

# THE Importance of Caring

my journey into volunteering



## Jeff Morris

VOLUNTEER - FRONT DESK  
 HEALTHPARK MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING

A year and a half ago, Jeff Morris experienced some serious health problems that required a stay at Columbus Community Hospital. When he was hospitalized, he said, the volunteers he and his wife Kelli encountered were incredibly helpful. **“I vowed that if I got the chance to do that for somebody else, I would,”** he said.

Now, Morris has his opportunity: He’s one of the front desk volunteers at Healthpark Medical Office Building (MOB). **“I consider myself to be one of the good kinds of MOBsters,”** he quips.

Before he retired, Morris was involved in several different careers, but he spent the bulk of his working years as a basketball coach at Twin River Public Schools. **“I liked practices and game preparation more than the games, because that’s where success starts,”** he said. **“If your team is prepared for competition, they will have confidence. If they are fundamentally sound and play good defense, you will be competitive. This doesn’t happen by osmosis — it takes work.”**

He was also involved in human services, working for both Boys Town and Goodwill Industries. **“Trying to be of service to other has always mattered to me,”** he said.

Now, he is enjoying retirement because it gives him an opportunity to both volunteer and be a dad and grandpa. He and Kelli have three sons. **“As a father, you always pray your kids will grow up to be better than you are,”** he said. **“They did. True, it’s not exactly a high bar that was set ...”**

**“I stopped smoking 39 years ago and quit drinking 38 years ago, and that changed my life,”** he added. **“I do the best I can to lead a God-pleasing life. I also smile at all children when I see them, and I encourage other men and women to do so too, because kids need to know there are good people in the world.”**

Morris cultivates a special relationship with his grandchildren by writing books for them. Each book is specific to the grandchild for which it is written. **“I use Photoshop to make them illustrated stories, and then I make them each a**

**character in their own story,”** he said. **“I try to make the stories humorous and fun.”**

Working at the medical office building, Morris said, has given him an opportunity to truly make a difference in other people’s lives. **“When people come, they are often fighting battles we don’t know anything about,”** he said. **“It can be a bit scary and confusing. If something as simple as pointing them in the right direction can help, then I need to be there doing it. I try to be a smiling, friendly person.”**

Not only is his volunteer job helpful to other people, he said, but it’s incredibly fun for him, too.

**“I have run into so many people I have known most of my life, but haven’t seen in decades,”** he said. **“It has been a lot of fun to reconnect with them and, at the same time, be of help, even minimally. I am thoroughly enjoying myself.”**

**To learn more about volunteer opportunities available at the hospital, visit [columbushosp.org](http://columbushosp.org).**