



Stephanie Badalamenti
ENLISTed since 2002

For 20 years, Monroe Bank & Trust employees have had the opportunity to lend a helping hand to the community through ENLIST, MBT's employee volunteer program. Stephanie Badalamenti, 44, has been taking advantage of that opportunity her entire MBT career.

"I've been with MBT for three years, and I've been with ENLIST for three years," Badalamenti said. "It's a wonderful program."

Employees like Badalamenti have allowed ENLIST to give 100,000 hours of service to the community since its inception.

Badalamenti, assistant vice president and branch manager of the Fort and Vinewood office in Wyandotte, said she hopes communities in the Downriver area will embrace ENLIST.

"ENLIST is fairly new to this area, and I think some of the organizations can't believe it's free help; that there isn't a catch," she said with a laugh.

Though she's volunteered for a number of organizations and events, Badalamenti said one of her favorites is the Trenton Rotary Club's "Roar on the River," a popular summer festival for which she helps coordinate children's activities.

"It goes all weekend, and attracts a lot of kids and families," she said. "It's non-stop fun!"

But the fun would stop if it wasn't for ENLIST volunteers.

"The 'Roar on the River' wouldn't be possible without help from ENLIST," long-time Trenton Rotary Club member Paul Jocks said. "They help out so much and the whole weekend goes so smoothly."

Fellow Rotarian Chris Stathakis agrees.

"Having the ENLIST volunteers is a real big deal," he said. "And not only are they helping us out, they also volunteer at schools and other events. I see them everywhere."

Another special project, Badalamenti said, was a fundraiser for a quadriplegic teen.

"He was in a wheelchair, and needed a van with a lift," she remembered. "We raised \$22,000 in one evening, and kept an 18-year-old kid from being isolated, at a time when independence is so important. We helped improve his life."

The event impacted Badalamenti, too.

"I felt like I was part of something important, like I made a difference for someone," she said.

Though the personal rewards are the greatest, she said, Badalamenti appreciates the way MBT supports ENLIST volunteers, too.

"You get to help people and have fun doing it, and the bank acknowledges your efforts by giving a day off when you've worked 25 volunteer hours," she said. "The whole thing is win-win."

But the biggest winners are the organizations that get help from ENLIST, and Badalamenti is eager to get more volunteers working in the Downriver area.

"It's a wonderful program," she said, "and I really want to see more organizations take advantage of it."