

Pillars Volunteer Spotlight

David Kopsi

Late Night Host



Q: Can you tell me a little about yourself?

"I am currently enrolled in Northcentral Technical College where I am working towards my degree in Human Services. I have held many jobs in the industry, but before I decided to become a helper I was a CEO for many years. I found business contradicted my ethics and morals and decided to up and leave that world behind. I am a Veteran of Desert Storm/ Desert Shield, and I served ten years in the United States Air Force. I have held a great many offices in the Information Technology Realm, but my true calling is to assist humanity wherever that need is required. I wish I would have discovered what I truly wanted out of life and work in my younger years, but no better time than the present to continue on with something that I will enjoy."

Q: What were you doing before you became a volunteer at Pillars?

"I was wasting my time away doing little in my free time."



Q: Why did you start volunteering at Pillars? What motivates you to continue volunteering?

"I love people and believe that all people, regardless of race, religion, sex, and gender require the same amount of compassion. Before Pillars I did not volunteer at all. I was required to start volunteering through college and have been doing it ever since. I found a love and passion for volunteering after I started at Pillars. I was, to say it mildly, completely psyched to start volunteering after I met Tony Schneider. I saw the compassion he portrayed for all people and knew at that time that if someone could get out of the helping profession that which Tony had (this is not monetary, but compassion for people) that I needed to have it. Tony was my inspiration to continue with volunteering and if more people could emulate Tony the world would be a far better place."

Q: What does your typical volunteer shift look like?

"My typical day at Pillars varies upon what the individuals require to be completed or require help with, however there are a set of tasks that I complete when I am volunteering. My day starts at 8:00 p.m. and ends at Midnight. I check in with the personnel at Pillars and I ask what they need done that day as far as items that are not part of my daily activities. My daily activities as a nighttime host are as follows: I serve meals to clients; do client laundry and Pillars specific laundry; make bag lunches; clean the kitchen; mop the floors in the kitchen and back area; clean out the refrigerator of expired foods (if any); rearrange the refrigerators so more items can be placed in the refrigerator; straighten up both the

kitchen and laundry area; make small talk with clients (which I find to be very self-gratifying); and all other duties assigned or that require completion.”

Q: How has volunteering impacted you?

“Volunteering has made me a well-rounded individual. I complete tasks for people that are momentarily down on their luck. These people are worth putting forth the effort that I put forth because I believe that everyone requires a little help at one time or another. I talk with a great many people that are in the shelter and they have all showed nothing but respect to me. I am treated like a person by the staff and clients alike and this makes me feel great inside. It is the feelings that I am enriched with that keep me going back. To give up time is nothing if the time you spend assists those that need, and I mean need, whatever help you can give. I have become more compassionate than I have ever been. I am far more humble and understanding than I have ever been. I love people and that love grows when I work at the shelter. It is hard to explain the onslaught of feelings of joy and inner growth that these people have given me. It truly is a gift that the clients trust me enough to tell me their stories, where they have been, how thankful they are for Pillars and I just eat that up.”

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

“The best thing that I have seen is working together for a common good as a team. The workers at Pillars are genuine, not fake. I love how the clients are so polite, kind, and also humble. I have run into many people from all walks of life in the shelter and that hits me very hard in the heart. You never know what is going to grab ahold of you in life, and after volunteering, I now have a completely different set of items that I am grateful for.”

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

“I have been happily married for over 20 years and have three wonderful daughters; I am most proud of these facts.”

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

“The work that you will perform at Pillars is meaningful and rewarding. There is no easier way to become humble than to volunteer; volunteering is sustenance for the soul.”

THANK YOU, DAVID!



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