

# About Mary Ledyard

Mary began volunteering in high school and has continued to do so since. She has not stopped caring for others since her teen years. She began with volunteering for the Association for Retarded Children's summer camp in Indiana. Mary enjoyed helping others so much, that she went on to become a teacher and in her spare time tutored adults in an ESL program called Literacy Volunteers of Morris County.

Mary and her husband volunteered with Trout Unlimited, a national conservation group where they helped with the care, maintenance, and planting of native species of trees along rivers and streams in northwestern New Jersey to restore the natural habitat. During that time, Mary co-chaired a project called Trout in the Classroom. She delivered live trout eggs to dozens of schools in northern NJ and provided a curriculum for raising the trout to fingerling size. In the spring, the students released the trout to local streams.

Mary and her husband also volunteered at St. Clair's hospital in Dover, NJ for many years. They chaired The St. Claire's Hospital Harvest Festival for two years in the late 90's and raised over \$250,000 for the hospital.

Mary volunteers with Heroes on the Water, a veteran's fishing and kayaking group. Heroes on the Water services veterans suffering from PTSD from the Lyons Hospital, Lyons, NJ, along with any veteran that wants to participate.

Mary and her husband volunteered with Project Kind, which was a massive relief effort for the Texas hurricane victims. The relief involved getting supplies to victims.

They also spearheaded a relief drive for Afghan refugees through Project Kind. They collected \$27,000 worth of clothing, toiletries, bedding, and toys.

During COVID, Mary sewed one hundred masks for healthcare workers. She also tutored several neighborhood children to help them catch up with reading comprehension and writing.

Also during COVID, Mary shopped for and supplied food to the Community Food Closet at First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway using monetary donations when there wasn't enough food for visitors.

Most recently, Mary became one of Family Promise's monthly volunteer food deliverers. Two days per month, Mary picks up eight clients' food pantry orders and delivers them to their homes. Prior to becoming a food deliverer, Mary volunteered for years with Family Promise's shelter program. She cooked meals for the families and babysat children while mom's attended meetings and seminars. Mary was also a strong supporter of a family who graduated from the shelter program when the single mom of four boys became ill with cancer. Mary provided meals, groceries, and more.

Mary has volunteerism, selflessness, and thoughtfulness in her blood! She is most happy when helping others and making a positive difference in the world and with those who live in it. She has faced some challenging people and situations and always keeps her cool. Mary is very easy to work with, upbeat and sensible. She stands out because she is like the Energizer Bunny with it comes to helping others. Nothing stops her regardless of weather, COVID, or unreliable clients. She just forges ahead and gets the job done!