



Volunteer Spotlight - Tom Thornton

Tom Thornton is celebrating his tenth anniversary at KC CARE Clinic this month. Tom began volunteering at KC Free Health Clinic in January of 2005 and has volunteered over 400 hours. Thornton began his volunteering at the Clinic after he retired from Andrews McMeel Publishing as the CEO. He began working at Andrews McMeel Publishing right out of college where he started working in syndication. In 1987 he became President and COO and moved into his role as CEO around 2000.



After Tom retired, his wife, Cindy, who is a Registered Nurse and already a volunteer at KC CARE, recommended that he volunteer at the clinic, too. Tom said when he was looking at places to volunteer, he focused on the basic of human needs, and KC CARE was the perfect fit.

Tom began volunteering as a Front Office Administrative Assistant. His welcoming smile was appreciated by patients and staff alike. Tom has volunteered at special events and has served on the Clinic's Development Committee. Kirk Isenhour, VP of Marketing & Development, says this about Tom: "Tom's input to the Development Committee has been so valuable. His reputation and commitment to the Clinic have opened many doors for us with fundraising – allowing us to provide our services to even more patients. Tom and Cindy co-chaired our 2013 Capital Campaign – Bridging the Future – which raised more than \$800k to fund necessary overhead costs associated

with our agency's transformation."

After the clinic adopted a more electronic way of documenting, Tom moved onto Needle Exchange. He and his wife both currently assist in this department and were the first 2 to volunteer in Needle Exchange. They assist clients with replacing used supplies for clean supplies. The goal is to get the used supplies out of the system and to support clients in harm reduction. They also assist in testing for viruses as well as getting people into the clinic to see health care providers.

Prevention Manager, Roberta Esmond, says this about Tom: "Due to staffing changes, we could not have kept continuous service in Needle Exchange without Tom volunteering. We have come to depend on his support because he is committed to the concept of NE as a tool for HIV and Hepatitis Prevention. Plus, we know that our clients enjoy connecting with Tom." Daniel Spachek, Prevention Specialist, adds this: "Tom is an excellent volunteer. He has stayed late on many occasions and has really stepped up after unforeseen challenges."

Tom enjoys working with the staff and the volunteers as well as his encounters with the clients. Tom and Cindy have two sons and 4 grandchildren and have been married for 43 years; congratulations! KC CARE Clinic is so fortunate to have this pair of dedicated volunteers.

Service Anniversaries

January 2015

Thank you to all of our volunteers for their years of service!

19 Years

Dr. Bryon Haley, Dentist

10 Years

Tom Thornton, NE Volunteer

9 Years

Dr Michelle Haines, Physician

8 Years

Lisa Bruce, Physician Assistant

6 Years

Jennifer McCabe, CATS Counselor

3 Years

Delia Tankard, Front Office Assistant

2 Years

Bethany Rippy, Front Office, Prospect

An Email from a Former KC CARE Volunteer Now Studying at Emory - Connections Stay Strong

I think about the clinic quite often and am so glad I had the opportunity to work with you and meet so many wonderful volunteers in the process.

Classes are extremely busy, this week in particular due to (exams) and interviews. Even when I'm overwhelmed with work, I am so grateful to be here. I am actually learning about subject matter that I care about in every single class. It's quite a time to be entering public health, and with the Ebola scare I believe people are realizing the need for a public health force- especially epidemiologists (my concentration in public health). We have also discussed the Enterovirus outbreak affecting children in the Midwest in my infectious disease course. I saw that a few of the originating cases were in Kansas City.

I will definitely keep in touch, and I love getting the clinic newsletters!

Marissa

Service Anniversaries Cont. 1 Year

Jane McHenry, Certified Application Counselor
 Dave McKenzie, Patient Assistant
 Hannah Niehues, Dental Assistant

Thank you for your dedication to the patients of Kansas City CARE Clinic!

CLINIC CLOSED 1/19/15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

"Every day thousands of unsung heroes bring caring and compassion to the lives of millions. Their names are never featured in the headlines, but our world would be a much darker place without them." Charles Devlin

"Where we come from in America no longer signifies anything - it's where we go, and what we do when we get there, that tells us who we are." Anna Quindlen