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Meet Board Member Gretchen Demke of PPAI



Gretchen has served on the Irving Cares board since 2017 and is still actively engaged today. During the day she is the Creative Services Manager at Irving-based company, PPAI, where she also leads their community service efforts. In 2016, Gretchen helped PPAI win the Summer Squeeze Challenge, donating a record 10,154 pounds of food and more than $500 in cash. Their food donation alone weighed 5,873 pounds more than their donation the previous year, and 4,558 pounds more than their last record set in 2010. She says, “After participating [in the food drive] for several years and learning more about the mission of Irving Cares, I wanted to help where I could.”

Gretchen is active on the Irving Cares Marketing, Events and Communication Committees and uses her talents to help design and create event collateral, the annual report and other promotional pieces. “I am committed to using my skills and time to help Irving Cares reach out to the community in a clear, concise and respectful way. I love my day job. I am presented with challenges for presenting information in a creative and informative way. For me, graphic design and marketing are inspiring and exciting.”

When Gretchen is not leading us in our mission and programs, she spends time creating and traveling with her husband, Stan. “I also love Christmas trees and collect ornaments for several themed trees. My favorite would have be the Mardi Gras themed tree in purple, green and gold—a reminder of my hometown, New Orleans.”

When asked what she loves most about serving on the board for Irving Cares, Gretchen says, “I have met some wonderful people and seen the best in people. With so much crazy in the world, it is comforting to see the good in society. Irving Cares is the good.” Irving Cares thanks you for all you do, Gretchen!

There are many ways to become involved at Irving Cares. If you are interested in learning more about the volunteer opportunities and how they suit your time and talents, please visit our ***Volunteer Information*** *page and get involved today.*