

Making the World a Better Place

Morgan Adams Foundation

The **Morgan Adams Foundation (MAF)** is an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and survival rates of children diagnosed with pediatric brain tumors and other rare cancers.

Susan J. Carney's job at U.S. Bank is to provide test support for Check Systems. Susan's job as a volunteer for the Morgan Adams Foundation is to lend support to two major fundraiser events held annually: artma (an art auction) and the Morgan Adams Concours d'Elegance (an aircraft, automobile and motorcycle review and silent auction). For the past eight years, Susan has volunteered for these events and proudly holds the job title "Gopher Most Superior."



Susan's knowledge of Denver and her willingness to drive anywhere in the city made her the obvious lead-runner. As the "Gopher Most Superior," Susan retrieves supplies from storage units to help set up equipment for events. She supplies the local restaurants and bars with special beverages, napkins, paper plates, silverware, and anything else needed for the event. She helps data-entry ticket information and mails the tickets out. She gathers donated art work and auction items and taxis artists from the airport that fly in to participate in the show. Finally, there's the ice to pick up from Reddy Ice – all 1,600 pounds of it!

"The Foundation's events are very personal," Susan said. "They attract a lot of people who have been touched by cancer. Many survivors attend who have benefited from the research that MAF has funded. In addition to that, many family members of kids who've survived—and of those who haven't—work side-by-side with the rest of the volunteers, which really makes these events special. We even have two kids who were in treatment with Morgan and survived their cancer who come and help out every year!"



Susan said that the most rewarding part of volunteering is meeting the people whose lives have been profoundly changed by the research that MAF has funded over the years. "Knowing that I am, in some way, a part of that change is something that makes what I do all the more rewarding."

A side benefit to volunteering is meeting some of the artists and entertainment figures that participate in the events. Susan shares this story:

"A few years ago, someone told me that Brian Griese was a guest at artma. Being a huge football fan, I hunted him down and put my hand out and said, "Hi Brian, I just want to say hi and tell

you that I'm a huge fan of you and the Denver Broncos." He shook my hand and said, "Well, thanks, Sue!" I was in shock that he knew my name. I was so impressed until after I walked away and realized that I had my artma volunteer nametag on. Encounters like this are not the reason I give so much time to MAF, but they are one of the things that make it so much fun."

For more information, visit the website at: <http://www.morganadamsfoundation.org/>

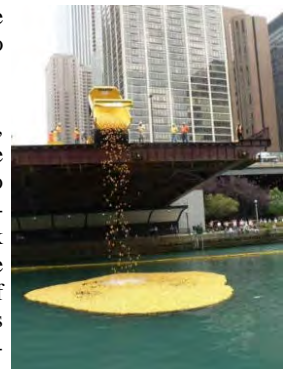
Special Olympics - 2009 Windy City Rubber Ducky Derby



Lauri M. Hand, Project Manager for the Competency Center, has volunteered for the Ducky Derby for three years. When asked how she got involved, Lauri said, "I got involved through the Chicago office manager who made volunteering for the Derby an office-wide opportunity. It was such a good time; I decided to do it the next year and

the next. It's fun to interact with the kids but it's also rather amazing to see that many ducks in the river!

Ducks in the river? Explain! "Well, Several weeks prior to the event, we start selling "ducks" to people who want to 'adopt' a duck and have entered in the big race. If your duck wins, you win an associated prize (trip, TV, etc.). The actual day of the race, there's the last minute sales effort to sell as many ducks as possible. At mid-day, the City raises one half of one of the drawbridges and a huge dump truck filled with tens of thousands of rubber ducks drops the ducks into the river. And the race is on! It takes a while, but the ducks float down the Chicago River to the finish line and the winners are determined. This is an annual one-day event that requires a lot of quick set up and tear down plus sales—not to mention getting those ducks out of the river!"



Dumping ducks



Lauri described what the event looks like. "Volunteers meet in front of the Wrigley Building and the Tribune Tower at the Michigan Avenue Bridge to set up sales tables, souvenir tables, and the children's game area. Several of the Special Olympics kids are there with us selling ducks and posing for pictures with some of the professional team mascots who participate to help bring in sales.

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