



Volunteer Spotlight: September 2017 Dian Finch

When people think about volunteering at a food bank or food closet, the first activity that comes to mind is filling stomachs with hot soup, bread, beans and meat. Not necessarily sorting and boxing non-perishables and bagging fresh produce. However relevant those activities may be for Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) volunteers, there is plenty of work that goes on behind the scenes that involves volunteers as well. There are facility & maintenance volunteers, warehouse assistants, inventory specialists and administrative assistants. Each one of the roles SFBFS offers to volunteers is just as important as the next and they all help SFBFS fulfill its mission.

Dian Finch, an administrative assistant, is one of those “behind-the-scenes” volunteers. Born in the Bay Area, Dian moved out to Sacramento because of the beautiful scenery along the American River; spending a lot of time cycling and the trails were a huge draw for Dian. A lover of the outdoors, Dian once hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, spent the night and hiked back to the top the very next day, all by herself! You can imagine how beautiful the American River Trail is if it brought Dian to Sacramento, and ultimately, to SFBFS. Dian worked for the City of Folsom’s Public Works Department for 17 years. After retiring, outside of cycling and reading, Dian found herself having a lot of downtime. A friend of hers recommended volunteering at a food bank and the rest is history! Dian has been a dependable administrative volunteer for the past 16 months and SFBFS couldn’t be more thrilled to have her!



Dian wasn’t sure which role she wanted to fill at SFBFS. She knew that she didn’t want to be in the spotlight and given her background she figured the administrative volunteer would be a good fit. She interacts with clients every day, in person & over the phone, she shows new volunteers the warehouse and how to sign in and is also on a first name basis with the SFBFS team. If Dian is not assisting a client or volunteer, she is designing spreadsheets to track inventory, inputting donor and volunteer information along with helping wherever else it is needed throughout the Food Bank Services campus. A true asset for the folks at SFBFS.

It isn’t always smiles and laughs for Dian though; some of the most difficult experiences have been talking with clients and hearing their stories and working with them to find the resources they need. Dian loves being able to assist clients and helping them find resources to succeed, but hearing what folks have gone through to get where they are can be difficult at times. However, the SFBFS staff, volunteers and seeing clients succeed is what keeps Dian coming back. Knowing where her assistance is going and who it is helping makes each volunteer day a good experience for Dian.

Dian, SFBFS is lucky to have you! Thanks for all you do!