

THE Importance of Caring

MAY 2023

my journey into volunteering



Kathy Harsh-Pollard

CHILD CARE CENTER – INFANT ROOM
(FAMILY CARE SERVICES)

Kathy Harsh-Pollard was her husband's primary caretaker for three years. When he passed away, she realized she needed something more in her life. Volunteering at Columbus Community Hospital was the answer.

Harsh-Pollard was born in Nazareth, Texas, and moved to a farm near Lindsay, Nebraska, when she was 3 — her father had grown up in the area and decided to move his family home. She attended and graduated from Lindsay Holy Family School.

She began her volunteer services at Columbus Community Hospital in 2018 at the front desk, helping people as they entered the hospital. Currently, Harsh-Pollard has volunteered at the Child Care Center for more than four years.

“My typical day is just to hold and love the babies,” she said. **“I rock the babies, feed them their bottles and cuddle with them. Sometimes I rock the same baby for three hours and enjoy it.”**

At one point, Harsh-Pollard had four children younger than 4 years old,

including a set of twins, so volunteering at the Child Care Center came naturally to her.

She was a stay-at-home mom and a volunteer at St. Isidore's School until her twins entered kindergarten. For the next 31 years, she worked at Vishay-Dale and Central Community College – Columbus. After retiring, she returned to St. Isidore School and West Park School, helping teachers with reading and correcting homework papers.

She said the hospital is a very generous and positive place to volunteer. Volunteers enjoy monthly lunches, a special Christmas luncheon and a ham or turkey for Christmas.

“The Child Care Center teachers are exceptional people,” said Harsh-Pollard. **“They love every child who comes into their care. They have also been very supportive of me.”**

In her free time, Harsh-Pollard is very active. She enjoys taking daily walks, reading and attending church at St. Isidore's. She is in the process of making

her 19th quilt and teaches an embroidery class at the college. She also drives older adults to church and runs errands with them.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities available at the hospital, visit columbushosp.org.