

SPOTLIGHT

Mary Jane Crouse

A real asset to our charitable endeavors activities, Mary Jane spent her career as a psychologist counseling at-risk teens, families and unwed mothers. She became certified in the "high ropes" course, a challenging outdoor personal development and team building activity that cultivates trust and communication. Her last position was as a clinical supervisor in family court, dealing with delinquent teens and pre and post-divorce counseling.

Just 3 years ago, Mary made a decision to leave her beloved (and cold) Grand Haven, Michigan where she had lived for 25 years and raised her children - a quaint, lakeside community with beautiful beaches, located on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Grand River. Her daughter Jennifer is a financial adviser and still resides there, but Mary's parents had relocated here many years ago, her brother lives in Heathrow and her son and his family live in Naples - so Central Florida was a logical choice. Her son Geoffrey is a charter fishing captain and has given her 2 grandchildren - a boy & girl. Her move was timed well as she was able to help and enjoy her parents during their last three years.



Other than her family she knew no one here, but she found the HWC within 6 months, looking for volunteer and social opportunities. After finding us on the web, she overheard Pat Patane talking about the club and joined shortly thereafter.

To my surprise, Mary is half Italian and *speaks* Italian! During lunch, she recited a trip she took to Rome over a whole summer as a young girl with her mom and grandmother, visiting relatives in Milan. She later took her children over. She loves travel and hopes to do more of it in the future. Always trim, Mary is an avid dancer and will be in a 2-day, 44 dance competition in April at the Omni. Geez! She also bikes, walks and likes decorating.

Mary Jane is a regular at the luncheons, works at Bags of Hope, helps at SafeHouse and with the gala. She says that our club was a Godsend when she moved here and helped make her transition to Orlando easy. She's very grateful for all the new friends she's made and we are equally grateful to count her as ours.

BY CAROLYN TAYLOR