



July 9, 2009

Helping Hands

Name: Ruth Anklam

Residence: Wausau

Age: 81

Family: Husband, Donald, with nine surviving children, 18 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren

Volunteer activities: Coordinates SHARE, the Self-Help and Resource Exchange food buying program in Wausau

What do you do as a volunteer? "We couldn't eat steak if it weren't for this," Anklam said.

Through SHARE, individuals and families participate monthly in wholesale food purchasing, saving 30 percent to 50 percent off grocery store prices on each month's assortment of meat, produce and canned or packaged goods.

Anklam tallies each month's orders and helps when about 60 volunteers divide each shipment into individual boxes for pickup. Her husband helps with delivering some orders to housing sites.

"Usually I call everyone. I think I made about 160 calls last month," Anklam said.

How long have you been involved? The Anklaams have participated in SHARE for about 20 years, since her late sister in Merrill was involved.

"This is my 10th year as coordinator," she said. "It's interesting. You meet a lot of people."

To participate in SHARE: For more information about the program, log on to www.sharewi.org or call 800-548-2124.

Helping Hands recognizes the work of volunteers in the community. To nominate someone, send information to Helping Hands, PO Box 1286, Wausau WI 54402-1286, or e-mail it to sblock@wdhprint.com.
