

A drive to serve



Tina 'Ernie' Wilson

What can you accomplish in an hour? How about in 8,000 hours?

Volunteering 25 to 30 hours a month at the Lubbock Rape Crisis Center for the past 20 years, it seems hard to put a finger on what all Ernie Wilson has accomplished.

Ernie says the thing that drives her as a volunteer is the education part. She says, "The more people can do to educate themselves the better."

The Lubbock Rape Crisis Center (LRCC) was established in 1975. It is the second oldest center in the state of Texas. From their website:

The center exists for survivors of sexual assault. The staff, the Board of Directors and the Volunteer Advocates are committed to survivors, their trauma, their courage and the resolution of their crises.

When Ernie started as a Volunteer Advocate at the LRCC, the national average for sexual assault was 1 assault every 8 minutes. That number has increased to 1 assault every 2 minutes.

One of the most important things about the Lubbock Rape Crisis Center is that they are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Ernie says, "We're there. We're 24/7."

Not only is someone from LRCC there at the beginning, they are there through the whole process. This can include from the first phone call into the LRCC crisis hot line to counseling services years later.



Lubbock Area United Way

"We have to listen to people who are willing to speak up," says Ernie Wilson. And, that is exactly why Lubbock Rape Crisis Center, and its volunteers, exist. They ensure that no victim of sexual assault has to go through it by themselves.

LRCC offers many kinds of support including a 24-hour hot line, medical and legal accompaniment, follow up services and referrals, and individual and group counseling.

At the end of 2008, Ernie joined the Lubbock Rape Crisis Center's Board of Directors showing that she plans to continue her service to LRCC. And, she was recently recognized at the Lubbock Area United Way Annual Meeting with the Agency Volunteer of the Year Award for this dedicated service.

20 years is a long time for most anything. It's hard to gauge how many people Ernie has touched; how many hands she has held; how many lives have been made a little better because of her efforts.

Like so many other volunteers, it's interesting to find out what drives them to spend countless hours in service for others. Maybe what really drives Ernie Wilson is what she says next, "You can't help enough."

Get Involved

Funding from the Lubbock Area United Way helps the Lubbock Rape Crisis Center provide preventative educational training to the community at large, and help survivors of sexual assault.

Find out more by visiting:
www.lubbockrcc.org/ or call 806.763.3232