



MERCY CENTER

## ***A Profile in Mercy: Jackie Zavaglia McGlone***



About 10 years ago, Jackie was helping with a Thanksgiving food drive at her parish, St. Anselm's in Tinton Falls. St. Anselm's provides food for Mercy Center's Thanksgiving baskets every year. That year, Jackie came to Mercy Center to drop off the food, helped us during our basket distribution and was inspired by the "number of grassroots agencies serving a need" in the community.

After her retirement as a Social Worker in Child Welfare in 2013, she committed to a weekly volunteer shift in our food pantry. During her 46 year career, Jackie worked with people from all different backgrounds with various circumstances and knows that "anyone can end up hungry, bad times can hit anyone." She understands that "human issues affect everyone." Her social work expertise comes in handy in other ways and not just only for Mercy Center. As a part-time adjunct professor at Georgian Court University, she supervises the Social Work internship program. She conducts site visits, mentors interns, and ensures that students receive good, hands-on learning experiences. We are fortunate to be part of this internship program.

Jackie also helps in the pantry at St. Peter Claver Church. She finds it heartwarming to work with and meet "kind and caring" people. Volunteering at both places keeps her busy while also enriching her life. Most importantly, she maintains this schedule because there is a need. Jackie's father owned a piano store in Asbury Park and is amazed by the city's wonderful growth of recent years but also acknowledges the human concerns and social justice needs, including the perpetual poverty, which still exists in the community.

As one of six children, she is the only sibling that still lives in New Jersey. In fact, all other five siblings and their families live in 5 different states. A highlight of her year is her annual excursions to visit with her siblings. She always enjoys visits with her son and son-in-law in New York City or at her home. Her daily life is filled with joy from spending time with her husband and her dog.

Jackie, as you say about the staff here, thank *you* for also being "helpful to people."

To learn about our volunteer opportunities at Mercy Center, please call (732) 774-9397 ext. 121. Perhaps, maybe like Jackie, you would "like it here."