

CCHF Board Member

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Spotlight

Columbus Community Hospital Foundation



Pat Anderson

FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER

Pat Anderson never imagined she would be serving on the board of a hospital foundation. However, after a loved one's personal life-changing experience, Anderson understood the importance of Columbus Community Hospital in the community.

The Nebraska native graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in music education.

After college, Anderson taught music in Kansas while her husband, Jack, completed his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. After he finished his schooling, he spent two years in the U.S. Air Force in Oregon, while Pat worked as the Air Force base preschool teacher and a music therapist at a state-run school for grades 7-12.

Following their time in the Air Force, the couple moved to Illinois, where Jack was a partner in a mixed animal veterinary practice for 11 years, and Pat taught private piano and voice lessons.

They returned to Columbus in 1978. Jack founded and practiced in a swine consulting practice, and Pat continued to teach music part time at Shell Creek Elementary and served as a substitute teacher in Columbus Public Schools.

Anderson later became the business manager for her husband's veterinary practices.

Over the years, Anderson has served in various leadership positions for state and local organizations. She was the national president of the Auxiliary of the American Veterinary Medical Association. She also served two terms on the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF). During her time with the AVMF, Anderson said she experienced the benefits of foundations and the challenge of fundraising.

Anderson originally joined the Columbus Community Hospital Foundation board in 2008, serving the maximum allowed time of three three-year terms. She served as the board secretary from 2014-2017 and ended her final term in 2017. But she later returned to the board in 2020.

"We became interested in the foundation after seeing the personal impact of the PWR! program (Parkinson Wellness Recovery) at the University of Arizona," Anderson said. **"We wanted others to be exposed to these life-changing programs, so the foundation was the logical path."**

Anderson said she enjoys the camaraderie of people coming together to achieve a goal

and seeing the results from working as a team.

"I appreciate learning the positive activities that happen at the hospital that I would not have known about otherwise," she said. **"It's fun being in the know. Plus, I meet other board members."**

The foundation works to secure funding from generous donors and manages the hospital's investments, which profit from the varied talents on the board. As a result of this teamwork and collaboration, the hospital can acquire equipment and facilities it might not have been able to afford.

Anderson said it is important for community members to know the foundation appreciates their support and will work with donors at any level where they are most comfortable.

"Everyone in the community benefits from a good hospital — let's make this one the best we can," Anderson said.

For more information on Anderson or the Columbus Community Hospital Foundation, please visit <https://www.columbushosp.org/foundation.aspx>.