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## Local news

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# Volunteer shows he's not the retiring type Even after years of service

BY JANET C. WETZEL | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

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**MIAMI TOWNSHIP** - When Gene Bishop retired at age 55, he wanted to use some of his free time to do community work, as a way to help pay back for the good life he's had. He figured it would also help keep him active and mentally alert in case he decided to seek a new career.

Eight years later, Bishop's so busy volunteering that he's had no time to even think about a new vocation. But you'll hear no complaints - just enthusiasm about his work. He volunteers at the Clermont County Sheriff's Department, Clermont's Miami Township police, Clermont 20/20 Leadership Program, Executive Service Corps Cincinnati, Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Pro Seniors, and he also trains baseball umpires and teaches martial arts.

His work earned him a Clermont 20/20 Salute to Leaders Civic Award, 2004; United Way Volunteer of the Year, 2003-04; a Media Award from the Administration on Aging, Washington, D.C., 2006; National Philanthropic Association Award; and ESCC Founders Award, 2002.

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"I just really enjoy all of this," said Bishop, 63, who lives with his "very understanding and helpful wife, Patricia." They have two children and five grandchildren. "I'm a people person, like the mental challenge and helping others."

After retiring in 1999 as worldwide program manager for an equipment company, he learned that ESCC needed volunteers to help with management consulting work for nonprofit organizations. He helps clients put together business, marketing or development plans, and just finished a six-month project. He's held many offices and served on the board until recently.

"Gene is the epitome of volunteerism," said Cindy Jenkins, executive director of Clermont 20/20. "If there's a need, Gene's there. He represents the heart and soul of volunteers and what it means to give back."

"All this keeps me very busy, but that's good. I don't have as much time for sleeping as I expected when I retired, but sleeping is way overrated anyway," he said, laughing.

Call Clermont 20/20 at 513-753-9222; RSVP at 513-721-4330, ext. 232; and ESCC at 513-791-6230.

*Do you know a Hometown Hero? E-mail Janet Wetzel at [jjwetzel@fuse.net](mailto:jjwetzel@fuse.net), or fax to 513-755-4150.*



THE ENQUIRER/GARY LANDERS

Gene Bishop delivers gift bags for April's RSVP volunteer luncheon on the Xavier University campus.

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