



Volunteer of the Month January 2016

Mr. Willie Ivory

Since the Women's Breast & Heart Initiative's inception in 2006, Willie Ivory has been on the front lines. Not only as the Chairman of the Board, but as a dedicated volunteer.

It all began when his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. She was fortunate enough to receive the care she needed to prevent this diagnoses from becoming a death sentence thanks to her health insurance. But what about the women who don't have the same privilege? That was the moment she had a great idea that could save lives, which inspired Willie to join his wife in the fight against breast cancer.

Football was no longer the highlight of Willies' Saturdays. "Her diagnoses changed my perspective on what was really important," he said. Volunteering every Saturday has helped Willie see the bigger picture. Life is too short to waste time being unproductive. According to Willie, there is no better way to spend your days then by helping others.

Willie recalls his most memorable WBHI moment while volunteering during outreach season. He and his team knocked on the door of a woman who was not happy to have visitors. After refusing to hear why they were there, Willie left the woman a door hanger and continued his route with his team. A few minutes later, the women came running after them in tears, apologizing and politely asking them to come back because she desperately needed the service WBHI was providing. The woman was so grateful, she donated \$25.00 and signed up to become a volunteer.

The message Willie would like readers to take away from his experience as a volunteer would be, "If people have an opportunity to serve their community and help others instead of doing things for themselves, they should do it, because there is nothing more rewarding."