



## Staff in the Spotlight

**Sue Ryder** started her career in Silicon Valley, but she says she doesn't miss it one bit and loves working as a technical support specialist at Meadowbrook.

Ms. Ryder grew up as the youngest of six kids in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin outside of Milwaukee. She has happy memories of her involvement in team sports. She was a hurdler on her high school track team and fondly remembers she and her teammates called themselves the "HurdIHers." She rowed crew in college, and as an adult played basketball which is how she met the woman she would later marry.

Academically, Ms. Ryder excelled in math and science. She started studying engineering at the University of Cincinnati, but she switched majors and earned a bachelor's degree in product design. "I've always liked to be able to look at beautiful things," she said, explaining that design isn't just about how a product looks, but also how you work with it. "Good design has no unnecessary elements" she added.

While in college, she interned in the space station design department at NASA in Mountainview, California and got hooked on living on the west coast. After graduation, Ms. Ryder joined a consulting firm in Silicon Valley and worked on everything from the first laptop ever made to physical therapy equipment to terminals for horse racing tracks. While she says it was a blast working with creative people on such interesting projects, she decided she wanted to be home with her kids, so she gave up the 80-hour work weeks and moved back to the midwest when her youngest was a baby.

They lived in Northbrook, and her two sons, Clay and Will, both attended Meadowbrook. After 10 years of full-time motherhood, Ms. Ryder became a tech substitute at Meadowbrook. That eventually turned into a full-time job, and she's now in her 15th year at the school. Will is graduating from Kelley business school at Indiana University, and Clay can be seen around Meadowbrook working as a custodian a couple of days a week. Her wife, Kathleen Maher, is an attorney for an appellate court judge who married them in December, 2016. (The photo above was taken at their wedding.) They now live in a 1916 bungalow in Evanston and are working to renovate it, with a focus, of course, on good design.

### Fun Facts about Sue Ryder

- Holds patents for an HP printer she designed and a restraint system for working in space.
- Every July 4th, travels to Brewster, NY to the Ryder Farm that's been in her family for 223 years.
- Loves camping, hiking, Yosemite National Park, live music & microbreweries.

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