

SpotLights

Lights Volunteers: Connecting to a World of Service

Winter 2017

SPOTLIGHT: Tyshar Truevillian

by Charity Sutherland



Tyshar Truevillian with son, Amari

Tyshar Truevillian's involvement as a Light Volunteers is what she calls a "total accident". Walking with a friend on The Promenade one day, she was introduced to Leslie Ann Schwarzer. The ensuing

conversation in Leslie's office is what Tyshar described as the greatest talk which lead her to fill out an application and join the Lights Volunteer Program

Though Tyshar has only been on the team for approximately six months, she already feels like the other volunteers are her family. Her first assignment was with We-Haul as a greeter. Tyshar speaks of how they didn't merely open doors for the students and parents—they were supporters. She tells of how one parent, after saying goodbye to their child, came up to them crying. The greeters were able to offer support to each of the parents reassuring them that their children would be safe here at Southern Adventist University. Being passionate about student ministry, Tyshar states that the jobs surrounding the students are her favorite volunteer opportunities.

Tyshar speaks excitedly about her short experience as a standardized or "pretend" patient in the School of Nursing. She was only able to be a participant at the very end of the semester, giving her a taste of what happens; however, from that experience, Tyshar would really love to do it again. As a nurse herself, Tyshar feels a special connection to the nursing students and wants to be supportive of them.

When asked what volunteer opportunities she would like to either do or re-do, Tyshar's answer was to be a standardized patient and do We-Haul. She emphatically says how We-Haul is one of those things that you just know you will be doing again no matter what. She's excited to see what opportunities come up for her over the next few years.

In closing, Tyshar recited Ephesians 4: 3, 4: "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit In the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling". She says, "I feel like that's what happens here with Light Volunteers. There are volunteers from all over, and yet we all come together with the same goal in mind--to serve others." ❄️

PC: Krantzy Boursiquot

Save the Date

January

- 26 **Alash**
Traditional Tuvan instruments and throat singing
Ackerman Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

February

- 23 **Cicely Parnas**
American cellist
Ackerman Auditorium
7:30 p.m.

March

- 20 **Lights Volunteers Luncheon**
Presidential Banquet Room
11:30 a.m. (rescheduled from March 14)

April

- 04 **M5**
Mexican brass group
Iles PE Center
7:30 p.m.

*Start where you are. Use what you have.
Do what you can. –Ashe*

Happy Birthday!

“Sing a song of birthdays
Full of fun and cheer
And may you keep on having them
for many a happy year.” -Anonymous

January

07 Odil Donesky
10 Dusty Miller
13 Susie Johnson
22 Gordon Guild
25 Tuwan Ussery
26 Dennis Tidwell
28 June Kentlein
28 Rae Reta Peel

February

04 Leslie Ann Schwarzer
09 Lil Yarosh
12 Peggy Elkins
14 Bryon Kordenbrock
14 Bernadette Slater
15 Daniel Bennett
20 Steve Wilham
21 Judy Krueger
21 Lila Tidwell
22 Arnold Clapp
27 Jodi Patterson

March

05 Nan Schumacher
06 Drucilla Glass
14 Neal Wearer
21 Bill Wood
22 Greg Hocking
22 Reed Krause
25 Merritt MacLafferty
26 Rita Vital





Odil Donesky: Making Time to Make a Difference

by Charity Sutherland



Because she loves missions and young people, **Odil Donesky** made the decision to join the Campus Ministries' uQuest family in September 2014. After homeschooling her two children through the 10th grade and saying goodbye to the youngest as she left for academy, Odil wanted to give back to the community. That's when she

learned about uQuest through a friend. She says that depending on the need, each time she volunteers her tasks can be very different. Much of her time is spent with the paperwork involved when a student plans to go overseas on a short term mission trip. Medical records, emergency contacts, and allergy lists are some of the responsibilities she cares for, and it's her job to ensure all the necessary documents are present and organized. This means she emails students to remind them to submit their papers to her on time.

Not only does Odil get state-side emergency info, she also looks at the area the student is heading and finds the embassy emergency numbers for each place. Researching information about the destination country and then creating packing lists for the students are some of the things she does to go the extra mile. However, her job doesn't only stick to the "after-the-student-decides-I-want-to-go" process, she also interviews them. Whatever the job, Odil is always the first to lend a hand. "Right now, I'm learning how the office runs so when I'm asked to do something, I'm able to complete the task."



says, "Sometimes translation is needed, and during the first year I was here, I was the only one capable." When speaking of the first year, she also



says that she put in many hours, since the department was just beginning, and there were few helpers at the time. She says it's been fun seeing the department grow into what it is today.

When asked what the favorite part of her job is, Odil replies: "The contact I have with the students, especially, you know, when you do an interview or something, and the student may start sharing things they're struggling with, and I can pray with them." Odil has always genuinely cared for young people, so



laughing and praying with them is always her highlight. She also goes on to say how she loves the Christian work environment. "All the kids who work here are just the cream of the crop. You see them genuinely praying for each other, hugging each other, and caring for each other. It's a great atmosphere to work in." Watching this and working in such an atmosphere always encourages and lifts her mood.

Odil is a selfless giver whether it be overseas or in her home. She regularly finds time to be involved with Sabbath School and a number of other outreach opportunities. But she doesn't stop there. She keeps her door open to local Southern students



for Saturday night food and games in her home. In conclusion, Odil says, "I would encourage everyone, if possible, to

give back to the community or to the church and to spend time doing some volunteer work." She continues to say that no matter how small the deed, we should try to make a difference in a person's life, and no matter how little time we have, we should make time to make a difference in someone's life.



PC: Charity Sutherland



WELCOME New Lights Volunteers!



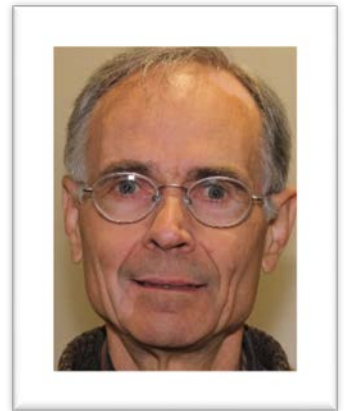
Beverly Rawson
Planned Giving



Ronda Smith



Laura Becker



Neal Wearer
Plant Services

Volunteer Opportunities

Call Leslie Ann Schwarzer at 423.236.2555 if you're interested in any of the opportunities listed below.

Ongoing Opportunities

Campus Safety

Fire Extinguisher and Emergency Lighting Program—Be part of the team that checks fire extinguishers and exit lights across campus on a monthly basis; flexible schedule

Christian Service Learning

Sewing crayon rolls for Southern mission trips (VBS)

Food Service

Assist with preparing food for The Kayak on Mondays or Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for the month of April.

Upcoming Opportunities

Christian Service Learning

Assist with student events. Watch for details.