

Pillars Volunteer Spotlight

Deneé McDuffie, Dinner Service & Career Assistance



Q: Tell me a little about your background?

"I am originally from Chicago and relocated to Wisconsin as a teenager. My life brought me several places and four years ago I returned to Wisconsin from Virginia with my daughter. I am currently the Lead Employment Specialist for Express Employment Professionals here in Appleton where I have the opportunity to work with wonderful associates and clients throughout the Fox Valley."

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

"Prior to volunteering I was working, going to school and taking care of my daughter."

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

"I started volunteering because at one point I was in a similar situation as some of the clients. I understand that life happens and sometimes we all just need a little help and compassion."



Q: What does your typical volunteer shift look like?

Adult Shelter – *"I am typically preparing, serving and cleaning up dinner. In addition, I get to spend time with the clients learning more about who they are."*

Resource Center – *"During my time at the Resource Center I assist with resume writing, interview techniques and assisting in job placement."*

Q: How has volunteering impacted you?

"I have been able to meet many wonderful people and have heard their stories. I think that by volunteering I have learned to be more compassionate and understanding."

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

"I have so many stories of watching clients grow and achieve the success they are looking for. I have received some homemade gifts that I cherish and remind me to be grateful each day.

I have also brought my daughter which allows me to teach her about the gift of service we can provide to others as well as to show her appreciation for the small things life offers us."

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

"It really is a great experience to help others and learn about who they are. 😊"

Deneé has since relocated back to Virginia. It was a pleasure working with her, and I know she will find another lucky organization to serve on the East Coast.

Thank you for your service, Denee! You can stop by and visit whenever you're back in Appleton!



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