

Centennial

1912 – 2012

Sentiments

“Making New Jersey A Better Place to Live, Work and Raise A Family”

Throughout its history, the work of VNA Health Group has been sustained by the diligent effort of the volunteer auxiliaries. Early auxiliary members modified milk for sick babies, collected supplies for needed comforts, prepared the seasonal supply of bandages, and joined the nurses in patient’s homes to assist in their care. The Thrift and Consignment Shop in Manasquan is one more manifestation of the impact of volunteerism. It opened for business on April 1, 1960 at 68 Broad Street in Red Bank. With 25 volunteers on its roster, Founder Geraldine Thompson, Chairperson Laura Harding and nursing director Mrs. Elizabeth Morris cut the ribbon. After just two years, it outgrew its initial location and moved several times before settling, in 1974, at its present location, behind the VNA Regional Office at 69 Main Street in Manasquan. Since that time the Thrift Shop building has expanded twice to meet an ever growing need.

Since its founding, volunteers have given more than 700,000 hours to support the Thrift Shop operation. In 2011 alone, more than 20,000 hours were spent collecting, sorting, tagging and selling to raise more than \$230,000 to provide VNA services to those less fortunate. With its well known tagline, “Where what you purchase to wear, turns into care,” the Thrift Shop is in every respect a community institution. Many of today’s 200 adult and teenage volunteers are members of area churches, organizations and schools. In 2000, the Thrift Shop received the NJ Governor’s Volunteer Award for long-term service. Then Secretary of State Buster Soaries sent a commendation to Rosemary Cook, Thrift Shop President at the time that stated, “This year’s judges have determined that through your efforts New Jersey has become a better place to live, work and raise a family.” On its 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2010, special recognition

was made by Congressman Chris Smith who requested that a flag be flown over the nation’s Capitol in recognition of the contribution of the Thrift Shop to the community. Since 1960, the Thrift Shop has contributed more than \$4 million to VNA Health Group to help those in need.

At VNAHG’s Centennial Celebration Annual Meeting, the Thrift Shop received the Community Partner Award in recognition of their exceptional support over the years. The Thrift Shop allows VNAHG to say ‘yes’ to the many community needs present in the absence of adequate funding to support.

Through steadfast commitment, unwavering compassion, and over fifty-two years of hard work, all those associated with the amazing VNAHG Thrift Shop have made their mark on our community, and touched countless lives for the better.



MCOSS Thrift Shop volunteers in the 1970s



Thrift Shop volunteers received VNAHG Community Partner Award.