



Become A Community Hero

As a former manager for the Medina County District Library system (Hinckley and Highland libraries) for 30 years, it's no surprise that Diane Dermody understands the importance of community. "Medina County is more than just where I worked," said Dermody, "it's home to my family, it's where I shop, where I play.

It's where I'm most happy. Medina County has given me so much that my gift in return is giving back."

One of the many ways Dermody "pays it forward" is by volunteering with the Medina County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). "I'm not a doctor. I'm not a nurse. I wasn't even a candy striper when I was a teenager." chuckles Dermody. "However, I am a great planner and organizer, two traits that are very useful in times of crisis."

The Medina County MRC is a local network of community volunteers with a variety of talents and skills that support the Medina County Health Department in a time of need, disaster or emergency. Jessica Miles, Medina County MRC Coordinator explains, "In a time of crisis, we need all hands on deck. Healthcare professionals, laborers, tradesmen, educators, and administrative support are all needed to respond to the public health needs of the community. Diane has excellent organizational skills and her connections in the community are invaluable resources to our organization."



As the daughter of a Cleveland firefighter, Dermody saw the kind of caring and satisfaction that her father experienced as a first responder. "The Medina County MRC gives me that same human awareness." Dermody has assisted with flu immunization clinics, participated in emergency drills, helped with special community events, and even watched television. Dermody explains, "During the local Ebola scare in 2014, the health department needed assistance monitoring the media." For nearly two weeks Dermody kept a log of the regional and national news stories surrounding the local situation. "The information that I gathered was then used by the health department to develop messaging, help answer questions, and calm anxiety in the community. It's wonderful to be a part of something bigger than yourself."

Dermody suggests that often times "people want to help, but simply don't know how." For those she offers these words, "We all have useful skills, whether it's preparing meals for a soup kitchen, entering information in a database or hauling equipment to a disaster sight. The Medina County MRC will put your skills to use while fostering comradery and purpose."

The Medina County Health Department offers a free MRC Introductory Training Course on an annual basis. The training meets the state requirements for all new MRC volunteers and is open to anyone wanting to learn more about the program. For more or information please visit www.medinahealth.org or call (330)723-9688, option 5. You too could be a "community hero."



The Medina County Health Department has protected your health since 1918. Services are partially supported by your property tax health levy. Equal opportunity provider.