

Ten years ago, Rick and Deb Blodgett felt compelled to get their church more engaged in the community. “We were looking for a way to reach beyond the doors of the church and really do something to help others,” says Rick. They decided get a group together to serve meals at Mohm’s Place, and they’ve been doing so every Tuesday since.

The team has changed over the years, but today consists of Rick and Deb Blodgett, Jay and Denise Handrock, Hazel Hughes, and Beth Miller. When they think about what keeps them coming back after 10 years and through the ups and downs of the pandemic, Denise says, “I have two sons. They’re both about the age of many of the guys we see come through the line on Tuesday nights. Every week I imagine that if one of my boys were ever in a situation like this, I would want someone to take care of them, someone to make sure they get a good meal. And that keeps me coming back and feeling genuinely humbled to serve here.”

At 85 years old, Hazel Hughes is definitely one of our most experienced volunteers. Hazel has seen a lot in life, but for her, seeing people transition into housing is incredibly powerful. “We always wonder what’s happened when we don’t see someone anymore,” she says, “but it’s such a thrill when we learn that they’ve moved on to be living in their own home.”

In the spring of 2023, New Visions had the pleasure of honoring these long-time volunteers with the inaugural "Do Gooders of the Year" award from [SHARE Iowa](#) and [Community Foundation for Western Iowa](#). What an honor!! During the award presentation, our CEO Brandy Wallar stated, "Many of us dream of changing the world. People like you just go and do it." Some people wonder what it would look like if we all decided to do something GOOD every day. To all of us at New Visions, it looks like Jay and Denise, Rick and Deb, and Hazel and Beth tying on their aprons, adjusting their hats, pushing a cart, and doing their part to humbly serve others. Congratulations to this dedicated team of “Do Gooders” for achieving this honor!