

ED



## Highmark Caring Place Volunteer

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Ed knows about life’s adversities. He retired early due to a spinal cord injury that left him in a wheelchair. He decided he wanted to make a difference in the lives of others by becoming a volunteer at the Highmark Caring Place in 2001.

Ed boasts about the rewards of volunteering, especially with younger age groups. “My favorite part of the volunteering experience is being involved with a family’s grieving process and helping to foster the progress they make,” he said. “As the session weeks go by, groups seem to bond and look forward to their time at the Caring Place. They become more relaxed about sharing their grief.”

Ed’s wheelchair makes him unique, and the children relate to him and his disability in a special way. They often ask to push his wheelchair or ride



along with him. He's also known for his brightly colored green or yellow sneakers. The children often express their feelings through drawings, and one boy drew a picture of the man in the signature green shoes. "Who's that?," the boy's father asked. And the youngster enthusiastically replied, "That's Ed!"

Ed's spirit of volunteerism extends beyond the Caring Place. He also serves as a volunteer at his church. "I find a special satisfaction in volunteering, and I recommend it to those who feel they have something special to give," he says. "Volunteers at the Caring Place are always appreciated and needed."

***For more information about the Highmark Caring Place,  
visit us online at [www.highmarkcaringplace.com](http://www.highmarkcaringplace.com).***