

Wonder Women Class of '18
Dorothy Beucar of Bristol
Professional Volunteer

Miss Dorothy Beucar, 99 years young, has been busier in retirement than many people are during their careers.

After working for 50 years as a secretary at Cooper Company, Dot retired in 1987 and embarked upon a nearly full-time "career" as a professional volunteer. She focuses most of her efforts in her hometown of Bristol, where she has lived her whole life, and in St. Joseph's parish, where she began volunteering while still in high school (after graduating from its grammar school).

Using her talented and caring hands, Dot has spent most of the past 30+ years:

- Sewing diapers and baby beds for the [Haitian Health Foundation](#) ("I've made thousands ... sometimes I think that's why the good Lord is keeping me here: He needs someone to make all these diapers!")
- Sewing baptismal robes for parish newborns ("Making these makes me feel closer to God; I made 12 more last week.")
- Counting the weekly church collection and baking for church events
- Visiting the elderly and the sick
- Registering blood drive donors at Bristol Hospital
- Stuffing envelopes for the Chamber of Commerce

In 2013, after she was awarded the [St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation from the Archdiocese of Hartford](#) for her countless hours of volunteer work, her then-pastor, Fr. Joseph DiSciaccia, said: "Dot is a woman of many great qualities and talents, but among her greatest are her faith, devotion and joyful personality. She has been a prized member of our parish family; her presence, smile and goodness make us all better followers of Jesus, the Lord."

"Her boundless energy and commitment to her community and neighbor are an inspiration to us all," wrote her Wonder Women nominator. "If more individuals were to follow her lead this world will certainly be a much better place."