



Leaders in the Movement

To say that Janet Mohrmann is the “Volunteer” Volunteer Coordinator at the Northwestern Ohio Chapter is to tell only a fraction of her story!

Janet was a Special Education teacher who became a stay-at-home mom when her children were young. She volunteered in all the usual ways at her children’s school, and then joined Junior Achievement for some longer-term volunteer teaching positions in her local school district. She then expanded her reach into her community, as a volunteer with the local Chamber of Commerce. Janet’s volunteer spirit and commitment had just begun!

As Janet’s children grew up, and as she contemplated a return to Special Education teaching, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Admitting that she did not want to return to teaching gave Janet the opportunity to follow her passion for volunteerism. And her diagnosis introduced her to a perfect partner with whom to share her skills and her passion, the National MS Society!

At the Northwestern Ohio Chapter, Janet began volunteering with a support group. Soon she was in charge of the newsletter. Then she was asked to speak to the Board of Trustees and explain to them what it means to live with MS. Just as her volunteer roles and level of commitment grew within her community before her diagnosis, her volunteer roles and level of commitment grew within the Society! From speaking to the board, she was asked to serve on the board. Soon, chapter president, Jacque Pratt, saw the leadership qualities in Janet and asked her to become the chapter’s “volunteer” volunteer coordinator.

Janet is now a volunteer leading other volunteers. This model of collaborative volunteer engagement – a partnership of staff and volunteers – is the MS Movement.

Janet shared what she has learned in this new leadership role at the chapter. “I realize the value of spending time with volunteers, nurturing meaningful relationships. I’m learning the “heart” needed to engage people in the MS movement.”

Janet makes sure she gets to know personalities before matching a volunteer to a position. In her words, “Trust is a huge issue. My goal is establishing relationships with valuable people in the community! When I empower a volunteer to do work that is meaningful to them they reciprocate with passion and commitment!”