



MERCY CENTER

Mercy Center's Monthly Profile in Mercy

Starting January 2019, Mercy Center will be launching our monthly series, *A Profile in Mercy*. Each month we will recognize one of our extraordinary volunteers and their contribution to our mission.

A Profile in Mercy: Dorothea Weller



When Dorothea Weller retired from Monmouth County in 2001 as a Nursing Home Administrator, she wanted to work with a local food pantry. She heard of Sister Carol Henry and inquired with Mercy Center on volunteer opportunities. 18 years later, she is considered a primary team member and leads our volunteer recruitment efforts.

You can often find her in Mercy Center's Food Pantry or our corporate offices on Main Street in Asbury Park assisting with various tasks. However, during the holidays she is the captain of a tight and well-organized ship. She manages the solicitation, collection, assembly and distribution of our annual Thanksgiving basket distribution for over 300 families and the Christmas Toy Drive for over 200 children. While every year there is a little anxiety over having enough food or toys, there is also her continued amazement at the generosity of our donors and community partners. Dorothea is "astounded" by the passion and generosity of our donors and volunteers. She proudly boasts that our volunteers "will do anything you ask."

The most gratifying part of her work is that she gets the opportunity "to put myself into someone else's shoes." Dorothea is deeply troubled that people in our community go hungry. She has noticed that families continue to struggle and appear to have less than ever. Sometimes just picking up food can be a burden for some families as they have to plan for the time and the cost of travel, such as taking the bus or paying cab fare. This is what motivates her to help them and why her children would say "she is doing good things." Mercy Center could not agree more!

In addition to her many hours at Mercy Center each year, Dorothea leads a full and active social life. She enjoys going to the theater and reading. In the summer, you will find her at the beach.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, Dorothea wants you to know that "we can use the help!" Please call her at (732) 774-9397 x 121 to learn more about our needs and opportunities.

Mercy Center can never thank our volunteers enough. Dorothea, you are a true blessing to us. We appreciate you and all that you do for us.