
A Career of Service. A Lifetime of Contribution.

“You bring your own knowledge. That’s what you offer.”

-Julia Plotnick, RN, MPH, FAAN, RADM, USPHS (ret)

Julia Plotnick, RN, MPH, FAAN, RADM, USPHS (ret) joined Health Volunteers Overseas in 2000. For nearly two decades, she has been a dedicated volunteer, member, leader and supporter. She has volunteered at project sites; served as project director, steering committee member and HVO Board member; and made significant contributions to the sustainability and effectiveness of the organization.

To honor Ms. Plotnick’s dedicated service, HVO is pleased to announce the establishment of the Plotnick Nursing Education Volunteer Fund.

Ms. Plotnick’s dedication to HVO’s mission to improve global health through education is just one chapter of a career of service and a lifetime of contribution.

A highly decorated nurse with an international reputation, Julia Plotnick’s career has spanned more than four decades, 19 countries, and five continents. She has taken part in some monumental assignments: rebuilding Rwanda’s public health system in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide; improving health services for mothers and children on 26 separate visits to post-Ceausescu Romania; and training public health nurses in Kobe, Japan following the devastating 1995 earthquake.



Ms. Plotnick with representative from the Bhutan Foundation on a site visit in Thimphu, Bhutan

After earning her diploma from St. Anne’s Hospital School of Nursing, a bachelor of science in nursing from Catholic University, and a master of public health from the University of Pittsburgh, Ms. Plotnick joined the Public Health Service in 1959. In that service, as a community health and maternal/child specialist, she held various national positions and accepted special international assignments with the World Health Organization.

Back home in the US, Plotnick has held positions in the highest echelon of government service and won numerous awards for her work to promote the nursing profession. In 1992, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service selected Rear Admiral Plotnick as the Chief Nurse Officer and Assistant Surgeon General. As Chief Nurse Officer, she was the principal advisor to the government on nursing affairs. She provided leadership to more than 5,000 civil service and Commissioned Corps Nurses. She also coordinated and directed national policy for nursing activities with the Surgeon General of the United States.

Following her retirement as Assistant Surgeon General, Chief Nurse of the U.S. Public Health Service in 1996, she worked for 11 years as the Administrative Consultant to the New Jersey Collaborative Center for Nursing and as a part-time Visiting Professor at Rutgers College of Nursing.



Currently she is a consultant on African health affairs to the Foreign Service Institute, US Department of State. She has served as a founding member of the Health Committee for the International Rescue Committee since 1997. She has been a member of HVO's Board of Directors since 2006 and served as Board Chair from 2009–2012. She co-authored the book *Volunteering at Home and Abroad: The Essential Guide for Nurses*.

Ms. Plotnick has received numerous awards and citations including the Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award and the Surgeon General's Medallion. The Public Health Service Commissioned Corps awarded Plotnick the Distinguished Service Medal, their highest honor. She has served as an international consultant in numerous countries and represented the United States on the Global Advisory Group on Nursing to the Director-General of the World Health Organization. In May 2010, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth for her work in global health.

In honor of her distinguished career and lifetime of service, HVO has created the Plotnick Nursing Education Volunteer Fund, which will support HVO's nursing education projects and volunteers who seek to improve the quality and availability of nursing care around the world.

Ms. Plotnick's 80th birthday on August 25, 2016 marks the launch of the Plotnick Nursing Education Volunteer Fund. We hope you will join us in celebrating Ms. Plotnick with a contribution to this fund. What better way to honor her achievements than to provide opportunities for other nurses to follow in her footsteps?



Plotnick Nursing Education Volunteer Fund

To honor dedicated HVO leader and nursing education advocate, Julia Plotnick, RN, MPH, FAAN, RADM, USPHS (ret) as she celebrates her 80th birthday, Health Volunteers Overseas has created the Plotnick Nursing Education Volunteer Fund. This fund will support HVO's nursing education projects and volunteers who seek to improve the quality and availability of nursing care around the world.