

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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Ann Jones, Betty Cowan, Grace Elkins and Mary Lou Huske volunteer with the development department, providing invaluable assistance in the membership renewal process each month. With their contagious smiles, cheery warmth and delightful stories, these ladies have much more to offer than their volunteer efforts. All four live just behind the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite at Aldersgate Retirement Community. They enjoy volunteering with the museum because it helps them to remain involved in the community and continue to build social connections.

Betty Cowan is a resident representative on an Aldersgate committee to promote volunteering in the Shamrock community. She assists the resident head of a statewide organization that serves as a legislative voice for residents in retirement communities. Some of Betty's hobbies include playing bridge, watercolor painting, sewing and smocking. Before retiring, Betty taught elementary art. Her aunt married Nat Alexander, who built the beautiful home on the corner of Shamrock and Sharon Amity. As an Aldersgate resident, Betty now lives in the neighborhood where she once roamed and played as a child. Betty describes Aldersgate as a good life with good people from all walks of life.

During WWII, Grace Elkins served on a special unit of the army, trained as a nurse to relieve a shortage in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. In the fifties, she and her twin sister appeared on billboards and in ads for Chesterfield cigarettes. Some of Grace's pastimes include Tai Chi, aerobics and shelving books in the library at Aldersgate. She is also a member of the Colonial Dames. Her interest in genealogy and history brought her to the museum. Grace loves to stay active because it keeps her in tune with society. Remembering a time when clerical, nursing and teaching positions were the only options, she is impressed by all the opportunities now open to women.

Mary Lou Huske serves as the chaplain for the Battle of Charlotte chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. For many years, she also served on the board of the Elizabethan Gardens. She is also an accredited flower show judge and recently traveled to Florida to renew her accreditation. Like Grace, Mary Lou has an interest in history and genealogy. She loves to volunteer and enjoys the camaraderie at the museum. In addition to making flower arrangements and volunteering, Mary Lou teaches interdenominational bible studies, line dances, and practices yoga. She loves getting to know her fellow residents because they all have such fascinating stories to tell.

Ann Jones loves to swim, and is a connoisseur of pools. She is also a world traveler, and covers one of the walls in her home with tiles from all the places she has visited. Ann was a research chemist at and taught school after getting married. She says she did not retire well, because she retired four separate times before it finally stuck. Ann believes part of the reason behind her struggle to retire is her generation's work ethic compelling them to stay busy all the time, even while sitting still. That work ethic is also part of her motivation to volunteer.

As Mary Lou said of her community, "everyone has a story and it's not long before you can feel it." This rings especially true for all four of these fantastic ladies. Their efforts and company are appreciated and enjoyed by everyone at the museum.

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