

COMMUNITY IS NEXT

— **Chris Rupp**
DULIN WARD DEWALD



“WORK HARD IN SILENCE, LET YOUR SUCCESS MAKE THE NOISE” – THIS QUOTE MOST APTLY DESCRIBES CHRIS RUPP AND HER DEDICATION TO QUIETLY GIVING OF HERSELF ACROSS COUNTLESS ENDEAVORS THROUGHOUT HER COMMUNITY.



“Growing up, my parents instilled the Golden Rule and the importance of volunteering to help others,” says Chris Rupp, CPA and senior accountant, DWD CPAs & Advisors. “In addition to their guidance, I had a number of community role models, such as Ove Jorgensen and Don Wolf, who showed me the importance of sharing our blessings.”

Rupp was raised in rural Allen County, and when she graduated from Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne (IPFW), Rupp says she “was one of only a handful of female CPAs and the only one at DWD. Today, I still work with clients I’ve had for more than 40 years and with whom I’ve developed strong relationships.”

In addition to her client list, Rupp has a long roster of community organizations and activities that have benefited from her expertise. “I was 22 years old when I became involved with the YWCA Domestic Violence Program,” Rupp says. “It was eye-opening as I learned about the difficulties others were experiencing.”

Over the years, Rupp has also given time to working with and inspiring others across the community through her quiet, yet active, involvements. “I hope to bring expertise to the board role of stewardship. One of the primary responsibilities of a board is stewardship of the organization – not just its financial assets, but its facilities, workforce, programs, reputation, integrity, sustainability, and strategic plan,” Rupp says. “I take that responsibility very seriously and try to help other board members understand the role we play in stewardship. I also take a special interest in the staff of an organization; they are the key to the organization and need to be recognized and treated as valued assets.”

Her commitment to the Turnstone Board of Directors has been one of the organizations Rupp has served for a number of years. She also volunteers at Turnstone events. “Turnstone is an inspirational organization making such an impact. I’ve met so many wonderful people there,” she says. “I joined the board when the fieldhouse was in development, and it was an especially rewarding time to begin serving.”

Rupp’s involvement with Erin’s House and her efforts as co-chair of its new facility capital campaign is another effort of which Rupp is especially proud. She has also served the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, Friends of the Rivers, Parkview Foundation, SCAN, and United Way of Allen County, to name only a few of the many organizations that have benefitted from her involvement.

“We have many good people in our community and such a variety of ways help is given to others,” she says. “I believe we need strong, solid organizations to do this work, and when I believe in an organization and see a way I can be an asset, I bring what a board needs of me.” With an attitude of gratitude, Rupp says, “We each need to share our blessings and our skills. As a community resource, I recognize I am a problem-solver who is able to help plan. In those types of roles, it’s rewarding for me to give back and be an inspiration to other people who can do the same in support of their community.”

