



## Student Spotlight: Gail Hoffmann

Gail's son's physical therapist Brian, who was a board member of Mission*Shift*, showed her a pamphlet about Mission*Shift* in the spring of 2012. Brian thought Gail's eldest son, Zach, who was a student at the University of Minnesota, may be interested in taking the class. Zach was unable to take the class, due to his heavy course load; however, Gail thought it might be interesting. As a pre-Christmas gift Zach paid for Gail's tuition to the Mission*Shift* class. Gail stated that, "The two semesters of Mission*Shift* were thought provoking and enlightening." Cross-cultural and urban ministry was new to her. Since she has finished the course, she has persuaded her church, which is usually more focused on global ministry, to look more at serving the community surrounding it. She has taken the skills that she learned at Mission*Shift* and used them in the ministry close to her heart. She now chairs the Inclusion Ministry Team at Rosemount UMC. The mission is to include families with children and adults with physical, intellectual and other developmental disabilities into the fabric of our church. Currently, Carnivale!, our respite care program serves approximately 30-35 children, six times a year, for four hours on a Friday evening. The program is free of charge, and mom and dad have a break from the day to day stresses of raising a child with disabilities. Currently, the program is funded by an annual church golf tournament. In the spring, the Inclusion Ministry team will be collaborating with Rosemount High School by holding the Shamrock Ball for special education students. For some, the Ball will be the only formal dance these students will ever attend. During her Mission*Shift* experience Gail also made connections with young adults who have dedicated themselves to serving the Lord. She was in awe of their faithfulness and servitude, and humbled by their selflessness. She has kept in contact with many of them. When Gail enrolled in Mission*Shift*, she had not taken a college course in over thirty years and she was not sure that she would be able to be a wife, mom and a student all at the same time. Her experience at Mission*Shift* encouraged her to expand her studies. Gail is now enrolled in her third class at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. She states, "I am well on my way in obtaining a Professional Certification in Disability Ministry for the United Methodist Church. My time at Mission*Shift* prepared me for this challenge. I highly recommend Mission*Shift*. It is a faith journey well worth the experience."