

Your year to volunteer



Become a volunteer with Lutheran Homes Barossa and brighten the day for a resident like Graham Whenan, just like Mark does!



For the past 18 months, Mark Bartsch has been a familiar and much-loved presence at Lutheran Homes Barossa, where he volunteers across a wide range of roles.

After being made redundant and not yet ready to retire, Mark decided to give volunteering a go while searching for paid work.

A chance encounter with a recruitment stall in the local mall set him on a new path - one that has become far more meaningful than he ever expected.

Mark's week is a busy one. He drives residents to medical appointments, helps with catering, supports bus excursions, and works alongside the Lifestyle Team to run activities.

He also spends time one-on-one with residents, taking them for walks, sharing conversations, and pushing the café trolley so they can buy their favourite treats.

Having spent most of his working life in vineyards, often on his own, Mark says volunteering has helped him come out of his shell.

"I enjoy mixing with people now," he says.

"Some of the men here find it easier to talk to another man, and once you get to know them, you know how far you can go with a joke. I love getting a laugh out of them."

Mark feels deeply valued by the residents and staff.

"They notice when I'm not here. They appreciate every minute."

His message to anyone considering aged-care volunteering is simple: "Give it a go. Give yourself time to settle in. One day I might need a volunteer to brighten my day, so I treat people how I'd like to be treated."

Is it Your Year to Volunteer in Aged Care?

Call Belinda on 8563 7777 during office hours and volunteer at Lutheran Homes Barossa.

