

Volunteer of the Year – East Central Wisconsin

Carol Schumacher

Women's Empowerment Series



Through serving as the Volunteer Director, leading the Positive Puppetry troupe, and volunteering full time in the Women's Empowerment Series office, Carol Schumacher is making a difference in the lives of women and children in the Fond du Lac area. Carol is always willing to help wherever it is needed and make sure all of “the little things” get done and problems get solved coming to the office each day and often serving over 60 hours a week. Despite the health issues that she has faced, even when Carol has had surgeries or been in the hospital, she is always checking in and striving to return as soon as she can.



Carol leads their Volunteer Work Program, connecting participants to volunteer opportunities at Women's Empowerment Series and in the community. She interviews women interested in participating in their programming, and with a keen sense of how to assess where each woman is at, she connects them to different options that best fit their interests and readiness for the programs. She helps coordinate the procurement of new clothing for Dressing for Success and helps organize Christmas drives, making sure people receive items they need and that nobody celebrates the holidays alone.

Carol single-handedly created and leads a puppeteer troupe called Positive Puppetry that addresses feelings, communication, and other topics, helping children and others learn about these areas and address difficulties that they have faced. She has forged invaluable connections with participants that have helped them go beyond their initial comfort zones. Some of the children they served would not talk to anyone prior to participating in the puppet program, however, after coming back week after week, they were able to connect to other participants through their puppets and open up about some of the trauma they had faced in the past.

Women's Empowerment Series Executive Director Theresa Menting explains that Carol “has quickly become a second mother and grandmother to our clients and their children, and helps them navigate through any situation that may come up by directing them to the best person for the job. She comes early to any event or class we have to help set up and stays after it is over to help clean up. She really goes above and beyond the role of a volunteer.”

