

Volunteer Spotlight

RENA RIFFEL
UNIVERSITY HILLS

Rena has been blessed with a natural talent to play the piano ever since she was a little girl. This fact is based on very good authority... her older brother and UHills nursing home resident, Jim Dunbar. Jim laughingly claims to have 'discovered' Rena as she played popular radio tunes in their Louisiana front room without music or any lessons. He fondly remembers Rena as a youngster playing their mother's upright piano with her legs too short to touch the pedals! Rena has a vivid recollection of the first song she ever played being *Red River Valley*, a connection to the Red River that flowed by their Shreveport home.

A dedicated volunteer of many years, Rena is still able to share her gift of music with her brother and the many residents who love to hear her play. As Rena sits at the piano in the Activity Room, she encourages residents to hum a few bars of their favorite songs or possibly sing the first line of a tune and then sit back and enjoy some wonderful memories. Life Enrichment Director, Troy Dunning, especially appreciates Rena's willingness to entertain when asked, often on short notice.

For Rena, playing the piano is something that brings her as much joy and happiness as she offers to the residents. She is definitely not one to expect praise or acknowledgement for her generous volunteer efforts at fund raising events over the years. Luckily, the many nominations from her fellow volunteers, staff and community visitors finally convinced Rena to agree to be honored as Volunteer of the Month. We are glad to have the opportunity to say thank you to a fine and gracious friend and volunteer.