

THE Importance of . Caring

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my journey into volunteering



Kevin Bennett

SURGERY WAITING ROOM/PATIENT FAMILY
 ADVISORY COUNCIL VOLUNTEER

Before retiring, Kevin Bennett led a full life — first as a general manager with Tempo department store and then as an associate pastor at Highland Park Church in Columbus. When he stepped back earlier this year, Bennett continued his ministry of people through his volunteer work at Columbus Community Hospital.

He first joined the hospital's volunteer program in January 2020 when it launched the newly formed Patient Family Advisory Council. In this role, he partnered with hospital doctors, nurses and administrators to help improve the quality of care for all the hospital's patients and family members. During the council meetings, he collaborated on hospital initiatives and provided insight from the perspective of a patient and family member. Since then, he has taken on the role of a volunteer host in the hospital's surgery waiting room twice a month.

As a surgery waiting room volunteer, Bennett arrives early in the morning to inspect the waiting area and refills the drinks, pastries or supplies for the patients' loved ones. He also studies the list of surgeries scheduled for the day

so he can properly serve as a resource for the families by answering any questions they might have about the facility or surgery schedule. Bennett said it's his job to make the patients and their families feel welcome during their hospital visits and to serve the medical staff as they come and go.

"Everyone I meet on the hospital staff makes me feel that my day's assignments are important, just like their own," he said. **"They make my volunteer experience a joy."**

In addition to serving the hospital and its patients through the Patient Family Advisory Council and as a surgery waiting room volunteer, Bennett said he enjoys the monthly volunteer informational meetings. Most recently, he had the opportunity to listen to Dr. Sabu George, cardiologist with the cardiac catheterization lab, present about the hospital's new cardiology clinic and the advantages of having a cath lab in Columbus.

"Lives will be impacted by saving precious time for a patient in need through the cath lab," he said. **"I am**

so impressed with our hospital and its impact not only in our community, but also the region."

Bennett said his experience as a volunteer has helped broaden his view of the hospital's impact on health care. As a patient, he's witnessed firsthand the compassionate, high-level care offered by the hospital within the community. He said the hospital's commitment to his health increased his desire to volunteer, and he's very glad he pursued the opportunity.

For more information on volunteer opportunities available at the hospital, visit columbushosp.org.