

Charitable Giving Committee Announces First Volunteer of the Quarter

Debra Bzdula from KU Manufacturing was nominated by friend and co-worker Brenda Crowley for her tireless work on behalf of the [Cystic Fibrosis Foundation](#). Among her duties with the Foundation are attending monthly meetings, seeking sponsors for an annual fundraiser, finding vendors to donate materials for the event, and rounding up donations for a silent auction. "It's a lot of hard work and she never complains," Brenda explained in her nomination. "This means a lot to her and she puts her heart and soul into it... She is dedicated and I admire her determination to this cause."



KVH's first Volunteer of the Quarter, Debra Bzdula, and coworker and friend Brenda Crowley (who nominated her for the award) pose with Debra's plaque in the KU lobby for a photo and some well-deserved congratulations.

Every year, Debra is deeply involved in the planning and execution of the annual [DBS Poker Run and Pig Roast](#). The event, held in memory of Jenn Wing (who sadly lost her battle with cystic fibrosis and was the daughter of one of Debra's close friends) is sponsored by Dartmouth Building Supply and held in May in Dartmouth, MA. Participants pay an admission fee to participate in a 2-3 hour long motorcycle ride, during which they stop at 5 specified locations to have their cards stamped. Afterward, they attend a pig roast dinner with entertainment where they present their stamped cards in exchange for a poker hand, with the best hand winning a prize. Since all of the prizes and food are donated (thanks in great part to Debra's tireless efforts), and the event staff are volunteers, all the proceeds go directly to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. This is great news for those who benefit from CFF, because 90% of every dollar raised for the foundation is used to fund research, care, and education programs. The Poker Run and Pig Roast celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2008, and Debra has been involved since the beginning.

One of several nominees for the honor, Debra was voted Volunteer of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2008 by the Charitable Giving Committee. In recognition, she received a framed certificate of appreciation at the employee luncheon, as well as the much-publicized and greatly coveted "Volunteer of the Quarter" reserved parking spot in the front of the building.

After receiving her award, Debra thanked everyone at KU for the honor, saying, "I would like to thank you all so very much for recognizing my work with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, as it is very important to me. I am honored to have been nominated and chosen for this award. I will keep and treasure the plaque always."

She also immediately put the parking spot to work for another charity! Debra arranged to "sell" the coveted spot to co-workers for \$5 per day, with the proceeds used to sponsor eight ducks in the [Middletown Education Collaborative's](#) "Duck Duck Race," which was held on Monday, July 28.