

FIVE MINUTES WITH

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Laurel Kelly

it makes her day to help others

When Laurel Kelly moved to Martin County in 1975, she knew she wanted to live here, but she wasn't quite sure what to do with her spare time. She hadn't yet become a mom, and wanted to do something meaningful for others. When husband, Matt, suggested she check out United Way's volunteer referral service, a working relationship that has lasted more than 30 years was born.

Laurel has always loved the wide range of services United Way offers, and has served in a variety of ways, including as president of the organization. Just this year, she will be stepping down from the board after nine years of service and dedication.

As the Martin County property appraiser, Laurel has always had the challenge of mixing her volunteer efforts with her work flow, and for that reason, has often opted to get involved with projects that have a definite life-span. She's long been active in the Red

Cross, as has the entire property appraiser's office staff. She's also been a supporter of March of Dimes, participating in walks and other events. And as a Molly's House volunteer and past board member, she's had the chance to work on a project that's very special to her. Laurel's mom is also a Molly's House volunteer.

Add Leadership of Martin County and a former affiliation with Soroptimist International of Stuart to the mix, and you find a woman who's met many of the Martin County residents she serves while working shoulder to shoulder for the better of the community. Laurel says she has a passion for people, and that is what energizes her. But, she's quick to tell you she also has a secret weapon. Her in-laws live on the same street and cook dinner just about nightly for Laurel, husband Matt and 12-year-old son, Patrick. Now that's a secret weapon we'd all like to have!

Q&A

One thing people don't know about me:

I used to ride motorcycles - both street bikes and dirt bikes.

Life's biggest lesson: Learning to say no and not feel guilty.

Person I admire most: Mother Theresa for the obvious reasons, and Warren Buffet for his charitable donations.

I've always wanted to meet:

And dance with - John Travolta. I've loved him since the 70s.

Favorite quote:

Fix the problem, not the blame.