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday; 1-5 p.m., Sundays. The Museum is located in the middle of Vermillion, on the corner of East Clark and Yale streets, on the campus of the University of South Dakota. More information at nmmusd.org.

Peschong Named May's Volunteer Of The Month

Victims of domestic violence often feel their world has been turned upside down and their lives will never be the same. When families seek help from the River City Domestic Violence Center, they receive peace of mind in several ways. Including the opportunity to attend support group to talk about their experiences, while their children are able to participate in activities with special volunteers.

One of these special volunteers, Rebecca Peschong, was recently recognized as United Way's May Volunteer of the Month. Rebecca has devoted her time, love and energy to children who have been affected by domestic violence. She not only supervises the children during support sessions, but also participates in several activities with the children including cooking supper, baking and playing games.

"Rebecca shows up to our facility with a beaming smile and heart filled with love and compassion," says River City Domestic Violence Center, Director, Desiree Warren-Johnson. "The embrace of her arms and support empowers these children to know they are loved and everything will be OK."

We asked Rebecca to tell us a little about herself:

I have lived here in the Yankton Area since: 2011

I began volunteering: with River City Domestic Violence Center two years ago.

Volunteer work is enjoyable

because: I am passionate about helping women. The River City Domestic Violence Center offers group counseling for victims of abuse, and I (along with other volunteers) provide on-site child care during the sessions. There are typically two of us watching the children. We feed them and keep them entertained. You never know how many kids you'll be watching or what the age range will be; it definitely keeps you on your toes.



Rebecca Peschong

My best volunteer experience was: when you see kids really having fun. Many of these children are going through a hard time and it can be heart-breaking. Seeing them relaxed in a safe environment and just being kids makes it worthwhile.

The advice I would give to those thinking about getting out there and volunteering in their communities is: if you have an idea of what you'd like to do, or whom you'd like to help, start contacting organizations and just ask. I knew I wanted to do

something that would benefit women, so I contacted the local women's shelter and ask if there was any way I could be of service. I never would have sought out "child care" opportunities, but this is what they needed ... this is how I could help. I would also say that if you don't have a lot of time to give, that's okay; even a little time can make a big difference.

For more information about volunteerism in the greater Yankton area, please contact the United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton at (605)665-6766 or volunserve@iw.net.

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