



Spotlight on Volunteers

Lynn Bednarsky

Walk through the front door of Compassion Society, and the first person you see may be Lynn Bednarsky, who often greets and registers clients at the front desk. She works every Friday, many Mondays, and other times when needed.

Lynn, who retired eight years ago after twenty-seven years with CIBC, has lived in Burlington since 1989. Upon retirement, she volunteered at Burlington Humane Society, where she helped care for cats at the shelter. This changed when, soon after her husband passed away in 2012, she donated his clothing to Compassion Society and was asked to consider volunteering here. After thinking about it for a while, she began doing this in the spring of 2013. While she loves cats and enjoys caring for them, she prefers the interaction with people that comes with working at Compassion Society.

Lynn was born and raised in Granby, Quebec, in the Eastern Townships, but moved to Winnipeg in 1970, where she lived eleven years, most of the time as a single mother with two children. In 1981 she moved to Toronto to be closer to family. She now has a daughter, grandson, and two-year-old great granddaughter in Toronto, as well as a sixteen-year-old granddaughter in Vancouver. Her healthy and active ninety-year-old mother lives in Burlington, and her mother-in-law, who is eighty-nine, lives in Hamilton. She has mobility problems, and Lynn does weekly grocery shopping for her and is otherwise “on call” for her other needs.

In addition to volunteer work and time with family members, Lynn enjoys tracing her family history and traveling with her two sisters or her daughter. Recent trips include two to Newfoundland, and future plans include completing visits to Canada’s provinces and territories by going to the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Another interest is her cat, Jazz, whom she adopted while working at the Humane Society.

It is interesting to know why people volunteer at places like Compassion Society. For Lynn it is her belief that “everyone has a duty to their community and should contribute what they can.” She does this by working cheerfully wherever needed, whether greeting clients at the front desk, working at the food counter, or tidying up the clothing section. She also finds enjoyment from working and chatting with other volunteers, and those who work with her can testify to her cheerful, cooperative spirit that makes Compassion Society a good place to work and to serve others.