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Rebecca Heberle



EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO THRIVE | EST. 1968

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE PEACE, INC. ORGANIZATION?

HEBERLE: I moved here in 1998 from New Jersey where I was a teacher. I was looking for a job, something to do with education. I saw an ad for an Early Head Start home-based visitor position. I interviewed, and asked a lot of questions during the interview, and fell in love with it that day. I knew this was the job for me - that I wanted to work here, and I didn't care about the pay or any of that. I crossed my fingers until I got the job. I've been here ever since. It was the whole idea of the vision and mission of Head Start and Early Head Start and all of what it stood for. I thought the idea of going into families' homes to work on educational skills, health, nutrition, and the social services piece all sounded to me like an incredible experience. Once I started to do it, it was exactly what I thought. So rewarding.

PLEASE SHARE A MEMORABLE MOMENT IN YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE.

HEBERLE: A mom I worked with as a home visitor was taking care of young family members. She was also pregnant and I worked with her throughout the pregnancy. She and I talked and she allowed me to be there when she had the baby. It was the most amazing thing. It made me catch the bug for wanting to work more with pregnant moms. The experience for me was just incredible... After that - while I wasn't able to work with more pregnant moms than I already was, I was able to accompany several coworkers during their labor and deliveries.

DO YOU HAVE A HOBBY?

HEBERLE: My hobby - I've been kickboxing for about five years. I go once or twice a week. It's great exercise and a stress reliever. Sometimes you have a tough day at work and it's nice to go hit something that you're allowed to hit. You leave kickboxing feeling brand new. It's great physically, and emotionally. I started doing it purely for exercise, and quickly realized the other benefits, which is also self-defense skills.

ARE YOU THE SAME YOU, YOU WERE WHEN YOU STARTED WORKING AT PEACE, INC.?

HEBERLE: No. I've grown and learned so much from the hands-on experience I had as a home visitor. Also, all of the management experience - all the stuff behind the scenes I do on a day-to-day basis. Talking or working with staff, parents, or our funders. Over 19 years anyone would be different. In my time at PEACE, Inc. I've also had two children of my own. All of that changes you.

SUM UP ONE THING YOU WANT OTHERS TO ALWAYS REMEMBER.

HEBERLE: I have an open door policy. I always tell this to everyone - I'm here and I'm willing and able to listen and hear what anyone has to say.

PLEASE TALK ABOUT ONE OTHER THING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE.

HEBERLE: A baby was born at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo a couple years ago. We had a group go on a trip to the zoo and one of the participants was a young mom. She was pregnant and there with her other children. She wasn't due for a while - we thought. She ended up in labor outside on the trail. It was in December. I got a call saying this mom is having a baby and the baby was delivered in a matter of minutes. A volunteer with the group took off his coat, laid it on the ground, and the mom delivered her child there. They named the baby December. She must be about 5 years old now. The mom didn't speak English very well - and to be delivering a baby outside, with strangers, at a young age - it was amazing. Everyone from our staff and volunteers to the zoo staff pitched in to help this mom out and make this a successful delivery. The zoo gave the family lifetime memberships.

WHAT CAN THOSE YOU SERVE DO TO HELP YOU HELP THEM?

HEBERLE: Communicate with me.