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# Volunteer Appreciation

## Mary Feloney and Fran Molinari



Mary and Fran with Dr. and Mrs. Mel Goldstein  
at the Annual Friends for Life Fall Gala

You won't find the names Mary Feloney and Fran Molinari on a list of MMRF staff, but these two New Canaan residents have been an integral part of the foundation for almost its entire existence as volunteers, primarily in the MMRF office. Mary first got involved about eight years ago, after reading about MMRF CEO and cofounder

Kathy Giusti in the newspaper and meeting her by chance in a local store. A couple of years later, her friend Fran was looking for something worthwhile to do, and Mary introduced her to the foundation. A breast cancer survivor herself, Fran found the MMRF "a natural place to go" to help.

Mary and Fran primarily help out in the office, stuffing envelopes, making photocopies, going to the post office, and doing whatever else is needed. The two also traveled to California to assist with registration at a MMRF Institutional Insights program. "That was such an eye opener for me," said Mary. "I learned a lot. It gave me a boost, a reward I didn't expect." For Fran, the afternoon session for patients and caregivers was particularly memorable. "They came in with such hope in their eyes, that they were going to hear something that was really going to save them. That was amazing to be there, to do that."

Fran and Mary are both retired teachers, and Mary also worked for a while in a children's store, while Fran had a second career as a reading consultant for publishing firms. They also volunteer with Meals on Wheels and AmeriCares, but make sure to have plenty of time for other pursuits, including traveling abroad several times a year.

Both women emphasized that one of the most rewarding parts of volunteering is working with the MMRF staff. "I go in, and I'm yelling at them, 'Go take a walk, get some fresh air,'" Mary said. "They have lunch at their desks. They are such a wonderful group of people." Fran added, "It's as though each of them personally thinks that he or she is going to be responsible for the cure. They're that dedicated. They give 150 percent, they really do."

The MMRF staff is equally appreciative. "Mary and Fran are part of the MMRF family," said Scott Santarella. "They've been with us for so long and have helped us out in so many ways. I can't imagine the MMRF without them."