



Difference Maker: Maria Chase

Job Title: Recreation Therapy Coordinator

How long have you worked at Spectrum: I believe it will be 18 years this fall.

Your Spectrum Health Why: I love the organization both professionally and personally. Professionally, I feel very supported and have worked with many great people and teams. Personally, Spectrum Health has taken great care of me. I would not go anywhere else for care. I feel it is also important to mention that I appreciate how inclusive and diverse Spectrum has become, as a leader in the Heath Community I truly appreciate that.

Why do you give: Seven years ago the foundation was responsible for recruiting and funding a surgeon from the United Kingdom, Dr. Marcus Haw. He performed my third open-heart surgery. He was absolutely amazing and changed my life in so many ways. Most importantly, because of him and the Congenital Heart Center, I was able to have children, which was previously thought to be too dangerous. I am healthy and have two beautiful children. Vivian who is five and Louie who is almost three.

How have you seen philanthropy support your team or department: My department is supported immensely through the foundation. Our Music Therapists are supported by the foundation and they bring so much life and encouragement to our residents and patients. Along with them, we have gorgeous healing gardens that are planted and cultivated each year.

My favorite contribution is our beautiful ceiling tiles we have for our residents and patients who are often in their beds. These tiles give the residents something to look at such as a beach, forest, lighthouse or animals. For someone who is mostly bedridden, these are amazing.

How do you create or inspire employee engagement around philanthropy at Spectrum Health within your department: The most important way to engage employees is to simply make them aware of what the foundation does and how it impacts their patients and their families lives. Food always helps too. 😊

