

THE Importance of **Caring**

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my journey into volunteering



Dee Smith

HUMPHREY MEDICAL CLINIC VOLUNTEER

Two of the most common reasons why people enjoy volunteering at Columbus Community Hospital are that they like meeting new people and it gives them a sense of purpose. Both those sentiments ring true for Humphrey Medical Clinic volunteer Dee Smith.

“As soon as people see the green jacket, it strikes up a conversation, and people want to learn more about it,” she said. **“It gives me a chance to meet people I might not meet if I passed them on the streets.”**

When initially asked if she would be interested in volunteering, Smith was unsure if it was the right choice for her and respectfully declined the offer. But when the opportunity presented itself a second time, she decided to look into it a little more. After asking her friends about their volunteer experiences, she submitted an application.

Smith is now in her third year of volunteering and said it was one of her best decisions.

As a volunteer, Smith visits the clinic weekly and helps office staff with necessary tasks for the day. She does a little bit of everything — assembling

paperwork, welcoming patients and getting them refreshments while they wait for their appointment. Once the last patient leaves for the day, Smith helps straighten up the exam room, cleans the coffee pot and sanitizes the waiting area.

“I enjoy working at the clinic because I get to see people I used to work with at Vishay-Dale,” she said. **“I also like that the clinic is convenient for rural communities, and they don’t have to travel far to receive care.”**

The Schuyler, Nebraska, native moved to Columbus when she married her husband. After raising her children, she accepted a line position with Vishay-Dale, where she retired after 33 years of service. Smith said now that she’s retired, she enjoys waking up in the morning, getting dressed and having a sense of purpose.

“Many people think the drive to Humphrey is long, but I think it’s relaxing because I can turn up my music and drive,” she said. **“And when I’m at the clinic talking with the patients, we sometimes discover connections we have in common that we might not have known otherwise — it’s pretty neat!”**

In addition to volunteering at Humphrey Medical Clinic, Smith also volunteers for the American Red Cross blood drives at the Columbus Outreach Center. She enjoys attending her seven grandkids’ sporting events and making floral arrangements for her friends and family.

While she stays involved with her family, friends and community, Smith said her decision to volunteer with the hospital has positively impacted her life in ways she would never have imagined.

“The hospital’s support for its volunteers is outstanding,” she said. **“If I ever needed anything, I would have more than one person there to help me. It’s been a wonderful ride I treasure every week.”**

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