



Q: What do you like most about The Helm?

Oh my heavens, where do I start?

Bernie Beutel
Active with The Helm since 2014



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Bernie is a born and bred Michigander. He grew up in Detroit and earned a degree in music education from Wayne State University.

In Bernie's book of life, his career could not fit into one chapter – it needs an entire book! While attending Wayne State University, Bernie worked as a church musician in several Catholic churches in Detroit. This paid for his tuition. After graduating from Wayne, Bernie took a job teaching vocal music for the Warren Consolidated schools. He taught 32 years. After retiring, Wayne State hired Bernie as a supervisor of student teachers. This he did for 14 years. Bernie then began volunteering at the Detroit Zoo and delivering Meals on Wheels for The Helm.

When asked about his interests, Bernie let out a laugh, “Oh I got a lot!” Besides being a music man, he is a photographer and has donated his skills to The Helm taking photographs at a number of events. He also enjoys taking walks, gardening and cooking. He loves to meet new people. Among all his interests and hobbies, Bernie's absolute favorite activity is traveling. He has been to seven countries in Asia, and used to spend three months there every year before the pandemic. He hopes he'll be able to travel again soon.

If Bernie isn't traveling, he spends much of his time with The Helm. Active since 2014, Bernie has come to love the tight-knit community.

“What do I like most? Oh my heavens, where do I start? I like the people that I meet. You meet so many people who participate in the same activities. Oh gosh, I started to help out with Meals on Wheels maybe 10 to 12 years ago, and that's great. And let me tell you, those who work there are so dedicated and enthusiastic. They run the whole show.”

Long story short, Bernie is a man who knows how to live life. When asked to give advice to the younger generation, he simply said, “I can't give advice to anybody.” However, simply talking to Bernie about his interests, career, and his time at The Helm, it's safe to say that being active in your community and indulging in your interests will help you meet great people, create beautiful memories, and live a fulfilling life.