

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into volunteering



LaVonne Schultz

SURGERY WAITING ROOM VOLUNTEER

When families gather in the surgery waiting room while their loved one undergoes surgery, the time can be very stressful. They anxiously await word from the doctor, all the while fearing that they will receive bad news. At such a tense time, they could use a friendly face.

That's where LaVonne Schultz comes in. Schultz has been volunteering in the surgery waiting room at Columbus Community Hospital for the past 13 years. In this role, she is a hostess to the families who are waiting, offering them beverages and answering their questions.

"I enjoy visiting with the families," she said. **"Sometimes I visit with a family I haven't seen for years."**

Originally from Lytton, Iowa, Schultz worked at a number of different employers in the Columbus area, including Columbus Medical Center,

Keystone Pipeline and two different banks. She became a volunteer at the hospital after her daughter approached her with the opportunity.

The surgery waiting room role has been a particularly good position for Schultz because she knows what it's like to be a worried family member. Her mother passed away from cancer at age 50, and her father and brothers died after experiencing heart attacks.

During her 13 years as a volunteer, Schultz has appreciated that the volunteer and guest services staff members work with her to help her achieve the number of hours she wants to work.

She encourages others who are considering volunteering to take the step. **"You are needed,"** she said. **"You will be gratified. Volunteer leaders are fun."**

When she's not working at the hospital, Schultz enjoys walking and volunteering in the nursery at Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbus.

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