

MEET BVHS BOARD MEMBER

Barbara Plaughter

From a farm near the small town of Harrod, Ohio, to marking the world through her volunteer service abroad, Barbara Plaughter has made an impact in her community on both a local and global scale. Barbara graduated from Lima Memorial School of Nursing and later went on to receive her bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's College. She then attended the University of Dayton, where she received her master's degree in education. She moved south of Bluffton with her husband Arliss, where they lived on a farm for 40 years and raised their four children.

Barbara found a passion for mission work when she joined Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) in 1994. "VOSH is an organization dedicated to providing vision care to the underserved around the world," Barbara explained. By 1997 she was planning mission trips within the organization. She has been on 20 mission trips and has had the opportunity to travel around the world. These travels include Africa, Haiti, Eastern Europe and more. Barbara published a book detailing all of these trips titled, *Perseverance: Missions to the World*. All of the proceeds from her book go to a nursing scholarship. One of Barbara's most memorable trips

was when she was serving in Haiti. She was working 75 miles outside of the epicenter of the disastrous 2010 earthquake and flew back home in a cargo plane with Brian Williams and Katie Couric.

Barbara began her career with Blanchard Valley Health System in 1965. She held various positions throughout her time at Bluffton Hospital, including nursing supervisor, x-ray tech, lab tech, director of nursing services, director of patient services and in utilization review and quality. She also worked at Blanchard Valley Hospital as the director of risk management and quality improvement.

She has won numerous awards throughout her career, including the Jefferson Award for Volunteer Service by The Lima News in 2010, The Franklin Harms Society member awarded by VOSH International for humanitarian mission work in 2013, Albert E. Dyckes Health Care Worker of the Year Award by Ohio Hospital Association in 2013 and a 50-year service award presented by Blanchard Valley Health System in 2015. Barbara said, "It was a true honor to first be named Associate of the Year for BVHS, before attending the Ohio Hospital Association's award dinner and being named Health Care Worker of the Year." Each year, the Health Care Worker

of the Year award is given by the Ohio Hospital Association to an employee of an Ohio hospital or health care system. The award recognizes a hospital employee who demonstrates leadership, reflects the values and ideals of Ohio's health care facilities, goes above and beyond the call of duty, gives back to the community and has overcome odds to succeed.

Barbara's position as a board member of the Blanchard Valley Health Foundation came about when Dr. Oliver Lugibihl of Pandora approached her about the position to represent the Bluffton medical community. She currently sits on the grants committee and is responsible for helping determine the awarding of accepted grants. Barbara shared, "I have enjoyed my experience on the board and have continued to learn about the health system on various levels, which has added to my interest in the ever-changing field of health care."

Outside of board member responsibilities, Barbara is active in her local Lions Club. The Lions Club works to fight hunger, solve environmental issues, provide scholarships to youth and aid in eye care research. She served as district governor from 2011 to 2012 for the 46 clubs of northwest Ohio. During this time, she communicated project and service information from regional and international sources to the district clubs. Barbara recently returned from the Lions Clubs International Convention in Chicago which celebrated Lions Club members from around the world and their continued dedication to service and the betterment of humanity.

