

QUINCYAN OF THE WEEK!

by: Janice Vogel



She says she was “extremely shy” as a child, but today, well it’s quite a different story. Congratulations to our next Quincyan of the Week, the humble and sometimes quiet, Clairice Hetzler. You can call her Clairly, or Clair too. Just don’t call her Arlyss.

Clairice Walker Hetzler attended Webster School and Quincy Senior High. She graduated from Quincy University with BS in Human Services. She and her husband Dave have 4 children: Dave, Jr., Jason, Chuck, and Jessica.

And like many of our Quincyans, Clairice would rather tell us about her awards, or rewards, at home rather than any public honors she may have received (and she’s had plenty). She says her achievements are “My marriage and our children. There are many events and accomplishments over the years to celebrate but none are as important to me as my family. Marriage takes work and raising a family takes work, these have been my highest priorities and my greatest achievements although I did neither of them alone.” (Hey, a li’l shout out to Dave!)

Clairice is the Director for the Advocacy Network for Children in Quincy. It is in this challenging position that she most lives up to her motto, “It is what happens day to day that matters.” This is a non-profit organization with the goal to protect and uphold the rights of children. I believe we all can agree that no child should suffer from neglect or abuse. And with Clairice’s commitment to children and her community, she’s volunteered on the following boards: Transitions, Illinois CASA Association, and Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois. She is also a member of: Child Death Review Team – Springfield Region, Rotary and The Crossing Church.

When she can carve out some free time, Clairice cooks, knits, reads, and socializes with her book club. And if she can’t make all that happen, she spends her leisure time “sitting and chatting with a friend or family member.”

And you know me, I like to ask our honorees the tough (sometimes corny) questions. So I asked Clairice about her name. I personally love her name, but I think of Silence of the Lambs whenever I say it. (I also hear my friend Rich Cain doing his great impression of Hannibal Lecter too!) But our Quincyan says, “I am okay with my name. I go by my middle name because my first name is Arlyss.”

And knowing Clairice as a strong force in our community I asked her who her hero was - and she did not say Jodie Foster, but Helen Keller. Cool. Clairice believes Helen “used personal challenges to bring change and to open doors for herself and for generations to come.” After learning more about Clairice I see a glimpse of Helen’s inspiration in this quote by Keller, “We are never really happy until we try to brighten the lives of others.” Let your light keep on shining Clairice! And thank you.

“It is what happens day to day that matters.”

Clairice & the Gals

