



Healthy and nutritious food donations are always welcome and help encourage CFR's clients to lead healthy lifestyles. Low sodium and low sugar non-perishable canned goods support this goal.

Finally, if you are able, volunteering is one of the most impactful ways you can contribute, and the holidays are a great time to get involved. Visit [www.CareforReal.org](http://www.CareforReal.org) to sign up or call 773.769.6182. **TI**

## **Park Tower Profile** **William, Our Affable Hiker**

by Bob Shamo

**H**iker, you say? What exactly is a 'hiker' — and who in the world is William?

1P parkers will know. Hikers are the parking attendants who get our valet parkers going in the morning and welcome them home at night.

And William? Well, that would be William Whooper, a member of our parking crew and surely one of the most outgoing hikers ever. Several residents have suggested William as a PT Profile subject and, true to form, he was 'all in' when I invited him for this issue. We sat down to talk in a tiny office I didn't even know existed, just behind the attendant's office on level 1P.

William is a Chicago guy, having been born and reared on the near west side. The Chicago Stadium, home of the Chicago Bulls, is just down the street. He comes from a big family where, he says, "Those

summer reunions pretty much filled the park." The second youngest of five siblings, he graduated from Crane High School.

William loves cars, always has. After high school, and here in Chicago, he worked as a Medicare driver and car wash attendant. He also married and started his own family which now numbers six children, ages 27 to 39, a passel of grandchildren, and his first great grandchild.

When his kids were young, William moved the family to a nice neighborhood in

Cleveland, Ohio. But he longed for extended family, and when he returned after awhile to Chicago, his wife and kids stayed behind in Cleveland.

Prior to coming to Park Tower, William worked as a hiker for a downtown Draper & Kramer property. He started here in 2007 and now works weekdays from 4:00 pm to midnight. That shift suits William just fine. Never a morning person, he sleeps late, does errands midday, and comes to work feeling refreshed.

His specialty is welcoming residents home — often with a bit of banter accompanied by a fist bump or a high five. He remembers that more than once, a resident has said, "William, you just made my day!" And he assured me he feels the same, those back-and-forths warming his heart and making the time go faster.

Weekends often find William stepping out — literally. He and his fiancé are Steppin' dancers and frequent some of the clubs in town that feature Chicago-Style Stepping. (See Google for clips of this high-spirited variation on urban ballroom dancing.)



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*Written by Tom Wartowski, Park Tower resident*

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