

2020 Kidney Gift of Life Honors Small Hands Big Heart Awardee

Jill Kratochvil is an employee of DCI Renal Services of Pittsburgh. She has worked for DCI for 20 years a renal social worker. She has her master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, where she decided to focus her studies to healthcare studies.

For the last 4 years, she has served as the director for the Western PA Kidney Kamp. Kidney Kamp is a camp for children from 8-16+ years of age, that have some level of kidney disease or family history of kidney failure. They attend a weeklong camp in Ligonier each year, under medical supervision while enjoying the full camp experience. She became involved in Kidney Kamp shortly after she started work at DCI, initially planning the Sunday kick off activities for camp. She increased her time at camp from a few days to attending the full week, before taking over the director position in 2016.



Kidney Kamp has truly become "her heart" over the years. The kids even refer to her as "Momma Jill". She loves nurturing the kids and seeing their inner strength and courage with their challenges in life. The greatest blessing is seeing how, in one week, the kids form friendships and lifelong relationships with others that walk in their shoes.

On behalf of Kidney Kamp, Jill has done numerous community talks and information tables for organizations all over the western PA area, including yearly ANNA meetings and conferences, NKF Kidney Walk, DCI Mt Pleasant Purpose project and the Council of Nephrology Social Workers. Jill also served on the Council of Nephrology Social Workers, as a secretary and treasurer over her years in dialysis. She remains an active member of the CNSW.

Jill is thankful for the love & support of her husband & family. A family, who leads by example of giving to others, as well as living the motto "there but by the grace of God go I." Jill is also thankful to DCI, for the opportunity to be involved in activities outside her normal work duties, to help beyond the walls of the dialysis clinic. And last but certainly not least, she is grateful to a phenomenal staff and group of volunteers that give so much to ensure each year at Kidney Kamp is a success.