

ERICA



Highmark Caring Place Volunteer

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Erica

Erica first learned about the Caring Place while networking for her career in social services. She was drawn to volunteering because of the goals and mission of the Highmark Caring Place. "The public avoids talking about death," she says. "I wanted the unique challenge of helping families through their grieving." She's been meeting that challenge for four years.

Erica has worked with all of the juvenile age groups, but she embraces the challenge of teens. "I find that teens can be very guarded with their feelings," she explained. "Helping them to feel safe, secure and open about sharing how they feel brings great rewards to them and to me." The teens in Erica's group let her know that she is reaching them. "I was touched by having one of my teens speak to my peers at the annual Caring Place volunteer dinner," she says. "Hearing her heartfelt thanks is an experience I will never forget."



continued



Erica knows that her work at the Caring Place has multiple benefits. "For many of the families, coming to the Caring Place is like coming home," she said. "It's a place where they feel safe, accepted and not judged." She finds that her efforts are reciprocated. While Erica helps grieving teens and their families, they inspire her, too. "I feel as touched by my experiences at the Caring Place as the grieving families do," she said. "The feeling of making a difference is hard to find."

Erica's spirit of giving extends beyond the Caring Place. She supports many projects and events in the community. She actively recruits others to share in the rewards of volunteering and is enthusiastic about sharing her time and heart at the Caring Place. "The Caring Place gives volunteers the opportunity to help grieving families and make a difference," she said. "Sharing their journeys of grief is an honor and a privilege."

For more information about the Highmark Caring Place, visit us online at www.highmarkcaringplace.com.