

Interview- Gina

A native, home-grown Iowan, there doesn't seem to be a job that Gina hasn't done. "I graduated from Valley High School, then went to work for the power company. I climbed telephone poles in rural Iowa." Despite catching some flack from some people "for being a woman in a man's job", she thoroughly enjoyed her time with the power company. "I got to help people and it was something new every day." After that job, she started work at the downtown YMCA and worked in several capacities for them. Currently, she works at Iowa Methodist as program coordinator for several departments and programs.

"Luckily, we work four, 10-hour days, so I have Friday free all day to volunteer," said Gina. "I first found out about CISS because I donated clothes. Then I saw emails about volunteering and I really wanted to get more involved."

Gina volunteers her time in the clothing closet because it gives her a chance to organize things as well as direct contact with our clients here. "I really enjoy working the front of the closet where I can help clients find clothing they want. I get to help put a smile on their face simply by handing them a t-shirt." On a normal day, Gina is running between the sorting area and the closet itself. When she gets here, she starts to open some donation bags and sort them. Then she grabs the high priority items (like socks and coats) and takes them to the Clothing Closet.

"I just want to help people," Gina said. "It's cool to think I can make a little bit of difference simply by treating someone how they want to be treated."

When she's not here volunteering with us, she loves to repurpose furniture. "I like to find things like coffee tables and TVs, and repurpose them into things like dog beds." When she retires, her goal is to have some garage space to expand her hobby and make it a small business.