

VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

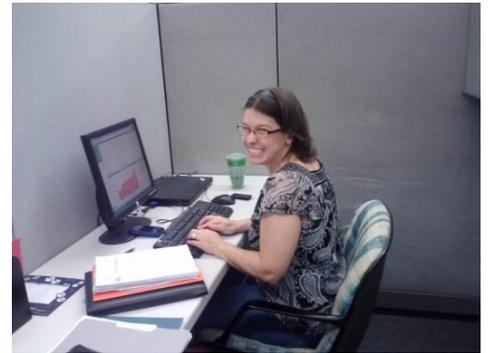
Meet Lauren...and Renee. Two working women who volunteer weekly at UMD.



Lauren Goslin and her family were victims of Katrina. Luckily for

UMD, they chose North Carolina to rebuild their lives. In March 2006, Lauren started attending St. Philip's Episcopal Church and learned about UMD next door. She thought "I need to do some volunteer work." And so she began volunteering weekly in the Community Café kitchen and has worked under three different chefs. A single mother of 9-year-old Lennox and 6-year-old Arabella, Lauren is a social worker for a neuropsychologist. Yet she still finds time every week to help at UMD on Fridays from 8-10am. A ball of energy, she just knows what to do. Rearranging the walk-in cooler, organizing the "little fridge" for the weekend, taking inventory to make sure everything is labeled so the weekend chef, Al, knows what he has to work with in making meals. If there's time, she sorts through donated bread. Remember all the snow and ice we had this winter? One Friday, Lauren overheard Chef Larry say that due to the weather, the USDA truck would not deliver. This was a big worry, as UMD would not have enough food to feed 250 people, 3 times a day. Lauren chimed in "I have a four-wheel drive. I'll go!" She left for the USDA warehouse in Butner and brought back 800 pounds of catfish and turkey. Lauren has taken on heading up the recently launched St. Philip's Group in Action. Their primary objective is to engage more parishioners in the work at UMD and Lauren is learning more about UMD's needs and how those align with the individuals participating in St. Philip's Group in Action. When chatting with Lauren—as she breaks open 500 eggs for tomorrow's breakfast—she reflects "A Recovery Program client asked me 'why do you keep coming here?' and it's because it keeps my heart in the right place."

Renee Corsi, her husband, dog and cat relocated to Durham from Cleveland in 2009. Renee began attending Summit



Church. In 2013, she learned through Summit's online community about Empty Bowls, Urban Ministries of Durham's signature fundraising event. Renee and her Bible Study Group decided to attend the event, and that's when she learned about UMD and decided to attend Volunteer Orientation. "I just was looking for somewhere to use my time to help in some way on a regular basis." Renee is a full-time Pharmacy Technician at Duke Regional Hospital. Her days off change every week—usually Sundays, plus a weekday. Renee decided that helping out with data entry would fit her schedule best. Every week for over a year, on her day off, Renee arrives at UMD by 9 am and faithfully logs in donation and volunteer data for 3 hours. "I enjoy it! It's cathartic, and I know it is a real need at UMD." She's right. Hundreds of volunteers help UMD operate every week and our largest private funder calculates its annual grant as 10% of our overall support—and values each volunteer hour to be worth \$22.14! Renee packs up at noon saying she will be going to run her errands and then home to clean. She has helped out in other ways, like volunteering at this year's Empty Bowls, and she recently became a member of the UMD Volunteer Committee, which advises the board. "I am glad to help out and give back. I feel like I have some sort of purpose as opposed to just going to work every morning. It's the right thing to do. It's nothing more profound." After thinking a moment, she adds "Each week when I enter the names, I see some of the same ones over and over; it's just amazing and inspiring there are so many people who are so faithful about helping and giving their time."



URBAN MINISTRIES
OF DURHAM

July 2014