

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANN HERZ

Resident Spotlight

By: HEATHER BENTON

When my husband, John, and I started volunteering at North Florida Rehab & Specialty Care earlier this year, Miss Ann was one of the first residents that we met. She was kind and welcoming to us, offering us candy from a jar on her table and sharing stories with us about her many travels across the country.

In between rounds of Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy, we love to share jokes and talk about how our weeks have been. She has a been highlight of our weekly Tuesday visits. We hope you will enjoy getting to know her a little better through these interview questions, just as we have!

Where were you born?

Burlington, Iowa ("right on the tip"), on Christmas Eve. I am the youngest of 5 children.

What are some of your favorite travel memories?

Traveling to all 50 states, and also a few Canadian provinces. Seeing the Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls.

What is your favorite kind of music?

I like to sing "old time" songs, salute the flag, and pray. Some of my favorite songs are God Bless America, Amazing Grace, and Yellow Rose of Texas. When I can't sleep, that's what I do; I sing all of these songs.

What is a role you've had that has been meaningful to you?

Serving as the President of the Resident Council for 9 years.

What kind of work have you done in the past?

I worked as an inspector for Annheuser Busch. I made sure the lids were made properly. I was the only woman and worked with 20 guys. My favorite

job was making 3M adhesive (Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing). I put caulk in the tubes. I liked being able to work by myself. My husband and I later owned a business with 31 employees. I was a purchasing agent and helped to oversee the machine shop.

What is one your favorite childhood memories?

Christmas- my mother decorated the house, the windows, put wreaths on the door, and we always cut down a Christmas tree in the woods.

What is the best gift you've ever received?

It's hard to choose, but some favorites were a guitar, an accordion, twin dolls, and a wedding doll. I was the last child, so I got spoiled.

Tell us something about yourself that not many people know:

I lived in the mountains of North Carolina, up by Asheville. I had a boat, and we went to the lake every weekend. When we lived in Iowa, we camped out on the Mississippi River.

Can you give us a piece of wisdom or advice to pass on to others?

Trust in the Lord, be kind to your friends, and kinder to your enemies, and love your family.



THE BRIDGE

BRIDGING GENERATIONS WITH AGELESS FRIENDSHIP

Friends Across the Ages • Nursing Home Volunteer Network

Vol. 19 Fall - 2019 Winter - 2020

FALL FUN WITH FRIENDS

This fall, Friends Across the Ages helped with three different events which were a lot of fun for residents and volunteers alike. First, in early October, we joined the residents of Parklands for the University of Florida homecoming parade—an annual tradition. Roughly a dozen residents were able to make the trip to watch the Gator band, the football team, the cheerleaders, and countless floats and community organizations march past them.



The next event was also Gator oriented, but in this case, we brought the fun to the residents as we watched the Florida/Georgia game with the residents of Signature Health Care. We provided chicken, chips, cookies, watermelon, and drinks. We brought our instruments along and played some of the traditional Gator songs—"We are the Boys," "The Orange and Blue," "Alma Mater"—and some more recent traditions like "You Can Call Me Al" and Tom Petty's "I Won't Back Down." We brought along a Gator-themed corn hole game as well. Andrew Mitchell showed off his manicure skills by painting many of the residents' nails orange and blue. Although the outcome of the game did not go the Gators' way, still, a good time was had by all.



Finally, later in November we assisted with another outing for the residents of Parklands—this time a fishing trip. Although the day was cool and overcast, the fish seemed to like it, and three fish were caught. We threw them all back, however, and instead of fish, had a lovely lunch of turkey chili provided by our wonderful volunteer Leslie Radford. The residents love fishing, and we hope to do it again soon.



We have many more events this coming month to celebrate the holidays! For more information contact us at info@acrosstheages.org.

RETROSPECTIVE...

As we wrap up this year of celebrating 20 years of Friends Across the Ages, we thought we'd share a few more retrospective pictures.



Volunteers enjoying our spring volunteer appreciation party in the courtyard at Barr Systems in 2017--an annual tradition for many years.



Steve Blay, Ruth Hazen, Huy Pham, and Jean Lansford with Jean's resident friend Virginia, at a party at Hignature Health Care in 2010.



Annie Blay with her good friend Kathy, and the portrait she drew of Kathy in 2017

President's Message



ANDREW MITCHELL

I want to start by saying thank you again to everyone who has helped to make 2019 a wonderful year. As we enter 2020, I am reflecting on all of the things that we have done, what we continue to accomplish, and the lives that we touch. The relationships that we build are sometimes short, but always have a lasting impact. I wish everyone a blessed holiday season and hope that you all continue to do your part in making this organization a great asset to our community. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.



Dianne Walsh and Gretchen Grigsby with their resident friends Betty and Ruth in 2005 at Palm Garden.



Peter Blay and Will Mitchell dancing together at a "Not-So-Talented Show" at Terrace Health and Rehab in 2016.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: STORIES FOR Friends Across the Ages Book

We are in the process of putting together a book for Friends Across the Ages—a collection of inspirational stories from the past two decades of volunteering in nursing homes, organized into chapters based on some of the life lessons we have learned from our experiences. We are inviting all of our past and present volunteers to contribute material for this. It could be something polished, or it could be just raw material that we could work into the larger narrative. If you are interested in participating, please contact us at info@acrosstheages.org for more information.

We would like to thank and recognize these special "Friends of Friends."

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS 12/18 - 11/19

BENEFACTORS \$250 AND UP

Anonymous from Boulder, CO
Kathleen Benton
Dennis & Joan Blay
Francois & Susan Burianek
Daniel & Virginia Eckert
Michael & Marianne Hawkins
Nancy Meffe
Andrew & Kim Mitchell
Benjamin Walker
Ken & Susan Wilder

PATRONS \$100 AND UP

Christine Alicot
Vi Asmuth
Robin Baxley
Heather & John Benton
Mary Borneman
Kathy Brill
Crum & Forster
Cassie Cooper
John Curtis
Elizabeth Duna
George Hamilton
Julie Hill
Sarah & Josh McCoy
Ann & Bill Preston
Kyle & Erika Robinson
Duffy Ronayne
Jason & Allison Shinn
Marc Simmons
Janet Wise
Drew Young
A memorial donation was received in memory of Gary Matthews, from Arupa Freeman.

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Hanjing Shu
Betsy Thewes
Florence Van Arnam
Morgan Witter
John Zokovitch

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS Summer and Fall 2019

Guillermo EscalonPark Meadows
Lauren GoldsteinPark Meadows
Lilliam HernandezSignature
Lauren RafananPark Meadows
Sophie SanchezNFRSC
Elizabeth Serra.....NFRSC
Jim Wright.....Parklands

VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES

Summer and Fall 2019

44 years:

FLORENCE VAN ARNAM

13 years:

DONNA, KYLE & CHASE MOORE

5 years:

JOHN HOBBS
PAUL VOLPE

4 years:

CASSIE COOPER

2 years:

KRISTINA ASKIN

1 year:

KRISTINA LOPEZ
NOVIA LOVE
JULIE NGUYEN
LILY SILSBY
SHARON STEBBINS
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