

## Pillars Volunteer Spotlight

Colleen Van Rooy

Snack Service



### **Q: Tell me a little about your background?**

*"I was born and raised in New York. The residents at Pillars laugh when I say "cawfee" or "warter" and "hot dawg." At home I keep reminding my kids of my New York-ese when I tell them to "Close da front daw."*

*I moved to Wisconsin after I found "the one," and I did not want to walk through life without him. We have been married 26 years; I love answering the question many Pillars residents ask, "how did you end up in Wisconsin?" I always tell them, with a smile, "I met a Wisconsin boy."*

### **Q: What were you doing before you became a volunteer?**

*"I worked for a major computer company and was a long-term volunteer at my kids' school, and Loaves and Fishes of the Fox Valley before I joined the Pillars team in 2012."*

### **Q: Why did you start volunteering? What motivates you to continue volunteering?**

*"The homeless is a population that I really care about and enjoy serving so I continued with that commitment for the last eight years. I have been a recipient of St Joe's Food Pantry, Heating Assistance, WIC, and other resources when finances got tight due to unfortunate circumstances; this is my way to give back to the community who helped me and my family when we were struggling."*



### **Q: What does your typical volunteer shift look like?**

*"Since I enjoy cooking and serving, I try to make a special dish at home to bring with me. It can be roasted carrots, a salad, an apple dump cake, etc... Before Covid-19 my shift was the first Sunday of the month. I can't always do it alone, so I always have a wonderful group of friends or family helping me. My shift is from 7-9pm and time goes by fast; I'm always amazed at how fast the time goes when I'm at Pillars."*

### **Q: How has volunteering impacted you?**

*"Volunteering makes me feel great! Knowing that my free time is spent helping others makes me happy and I am very glad to do this."*

**Q: What is the best thing that has happened to you, or that you have seen while volunteering?**

*"The staff is so appreciative of my help. I love bringing my family and friends here to help and they keep coming back! There is always a lot of camaraderie and teamwork - I encourage others to join us! It is a fun experience!"*

**Q: Is there one thing the world should know about you?**

*"A fun fact: I am afraid of squirrels! I won't go anywhere near them!"*

**Q: For individuals interested in serving in your position at Pillars, what is one thing they should know?**

*"You don't have to do the dishes during Snack Duty! It's great! This position can be done with two or three people easy. Just round up a few friends and cook or reheat some food and serve. It's as simple as that."*

**THANK YOU, COLLEEN!**



**pillars**

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