

SALLIE



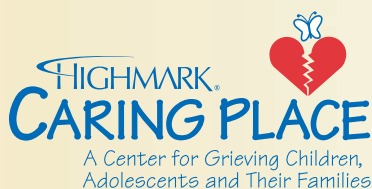
Highmark Caring Place Volunteer

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Sallie

Sallie is familiar with the joys of giving. She is a dedicated volunteer in her community who has invited aspiring teenage hockey players to live in her home while pursuing their dreams. Sallie first learned about the Highmark Caring Place from a dear friend while he was battling cancer. A special visit with him brought an unexpected twist. “I went to visit my sick friend thinking that it was going to be a very sad experience,” she remembers. “Instead, we ended up laughing the whole evening as he shared his love of volunteering at the Caring Place.” Instead of feeling grief-stricken, Sallie left her visit with a call to service. “I knew I wanted to volunteer somewhere, but I didn’t quite know what I wanted to do,” she said. “After that evening with my friend, I knew the Caring Place was where I needed to be.”

As a sixth grade teacher, Sallie spends her days mentoring pre-teens. She believes that volunteering with teen groups at the Caring Place provides



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her evenings with a refreshing change of pace. "I find teens to be very sensitive and insightful," she said. "As the weeks go by, I see them grow so they are better at expressing their feelings and sharing their stories." Sallie's experience in volunteering has made her a better teacher. "Volunteering at the Caring Place has helped me to deal with grieving students at school," she said.

Sallie treasures her time as a volunteer at the Caring Place, and she recommends the experience to others. In fact, she has enthusiastically recruited friends to volunteer. "I believe that people need to give back to the community," she explains. "I feel strongly that we need to show compassion for others. Compassion is sometimes lacking in today's world." Sallie inspired her friends to volunteer at the Caring Place by immersing herself in the challenge of her volunteer work. "I want to set a good example for my son, my students and my friends," she said. "I want them to know that giving of yourself is important." Sallie believes that the lessons she learns at the Caring Place are universal. "Grief has no boundaries," she said. "It is important for me to see children from all different socioeconomic backgrounds provide each other with comfort and support. It is a place where children can say to each other, 'I know how you feel.' And they really do!"

For more information about the Highmark Caring Place, visit us online at www.highmarkcaringplace.com.