

Volunteer Spotlight October 2016

Susan Berns

Lifetime Hours: 115

Volunteer Area: Spiritual Care – Eucharistic Minister, Palliative Care, Hospice
5.5 years of service to volunteering

Why do you choose to volunteer at St. Luke's?

I am a retiree from St. Luke's where I worked as a nurse. I had parents who were very strong volunteers and they had such joy volunteering that I think had a strong influence on me. Volunteering gives me a chance to spend time with the patients and get to see old friends and old colleagues. I feel so strongly that St. Luke's is such a wonderful hospital and it gives me a chance to play my part. It makes me happy to spend time with people-- you feel very cherished and welcomed and appreciated.



What do you find most rewarding about your volunteer assignment?

I deliver communion to patients so being able to touch and support people on their spiritual journey and being able to help them in a time of crisis and hopefully bring them some comfort is very rewarding. I also volunteer in Hospice-- I've always valued being a part of the hospice team and being able to support the staff means a lot to me.

What do you get to do in your free time?

In my free time I volunteer at quite a few places—once or twice a week at the VA in Iowa City. My husband and I volunteer with knights of Columbus and with Math Counts. When we aren't volunteering, we love to travel, and we are in a card club. I also have 10 great nieces and nephews (all within an hour of here) so I try to spend as much time at their activities as possible.

What is your favorite TV show?

Downton Abbey, Call the Midwife, Poldark, Blacklist, and Elementary.

Favorite Quote:

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve" –Albert Schweitzer