

Cindy's volunteer journey with Atlanta Track Club began in 2017 when she served as a course monitor at the Hawks Fast Break 5K presented by Sharecare. Seeking to be part of something positive and community-driven, Cindy quickly found herself drawn to the fun of volunteering. What began as a single event evolved into a passionate commitment that has lasted over eight years.



CINDY PATTON
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Among the many events she supports, Cindy's favorite has always been the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race. For Cindy, this event represents more than a race—it's a celebration of unity, effort and tradition. She particularly enjoys her role as crew chief for finish line foods, overseeing one of the most symbolic post-race refreshments: Georgia peaches. "It's hot, it's hectic, and people think I'm a little crazy for volunteering six to eight hours in the Georgia summer heat, but I absolutely love it. I feed off the energy from the runners, the other volunteers and the incredible effort it takes to bring around 50,000 people together."

Cindy finds joy in watching runners cross the finish line, whether it's their first race or a longstanding tradition shared with friends and family. She sees each moment as a chance to celebrate walkers and runners and to form new relationships.

One of her most impactful memories took place near the finish line during the AJC Peachtree Road Race. While stationed at the peaches trailer, Cindy noticed a young runner who appeared disoriented. As she approached to offer help, the participant experienced a seizure and collapsed. "Though protocol is to call for medical assistance. I was close to the medical tent and immediately started shouting for help," Cindy said. "Thankfully, an ER nurse and a doctor who had just finished the race rushed over. It reminded me how vital our presence is as volunteers. I'm grateful I was able to help in that moment."

Another meaningful experience occurred during the Heart & Soles 10K in 2018, when Cindy noticed a lone walker nearing the finish line. "She was by herself and I just wanted to encourage her to finish strong. Supporting her across the line was such a powerful, shared moment for me."

Cindy has also witnessed unforgettable moments of Atlanta culture, such as watching scenes from *Bad Boys for Life* being filmed downtown—while volunteering at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race. "Seeing movie stunts and cheering on thousands of runners at the same time? That was a cool experience to be part of."

When asked why she continues to volunteer, Cindy speaks of the energy and connection that Atlanta Track Club exudes. "I'm inspired by the teamwork, the excitement, and those little moments that remind you that you're part of something special." She credits the Atlanta Track Club staff with creating an environment that makes volunteers feel valued and motivated. "They are organized, kind, and incredibly dedicated," she said. "Brantley, Kristin and so many others have made volunteering even more meaningful."



As a Crew Chief, Cindy has developed both personally and professionally by leading under pressure, communicating effectively and learning to solve problems on the fly. Volunteering gave her a sense of purpose during a time in her life when she needed something encouraging, and taught her how to lead with confidence and compassion.

Cindy believes that the key to a great volunteer experience is having a positive attitude, and offers simple but powerful advice to new volunteers: Have fun with it. Interact with runners. Smile. We're here to help them feel safe and to enjoy the event—so they can come back. Volunteering isn't just about handing out water, it's about handing out joy."

Outside of her volunteer work, Cindy is married and lives with two beloved black labs and two cats. She works as a Food Service Coordinator and Customer Service Team Lead at Gourmet Foods International. Her hobbies include candle making and riding motorcycles, and has experienced on the other side of the Peachtree after completing the race in 2015. Cindy's story is one of heart, leadership and unwavering service. Atlanta Track Club is honored to recognize her continued dedication and we thank her for all she does.