

If you come to The Helm on Thursdays or Fridays, you most likely have been greeted by Lois Baker. Lois began volunteering at The Helm in 2018 helping wherever she could, including parties, lunch service, the annual gala, office work and helping check-in guests upon arrival at The Helm. Lois also is spearheading the placemat collection for Meals on Wheels.

“I thoroughly enjoy volunteering at The Helm,” Lois said. “I get to do so many different things, see so many wonderful people and I love the atmosphere.”

Born and raised in Detroit, Lois earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Wayne State University and a master’s degree in public administration from University of Detroit. She worked for the state of Michigan in the social services department, mostly in Wayne County, retiring in 2017.

Lois married Chuck Baker in 1976 and raised three children in Grosse Pointe Shores, before Chuck passed away in 2016. She has always like to be busy. Even while married, having a career and raising a family, the Grosse Pointe Shores resident has long been active in the community. She volunteered through her children’s schools and maintains membership in the Junior League of Detroit (Sustainers) and the Grosse Pointe Friends and Neighbors Club. She participates in several of the Friends’ offshoot interest groups, including its book club and gourmet club. “I love cooking. But cooking for one isn’t much fun. We get together monthly at someone’s house so this gives me a chance to cook and entertain, and if I’m not cooking, just enjoying a great meal and the company of others.”

Lois also enjoys lunches with her grandsons, reading, needlepoint, doing crossword puzzles, playing mah-jongg and golfing. If you don’t recognize Lois from any of these activities or her volunteering at the Detroit Golf Club for the Rocket Mortgage Classic, you may recognize her as the past owner of Grosse Pointe Dog Wash.

After having led such a jam-packed life, Lois needed more to fill her time after her husband died and she retired. And, that’s when she turned to The Helm.

“You have to find exciting and interesting things to do or be a crabby or lonely old lady!”

