

Why Volunteer?

By Susan Stump
Nominating Committee

Volunteer???? Why??? I have so much to do right now! I don't have the time! Someone else will do it...
Let me introduce you to someone who doesn't feel that way.

Patti Beemer has been a volunteer for Multiples of America (MOA) for the past 33 years! She knows firsthand the benefits of helping our organization continue to serve so many members. When she was attending a National Convention, one of her club members served on the Research Committee and encouraged her to consider volunteering. Since Patti was active at the local and state levels, she submitted a National Worker volunteer form and began her service to the organization.

Patti has served in many positions, and her favorite position was Membership Vice President. She stated, "In this role, I was able to share club members' excitement and pride in their accomplishments, as well as have the opportunity to provide support for the variety of challenges they faced. As MVP, I felt I had the closest connection to our members. The Parliamentarian position is a close second because it too offered me the chance to network directly with members."

As a volunteer, Patti was able to grow her skill set in many ways. One example was when she became Parliamentarian for MOA. With the support and encouragement of fellow board members, she enrolled in the National Association of Parliamentarians training program and received her member certification through them. Patti says, "Through the years, with new technologies, changing needs and expectations, I have continued to keep learning. MOA has helped me to step outside of my comfort zone with confidence, knowing that I won't be going alone - there will be support along the way."

Patti had the opportunity, along with Kelly Willenberg, to represent our organization at the ISTS Congress/ICOMBO meeting in 2000 in London. There, they presented our organization's exceptional research on placement of multiple birth children in school, attended many other research presentations, and networked with other like organizations from around the world.

So...why volunteer? According to Patti, "When you volunteer for Multiples of America, you become a part of something bigger than yourself. As the saying goes, we can do so much more together than we can do alone. It has been a wonderful experience to team with so many talented and dedicated volunteers through the years. Your volunteer service is also a very marketable experience to include if seeking work outside the home. As volunteers, we shared a common mission and felt pride in our accomplishments in service to multiple birth parents and families. Most importantly, I have developed lifelong friendships (our Tribe) through our commitment to the organization. We met as National Workers and formed a second family sharing all of life's challenges and joys...truly, a blessing beyond measure."

Patti and Dave, her husband of 47 years, have 39 year old identical twin sons, Aaron and Kevin. She is a member of the Polar Bear Mothers of Multiples (NJ), Colorado Springs Parents of Multiples, and New Jersey Association of Twins' Mothers Clubs.



If you would like to become a volunteer for MOA, please contact Diane Graves, Nominating Chair, at Volunteer@MultiplesOfAmerica.org.