



Debbie Shelton: the real Reardan Clinic story

The medical field has been good to Debbie Shelton.

"I've spent most of my adult life in some sort of health care oriented profession," she smiles. "I've usually been in customer service or processed medical claims."

As the Reardan Clinic reception/medical records, she's the front line of customer service, which has gotten her in touch with her community.

"I moved here seven years ago to be closer to my parents and brother, but I was doing medical office temp jobs in Spokane, so I didn't know anyone in Reardan."

The Reardan Clinic job came open and it opened a whole new world of neighbors for Debbie. "That's what I like about this job is the community. I like to talk to people in the waiting room and find out how their lives are going. Not only do we truly care about them as patients and friends, but there are a lot of people who care about us. They bring us banana bread and snacks."

As for daily duties, Debbie's a busy girl. Phones, appointments, correspondence and working in tandem with the providers and MA's, she says her goal is to simply get things done.

"I'm a very self motivated person. I know what needs to get done and make a plan for my day on the way to work. By the end of the day, my work is done and hopefully I've had opportunity to make the day easier for everyone else."

This attitude has helped her in many ways, but it especially came in handy when she worked as an airline mechanic for Boeing.

"I was burned out on the medical field so I took a test and was hired to work on the "shake down" area repairing 747's. I pulled the blueprints, drilled holes, riveted."

Basically, she fixed anything in the 42 section from behind the cockpit to the wings.

"Although I enjoyed working in a man's world, it was a high stress job," she admits. "We had to stamp every repair with our name and the date so if the plane went down, they could trace it back to exactly who to blame. We were constantly under inspection, always being watched. That's why I like it here. We work well together and trust each other to give our best every day."

