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Sherril Shepherd
Might Return To
The View

Udemy Is Building
An Open
Marketplace For

TRENDING NOW

Bicyclist killed
identified as
Port St. Luc

Smoke from
wildfire sm
Treasure C

Photo by Tania Ortega-Cowan Bernadette Haney volunteered
in 4H and with her church.

I grew up Catholic, and my mom and dad were very involved with

A passion to serve: Bernadette Haney

BY: Tania Ortega-Cowan For Luminaries

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TAG: luminaries (/topic/luminaries) | indian river county (/topic/indian+river+county)

If you want to meet one of the nicest, most humble people ever, visit a Main Street Vero Beach Downtown Friday event and ask for co-chair Bernadette Haney.

She co-chairs the event with Joe McMenamin, an equally nice and humble guy whom we featured last year in Luminaries.

"Oh, that is what my title is, but I don't really know that I am," says Bernadette. "I just help out down there. I make sure we have all the supplies we need each month and I oversee logistics. I am pretty low key. It's a big team of people. It couldn't be done without everybody who is there helping!"

Bernadette grew up in Prospect Park, Penn., where she volunteered in 4H and with her church.

"I grew up Catholic, and my mom and dad were very involved with our church and I learned from them," she says.

"I have always enjoyed helping people. I will do anything to help anybody. I volunteer for enjoyment and I do it because I love it. That's what we're here for - to help out. That's our job!"

A career opportunity in data processing brought Bernadette to Atlanta where she started a family. As the kids got a little older, she wanted to find a "nice community to raise them. Atlanta was just getting too hectic."

In 2002 the family moved to Vero Beach.

"I have three kids: John who is now 22, Jennifer who is 20 and Josh who is 18."

While working at Home Depot in Vero Beach, she met Joe McMEnamin. "He said, 'hey do you want to be part of Main Street – you and the kids? You can sell the Cokes!' So I did and I had the kids with me in the Coke trailer."

Bernadette is also active on the courts. "I am addicted to tennis! I play three times a week. So now all my tennis friends are helping out at Main Street too!"

Through the years, she has also served on the board for the City of Vero Beach Recreation Department, as a CCD teacher at St. Helen's Church, at Rosewood Magnet on the Student Advisory Committee, and as president of the PTSA for Oslo Middle School.

In 2007, she began working as a legal assistant at the Indian River County Public Defender's Office. "I love this job because I am helping people."

She goes on to explain how public defender Diamond Litty founded a non-profit called Life Builders of the Treasure Coast.

"Whenever somebody has been touched by the justice system and needs help getting back on their feet — say they need a pair of boots to go for an interview — Life Builders helps them."

Ironically, although she seems to always be working, she has a whirlwind social life.

"I know a lot of people because of all the volunteering. Everyone is so nice and helpful. This community has really embraced me. I really like it here. I wouldn't go anywhere else."

To learn more about volunteer needs at Main Street Vero Beach, visit MainStreetVeroBeach.org, email [info@MainStreetVero Beach.org](mailto:info@MainStreetVeroBeach.org) or call 772 643 6782.

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