

Volunteer Spotlight

March 2016



Kathy Wooten

Kathy has been volunteering at the Marie Smith Center as an Activity Assistant three days a week for FIFTEEN years! She is one of VOA Oregon's longest volunteers and we are so thankful to have her commitment. The Marie Smith Center provides daytime care and support for elderly adults and those with disabilities.

Surprisingly, Kathy had no experience working with seniors prior to her volunteering with VOA Oregon. She was actually working at a daycare and looking for a change when she found the Marie Smith Center. As an Activity Assistant, Kathy helps with everything. Whether she's playing bingo or cleaning after lunch, her biggest contribution is forming lasting relationships with our clients.

One of Kathy's fondest memories is taking field trips with the clients to the Festival of Trees over the holidays. But these days, she loves to stay at the center, play games, share life stories and experiences, and help wherever she can. As such an experienced volunteer, Kathy also helps train new volunteers and show them the ropes. Her knowledge is essential for those just getting started. And staff share that her positivity and infectious laugh bring joy and so much life to every day she is there.

Kathy loves spending her time with the Marie Smith Center because it's not stressful, she can help people with even simple things, and give back to the community. She emphasizes how meaningful the relationships are with staff and clients and says everyone is so nice and supportive. She encourages other people to get involved in this welcoming community.

Thank you, Kathy, for all that you do and for your continued commitment to VOA Oregon!