

VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

April 2013, Kansas

Earth Team Helps Individual Get Back into the Workforce

When you walk into the USDA Service Center in Cheyenne County, Kansas, you hear an enthusiastic "hello!"

Meet Doyle Easter, an Earth Team Volunteer who has been answering phones and greeting office visitors 25 hours a week for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Easter began volunteering in July 2011 by offering to fold newsletters and complete other volunteer tasks from his home. He then worked a fair booth during the Cheyenne County Fair for two years.

Recently, the office needed a volunteer to cover office duties. "I thought it would be a good opportunity to get back into the working world," said Easter.

"He fills a real need in our office," said NRCS Kansas District Conservationist, Bernadette Luncsford.

After losing his left leg in 2009, Easter applied for employment, but was told several times that insurance companies had liability issues with hiring a disabled person.

"The most challenging aspect for me has been overcoming the stigma of being a liability," said Easter.

"Being an Earth Team Volunteer has allowed me to become an asset and regain my self-worth. I love being in the office and helping people."



Left: Doyle Easter has volunteered with the Earth Team since July 2011. He currently volunteers 25 hours a week at the St. Francis USDA Service Center in Cheyenne County, Kansas.



The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a USDA agency. For more about NRCS and the Earth Team, visit www.usda.nrcs.gov.

If you are interested in volunteering, call (888) 526-3227 or visit your local NRCS office to learn about volunteer opportunities.