



Chris Tayman - Franklin County

Since moving to central Ohio from Akron in 2016, Chris Tayman immediately searched for a way to serve and engage with her new community. She discovered Besa, a local non-profit organization that matches volunteers to various charitable and volunteer-based activities. It was Besa that enabled Chris to volunteer for a variety of non-profit organizations and develop friendships with fellow volunteers.

Chris volunteers multiple times each week mainly for organizations geared toward healthcare, wellbeing, and family support. She regularly volunteers for the Ronald McDonald House, Franklin Park Conservatory, Little Bottoms Free Store, and the Broad Street Food Pantry.

At the Ronald McDonald House, Chris helps keep the house running by cleaning and restocking rooms for incoming families. She ensures that families have a safe, clean and com-

fortable place to rest so they can focus their time and attention on their children.

During her three years volunteering at the Broad Street Food Pantry, Chris welcomes every volunteer with a smile and makes them feel comfortable. She provides good directions and makes sure the task is completed well.

Chris's additional volunteer efforts include helping girls pick prom dresses at Fairy Godmothers, wrapping gifts for families at Goodwill, volunteering for Girl Scout camp at COSI, making treats for families sheltering from abuse, and making reading flashcards for the Community Shelter Board.

She also distributed masks, diapers and food to the hardest hit communities during the early days of the pandemic.

As a volunteer leader at Besa, Chris is a liaison between volunteers and the nonprofits they're supporting. She informs volunteers on what to expect in a service project, clarifies each project's details, and ensures processes run smoothly.

Chris has volunteered 283 hours since joining Besa, and it's estimated she contributed

415 additional hours of volunteering for projects outside of Besa. Chris was named Besa's Volunteer of the Year in 2020.

Chris worked as a nurse practitioner at Summit County Health Department and Akron Community Health Resources prior to her time in central Ohio. She served on the leadership team at Summit County Health Department, a role that provided her the opportunity to support staff development, educate nurses, establish immunization programs, raise funds for healthy eating programs, and expand medical care access for people. "To me, it has always been important to identify and meet the needs of the community," Chris said. "Whether it was emergency preparedness, flu clinic or bike helmet safety, I've always gravitated to projects that support children and families."

Those who know Chris affirm that she is an inspiration to everyone through the connections she makes, whether it be the person she's serving, nonprofit partners, or her fellow volunteers.