

THE Importance of **Caring**

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my journey into volunteering



Carol Uden

CRAFTS AND SEWING VOLUNTEER

When you visit The Gift Shop at Columbus Community Hospital, you will see beautiful handmade quilts on display and available for purchase. These homemade quilts are stitched with love by volunteers like Carol Uden.

For the past 14 years, Uden has served in various volunteer roles at the hospital, including assisting in the hospital's medical office building, leading patients to appointments and delivering patient mail and meal menus. Currently, Uden helps in the sewing suite at the hospital's South Campus, making baby quilts for The Gift Shop.

Throughout her volunteer career at the hospital, she has donated more than 3,000 hours of her time.

Before she became a volunteer, Uden worked as a patient accounts associate for 34 years.

"I decided to come back to the hospital in March 2007 as a volunteer because I enjoyed sewing, and I wanted to share that gift to help others," she said. **"My mother and high school home economics teacher taught me to sew. I have been sewing for more than 60 years."**

Uden works approximately 15 hours each month making baby quilts in different colors, patterns and fabrics.

Each quilt takes 10-25 hours to complete depending on the type of quilt. She has also helped make receiving blankets, burp cloths and bibs; however, she said the blankets are her favorite project to sew.

"As a crafts and sewing volunteer, I do several jobs, including purchasing and preparing the fabric, sewing and finishing the quilt," she said. **"We finish each quilt by sewing on prairie points, which is a specific style in which we use squares of fabric folded into triangles to embellish the quilt."**

When she is not sewing baby blankets for The Gift Shop, she enjoys sewing pillowcase dresses and quilts donated to Orphan Grain Train through her church.

Uden is thankful hospital leaders support her work and show appreciation for her time.

"They supply us with everything we need to complete our sewing projects," she said. **"Every time I volunteer,**

someone always goes out of their way to greet me and thank me for my work."

Uden enjoys her work and the people she meets. She encourages potential volunteers to stay open-minded and explore a new opportunity designed to fit their area of interest.

"CCH is a fun place to volunteer," she said. **"There are many great benefits; plus, the fellowship and satisfaction of helping others is top-notch."**

For more information on volunteering at Columbus Community Hospital, visit columbushosp.org.