



Volunteer Spotlight: Ruth Cormier

At eighty-three-years-old, Ruth Cormier is one busy woman. She is a busy grandmother and a member and volunteer at St. Andrew's UMC where she is also the resource secretary for their UMW unit, president of her UMW circle and member of Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE). With all this, she also manages to volunteer two full days a week at Cornerstone's Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center and Lab School as the school's administrative assistant.

Ruth first learned about Rosa Valdez when CFM's Executive Director, Cathy Stone, spoke at the annual spring day apart UMW meeting. Ruth was recently retired, for the second time, and was praying for God to give her a new direction in life. Cathy said volunteers were needed for office work at Rosa Valdez, and Ruth feels that moment was the answer to her prayers.

For the past four years, Rosa Valdez has been the perfect fit for Ruth. Her employment background in human resources and general office work matches well with her volunteer duties which include data entry, record keeping, and filing. While she doesn't work directly with the children at Rosa Valdez, it is evident they have an impact on her.

"I love to see the kids, they are just so joyful and want to love and hug everyone," Ruth says.

Ruth feels God is the driving force behind her volunteerism. She attributes this as the reason she feels so comfortable and at ease at Rosa Valdez. Ruth praises volunteering for giving her complete satisfaction and joy. She makes a great point, because the benefits of volunteering aren't just felt by the organization being helped. Volunteering is proven to reduce stress, combat depression, find friends, and learn new life skills. It also keeps a person mentally stimulated and aids with self-esteem and personal growth.

"I feel very blessed God has given me this opportunity," Ruth said. "I love the work I do and the people I work with. I'm surrounded by Christians, which is always uplifting."