

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2015

New Jersey



Dorothy A. Calimer
4-H Volunteer

Home: Cologne, NJ

Nominated by: New Jersey 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Volunteer 47 years to present, 4-H Leaders Association treasurer, secretary in past years. 4-H Fair Association first female president 1968-1978, secretary 1979 - present. NJ State 4-H Association 10 years; Northeast Regional Forums 10 years; advisor 4-H camp 5 years; founder, chair funnel cake stand 22 years; NJ Agriculture Fair Association 10 years; Youth Council Advisor 20 years. Present active committees: 4-H Fair, Chicken BBQ, assist exhibits at fair, Yearbook Committee 28 years, Family and Consumer Science, Scholarship committee.

Honors: NJ Alumni of the Year June 1984; Volunteer of the Year, NJ State 4-H Agents Association, 2014.

Biography:

Dot served in the county Extension Office for 12 years as secretary. Working for the 4-H department gave her the opportunity to prepare the necessary paper work for an event, and then as a volunteer to see the event being carried out and being successful. Her interest and participation in the NJ State Leaders Association, Northeast Regional Leaders Forum and as an advisor for youth at State events exposed her to a larger area of the 4-H program as a volunteer. As a Youth Council Advisor for 20 years, Dot was heavily involved with the teen members.

Dot and the Youth Council were active all year - visiting a group home at Christmas, doing a 7 mile walk to raise money for the home, holding sub sales where she picked up supplies and helped make subs. Dot was active in the annual Open House at a local mall to promote 4-H. She drove the bus to 4-H Camp while being a camp advisor for a week. She is most proud of starting the funnel cake stand in 1977 - first as the advisor, then as chair-person. It is still the main fund raising stand for the Fair Association. Becoming President of the Fair Association for 10 years helped her gain the confidence to take on leadership roles at the county and state levels.

Quote:

Looking back on my 47 years as a volunteer, the 4-H Youth Program has been the most important and rewarding experience that has impacted my life. Teaching and training young lives to be more productive citizens from an early age for the future has benefited both of us. Teaching and training young lives to be more productive citizens from an early age for the future has benefited both of us. Over the years the youth have learned how to get along together, work as a group, learned patience, meet deadlines, be competitive, model and exhibit their project work, acquire time management skills and aim for larger goals. My hope has been that I have prepared them for their future.



Dot works with the 4-H Dog Club.



Dot and the yearbook committee.



Dot with the 4-H Small Engines Club.