

BINGO!

Every Thursday at The Helm, Audrey Bernier calls out Bingo numbers and awards prizes to the many players of this popular activity – something she has done since 2012.

"I began assisting the prior volunteer caller and when she moved away, I took over full time. I love it. The people are what make The Helm the happiest place." Audrey grew up in Waterford but moved to the east side of Detroit in junior high school and graduated from Southeastern High School. Married with three children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, she and her husband, Curtis, now live in Fraser.

Audrey enjoys being busy. Always active with her children's schools (and even grandchildren's!), Audrey also has been an Avon representative for 43 years. Much of that was full-time until she began working at American Sunroof Company. After a few years in the factory, she became a home caregiver, something she still does today. It was her caregiver business that introduced Audrey to The Helm. "When I started

the business, my clients were all in Grosse Pointe. I would take them to The Helm for activities and my involvement grew from there."

In addition to calling Bingo, Audrey gathers, packages, and wraps the numerous prizes – quite a task considering there are more than 20 each week! Prizes are donated or purchased at the dollar store from donated monies. ("I try to make everything look nice and special with ribbons and bows!") Audrey also volunteers for parties at The Helm and helps package and deliver holiday gift baskets.

While she still has her caregiver business, she's down to six days from seven, giving her a little extra time for planning Bingo and keeping up with her family.

"I always have to be doing something. I just like to be busy."