



LONGTIME GTRLC VOLUNTEER PROVIDES CRITICAL SUPPORT

Linda Forster with GTRLC staff member Marissa Garrock

If something needs to be done, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy can always count on Linda Forster to do it – and odds are she'll be smiling the whole time.

Linda has been a regular and dependable GTRLC volunteer for about three years. Her first contact with the conservancy came in 2012 when she attended an event at what is now the Timbers Recreation Area in Long Lake Township, and she decided shortly thereafter to start volunteering on a regular basis.

Although she sometimes helps outdoors, Linda spends most of her time at GTRLC helping around the office. As a retired secretary, she's very familiar with what it takes to keep an office running smoothly. Her many responsibilities include organizing documents, sending thank you letters, answering phones, assisting with accounts payable and much more.

"It's nice to feel like I'm being helpful in every way that I can," she said. "And these are things I'm well acquainted with."

She knows that her work in and around the office allows GTRLC staff to better focus on the conservancy's core mission.

"I have found that there are a lot of tasks that I can

do very easily, which frees up the staff to focus on their work," she said.

Linda works closely with Drew Broadway, GTRLC's administrative assistant, and the rest of the administration team.

"Without Linda I don't know how I would manage," Drew said. "I greatly appreciate everything she does."

GTRLC Executive Director Glen Chown is also grateful for Linda's continued service.

"The importance of Linda's work cannot be overstated," he said. "She gives us that extra layer of support to make sure we can continue to collectively do the best job we can when it comes to land protection."

Linda, a mother of three and grandmother of three, is proud to be a part of the GTRLC family. She's a lifelong outdoor enthusiast, so volunteering for an organization that works hard to preserve the region's natural beauty is a perfect fit.

"I've always loved hiking, I love the water, I love being out in nature, so this was very important to me to be able to do something like this." I just really believe in what the land conservancy is doing, and I'm so grateful to be a part of it."