

Outstanding Volunteer in Aging Award Honoree
Honey Shapiro

For over 30 years, Honey Shapiro has been volunteering and making a difference in the lives of older adults. When she retired from nursing and moved in the 1970s to King's Point in Delray Beach, Florida, she had a vision of "neighbors helping neighbors." With help from others sharing her vision, she began *Kings Point We Care*, the oldest and largest We Care in Palm Beach County. We Care helps neighbors in need within their community with all services *free* to the residents. At 93 years young and still volunteering, Honey serves as Vice President and consultant to this successful and long-running We Care.

King's Point is a large adult community where hundreds of older seniors reside. When We Care began, it started small with volunteers driving residents to medical and dental appointments without a fee. Now over 40 volunteer drivers are available to meet transportation needs and 86 people volunteer from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. weekly at the We Care facility within the King's Point Clubhouse to respond to the needs of the older residents. Gradually, other services have been requested. We Care now offers 14 different services including reassuring morning calls, grocery shopping for homebound, monthly support groups, friendly visiting, temporary loan of medical equipment, respite from caregiving, health fairs, and free health screenings. Clerical help is also available for those requesting it. There are still no fees for the services provided.

Honey was recently honored by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at their annual awards luncheon for dedicated and altruistic volunteer service. She is also the recipient of the Presidential Lifetime Award for volunteering more than 25 years. In 1998, the New York Times wrote about Honey Shapiro and her leadership in forming groups of volunteers to help in her community. They described her as a leader of a corps of volunteers who hurries from place to place with a little help from a walker for her arthritis.

Many other We Care groups have been started within Palm Beach County that allow seniors to remain in their homes thanks to Honey's dream and her caring spirit as a volunteer.