

## Volunteer Spotlight: Janet Dalland

### "I needed you more than you needed me."

**JH:** How long have you been volunteering at Jill's House?

**JD:** I have served Jill's House for three years. Prior to volunteering here I worked as a nurse in a neonatal intensive care unit. One day, I just suddenly knew in my heart it was time for a change. I was drawn to Jill's House with a deep knowing that I needed you much more than you needed me.

**JH:** What do you do at Jill's House?

**JD:** I have done a variety of administrative tasks, but now I serve regularly as a receptionist to answer phones, greet people when they walk in, and support the staff in any way I can. The work of the employees at Jill's House is extremely important, and I want to do everything I can to unburden the staff by taking small jobs off their plates so they can serve more children.

**JH:** Are there any special stories you'd like to share about your time at Jill's House?

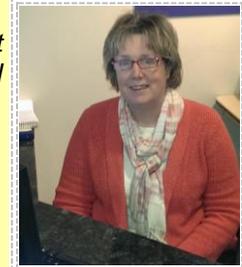
**JD:** On the first Wednesday we started serving children after school a father dropped in just to make sure his son arrived safely on the bus and that he would be OK. The staff assured him that his son was doing great and would have a wonderful time. They encouraged the man to use his time to rest and renew. As the man walked away, he turned to us with tears in his eyes and shared that he was about to take his other son out for dinner and a movie for the first time in eight years. He said this with a combination of disbelief and gratitude. I am so blessed to be part of an organization that makes such a significant impact in the lives of deserving people.

**JH:** What is your favorite part about working at Jill's House?

**JD:** Seeing the great support the families receive and experiencing the pure joy the children we serve bring when they are here. As a nurse, the babies I cared for left the hospital as infants. I always wonder what happened to them, and I would not be surprised if some of the children Jill's House serves were under my care as babies. I like to think there is a continuum of my caring for children who have extra struggles or special needs.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Jill's House, visit [jillshouse.org/serve](http://jillshouse.org/serve), email [sara.potter@jillshouse.org](mailto:sara.potter@jillshouse.org) or call 703.639.5671.

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Janet has been serving faithfully since Jill's House opened its doors.