

# LORI & MICHAEL



## Highmark Caring Place Volunteers

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**Michael**

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**Lori**

Lori and Michael believe they were brought to the Highmark Caring Place by a "higher calling." The husband and wife team are actively involved in serving their church and community, and they believe their faith has encouraged them to volunteer. "We felt called to volunteer at the Caring Place," Lori said. Michael had a similar reaction when he read about the need for volunteers in the church bulletin. "My wife and I were both attracted to the idea independently," he said. "We believe we were called into this service." The couple has been honoring that call by donating their time and giving their hearts to the Caring Place for three years.

Although Lori and Michael share their devout faith, the gifts that each brings to their volunteer work are unique. Lori prefers to work with the younger children. "I always volunteer with the children's groups," Lori explained. "I especially enjoy the time before the sessions begin. I enjoy



getting to know the children and playing games with them." Michael likes using games to foster interaction, too. "I usually challenge a teenager to an air hockey tournament during each session," he said. "I really enjoy having some competitive games and watching the smiles if they beat me." Even though Michael is fond of his game time with the teens, he feels his skills are best used to help adults. "I am most comfortable with adults because I lead adult groups at work and at church," he said.

The couple's hard work at the Caring Place has been rewarded with results they can see and feel. They recommend volunteering to friends and fellow parishioners, and they gladly share uplifting anecdotes of their experiences. "I always recommend the Caring Place to other potential volunteers," Michael said. "I believe that this experience has been very significant, and I think others would benefit from volunteering." Lori agrees with her husband's assessment. "The Caring Place fulfills a need in our community," she says. "I have seen children who are sad, quiet and withdrawn share very personal stories and show sympathy to others, too. The Caring Place helps families feel like they're not alone during a very difficult time."

***For more information about the Highmark Caring Place, visit us online at [www.highmarkcaringplace.com](http://www.highmarkcaringplace.com).***