

INDUCTEE

EILEEN SCHMIDT TATMAN

Graduated 1961
Children. Amy, Lisa
Resides. Columbus, Ohio

Eileen was an enthusiastic student in high school and college, but it was her caring about the well being of others that lead her to a career in health care to “make a difference” in her future life. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Capital University (including time at Miami Valley Hospital School of Medical Technology in Dayton), and to raise a family which now includes her “two beautiful daughters, two wonderful sons-in-law and two precious grandsons.” In those early years, Eileen worked in a variety of medical centers and clinical settings. Going back to school, she earned enough credit hours for two Masters’ Degrees and in 1979 she began a long, fulfilling career at The Ohio State University Medical Center. Her achievements as a staff technologist were many, affecting both patients and staff. In 1997 she became their lead medical technologist.

One coworker at The OSU Medical Center, Sandy VanVranken, remarked, “In the laboratory Eileen was passionate in all aspects as a supervisor, from preparing for an inspection, to teaching students, to validating new instruments. One of my memories...is listening to her train and educates new employees, interns and students. Eileen not only exuded expert knowledge, she eagerly passed along that knowledge to others. She was fascinating to listen to and gave these new minds an educational experience unmatched by any classroom. Her dedication...began the roots for a firm training program that continues today;...her passion for excellence led to improved documentation, control systems and quality assurance.” Eileen established new more efficient user-friendly organizational programs creating better, more exacting methods of working with patient records.

Nearing her 65th birthday and 29 years at The OSU Medical Center, Eileen “sensed an internal voice nudging me to find a way to make a difference for those less fortunate.” She chose to make that life-long dream a reality, certainly not without personal sacrifices: a dedication of two years in the Peace Corps, using all those medical and organizational skills she had developed in her professional career.

Traveling to Tanzania in the Usambara Mountains of Africa, Eileen lived in a small village among the people she came to know well and love as extended family. She recognized the incredible struggles among the villagers. She accepted the challenge of helping make their lives better, more fulfilled and hopeful of their future. The culture was entirely new to her but she learned the language (and not an easy one to learn), worked hard, and evidenced a compassion for the struggles they encountered. She worked with intensity and dedication to the philosophy of the Peace Corp...*to implement improvement programs that are sustainable.* Plans became realities through Eileen’s guidance and the hard work of many others: development of education programs for children and adults working for peer to peer teaching, improved health care and access to it, development of wellness and nutritional programs, modernization of the health care facility/dispensary(including electricity), availability to health care tools, i.e. stethoscopes, blood pressure machines, thermometers, sterile equipment, (all things we take for granted); and perhaps the greatest and most fulfilling achievement was the creation of a state of the art medical lab. Eileen was an invaluable guide/leader with her years of experience at the OSU medical center and the lab was funded via the Peace Corp Partnership and donations from family and friends in the U.S. Her lifetime friend Aloise Weiker Gref, Vice-President of North Coast Health Care Management Services sums it up, “Eileen aspired to make a rather poor village a better place for her new friends to live...as she lived, worked and worshipped among them...; she showed them love and caring and helped reestablish hope for their future.”

Sandy VanVranken, friend and coworker at the OSU Medical Center, describes Eileen best as “a mother, grandmother, friend, volunteer, medical technologist, educator and writer: an inspiration. For people that have dreamed of impacting other people’s lives, Eileen is a wonderful example.”