

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into volunteering



Kathy Jackson

BEVERAGE CART/VENDING

For nearly 46 years, Kathy Jackson has been a valued volunteer for Columbus Community Hospital. Back when she started, the volunteer and guest services department was known as the Red Cross Volunteers. **“As volunteers, we did everything from hospital tours, to fundraisers, to the beverage cart and more,”** Jackson said.

For her, volunteering at Columbus Community Hospital has evoked memories of her own family. **“There were 10 kids in my family, and we all worked as a team,”** she said. **“That really taught me what teamwork meant.”**

Jackson started working at the Sidewalk Café in Columbus when she was only 11 years old. **“I had a good work ethic long before I even knew what that was!”** she said.

She attended St. Bonaventure Catholic Elementary School and Scotus Central Catholic, graduating in 1971. She later attended Platte College, which is today known as Central Community College.

After spending so much of her life as a volunteer, Jackson still absolutely loves her job serving from the beverage cart. **“It is an unbelievable feeling to offer patients a cup of coffee and a smile,”** she said. **“It means so much to people. I want anyone who is thinking about volunteering at the hospital to know that it’s good for your heart.”**

In addition to working the beverage cart, Jackson also enjoys helping out with the many fundraiser events the volunteers sponsor, including the butterfly release. She and her husband, Jay, grow milkweed on their property, which is nature’s breeding ground for monarch butterflies. Last year they raised 21 butterflies.

When she’s not volunteering at the hospital, you’ll find Jackson teaching one of four classes at the YMCA as a fitness instructor, creating embroidery at Jackson Services, playing volleyball, doing puzzles or crafts or working in her garden.

Columbus Community Hospital’s volunteers provide high-quality service

to patients, families, visitors and medical staff. People like Jackson provide hands-on service as an extension of the health care team.

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