



*Helen Pestel- Administrative Volunteer, Planned Giving Volunteer, Member of New Albany Historical Society*

Helen began volunteering with Habitat MidOhio in 1991 when there was only one paid employee at our affiliate. This meant that she, and the other volunteers, did anything and everything to help Habitat MidOhio's mission continue in Columbus. One of the main tasks Helen helped with during the two days she volunteered at Habitat was creating mailing lists. Today, Helen volunteers at our offices once a week where she helps with accounting and the planned giving campaign.

Helen is actively involved in her church, where she is the financial secretary. She is also the treasurer of the New Albany Historical Society and her local Alliance Club. Her large family keeps her busy when she's not volunteering. She just welcomed her newest family member early this year, her fifth great grandchild.

One of Helen's fondest memories volunteering with Habitat MidOhio was being a part of Habitat for Humanity International's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which was held in Columbus the same year that Habitat MidOhio was celebrating their fifth anniversary. Both Jimmy Carter and Millard Fuller spoke at this celebration, and Helen said that Millard Fuller is one of the best speakers she's heard during her lifetime.



*Ray Stankunas- Licking County Construction Volunteer, Amateur Artist, Knights of Columbus member in Granville*

Prior to volunteering with Habitat MidOhio, Ray volunteered at the Habitat East Central Ohio affiliate in Canton after he retired in 2013. To be closer to his son's family, he moved to Newark in 2014 which was when he began volunteering at Habitat MidOhio. Since then, he's become one of our regular Tuesday and Thursday volunteers. Ray's become close friends with four other regular Licking County volunteers, which has not only made volunteering with Habitat MidOhio more enjoyable but also helped make his transition into a new community easier.

Outside of the close friendships he's made on site, Ray said that one of the most rewarding parts of volunteering with Habitat for Humanity is working with the partner families. He said, "There is nothing better than the warm feeling obtained from participation in the wall raising ceremony and final ceremony as keys to a quality home are handed over to the new owners. We are helping families to build a better future." He wished that people understood the lengthy process home owners go through before owning a Habitat home. Habitat Partner Families spend countless hours preparing to be home owners through their participation in building their house, attending financial budgeting courses, and participating in home maintenance courses.

In addition to his charitable work with Habitat MidOhio, Ray volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Newark and is a member of the Knights of Columbus at St. Edward the Confessor Church. For fun, he likes spending time with his family and traveling with his wife Cindy. Ray also enjoys reading about military history, drawing landscapes, and woodworking.