



Eleanor Lobb

(1929 -)

Born in Worcester, Massachusetts on February 19, 1929, Eleanor has been an eager volunteer since childhood. She credits this to her parents. Leading by example, they taught her the importance of helping others.

Eleanor began volunteering as a child at her church, where her parents were also heavily involved. As a teenager during World War II, she knit one sweater and pair of socks per month for the troops abroad. The Red Cross recognized Eleanor for her contributions at an event in which she remembers being a rare young person in a sea of gray-haired ladies.

After graduating from the High School of Commerce in Worcester, Eleanor studied at the New England School of Theology with hopes of becoming a missionary. While on summer vacation in California, she met Donald Lobb, the man who became her husband and best friend. He was drawn to Eleanor when he saw her playing a church piano.

Eleanor returned to the New England School of Theology for her second year, but, the following summer, a combination of circumstances led Eleanor back to the West Coast permanently. Eleanor and Donald married in the November of 1948, arriving in Mission in the midst of the 1948 flood.

In 1961, Eleanor began volunteering for the Hospital Auxiliary. Over the next forty years, Eleanor dedicated much of her time to the hospital because "it's the one institution that is a service to everyone in the community at some time in their life." Using her business acumen, Eleanor managed the thrift store, worked to create the hospital's first television rental service, acted as the auditor for 35 years, and served in various executive positions, including President. Eleanor also represented the Hospital at the provincial level and spent 22 years on the Mission Memorial Hospital Board.

In addition to giving her time to help those in the hospital, Eleanor donated her blood. For approximately five years, Eleanor travelled to Vancouver on a weekly basis to make 358 blood donations to the Canadian Blood Services. She believes it is an invaluable service and considers it to be one of her most noteworthy accomplishments.

Outside of the hospital, Eleanor has enthusiastically devoted her energy to other areas of the community. She volunteered for the Mennonite Foundation for 6 years, acted as a board member for the BC Arthritis Society for 6 years, served as a Director of the United Way of Fraser Valley for 6 years. She has also contributed to the Cedar Valley Mennonite Church since 1972, including 15 years on the Church Executive, volunteered for the Mission Hospice Society for more than 22 years and served on the Board of the Mission Community Foundation for more than 30 years.

While tirelessly contributing to the community and raising four children, Eleanor also worked in the family-owned shingle and shake business and was active in industry associations, serving as only female director of the Red Cedar Shingle and Shake Bureau, an international trade organization, for 17 years. Her male colleagues selected her to be the representative for the industry on the Board of the Council of Forest Industries. She was the only woman on the Board at that time. Upon retirement, she was awarded a Distinguished Service award which has only been awarded by the Red Cedar Shingle and Shake Bureau three times in its history.

At eighty years old, Eleanor continues to volunteer and hopes to do so for years to come. She describes her faith and involvement in her Church as one of the most important aspects of her life, explaining that it "colours a lot of what I do and a lot of the reasons why I do it."

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