

THE Importance of . Caring

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my journey into volunteering



Alice Wragge

MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING & BEVERAGE CART

Helping people has always been incredibly important for Alice Wragge. After retiring from 32 years in education, she knew she wanted to give back.

Wragge grew up in Wausa, Nebraska, a small town with a strong Swedish background. Her first teaching position was in Ewing, Nebraska. In 1974, she moved to Columbus, where she taught kindergarten through college.

“I have loved every level of teaching and feel I have helped so many,” she said. **“I have taught kindergartners, children with reading difficulties, college-aged students and teachers.”**

Wragge began her volunteer services at Columbus Public Library, where she shelved books and catalogued items, and since December 2014, her focus has been on the hospital.

“When visiting the hospital, I saw others helping and thought volunteering at CCH is just what I want to do,” she said. **“My parents had been in assisted living, and I saw firsthand how much volunteers helped my parents.”**

On Friday afternoons, Wragge operates the beverage cart. Her duties include providing refreshments for patients, staff

and visitors. She also checks to see if their flowers need water and whether they need anything else to make their stay more comfortable.

On Monday mornings, you will find Wragge in the Healthpark Medical Office Building adjacent to the hospital. She describes her tasks there as “way-finding” — helping people find their way to appointments inside various clinics.

Wragge feels the hospital is very supportive of its volunteers. Hospital leaders have always responded and listened to everything she has ever requested.

She offered great advice to anyone interested in volunteering: **“You will get back more than you give,”** she said. **“A smile goes a long way. Volunteering at the hospital feels like a family once you’ve been here, and it is very rewarding.”**

Helping others is her passion. Overall, she loves being at the hospital with her second family.

In her free time, Wragge enjoys crafting, spending lots of time with friends and completing puzzles. Traveling is at the

top of her list — especially to national parks. Her goal is to visit as many national parks as possible. In particular, she loves visiting Glacier National Park in Montana and enjoying the scenery throughout the state of Utah.

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