Eileen Packer, UCR Palm Desert volunteer

If you've come to any of our events at UCR Palm Desert, you're probably already familiar with the smiling face of volunteer Eileen Packer. Here's a little bit more about the Palm Desert resident and what inspired her to donate her time here.

UCR PALM DESERT: Tell us a little bit about you.

PACKER: I grew up in Winnipeg, Canada, received a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics, and then did a dietetic internship in Montreal. Then I transitioned into the nonprofit world with a career focus in healthcare and the welfare of seniors.

I moved to the desert from LA for a slower-paced life and because I was so fond of the surrounding mountains. I fell in love with the desert at first sight, driving along Palm Canyon and feasting my eyes on the beautiful palm trees.

UCRPD: How did you first hear about UCR Palm Desert?

PACKER: I lived in Palm Springs when UCR Palm Desert was built in 2005. Later, when I was CEO of HARC (Health Assessment Resource Center), our offices were housed on the UCR Palm Desert campus.

UCRPD: Why did you become a UCR Palm Desert volunteer?

PACKER: The UCR School of Medicine and Tamara Hedges (executive director of UCR Palm Desert Center) were very generous in providing space to HARC for many years. I felt it a duty and honor to give back to an institution that valued the important work of HARC.

UCRPD: What do you enjoy most about your volunteer work?

PACKER: I enjoy meeting the attendees at check-in, making them feel welcome to the event and the Palm Desert campus. Many are repeat attendees, so it is like encountering old friends again.

UCRPD: What are your favorite UCR Palm Desert programs to attend?

PACKER: The School of Medicine lectures and the Arts and Letters author events are the most interesting to me. And, like many others, I love the Academy Awards night hosted by Tod Goldberg (director of UCR Palm Desert's low-residency MFA program).
It is a both a fun and entertaining event.