

# THE Importance of . Caring

MAY 2022

my journey into volunteering



## Susie Shalon

### THE GIFT SHOP

A long-standing career in accounting and a passion for products led Susie Shalon to find her second home in The Gift Shop at Columbus Community Hospital. For more than 30 years, she listened intently as her loved ones shared stories about their experiences volunteering at the hospital, and once she decided to retire, there was no question what her next move would be.

Shalon's mom worked as a volunteer at the hospital's front information desk for more than 25 years, and her husband, Marv, has volunteered at the information desk for eight years. Ultimately, Shalon decided to pursue a path that fully utilized her previous work experience. She knew The Gift Shop would be the perfect fit.

Shalon worked as an accounting clerk throughout her professional career and spent the last 13 years at Mid-American Research Chemical (MARC). While her primary responsibilities centered on accounting and finances, her interest in products and shopping showed through. Shalon selected and purchased the company's promotional products, and she was her boss's personal shopper.

Shalon retired from MARC in December 2018 and joined her husband as a hospital volunteer in May 2019.

**"Given my previous career experiences, volunteering in The Gift Shop was a natural fit for me," she said. "I knew I enjoyed being around people and working with products. I am comfortable with money handling, so my volunteer work incorporates my interest areas. I love shopping, so it's definitely an added perk!"**

Hospital staff and visitors can find Shalon volunteering at the hospital each Monday – rotating between The Gift Shop and restocking the vending machines.

**"I love working in the gift shop and helping people find the perfect item they're looking for," she said. "I also enjoy restocking the vending machines because that's something my husband and I do together. Plus, it's helped me learn my way around the hospital. It truly is the perfect blend."**

When Shalon arrives for her shift, she spends the first portion orienting herself to the new items and promotions. After that, she works the cash register, rearranges products displays and helps customers.

**"For me, coming to work is two and a half hours of shopping," she said. "We always have new products arriving, so I can help customers find the perfect**

**item and wrap it up neatly for them – I just love it!"**

Shalon said it's the people who make the most significant impact on her experience.

**"We've been to many different hospitals, and Columbus Community Hospital has the nicest people," she said. "Everyone who sees us thanks us for our work, and it's a great feeling to have people who support you."**

In addition to the people she has met throughout her volunteer experience, Shalon said the additional perks that come as a "thank you" for her volunteer work are a bonus.

Shalon encourages others to explore the variety of volunteer areas available and consider submitting a volunteer application.

**"It's not a large time commitment," she said. "You can choose to volunteer more if you want, but it's a great way to get out, do good work and meet wonderful people."**

**For more information on being a volunteer at Columbus Community Hospital, visit [columbushosp.org](http://columbushosp.org).**