



Camp Sunshine Founding Volunteer Dot Gonyea honored with the 6 Who Care Volunteer Award!

The award is a celebration of outstanding volunteers in Maine, and is presented annually by WCSH6 News, in partnership with the United Way of Greater Portland and TD Bank.

In her early years Dot could be found washing pots and pans in the kitchen at Camp, singing along to Elvis. Dot loves Elvis, and the way she washed dishes with her signature smile, you would think she loved washing dishes too. And when she wasn't scrubbing away, Dot was busy doing numerous other things for Camp.

Dot was instrumental in conceiving the Sunnies Program back in 1987. The yellow paper Sunnies are sold in a host of businesses throughout Maine and beyond. Initially, Dot and a small team pounded the pavement, visiting businesses in their own communities, informing the folks about Camp Sunshine and soliciting their support via the sale of the Sunnies (at \$1.00 each). Over time, this has become a great fundraising and marketing tool.

It should also be noted that in the mid-to-late 80's, Dot, along with another long-time volunteer, reached out to a number of Lions Clubs throughout Maine, encouraging them to support our unique program. This relationship-building has proven invaluable, as Lions Clubs have provided significant financial support over the years.

In addition to recruiting Lions, washing dishes, and starting both the Sunnies program and the Camp store, Dot has helped raise over \$100,000 for Camp Sunshine through the True Fans for Elvis Fan Club, and has been very helpful in getting her fellow club members involved in Camp Sunshine.

But above all of Dot's aforementioned contributions, her biggest impact is the impression she makes on every person she encounters while at Camp or in the community. She wears her Camp Sunshine volunteer shirt and gear proudly. Her infectious smile radiates with genuine passion, exuberance and love for our mission, children and families.