



A passion for nursing shines through as new energy assistance volunteer takes on role

Alexis Brandt knew she wanted to be a nurse at the young age of 3.

“It is a passion. To me nursing is a wonderful profession and I find it fascinating,” she says.

Alexis brings her experience as a nurse and strong communication skills to her role as a volunteer for the Energy Assistance Program. The program is an income-eligible program as well as a program to help seniors and individuals with disabilities who are struggling to pay their energy bills. When participants qualify for a determined amount, the payment is electronically paid to the appropriate energy company.

“We work as a clearinghouse to see if someone qualifies for energy assistance working from a list of requirements,” she says. “We want them to come in with all of the paperwork needed so it’s a very smooth process.”

The retired RN volunteers at the PCACS offices one day a week.

“My background helps me have the ability to talk to people and depending on the information we need, how to get there and do it very politely when we miss the mark,” she says.

She worked for 22 years as nurse at the local hospital and was board-certified in med-surgery. She spent seven years in the medical arena, seven years in surgery and the rest of her career in education.

“I was the lead nurse planner for continuing education. I had to prove why we were offering an educational program: what was the deficit and what’s the goal I was hoping to achieve for the nurses attending the program,” she says.

She is still active in the nursing world through her participation in the Chicago Area of Nursing Staff Development. The organization offers the opportunity to socialize and focus on continuing education.

“I received a scholarship last year to attend the national conference in New Orleans and brought back copious notes to share the information with the group,” she says.

Beyond volunteering at PCACS, she also offers her time as an assisting minister at Faith Lutheran Church and spends time with her family: husband Dave and daughter Annaliese.

“I have always believed in giving back to the community. When my daughter was in school, I volunteered at the school whether that was in the classroom or as a Girl Scout leader,” she says. “As a society, we have to give back.”