

Mondays with Lana

Longtime Volunteer and Donor Reflects on her Time at Bryn Mawr Hospital

“Why not give it a try.”

Little did family physician Dr. Douglas Raymond know what he was starting 22 years ago when he suggested to Lana Crawford that she consider volunteering at Bryn Mawr Hospital.

Crawford, a lifelong area resident who describes Bryn Mawr as “our neighborhood hospital,” was at a point in her life where she had some extra time. Plus, most of her doctors practiced at Bryn Mawr and her daughter had volunteered there as a teenager so she was familiar with the hospital. The deal was sealed on Crawford’s first visit to the volunteer office when she bumped into an old friend from school who also volunteered.

“I remember thinking, ‘I *do* belong here,’ ” she says. She signed up that day and has volunteered faithfully every Monday since.

Originally assigned to visit patients in their rooms, Crawford has moved through nearly every part of the hospital over the years. Currently, she escorts patients to the catheterization lab or to surgery, helping them find their way and, more importantly, allaying a few fears.

“On Mondays they do a lot of orthopedic cases and since I had my knee replaced at Bryn Mawr I can talk to them about my great experience,” she says.

In 1991, Crawford was invited to join the hospital’s Women’s Board, an organization that contributes time and resources to enhance health care at the hospital and in the community. She later served two terms as chair of the Board. Her involvement on the Women’s Board led her to be invited to be an honorary member of the Bryn Mawr Hospital Foundation Board.

“I feel very much a part of this hospital,” says Crawford. “Bryn Mawr has a magical way of making its volunteers feel like an important part of the team.”

In addition to being a volunteer, Crawford and her husband are long-time donors.

“We used to be what I call ‘token’ donors, meaning we gave each year because we thought it was a nice thing to do,” she says. “Since I’ve been a volunteer, it’s been very different.

“Now I feel as if I have a stake in the hospital,” she continues. “Since I’m there every week I can see the positive affect donations have on various areas. For example, the wonderful renovations to the cardiac rehabilitation department.”

Ever humble, Crawford downplays her years of service.

“Bryn Mawr gets in your blood and it’s a place where I’ve made friends for life,” she says. “I still have lunch every Monday with the schoolmate I reconnected with on that first day.

“And being able to make a financial donation, well, that’s something I’m delighted to do.”

See you Monday, Lana.