

September 2020

Name: Robyn Heathcote Doersch



Tell us a little about yourself: I am recently retired, as of Sept. 2018, from Abbott/AbbVie after 32.5 years. I joined the company in 1986 as a member of the Engineering Professional Development Program with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the UW Madison.

I have an extensive background in pharmaceuticals and biopharma and have held numerous leadership positions within multiple functional areas of Abbott/AbbVie including Sr. Director of Global Purchasing Systems and Compliance, Director of Global Primary Care Supply Chain Franchise, Director of Global Manufacturing Supply Chain Strategy and Business Development, Director of Global Third Party Manufacturing, Senior Operations Program Manager – Humira (US Launch), Operations Manager US Liquids Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, Unit Manager US Fermentation Recovery Operations & Pilot Plant, Principle Project Manager Design and Construction - Abbott Chemical Plant, Barceloneta Puerto Rico, and Process Support Engineer Erythromycin manufacturing. Over the course of my career I have had responsibility for systems optimization, regulatory compliance, assurance of supply, program management, network optimization, third party manufacturing contracting and management, manufacturing operations, engineering design & construction, process support, scale up, and improvement initiatives for (bio)pharmaceutical products development and delivery.

I am married to Rod Doersch and we will be celebrating our 33rd anniversary in May of this year. We have two amazing daughters, Lexi Doersch and Tessa Doersch. Lexi is finishing her M.S. with thesis in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities this June. She graduated with her B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from UW Madison in May 2018. She is a 2014 graduate of Tremper Highschool. She is also a great cat mom to Malia. Tessa is a junior at UW Madison studying Neurobiology. She will earn her B.S. in in Neurobiology in 2020. Tessa hopes to attend Medical School and plans to take the MCAT this summer. She is a 2017 graduate of Tremper Highschool. She would like to be a cat mom but needs to wait a little longer before adopting 😊. Rod and I also have a Pixie-bob cat named Denali with 22 toes and no tail. I grew up in Oconomowoc Wisconsin and Rod in Madison Wisconsin. We have lived in Pleasant Prairie since 1990.

How long have you been volunteering for United Way of Kenosha County? I have been volunteering consistently with United Way of Kenosha County since August 2018 when I received training for the Readers are Leaders Program. Prior to that I also volunteered through Abbott/AbbVie's work with United Way in Lake County Illinois via day of caring events, fundraising, and book-banks.

How did you get involved with United Way of Kenosha County? We had always directed our United Way contributions through our company fundraising programs to United Way of Kenosha County. We also began attending the United Way Annual Gala in 2016 in anticipation of retiring and wanting to do more in our local community. At the Gala events I became aware of the Readers are Leaders Program and was inspired to become a volunteer tutor.

My goal after retirement was/is to give back more to the community. While we have always made financial contributions, it was difficult while working and raising a family to be able to donate time. Now that I have time, I want to also contribute that to the betterment of our community. My familiarity with the United Way through my employer made me think to look here first for those opportunities.

In addition to Readers are Leaders I also volunteered to become involved with Retirees United as a Founding Member. It was through contact with Laurie McDonald regarding this new initiative that I have also been given an opportunity to be a member of the Community Involvement Committee evaluating annual Grant Applications.

What is your favorite experience/story from your work with United Way of Kenosha County? So far it has been observing the progress of the students in the Readers are Leaders program. It is very rewarding to see the pride that the students take in being able to improve their reading. The smiles on their little faces, observing them using the little tricks you showed them to help decipher words, and the hugs they give you at the year end thank you event. The Forest Park team gave us a thank you breakfast and shared the real and measurable improvements they saw in the reading capabilities of the students in the program. It was amazing. It actually made me cry. And the personal photos and thank you notes were great too.

This year I am especially gratified to be able to be involved in the process to obtain additional reading resources for one of my pupils. After the first couple weeks of tutoring it was apparent that this student needed more support. We were successfully able to get a school interventionist assigned. They also provided the tutors with additional resources to help develop this student. The kindergarten teacher had been unable to get this support the year prior based on resource allocation "rules".

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? Hanging out with my family, getting outside, going to the gym, taking art classes, food tours, traveling, and learning new things.

What would you say to someone who is thinking of volunteering for United Way of Kenosha County? DO IT!! There is nothing better than knowing you have made a difference. Pay it forward we all have something to offer. We prosper when our entire community prospers.

What is your favorite quote?

Knowledge talks, wisdom listens.

Jimi Hendrix

Tell us something that inspires you? Kindness, my kids, nature.

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