

June 2017 - Shirlene Stafford

Congratulations to Shirlene Stafford, our June Volunteer of the Month! Shirlene has been volunteering with Atlanta Track Club since 2014. She brings her bright smile and enthusiasm to both race day and office projects. An Atlanta Track Club All-Star Volunteer, Shirlene takes special care to ensure that everything is in place for a successful race day.



1. Do you remember your first time volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? What was the event?

The AJC Peachtree Road Race was my first volunteer event with Atlanta Track Club. Witnessing the enthusiasm of the people from different spectrums of the world was very memorable to me. This energy inspired me to continue volunteering with Atlanta Track Club.

2. What is your favorite Atlanta Track Club event? Why?

The Atlanta Women's 5K is my favorite Atlanta Track Club event. I enjoy seeing each participant come together as women to support, motivate, and cheer on each other's accomplishments. It is very exhilarating to see the community come together.

3. Do you have a favorite volunteer assignment? If so, explain.

I enjoy coming into the Atlanta Track Club offices and preparing for race day. I take pride in being meticulously organized. My favorite assignment is organizing the volunteer vests. On race day, I make sure each volunteer receives a vest and that they are returned at the end of the shift. After the event, I find pleasure in making sure the vests are prepared and inventoried for the next event.

4. What is your favorite thing about volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? What brings you back?

My favorite thing is seeing volunteers, participants, and staff working together as a team. This collaboration pays off when I see the expressions on kids' faces as they cross the finish line. The lasting impression of joy on their faces keeps bringing me back to volunteer with Atlanta Track Club.

5. What organizations do you volunteer for outside of Atlanta Track Club?

As a retiree and professional volunteer, I like to spend my time with like-minded individuals serving the community. In the Atlanta area, I volunteer with the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl, the High Museum Wine Festival, and the Mitsubishi Electric Golf Classic.

6. Tell us something interesting about yourself.

I am a very energetic person, a quick learner, and I like to be very organized. I love to motivate, encourage, and speak positive words to people. A few years ago, I underwent radiation treatments for soft palate lung cancer every day for eight weeks. This life-changing event taught me to value my life journey as if it is my last day. I show my gratitude for life by trying to make someone smile in spite of their circumstances. Making other people smile, makes me smile.

Others reflect on what a pleasure it is to work with Shirlene:

"I met Shirlene about two or three years ago at the first Volunteer breakfast held at the new Atlanta Track Club Office. The next time we volunteered together, she informed me she had been very ill. I stood there with my mouth open watching her walk to her assigned area. Now, we call or text each other at least two or three times a month. Shirlene is a joy to volunteer with and I'm glad to have met her." -*Sylvia Chambliss, Atlanta Track Club All-Star Volunteer*

"Shirlene is always a delight to have in the office. She approaches every project with a bright attitude and is thorough in her completion of each task. Shirlene takes an extra moment to make each race participant and fellow volunteer feel welcome. Her warmth and compassion are evident every time I see her." -*Jennifer Akor, Atlanta Track Club Volunteer Coordinator*



"I have a special place in my heart for Shirlene. Shirlene is always such a pleasure to work with, and we have FUN! She comes ready to volunteer with strength and determination, and brings along with her joy and happiness. She makes volunteering fun and joyous; for herself and for everyone around her: other volunteers, staff, and participants included. She is so giving of her time and energy. Atlanta Track Club is infinitely lucky to have her as a volunteer!" -*Caryn Lamphier, Atlanta Track Club Volunteer Coordinator*