

Volunteer Spotlight

January 2016



Rob Yorke

Rob has been volunteering as a Culinary Assistant with Catering for a Cause for almost two years. Catering for a Cause, one of VOA Oregon's business enterprises, serves over 20,000 meals a month to local nonprofits, businesses, and private parties; even to many of VOA Oregon's own programs. All proceeds support VOA Oregon in helping the most vulnerable in our community.

Rob is described by his colleagues as flexible, positive, and gracious. He's a pro at creating wonderful catering trays. He's happy to volunteer weekends, special events, and even travel offsite. Because of his happy demeanor and dedication, catering staff always look forward to his shifts.

And the feeling is mutual. After Rob retired in 2013, he found the volunteer opportunity with Catering for a Cause because of his love of cooking. Rob describes the kitchen as, "professional, fast paced, and full of challenges." He's learned a lot and enjoys the boisterous atmosphere of laughing and teasing. Because of his service with Catering for a Cause, Rob has learned to trust his instincts, be creative and flexible with a recipe, and is much more vigilant with food safety in his home.

Rob says the kitchen isn't for everyone, though. But he wouldn't do it if he didn't love it. He enjoys the challenges of making the food look prettier and taste better. He likes being busy and moving quickly, always striving to do better. He believes the hands on experience in the kitchen is more valuable than reading a cooking book and his skills are really developing. Catering for a Cause could be great for other volunteers looking to strengthen their cooking abilities.

Thank you, Rob, for sharing your culinary skills and making a difference in the lives of our clients (and staff!).