

A Father's Salvation Following Visit to Jill's House -- Days Before His Passing

Volunteer Spotlight: Dana Douglas



JH: How has volunteering at Jill's House changed your life?

DD: *By seeing first-hand how Jill's House has touched so many lives in so many ways, including my father's. My father had a soft heart for people and especially children with special needs. He loved Jill's House and he could see how happy it made me and loved that I had found a great place to serve. I know the love of Christ flows through Jill's House and that had a positive effect on my father. Following a recent visit to Jill's House, he gave his life to Christ -- just two days before he passed away. He told me shortly before he passed that he loved Jill's House and encouraged me to continue volunteering and do anything and everything I can to help serve more children.*

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JH: What do you like best about volunteering?

DD: *To see a couple go from being very stressed and considering divorce to re-engaging in their relationship and renewing their love and life together is very exciting! To see a family drop off a child and then take their other children to dinner and a movie for the first time is great! To see children feel, for the first time, that they fit in and have a network of friends, knowing that they can relate to the other special children, is so rewarding. To hear a child talk about sharing with their siblings and friends about the Jill's House prom or their first birthday party with friends during their stay at Jill's House gives me tears of joy.*

JH: When did you first learn about Jill's House?

DD: *I became interested in Jill's House through my work with the Epilepsy Foundation. I heard parents of children with epilepsy talk about Jill's House and the Access Ministry at McLean Bible Church for several years. I began attending McLean Bible Church in 2006 and orchestrated a support group for parents of children with epilepsy and began promoting Jill's House when it opened in 2010.*

JH: What do you do when you volunteer at Jill's House?

DD: *I have served as a receptionist, assisted in caring for children, and served as an ambassador by making presentations for corporations, the United Way, and Fairfax County events. I also help out with tours of Jill's House, and provide support for many of the fundraising events that Jill's House sponsors.*

JH: Why is volunteering at Jill's House important to you?

DD: *I experienced cancer and seizure disorders in childhood and know what it cost me. I also know how raising a child with special needs affects the families. I consider it a blessing to reach out to the parents God specifically chose to love and raise these very special children. To welcome and to love these children is another great blessing.*

JH: What would you say to someone considering volunteering at Jill's House?

DD: *If you have not volunteered at Jill's House, please give it a try. You will walk away challenged and energized!*

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Jill's House, visit jillshouse.org/serve, email sara.potter@jillshouse.org or call 703.639.5671.