

When What You Give Becomes What You Get

Editor's Note: This is fourth in a series of interviews with Sustainers about the impact the League has had on their lives.

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Sustainer Peggy Duick spends her time these days volunteering, giving hope and sharing love in our community. It all began when she moved here from Evanston, Ill., and joined the Junior League of Wichita to meet friends and get involved in her new community. Her favorite League placement was working with the Arrangements Committee. Her current volunteer service finds her working at the hospital with newborns and working with the Kansas Children's Service League, answering their crisis line.

"I always wanted to be involved out in the community," she says, and because of her nursing training she chose areas where she felt she could have an impact.

Peggy started the American Heart Association's Sweetheart program when she chaired the annual Sweetheart Ball in 2000. "I went to a training in Washington, D.C., and heard about an idea for the Sweetheart program," she says.

Peggy brought back the initial idea and began to find outstanding girls in our community. "I called school advisors to find high school girls that would be good candidates," Peggy remembers. "I wanted it to be fair and equal." Starting with 10 girls, she set forth providing them training and an activity every month. Different topics the girls studied included CPR, health and wellness, etiquette and involvement with

the American Heart Association telethon in January. Peggy even found scholarship money for those candidates that otherwise wouldn't have been able to participate.

Today, the program has increased to 20 candidates from schools in and around Wichita.

Every Wednesday you can find Peggy doing outstanding work in our community. Currently serving on the Board for Victory in the Valley, Peggy fills her day with taking baskets to cancer patients receiving treatment, fitting women diagnosed with cancer for wigs and helping with the children's programs. Peggy has been involved with Victory in the Valley for 10 years, working to spread hope through her efforts.

Spreading hope seems to be a central theme to Peggy's good work. She has served on the board and volunteered for the Center of Hope in Wichita for 20 years.

It all started after she purchased a quilt to raise money for the Center. She thought she should visit and see what the Center of Hope offered. Soon she was asked to be on



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their board. The Center of Hope provides emergency financial support to individuals and families in Wichita who may not otherwise qualify for other social service programs.

"I interview the clients that come in. We help people with homelessness prevention," Peggy says. Her work involves checking and validating their current status and helping the executive director.

Peggy can also be found on Wednesdays delivering Meals on Wheels.

"It's like a job," Peggy says, and it's one she thoroughly enjoys! Along the way, she has found "precious people that we've become dear friends with."

Peggy's advice to New Members is that there is "so much to learn from volunteering. It gives you such a good start and helps you become a better volunteer." She's so impressed with the women in the League.

Today, she says of volunteering, "it's part of my life." She's still active with friends she met in her New Member class. Once a month she meets with fellow Sustainers in the Garden Club, which has been a highlight.

She has many great memories from the Junior League of Wichita and holds dear the Sweetheart program she started for the American Heart Association.

Here's hoping we can all spread love and hope like Peggy and continue our good work in the community!