

Myrna

Volunteer



Hawthorne Volunteer since 2001

Days of the week: First Tuesday of each month

What motivated you to Volunteer at The Hawthorne?

Being a member of the Breast Cancer Support Group at The Hawthorne during my journey with cancer helped me to realize the importance of sharing with others who were going through a similar experience. I found The Hawthorne to be a caring nurturing place-one where feelings, information, and making new friends took place. When I was asked if I would be interested in volunteering, I did not hesitate because I wanted to give back and was willing to try to help others.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

Being of help to others gives me great satisfaction. Whether it's helping someone find a wig, or a brochure or just listening as they talk about what they are going through is meaningful to me. I enjoy talking to people. Often, I feel that some who come into the center don't have people that either has the time or aren't interested in really hearing their feelings. I have been told by some of our visitors that they really appreciated my talking with them. Many people feel it is a safe place to verbalize their feelings.

What situation has touched the most?

A women and her husband came in The Hawthorne from the doctor's office just having been told she had breast cancer. She was distraught and crying and felt doomed. After we talked, I decided to tell her that I had been through this scary diagnosis also. I shared how great the doctors and nurses were in finding the best treatment. She began to see that this diagnosis wasn't necessarily a death sentence. She left The Hawthorne that day with no tears and seemed determined that she could face this situation. I have thought of her many times. I am touched by the fact that regardless of a person's background, race, sex, their dress, they are treated with much respect when they visit. Everyone needs feelings of warmth and caring, and I feel they often find it at The Hawthorne.