

Profiles in Volunteer Excellence

Martha Stanley: Ready to help when called upon

By Nancy Rhoades
Aging Together
Orange County Resource Specialist

You would be surprised at the human treasure found right here in Orange County. Martha Stanley is one fine example. Born in Newport News, Martha used her Bachelor's Degree in Social Science as a Social Services case manager in rural North Carolina. She moved to Orange County 41 years ago and we have benefitted ever since. For one thing, she helped to develop a Social Services Dept at the then Orange County Nursing Home, now Dogwood Village.

Martha has volunteered in this community for 20 years. "After my husband's death I was involved in family business, and served on the Orange Town Council. After this I decided to do things that would make more of a difference and began volunteering," she explains. Currently she helps at many organizations, including AARP, Aging Together in Orange, Love Outreach Food Pantry, Medical Reserve Corps, Orange Art Center and Orange County Visitors Center. Martha is also a Care Consultant for the Alzheimer's Association's support groups in Orange.

Martha is more than happy to help others when called upon. She says, "Most of My daily life is volunteering with never a regret!" She often encourages others to volunteer, telling them how much fun it can be and how she enjoys listening to the stories of those she assists.

While she devotes many enjoyable hours volunteering, Martha makes time for her friends and family, visiting with her children and grandchildren as much as possible. Martha is also a devoted member of Trinity United Methodist Church.

I have had the privilege of working with Martha on the Aging Together in Orange County team. She is kind, soft-spoken and a great listener. Thank you Martha, for all you do for our county!

If you are someone you know would like to volunteer your services but are not sure how to get started call Nancy Rhoades, Aging Together in Orange at 540-718-0620.

If you are a caregiver of an adult you might want to join one of the support groups mentioned above. On meets on the 3rd Thursday each month, 10:30-12:00 at The Village at Gordon House in Gordonsville and the other on 4th Thursdays, 10:30-12:00 at Amerisist in Orange. Call Martha Stanley at 672-3654 for details.