

October 2020

Name: Thomas Hepperle



Tell us a little about yourself:

I'm from Chicago.

How long have you been volunteering for United Way of Kenosha County?

Not for very long! Only since July 2019.

How did you get involved with United Way of Kenosha County?

Last June, I received an e-mail invitation to participate in the Lake Andrea Dragonfest as a volunteer. It was a lot of fun, so I volunteered at four other events that the United Way was involved in, including the Iron Girl Triathlon, Classic Cruise-in Car Show and Oktoberfest held last year, and the Readers are Leaders event last March.

What is your favorite experience/story from your work with United Way of Kenosha County?

All of the events were fun, and it's hard to single out one over another. At Readers are Leaders, the staff, teachers and students at Lakewood Elementary School were so nice. I read Dr. Seuss books to three classrooms, and I was able to return to the Kindergarten for a second session to read Green Eggs and Ham. The Kindergarten prepared a Green Eggs and Ham breakfast for everyone! Last August, on a total impulse, I watched a YouTube documentary about the St. Louis Browns ("The Team Baseball Forgot"), and just a couple days later, I met a descendant of George Sisler (Google it...) who was picking up her race packet at the Iron Girl Triathlon. The Classic Cruise-in Car Show had many beautiful antique, rare, and classic cars on display – I never saw so many AMC (and Nash, and Rambler) vehicles assembled in one place...

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I help at the Wisconsin Marathon, which, unfortunately, was canceled this year. But, we plan to be back in 2021 – on the first Saturday in May.

What would you say to someone who is thinking of volunteering for United Way of Kenosha County?

I would definitely recommend volunteering for the United Way of Kenosha County. You will meet the nicest people: the people of Kenosha County, and the Staff of the United Way. And you will be helping the United Way fulfill its mission to support the health, education and financial stability of

everyone in your Community – especially those most in need. Without volunteer support, these events and programs would not be possible, and they do need your help. Try it – you’ll be glad you did!

What is your favorite quote?

(N/A)

Tell us something that inspires you?

Like most of us, I find the courage and dedication of the people who are performing the most critical jobs, under the most threatening conditions, during the current pandemic crisis to be most inspiring. And that includes not only our health care workers, who are in the absolute front lines of this battle, but also a great number of everyday people, who cannot “distance” themselves, and face great risk to deliver so many important services that we cannot live without: people who handle our food, garbage pick-up, the whole range of public services and social services that cannot be done remotely – more jobs than I can list for fear that I will omit anyone. To all of you: Thank you for your outstanding service. Please take all precaution and get through this difficult period safely.

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