



## OUR VOLUNTEERS SHARE WHAT'S IN THEIR HEARTS



Volunteering at the LCOC office is soul-filling and humbling. On any given day I might greet a client whose world has just crashed due to sudden illness, or an accident. I might talk on the phone with someone whose ability to juggle multiple problems with grace, stamina and positive thinking is inspirational. I am often moved by the courage and dignity of our clients as they work to solve problems that could affect any of us without warning. I have learned not to take anything for granted, and I am grateful for the chance to be a voice for LCOC as it attempts to create order from the chaos life can hand us. -JoAnn



I will be telling you about my feeling about being an Advocate. I love being able to talk with the client for a bit before addressing the need they are calling about. You get a chance to learn a little more about them and sometimes help them in more ways than one. As advocates, we meet monthly and we are always learning new means of assistance that is available in our communities to help our clients. I always feel an added sense of accomplishment when I am able to connect a client with an additional resource that may help them prevent having more problems the next month. Often between the combination of LCOC assistance and the additional resource, it is enough to get our client back on their feet. That is when you say goodbye to your client with a smile on your face! There is such satisfaction when you are able to allow your client to reach out beyond LCOC and accomplish something for themselves and be proud of it! -Ellen



Being a volunteer at Katy's Korner for almost 10 years is rewarding and fun. Clients enjoy finding needed clothing, and there's nothing better than finding the right outfit for a special occasion or a job interview! A number of clients use the volunteers as sounding boards for discussing issues that are going on in their lives. We try to provide a supportive atmosphere for clients to feel comfortable and safe. -Maddy



As Office Manager, it has been my pleasure to work with a wonderful group of office volunteers who are often the first voice or contact with our clients. I always know that I can depend on them to be compassionate and caring. -Sue



I have worked in the office at LCOC one day a week for over 10 years. I am still amazed at the various problems that the organization is able to solve for those in need, and that they do it with such a sense of compassion. My job involves direct contact with clients and those who manage the program and the wonderful dedicated client advocates as well as those in the thrift shops and the various pantries. These people make LCOC the excellent support program it is. I find it extremely rewarding to contribute in my small way to this collaborative effort. -Paula



I started volunteering at Lower Cape Outreach in the front office. We answer phones to assist clients, intaking new clients, directing clients to LCOC advocates, scheduling Food Pantry visits and whatever else is needed. Sometimes a client particularly our more senior clients just like to have a chat which I thoroughly enjoy. Realizing that our clients are our neighbors and people I have interacted with over my years visiting and now living on the Cape inspired me to expand my volunteer activities to include assisting in coordinating Holiday Programs, working on the donor database to input contributions and supporting key Development Committee events. It is not only rewarding but fun to contribute to the community by volunteering here. A side benefit is meeting and working with the other wonderful volunteers at LCOC. It's a community working together to help those in need on the Lower Cape! -Janice



Meeting clients, both on the phone and in person as an office intake volunteer, gives me a great sense of the need that is out there in the community. It becomes clear that there are many people who are doing their best and are still unable to make ends meet. Most are working in some capacity. Many are mentally challenged. This first-hand knowledge enables me to see how much our organization is needed in our community. This work gives me a sense of self-worth and usefulness in my retirement. It also gives me tremendous gratitude for all I have in my own life and makes my problems seem very small. I really enjoy being able to give something back to the world. -Gerry



I have been a volunteer at The Hope Chest, since it opened, coming up on 10 Years. Responsibilities include assisting Managers, when asked, to research the appropriate value/price for a Consigned Item Consideration. Additionally, responsible for Intake, Pricing and Tagging of Clothing Donations. Also, the operation of the Register at Checkout for Cash or Credit. Very Rewarding is The satisfaction from service we provide to all Customers and Consignors, by sharing and communicating what we are looking for and assisting both in what sells and "the sell" itself! Very satisfying. Love meeting and chatting with people, on and off Cape, locals and seasonal visitors. I truly believe, The Hope Chest has established and continues to be a positive impact on Orleans and its sister towns, while providing a vital revenue stream to support the LCOC programs and mission. Finally, "It's Fun!" Playing Store with Purpose! -Rodie



In my professional career, I was involved with providing assistance to people returning to work after a disability. Hope Works provides the opportunity for me to use my skills in assisting LCOC clients find appropriate work that will enhance their lives. I believe that work is an important component of a person's self-esteem so I find satisfaction in helping clients develop self-esteem as well as increase their financial independence. -Elaine



Being a volunteer is a nice way to "pay it forward." This community has been very good to me and being involved with Chatham Food Pantry is one way to provide a bit of support for others. -Barbara



I really value helping clients accept food, so that they can use their earnings on gas, utilities and a little extra for their children. I love making them feel comfortable. It's not easy for folks to receive help. Their smiles say everything to me. -Deb



My greatest joy is working at the Chatham Community Garden. We grow and provide fresh produce for our Food Pantry clients. -Linda