The Greater Richmond Bar Foundation describes its mission as expanding public access to the justice system in central Virginia. This foundation does this by facilitating the delivery of pro bono legal services between volunteers and those who need help. Wyndham resident, Dan Bloor believes that as an attorney he is able to help people struggling with legal matters in ways that other people cannot. He imagines that many attorneys want to find a way to use their talents to help others, but are unsure how to do this.

Due to its wide array of legal workers, the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation (GRBF) is able to provide the public with many different kinds of services. They work with immigration law, wills, family law -- such as divorce or custody cases, protective orders, bankruptcy, social security benefits, and they provide veterans’ services. The GRBF also serves as a hotline for individuals who have legal questions as well as offering counseling services for other non-profits that have general legal questions.

Since all of the services and actions provided by the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation are pro bono, the organization holds a few fundraisers throughout the year. This past October, they hosted a triage dedicated to training its members and volunteers to work on the many different services that the GRBF provides. In the evening after the training, there was a pro bono celebration dedicated to those who work hard to continue the efforts of the GRBF. In addition, on February 9, the GRBF will be hosting Jazz 4 Justice, a celebratory jazz concert which raises money for the organization. The GRBF also receives a large portion of its funding from many generous donors who support their mission.

Dan has been volunteering with the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation for a year and has now been on its board for a few months. He shares he had been looking for a way to work pro bono for awhile and was really enthusiastic about the idea behind the GRBF. He likes that the GRBF serves as a hub of pro bono services and outreach to the community. In fact, after volunteering with the foundation himself, Dan was able to convince many of his co-workers to volunteer as well. Dan states, “There was a lot of interest; people just didn’t know how to do it.” He was happy to help get them involved.

When asked about his personal goals within the organization, Dan explains, “I want to do more of the volunteer work and I want to find which of the types of volunteer jobs I enjoy the most, so I’m sort of testing out different areas right now.” Dan encourages others to get involved with the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation because it’s a great way to help the individuals in your community. He states, “I did a wills clinic a couple of months ago and the service I was providing was very simple, but the people were so thankful!” Dan summarizes the idea of the GRBF as, “You’re really just helping people out when they think they’re stuck.”

If you are an attorney interested in the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation, the website makes it very easy to volunteer! Even if you don’t work in the field of law, donations are a huge help and any assistance with the fundraising events is another great way to get involved. For more information visit grbf.org.