



## **2016 Honorees**

### **Lois Lescovitz**

In 1986, Lois took the steps necessary to begin volunteering at the agency then known as Senior Adult Services. She worked at the front desk handling calls and questions and, as her knowledge of services expanded, provided referrals to those seeking assistance. She also helped educate seniors about programs in the community by representing the agency at special events. She supported staff by assisting with necessary and time-consuming clerical tasks. For thirty years, Seasons of Service honoree Lois Lescovitz has kept service to seniors close to her heart and let her commitment to volunteering guide her actions.

### **Marty Robinson**

Those who know Marty, knows she freely shares her smile with everyone she meets. She brought that contagious smile and generous spirit to Metrocrest Services in 2001 when she began volunteering in the pantry. She warmly welcomed clients and created a nonjudgmental environment for them as they selected food for their families. In the years that followed, Marty shared 1,500 hours of her time.

Prior to becoming a pantry volunteer, Marty participated in the annual CROP Hunger Walk which highlights the need for local and international hunger relief. She also assisted Metrocrest Services during the holidays by volunteering in the distribution of toys, gifts, and food to area families. In her many interactions with clients over the years, we are certain that she left them with a feeling of dignity and good will. In that respect, Marty is a positive role model for volunteers and staff and a true volunteer superstar at Metrocrest Services.

### **Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church**

Community justice and service is part of the covenant of Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church. Their original minister, Reverend Dennis Hamilton, not only helped organize the first CROP Hunger Walk in

this area, but he worked to involve other faith-based groups. A portion of the funds generated by the event benefit the Metrocrest Services pantry. Teams of walkers from Horizon have participated in every event since to bring attention to world and local hunger.

Throughout the year, members of Horizon have taken responsibility for recurring Saturday morning shifts in the Metrocrest Services pantry. To further address food insecurity in the community, several times a year the congregation collects items which are donated to benefit families served by Metrocrest Services. In the last two years, the church initiated a weekly collection of pantry items that are brought to the altar to symbolize a dedication to fighting hunger, while an annual Share the Plate program encourages financial contributions. In addition, each Sunday Metrocrest Services is mentioned as an important agency serving the community.

A focus on seniors began with Senior Adult Services and continues with members creating holiday baskets of food, household supplies, and treats for distribution at Christmas. In 2012, their pastoral care department offered a community education program on dementia which led to education and support group efforts. For example, Candle Lighters is a day activity program for individuals with dementia. It is run by volunteers and opens to the community at no charge. Dozens of seniors, including some served by Metrocrest Services, have found meaningful support through Candle Lighters. Due to the success of the program, Horizon now conducts workshops to area churches interested in offering similar programs.

The leadership and congregants of Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church are dedicated to helping their community. They truly live their covenant of “service is our prayer” and for that reason they are a deserving Seasons of Service honoree.

### **Coppell Cares**

Since 2002, First United Methodist Church Coppell has served as a supporter of Metrocrest Services. Coppell Cares is a mission of the church that focuses on families and individuals who have needs driven by financial challenges. In their efforts to address local hardships, they partner with area social service agencies, including Metrocrest Services, for the benefit of the community.

For five years, members have participated in our Sack Summer Hunger efforts to deliver food to area kids. In the last two years the Coppell Cares liaisons, who work within the Coppell schools, have taken on a larger role by helping to identify and enroll young participants in the food distribution program.

Church members also volunteer in many of our programs for low-income families including our school shoe and school supply distributions and our December holiday program. The Coppell Cares mission of giving has impacted many in their city and they are deserving of 2016 Seasons of Services recognition.

## **Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District**

The Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District has been recognized for many accomplishments including a graduation rate of 94%, which is above the state average of 88%, and the fact that 2016 graduates earned over \$22 million in scholarships. They have a stellar record of achievement in education.

But Metrocrest Services is recognizing the district as a Seasons of Services honoree due to other outstanding actions, one being interpersonal communication. We witness on a regular basis how open communication between case managers at Metrocrest Services and counselors at C-FB schools is vital to addressing local needs. Since counselors and teachers are on the front lines of coping with student hunger, problems due to instability in family homes, and what can often be the cruel realities of being poor, Metrocrest Services employees rely on C-FB to alert us to those in need. When a district employee refers an individual in need of a meal, warm clothing, or even a place to stay, that referral can lead to finding a solution for a family in crisis. The importance of this communication process is vital in making our community stronger.

But district employees are not the only ones deserving of our appreciation. C-FB students from all grade levels have conducted donation drives on behalf of Metrocrest Services. For example, a collection drive by Country Place Elementary students resulted in 167 boxes of one of the most popular foods in our pantry—macaroni and cheese. Newman Smith High School collected toys for the holidays, band members at R.L. Turner High School held a food drive, and the list goes on.

Since 2003, groups of students from C-FB schools have also volunteered 1,453 hours and so far this year they have given 164 hours. But these numbers do not include the many other young people who volunteer independently. It's a simple, but true, statement that volunteers make good things happen and we thank everyone at C-FB for supporting our community!

## **Frost Bank**

In 2015, when the Elm Fork of the Trinity River flooded the homes of several families in Carrollton and Coppell, Frost Bank initiated the first food drive to help them. During that same year, Frost employees volunteered with Metrocrest Services a total of 127 hours.

Frost employees are frequent volunteers in the Metrocrest Services home repair program. Teams in their blue Frost tee shirts regularly tackle exterior repairs, such as fence replacements, for seniors who have received city code violations but do not have the finances to remedy the situation.

Frost volunteers also participate in Sack Summer Hunger that benefits children from low-income families who may struggle with access to regular meals during the summer break from school. Frost generously supports Metrocrest Services pantry operations when bank locations— throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth area— serve as food collection sites. We are proud to have the support of Frost Bank and acknowledge their contributions that benefit so many in our community.

## **Judy Bader**

2016 is not over yet and Judy Bader has already volunteered 93 hours. She started helping at Metrocrest Services in 2008, and has given approximately 333 hours in service to help others. The agency is stronger because of her involvement throughout the year.

As an experienced volunteer, she understands the multiple steps involved in many of our programs and she is skilled in directing others who may be new to volunteering. For example, during the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive conducted by the National Association of Letter Carriers, a high volume of foods must be sorted and boxed for storage. Judy helped alleviate the workload on staff by supervising some of the shifts of volunteers, explaining the steps involved, and addressing questions to ensure a smooth operation. In December, she helps supervise volunteer teams that sort food in preparation for the annual holiday distribution. During the months of June, July, and August she generously spends her Saturday mornings managing teams of Sack Summer Hunger volunteers.

In addition to helping with these seasonal projects, Judy works a weekly shift in the pantry. There she serves as a friendly guide to individuals selecting food for the families and keeps the busy pantry restocked. It's evident through her actions that Judy has made a choice to serve others and we are grateful that she chooses to work with us at Metrocrest Services.