

## **Up Close with Rachael Laflam**

Rachael has spent nearly two decades volunteering on various PTAs, assuming the role of team mom on her kids' sports teams, running a Girl Scout Troop, and hosting the neighborhood kids after school. When her kids outgrew the need for her to fill their lives with community, she looked for other ways to help lift others up. She stumbled upon HART – and she's so glad she did.

Her local church participates in the Winter Shelter program and a friend of hers asked if she wanted to sub in for his wife one evening. It was so fulfilling that her family began to volunteer regularly. When her church announced a volunteer opportunity to help HART put on a Holiday Festival in the community, she was the first to raise her hand. Since then, she has been such a blessing to HART and to her team on the fundraising committee. Rachael is always eager to contribute to the success of HART's mission.

Rachael says, “The organization's values and mission are amazing. The people are even better. Every person who volunteers has a huge heart and genuinely wants to do good work and help others. Helping others to get on their feet is a noble cause.” She especially respects the mission of not only helping others when they are down, but also of providing them with the means to help themselves. To her, that is the greatest gift, and if she can be a part of that...Perfection!!