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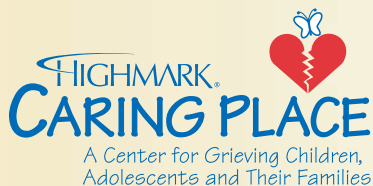
Highmark Caring Place Volunteer

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Patty

Patty learned about the Highmark Caring Place through her brother, Rick. He was a dedicated volunteer who held grieving children close to his heart. Patty felt drawn to her brother’s passion after experiencing her own loss. “I volunteer because of Rick, who passed away in 2007,” she said. “His relationship with the Caring Place was very special, and I wanted to carry this on for him.” Patty learned that her brother had recruited their friend, Sallie, to volunteer, and this close confidante brought her to the Caring Place for the first time. “Sallie took me to a Buddy Night,” she said. “I knew right away that if I were going to volunteer anywhere, it was going to be at the Caring Place.”

Patty respects the dedication and professionalism at the Caring Place. She believes that the staff teaches volunteers the necessary skills for the job. “The training we receive to become volunteers is phenomenal,” she



continued



Patty enjoys volunteering with her daughter, Alicia.

boasted. "The staff helps volunteers to understand what families are experiencing. The training has definitely taught me to be a better listener." Patty credits the exceptional staff for a positive experience during training and beyond. "The staff of the Caring Place is incredible," she said. "They provide us with encouragement week after week. They're willing to help us in any way to be good volunteers. They are always there for us."

Patty enjoys working with teen groups. "I work with elementary children at my day job," she explained. "I like the experience of working with an older age group at the Caring Place." She is inspired by the way teens deal with their challenges. "They are amazing young adults," she said. "There are always a few who I wish I could take home with me." One special young man has made a lasting impression. "This one boy came through the Caring Place before when his mother passed away," she remembered. "His grandmother died, and he is attending group again. The first time, his attendance was very sporadic. Now, he attends every session. He actually arrives early so he doesn't miss anything. He is an awesome young man, and he has truly found comfort at the Caring Place. I know that in some small way I am helping a grieving child through a very difficult life experience."

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