

JILL WEAVER

*Board Member since 2017
Fundraising Committee Member*

Jill Weaver loves to volunteer. Since her high school days she found herself drawn to community engagement and service. While her initial motivation may have been to help classmates or neighbors, she wonders now whether she gets more out of helping than those she's supposed to serve. "I've since learned it's called the 'helper's high,'" Weaver explains. "You just feel good when you can help others. I associate it with a line from Modern Woodmen of America's creed [where she's the Chief Fraternal Officer]—'all that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own.'" So it was an easy "sell" when she was asked to be a member of the QCHI Board. Soon after joining, she remembers an important topic coming up that helped her connect the dots on just how complex/multi-faceted health-related issues can be. A fellow Board Member was reporting how prevalent it was for people with mental illness to become jailed as there weren't other, accessible ways to truly serve and treat them. "I had often heard from my husband (who worked 31 years for the sheriff's department) how those with mental health issues would intersect with law enforcement," says Weaver. She immediately realized how important it was to have several people, in different fields, all sitting around the same table. "That was the moment for me when a light bulb went on, in terms of QCHI's unique relevance in the community—how we brought sectors together who could then delve into and help face a problem," exclaims Weaver. "This wasn't just a police, or healthcare, or social services problem... You have to look through all those lenses to actually get at a solution." Just one example, she says, of QCHI's vision in action. "That, for me," insists Weaver, "is the value of QCHI and why it's a true convener." And reinforces why she loves to volunteer.

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