

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ~ JANET WIEBKE

Did you know she's been here 30 years AND can analyze your handwriting...? By Lisa Martin

I'm serious! Right here in our midst we have a fellow volunteer that is professionally trained in handwriting analysis! Allow me to introduce Saint Joseph Hospital volunteer—Janet Wiebke! It's amazing what she can learn about a person just by studying the strokes of their writing,

Janet began volunteering at Saint Joseph over 30 years ago. Her first assignment was "4th floor duty", back when Sister Michael Leo ran the hospital. She has served many roles over the years and made some important contributions that are worthy of note. She put her writer's background to good use and produced the Volunteer Guild's first newsletter called "The Torch". In addition, she wrote shows for the volunteer recognition dinners which were performed by hospital staffers. (Doesn't that sound fun?) Janet also wrote scripts for the Golden Sneaker Awards Presentation and partnered with Rose Bader to rewrite the Auxiliary's Bylaws and Constitution when the Volunteer Guild was formed.



Janet is going on her 29th year as a Patient Representative. She has certainly solved her share of problems as well as distributed oodles of compliments to those deserving hospital staff members. She won't tell you herself, but she recently received a special note of thanks from a patient she met that was so appreciative of her care that he went on to speak to the administration about her. Not surprising really; that's the kind of lady Janet is, kind, caring, full of wit and charm and always approachable. Helen Hamilton, Director of Patient Representatives, recently had this to say about her, "You must give some time to your fellow men. Even if it's a little thing, do something for others — something for which you get no pay but has the privilege of doing it", Albert Schweitzer. "Janet has done this for 29 years as a Patient Representative, giving back to families as well as the staff at Saint Joseph Hospital. She exemplifies the heart and compassion of Saint Joseph and we are truly blessed to have her as a volunteer."

Janet is a native of Rockville Centre, New York and has been married to husband, Charlie, for 54 years. (She tells me she was married when she was 9!) She has a daughter, son-in-law and two grown grandchildren who live in the St. Louis area. She enjoys many hobbies that include painting (I am the proud owner of an original Weibke!), MahJongg, some tennis, gardening and vacationing in Naples, Florida.

You probably agree at this point that Janet is a pretty inspiring volunteer. By the way, did I mention she got her Bachelor's Degree in her 40's (her daughter was a year ahead of her at the same college!) and attended a year of law school? I wonder what she's got up her sleeve next!