

THE Importance of Caring

JANUARY 2022

my journey into health care



Debbie Pillen

VOLUNTEEN COORDINATOR

For VolunTEEN coordinator Debbie Pillen, her time at Columbus Community Hospital has been nothing short of rewarding.

Pillen has worked as an elementary teacher, business owner and insurance agent. She was drawn to pursue a career at CCH after experiencing the kind, compassionate care her mother received during her long-term illness and stay at the hospital. **“Witnessing this, I wanted to give back to the hospital that gave so much care and comfort to my mother and family,”** she said.

Pillen first started with CCH in 2019, working in the hospital’s gift shop. **“It was a fun job designing display cases, going to market and working with helpful and thoughtful volunteers and VolunTEENS,”** she said.

After a while, a position working with the VolunTEEN program became available, and she decided to apply for the job. **“After meeting the VolunTEENS through my time at The Gift Shop and my previous teaching experience, I felt this position would be another rewarding experience for me,”** Pillen said.

In her current role as VolunTEEN coordinator, Pillen helps recruit local teens interested in health care and guides them as they learn more about the hospital environment.

“I spend time discovering departments within the hospital that need extra help covering their duties that a VolunTEEN could assist with,” she said. **“I then interview highly recommended teens to discover which departments would be a good match.”**

Once the teens have been matched with their respective departments and properly trained, they are placed with the department to begin their VolunTEEN experience.

“Our VolunTEENS meet with health care professionals willing to train and spend time answering questions about health care careers, COVID experiences and how they became interested in their career,” Pillen said.

Pillen is thankful for the support she receives from CCH, especially in regards to the VolunTEEN program. **“CCH has supported the VolunTEEN program by**

having a lot of interest in, and accepting, our VolunTEENS into its departments,” she said.

For more information on becoming a volunteer or VolunTEEN at CCH, visit columbushosp.org.