



Elaine's still bringing smiles and snacks to patients after 33 years

August 2017

Elaine Gray enjoyed attending last year's Volunteer Recognition Event so she was pleased to be invited again this year. But she got the shock of her life when she saw her name on the big screen.

Elaine was recognised in the long service section of the Volunteer Resource Centre Manawatu and Districts event.

Elaine has done the trolley run at Palmerston North Hospital for an impressive 33 years.

Her youngest daughter had been at school for 18 months when Elaine started volunteering at the hospital and she still takes a turn twice a month. The trolley sells food, drinks and toiletries to staff and patients and the volunteers are always ready with a smile and kind word.

Elaine remembers when the trolley was wooden and it took three volunteers to manage it. There was also the day she had to take the trolley to Accident and Emergency when her fellow volunteer collapsed during their run.

Elaine's late husband, Eric, was heavily involved with St Matthew's Anglican Church's Ezee Meals service since its inception in 2000. She helped him sell and deliver the frozen meals. Elaine is still involved with the church fundraiser.

MidCentral District Health Board is always looking for volunteer trolley salespeople. Volunteers are rostered for two to three hours on a weekday morning to suit.

