

# THE Importance of

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# Caring

my journey into volunteering



## Judy Schademann

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

While Judy Schademann retired from nursing in 2018, her desire to help people and positively impact their lives continued.

The Silver Creek native completed the practical nursing program at Central Community College in Columbus and spent 45 years working as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) in pediatric, medical and women's health clinics. She also served as a certified cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instructor.

Over the years, she remained involved in the Columbus community, spending much of her free time with her husband and four children, and walking, gardening, practicing yoga and volunteering to help others. In August 2018, she decided to return to Columbus Community Hospital as a member of its volunteer program.

**"The most rewarding thing I found about being a nurse is the personal connections I could make with patients,"** she said. **"Given my previous work experience, volunteering at the hospital was a natural fit. I enjoyed being around people and built my career on helping others, which is what I wanted to achieve as a volunteer."**

Schademann is an active member of the volunteer program. Some of her duties

with the program have included assisting with the hospital's blood drives and fundraising events, serving meals at the physician welcome receptions and assisting with the hospital's COVID-19 clinic. Most recently, her volunteer work has led her to Occupational Health Services (OHS) and the hematology and oncology clinic at the hospital.

As an OHS volunteer, Schademann visits the clinic once a month and is one of the first people patients meet when they arrive for their appointments. During her morning shifts, she helps greet patients and answers phones for the office staff. When she's not busy interacting with patients, she assists the office staff with other daily tasks.

While she enjoys each volunteer assignment, Schademann found she was especially passionate about volunteering in the hematology and oncology clinic. She offers comfort to patients by providing pillows, warm blankets and moral support during their appointments. Following their treatment, she walks patients to their car and sanitizes the treatment area for the next patient.

**"Helping others is something I've always loved, especially patients,"** she said. **"I find great joy in serving those in need, as it provides a sense of purpose."**

**The more we give, the happier we feel. I want to make a difference."**

Schademann looks forward to continuing her volunteer work at the hospital. She encourages others interested in volunteering to learn more about the program and explore the variety of opportunities available, because there is a little something for everyone.

**"It's a very well-organized program with wonderful support from the hospital,"** she said. **"You not only do a great service by giving back to others, but are also deeply appreciated for your work."**

The Nebraska Nurse Honor Guard recently approached Schademann about serving on the guard, beginning in March 2023. Active and retired nurses from around the state join together to make up the leadership group and pay tribute to fellow fallen nurses at their time of death. Similar to a military tribute, they respectfully release the nurse from their nursing duties. Schademann is honored to join the guard and looks forward to the new service opportunity to honor her fellow nurses.

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