



**JNESO**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL 1, IUOE / AFL-CIO  
*the professional health care union*

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For Immediate Release

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### **Celebrate Nurses Week: Say “Thank You” to nurses for going “Above and Beyond the Call of Duty”**

Every day nurses give their all to provide the best quality care and to advocate for their patients. For many, this role continues even after they clock out at the end of a busy day. These same nurses, who have been serving on the frontlines for over a year, have now expanded their reach even further to serve local communities as volunteers in the fight against COVID-19.

Nurses have been volunteering to assist towns, schools, and religious organizations with COVID-19 screening and testing, education, and have been a huge part of the statewide vaccination effort.

“These nurses are not engaged as part of their ‘day job,’ but in their free time -- after long 12-hour shifts, in the evenings and on weekends,” said Elfrieda Johnson, President of [JNESO Local District Council 1](#), the professional health care union that represents some 5,000 nurses and techs in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. “Nurses are amazingly resilient, and their tremendous dedication and commitment enables them to rise to the challenge and go *‘Above and Beyond the Call of Duty’* to do whatever they can to help keep our loved ones, friends and neighbors healthy and safe.”

JNESO is proud to support our nurses and encourages the public to help honor these amazing professionals by taking a moment to say, “**Thank You,**” during Nurses Week, May 6-12. Recognize a special nurse, or all nurses who have made a difference your life, by posting a story or message on social media using the hashtag [#JNESOnurses](#). Or, leave a “Thank You” as a positive comment on one of the special Nurses Week posts on JNESO’s Facebook page [www.facebook.com/JNESO](http://www.facebook.com/JNESO) or “LIKE” and share our special [Celebration Video](#) with your friends!

JNESO nurses have a long track-record of giving back and volunteering, participating in food and clothing drives, water bottle distribution, filling school backpacks for children in need, holiday gift collections for at-risk communities, and walks and bike-a-thons to combat diseases. The COVID-19 outreach efforts are just the latest added to this list.

JNESO nurse Jennylin Schott, a Registered Nurse from Marlton, N.J., has been working at the Moorestown Vaccine Mega Center which vaccinates 6,000 people daily. “When they asked for volunteers, I was very willing to jump in and help make this happen. I have been working 1-2 days during the week and weekends at the center, in addition to my normal work hours,” said Schott. “After feeling so helpless as the pandemic took over it felt so good to be part of the solution and see the joy on people’s faces to get the vaccine!”

“I feel it is important for all nurses to get out there in the community so they can help people understand what COVID-19 is doing to their friends, neighbors and families,” said Schott. “We can all do our part even if you aren’t a health care professional. Volunteer to help your neighbors with whatever they need, whether it is at a foodbank or another organization that is helping people struggling during this difficult time. It is important for all of us to get involved.”



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A group of JNESO members who are Registered Nurses at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono in East Stroudsburg, Pa., have a tradition of volunteering to assist with the NOTCI skills testing for students at the Monroe Career Technical Institute (MCTI).

“This is the fifth year we have participated, manning stations to test student basic medical skills like taking vital signs, properly using PPE, and safely transferring patients,” explained Donna Brown, an RN from Stroudsburg, Pa. “We really enjoy working with the students, and it is important to help them develop the skills they will need to enter nursing or another career in the medical profession.”

Another JNESO nurse committed to volunteerism is Barbara Jones, a Registered Nurses from Mt. Laurel, N.J., who has served for 15 years as Vice President of the Nurses Ministry at the Bethany Baptist Church in Lindenwold, N.J.

“We recently helped set-up COVID-19 screening and testing for the congregation, and have sponsored the mammogram mobile, health fairs with blood pressure screenings and blood sugar checks and are always on call to assist if someone falls ill at the church,” said Jones, who has been a nurse for 50 years. “Nurses are a trusted resource, and it is good to know that we are here to use our skills and help when needed. Helping people is why I went into nursing in the first place.”

Jones’ desire to help others is also evident in her role as local president of JNESO at Virtua in Voorhees, N.J., where she represents some 1,300 nurses, and has been instrumental in efforts to ensure the health and safety of nurses during the pandemic.

“Unions help nurses have a voice, not only in their contracts and the terms and conditions of employment, but as to how they are being treated. The more corporate nursing becomes the more important it is for us to have a union like JNESO to protect our nurses, voice their concerns, and promote positive change,” added Jones who was recognized for her efforts by the Southern New Jersey Central Labor Council as the recipient of the 2020 George E. Norcross, Jr. Humanitarian Award.

These are just a few examples of the amazing JNESO nurses that not only put the health and safety of their patients first, but go “Above and Beyond the Call of Duty” as volunteers in communities where they live and work!

Read more about our amazing nurses at [CelebrateNurses.org](https://CelebrateNurses.org) and get information about JNESO at [JNESO.org](https://JNESO.org)

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