

# July 2016 - Betsey Kidwell

*Congratulations to Betsey Kidwell, our July Volunteer of the Month! Betsey has been volunteering with us for 25 years. This All-Star Volunteer never stops! She has two jobs and volunteers at almost all Atlanta Track Club events as well as other organizations. Fun fact - she also helped Atlanta Track Club staffer Paula Carlisle write her wedding vows! Thank you Betsey for your tireless energy and love for Atlanta Track Club!*

## **1. How long have you been volunteering with Atlanta Track Club?**

I have been volunteering with Atlanta Track Club since 1991. My first time volunteering was the original race for the Atlanta Police Department – it was called the Fuzz Run back then. I was walking the race for PT. It was raining really hard and the Club needed assistance with check-in, so I stepped in and helped. After that I started volunteering for Atlanta Track Club races.

## **2. What is your favorite Atlanta Track Club event?**

My favorite event is the Thanksgiving Day Half Marathon. I love the camaraderie between the staff, volunteers and runners. I also love the tradition of being up early on Thanksgiving morning and seeing the runners come through shuttling down the streets with everyone smiling, laughing and enjoying their run.



## **3. What is one of your best memories from volunteering at any race?**

One of my best memories volunteering is from the Atlanta Track Club Puppet Trek 5K – everyone was enjoying playing with the children’s finger puppets so much that we were almost late starting the time machines and timers.

## **4. What is your favorite thing about volunteering with Atlanta Track Club?**

My favorite thing about volunteering is feeling like I am part of a family. It never feels like volunteering or working. It feels to me like going to a family reunion - being around people who care about you and the friendships that I’ve made.

## **5. Do you have a favorite volunteer assignment?**

Yes, my favorite assignment is the finish line. I have done just about every volunteer assignment over the years but I love being at the finish. Seeing everyone come across the line makes me happy.

## **6. Do you do any volunteering in the community beyond Atlanta Track Club?**

Yes, I volunteer with the Jerry Lewis Telethon and several different church events with family.

**7. How many Atlanta Track Club events do you typically volunteer at during the year?**

As many as I can – used to be all of them but Peachtree Junior. I also volunteer for about 10 events per year outside of Atlanta Track Club.

**8. What do you do for a living?**

I have two jobs. For the past 22 years I have been Director of HR & Finance for Student Life at Georgia Tech. I am also a Magistrate Judge in Heard County for the past 16 years.

**9. Tell us something interesting about yourself – an interesting fact or story that will help us get to know you...**

When I was in high school, I was very involved with AFS – American Field Service, a program where I met students from all over the world. When I graduated, I went to Ethiopia – Addis Abba to work in the Bank of Addis Abba. I was going to meet up with a friend I met through the program. Ethiopia is a beautiful country – the mountains, the rift valley, the people, the food, the music. Unfortunately, life didn't turn out the way I planned but the experience of being in Ethiopia for two months will never leave me.