

Volunteer



SPOTLIGHT

JUNE 2009



Helen Geeslin

Helen Heuer was born on November 7th to William and Bertha in West St. Paul, Minn. She was the youngest of ten children. Helen's family moved to a farm in Rosemount, Minn. when she was just a toddler. She and her siblings all attended school at Rosemount School. Helen graduated Valedictorian of her class in 1948. After high school, Helen worked for five years at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Northern, Minn. In 1950 she met Lyle House at the famous Prom Ball Room. At the time he was an architectural student at the U of M. They were married in 1951 and moved to St. Cloud in 1953.

Helen took a job at Raymond Motor Transportation as a secretary. She only worked there for about seven months, until their first child was born. Helen and Lyle were blessed with five children: Debra, Jeffrey, Bradley, Lisa, and Sarah; 13 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. In 1968 the family moved to Mendota Heights, Minn. for one year. In May of 1969, Lyle suffered a fatal heart attack. With the help of family and friends, Helen moved forward. When all the children were in school, she herself decided to go back to school at Inver Grove Heights Community College where she majored in Business. After graduation she worked as a secretary at Pilot Knob Elementary School. In 1978, Helen took a job at Cenex as the Vice President's secretary. After eight years her division closed and she became the executive secretary at Minnesota Crop Improvement Association for three years. In 1987 Helen married Daryl Geeslin; the couple moved to Detroit Lakes in 1989 where they still reside today.

Helen began her volunteer career at St. Mary's in 1990. She immediately became a member of the Auxiliary and has worn many "hats" over the years. Her list of volunteer duties includes: Gift Shop; serving the noon meal at Winchester; Auxiliary Treasurer for two years; Auxiliary President for five years; Auxiliary Nominating Committee Chair for two years; painting fingernails at Winchester. For the past three years, Helen can be found at the Help Desk in the front entrance of the Hospital. She has accumulated over 650 hours; and they didn't even keep track of Auxiliary officer hours! In reading Helen's Valedictorian speech, I found a quote that really caught my attention; "among our treasures you will find those highly desirable traits of character, such as respectfulness, loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy." Even as an 18-yr-old, Helen understood the exact definition of being a great Volunteer!

Other organizations that have been fortunate to have Helen's helping hands are: her church, Trinity Lutheran, where she belongs to "WELCA"; Emmanuel Auxiliary; the St. Cloud Chapter of Mrs. Jaycees-she served as their president in the late 1950's; and she became a member of PEO (philanthropy organization for the education of women) in 1976.

What is her favorite vacation memory? In 1997 Helen and Daryl took a trip to Europe. She said the coolest part of the trip was how the train goes underneath the ocean on the way from Great Britain to France.

When asked why she enjoys volunteering, she replied, "When I moved to DL, I didn't know anyone, so this was a great way to meet new people! Also, it was peace of mind to know that if I ever needed medical care I would already be familiar with the building and employees."