

Volunteer



SPOTLIGHT

SEPTEMBER 2009



Marlene Collins

Marlene Dummer was born on June 14th to Walter and Emma Dummer in Minneapolis, Minn. She has one younger brother; the family lived on the Fruit-breeding Farm at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis where Marlene's father was a Horticulturist and her mother was a homemaker. Marlene attended elementary school in Victoria, Minn. and high school at Excelsior, Minn. She was able to take college business classes while still in high school, so upon her graduation in 1949 she was ready to go to work as a secretary. Her first job was for David Insurance Agency where she served as their secretary for three years. It was during this time that she married her life-long acquaintance, San Collins. The couple attended the same school and their parents had

known each other for many years. Her next job, also as a secretary, was for the Minneapolis Moline Farm Equipment Company for two years. Then it was on to Powell Candy Company in Hopkins, Minn. for the next five years. Marlene's husband, San, was a State Patrolman and they were transferred to Albany, Minn. for the next 5 years. Another transfer took place, this time to St. Cloud, Minn. in 1961. Marlene took a job at the St. Cloud School Systems for the next eight years. In 1969, San was transferred, one last time, to Detroit Lakes where he served until retirement in 1980. The couple was blessed with two boys, Mike and Brad, who gave them 4 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Once retired, San and Marlene wintered in Arizona for 25 years!

Marlene began her volunteer work of knitting baby caps for St. Mary's in 2005. At the time she was wintering in Arizona and a friend of hers knitted caps for her local hospital. Marlene thought it was a fun idea to keep busy, especially during those long car rides from Minnesota to Arizona! Since starting she has knitted hundreds of caps, which has taken her over 2300 hours!

Marlene also keeps busy volunteering at her church, United Methodist, where she helps out with Bizarres, funerals, and in the kitchen. She helped out with Boy Scouts when her boys were little. Other hobbies that keep her busy are cooking, baking, china painting, knitting, crocheting, and gardening.

What is her favorite vacation memory? In 1988, San and Marlene stayed for an entire month in Europe while their son was stationed there. During Easter all the tulips were blooming in Holland, which she said was just amazing.

When asked why she enjoys volunteering, she replied, "I just really like to keep busy and know how much my caps are appreciated."