

Lee's Summit Community of Character – 2011
Lee Kiley
Character Trait -FAMILY

Anytime someone adopts a child – it's a remarkable symbol of caring, sharing, belonging and FAMILY. It's not unlikely to adopt one child, or possibly two or three, but Lee Kiley and his wife adopted 8 kids!

Lee is a jovial, caring volunteer at Truman Medical Center Lakewood. Surprisingly, few volunteers or staff members know the story of Lee's family.

When I first started working at TMC, I listened in amazement while Lee talked about different members of his family, and I finally asked, "How many kids do you have?"

Lee briefly mentioned that they had adopted twins then a family of four came along, and then with his usual jolly laugh, said "Then there were two more they couldn't live without."

That's when the whole story unfolded. Lee earned his Masters in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, and worked for years in the chemical industry for Dow Chemical, while his wife was a nurse. They doubled the size of their family by adopting 3 month old twins. Four years later they doubled the size of their family again by adopting a family of 4 kids, ranging in age from 3-13. Seven years later, a baby was abandoned in the ditch by their house – like someone knew they would take care of it. Ironically, they couldn't keep that baby, but they wound up adopting two other children. One child was hard to place, but since Lee's wife was a nurse, they were willing to take the child into their home and family.

Sadly, Lee's wife passed away 20 years ago. Lee is now a proud father of 8, and has 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Lee has been a volunteer at TMC Lakewood for seven years, and he was recognized as Volunteer of the Year in 2004. He is chairman of the Scholarship committee, currently the treasurer for the Auxiliary, helps with bookkeeping at the gift shops, helps audit books in the Dental Clinic, and volunteers one day a week in the gift shops. Recently he was there four days in one week – unheard of for many volunteers, but not unusual for Lee.

Lee also volunteers at his church and still sings in the choir. He has many other talents – he enjoys doing water color paintings and detailed counter cross-stitch. He has given many to family and friends, including donations to fund-raisers at TMC Lakewood.

Lee is a remarkable man, with a big family, and a big heart. He truly makes all the volunteers and staff members feel like family at TMC Lakewood.