

Volunteer Star



FRED WITZELING

**DISPENSARY
11 Years**

What duties do you perform in your volunteer role at CVIM?

I help with inventory control in the Dispensary, stocking products ordered through the Patient Assistance Program (PAP), destroying outdated products, processing packing slips for PAP, and preparing a weekly report on reordering drugs from the pharmaceutical companies who provide free medication for the patients.

What brought you to volunteer at CVIM?

My wife, Regina, and I were watching the news in 2003 when it was announced that Vioxx was being removed from the market. She asked if I could organize the effort at CVIM to speak to patients who were taking the product and help the doctors begin a new treatment program where needed. That was my first day at CVIM.

How does volunteering at CVIM make you feel?

My role is small but very important. I have to make sure the products are organized for the pharmacists. Then I feel like I'm making a real contribution to the dispensary, because we want to make sure that the patient does not have to come back for medication unnecessarily.

What would you tell your friends to interest them in volunteering at the clinic?

Our patients need us so that they don't have to go to the Emergency Room for routine care. The ER is very expensive, and it's not the best solution for patients with minor problems or those with chronic conditions like diabetes. I would also tell them that CVIM provides a great opportunity to use the skills learned in a prior career.

Have you recruited any other volunteers to work at CVIM?

Yes, I got Richard Gluskin to return to work in the Dispensary. He had been a patient driver and had not worked at the clinic for many years. I needed someone to come in once a month to spend a half-day to remove outdated merchandise from the shelves. He has been a great asset.

What other hats have you worn?

I was a sales manager for Searle Pharmaceuticals for 30 years. Currently I'm a member of the Paoli Rotary Club and captain of the tennis team at Waynesborough Country Club. I'm also on the CVIM Volunteer Committee as well as the Golf Classic committee.

When you're not at CVIM, what are a few of the things you do for enjoyment?

I like to play tennis, paddle ball, and pickle ball. I also enjoy doing crossword puzzles, reading history, collecting antiques, and traveling with my grandchildren.

