

Pat

Volunteer

Hawthorne Volunteer since 2003

Day of the week: Monday



What motivated you to Volunteer at The Hawthorne?

I found The Hawthorne in 2000 when I got my first cancer diagnosis. I had so many questions and was overwhelmed by too much information. I needed some trusted, first-hand information and Dr. Felsen told me about the Breast Cancer Support group at The Hawthorne. I made lifelong friends there. I was 48 and still working but I vowed to Robin that I would volunteer to give back when I retired. I did just that in 2010. I treasure the collateral beauty of so many wonderful friendships that have come out of this journey of Cancer.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

Helping a tearful new patient leave The Hawthorne with a smile and a little hope; and the fellowship with my co-volunteers. I also get the precious joy in my heart when a visitor comes in so sad, so lost and in need of someone just who will listen. Someone who is not famil or friend. Someone to whom they can freely lay down their burdens. They are so grateful and leave with a little lighter emotional load.

What situation has touched the most?

The annual Tricia Walker concerts: the songwriting is so healing. I was fortunate to be one of the songwriters, the second concert, I think! And giving of wigs. Seeing that smile on the face when someone leaves feeling pretty again. It is priceless! And of course, the visits by the Therapy Dogs. They put wonderful smiles on the patient's faces. Visitors come and leave with a happy face and joy in their hearts!