



## Black Hills Special Services Cooperative

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*Belle Fourche, Custer, Douglas, Edgemont, Haakon, Hill City, Hot Springs, Lead/Deadwood, Meade, Oelrichs, Rapid City, Spearfish*

August 9, 2010

Mr. Mike Welchynski  
Spirit of the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary  
500 N. Tinton Road  
Spearfish, SD 57783

Dear Mike:

In late June of this year, a small group of five people from Black Hills Special Services began volunteering at Spirit of the Hills. Within a few weeks, their enthusiasm generated requests from more people to join them. Now, just over a month later, 25 people and support staff from BHSSC volunteer on a rotating basis! The feedback from the volunteers and the people who support them has been very positive. People are having new opportunities and learning from hands-on experience – and they are excited and proud. Conversations about events at the sanctuary (“We got spit on by a *camel!*”, “I got food ready for the bears today!”) are shared on a regular basis. The volunteer activities (preparing food for the animals and seeing them eat it, providing water, helping to keep the animals’ environment clean) provide natural opportunities for learning and working as a team with others.

The BHSSC mission of *Working Together to Achieve Goals and Dreams* can only be accomplished through partnerships with individuals and organizations in our community. We appreciate being able to include Spirit of the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in our growing support network, and we look forward to ongoing cooperative efforts with your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Shirley Halverson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shirley Halverson, Director  
BHSSC Developmental Disabilities Division