



## Missy Thomas Northwoods Caregivers

Unlike many teenagers who unwillingly attend church each week, I couldn't wait for Sundays. I was always greeted with a hug from sweet, white-haired Hannah. I often got to play the piano for the Offertory or sing with my sisters for Special Music. And the donuts and over-sweetened lemonade after the service were always a treat. But the thing that my friends and I most looked forward to was the youth group hour with our leader, "Bomber." Bomber, who was such a sports fanatic that he named all 4 kids after his favorite teams, was a riot. He was engaging, sincere, intelligent and famous for his sense of humor, and specifically, his Top Ten Lists. He wrote one for us each week and they were more entertaining than David Letterman's. (Granted, I wasn't allowed to even watch that show as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader...)

As this year's March Madness is winding down (a sacred time of year for Bomber) and National Volunteer Recognition Week is approaching (a special way for us to thank our volunteers), here is my version of a Top Ten List: a tribute to my cherished youth leader of years ago (who hopefully won't shake his head in embarrassment) and also to the beloved volunteers in our community (who will hopefully nod in agreement with a smile).

### **Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer**

10. It makes your resume longer.
9. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers...the Titanic was built by professionals.
8. You look and feel younger...especially when the 90-yr old grandma you are helping calls you "Dearie."
7. Community Service: It's not just for celebrity offenders.
6. You get to spend time with others (...or get away from your own family).
5. You have the chance to change a situation, not just complain about one.
4. Bragging rights and the privilege to judge others for not stepping up....And usually a free t-shirt.
3. You don't get paid. (But you're priceless!)
2. By just sitting at home, you run the risk of receiving that dreaded knock on the door – especially during a political campaign.

And the Number 1 Reason to Volunteer.....

1. The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. –Mahatma Gandhi.

**A genuine and heartfelt THANK YOU from Northwoods Caregivers goes out to all those who have given their time and their hearts to our community.**