

Area woman enjoys role in community outreach for hospital

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Anne Larger's enthusiasm for her job, that of reaching out to the community on behalf of Joint Township District Memorial Hospital, to bring programs and education to her friends and neighbors, is evident when she begins to speak.

"We have so much to offer here at the hospital," she said. "This month we are presenting Ladies' Day Out in two sessions, one for women 40 through 65 and another session for women over 65. We are presenting 'The Heart Truth for Women,' Feb. 21 and again on Feb. 26, to help women learn how best to protect themselves from heart disease, the number one cause of death for women."

Larger has been the community outreach coordinator for JTDMH for the past six years. She is from Minster, the daughter of Bill and Rose Alma Lammers.

She graduated from high school in 1968, and married Larry Larger in 1970. The Largers have four

sons, and two grandsons, and now Anne has a granddaughter, born on her birthday.

"It was the greatest birthday present I have ever had," she said. "There really is a difference between girls and boys. I wouldn't have believed it."

Larger worked for H.A. Dorsten when she graduated from high school, but she wanted to go to college, so she began taking classes at Edison. When she took a genetics class, and surprised herself by doing very well, she began to believe she could tackle the sciences, and she decided to become a registered nurse. She received her B.S. in Nursing from Edison State College in 1992 and went to work for JTDMH.

Larger said she is grateful for the support she received to follow her dream. "I couldn't have done it without the support of my family and friends," she said. "Everyone was so helpful to me."

Larger was asked to become community outreach coordinator when she showed a liking for presenting classes and helping with

outreach programs while still working as a nurse.

"I was only working part-time, when they approached me about the job, and I had to give it some thought. My family said they were behind me, and I have to say I think it's the best decision I have ever made. I love my job."

Larger serves on the board of directors for the Council on Aging, and works with The American Cancer Society, and the Heart Health Coalition. She also is a member of the Tobacco Free Coalition and the Price Club committee at JTDMH, which supports the Hospital Foundation.

"I think we are all on a journey, and the way we cope with what happens to us is more important than what actually does happen," she said. "I have had the help of so many people, and the blessing of a wonderful family."

She said she still relies on the assistance of those around her. "Kathy Pleiman is my colleague here at the hospital, and I couldn't do my job without the good job she does."