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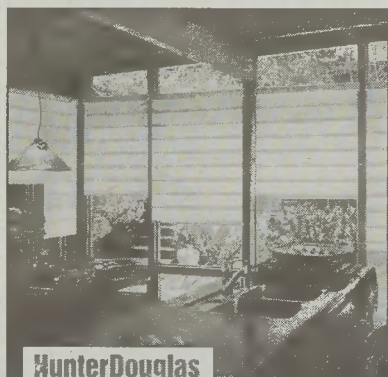
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JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES



Want to Make a Difference? Become a JFS Mitzvah Maker

There is no shortage of opportunities for JFS Mitzvah Makers. They cook, they drive, they manage volunteer programs, they fundraise, they coordinate special events and holidays, they visit, they answer phones and help out at the agency. In short, they serve. And the people they serve love them for it. Choose an activity that appeals to you and become a part of a dynamic, energetic team.

"Our volunteers are the heart of Jewish Family Services," Susan Proctor said the agency's Mitzvah Maker program. "Our core staff is fairly small, so we depend on Mitzvah Makers to support our efforts by reaching out to the community. Through the years, they've made a difference in the lives of hundreds and hundreds of people. The recipients feel blessed, and so do we."

People can find what they enjoy most and stick with it. We don't ask our cooks to drive or our drivers to cook. But if you tire of one thing, there's always another to try. We want to make it easy for our Mitzvah Makers to fit our program into their schedules. Whenever you're available, we'll make it work for you.

Driving

Mitzvah Makers participating in this program use their own vehicles to drive JFS clients to doctors' appointments, the pharmacy and the grocery store. There are ten or so drivers presently signed up for this program and we have a real need in this area.

Driving not only provides such a needed and appreciated service, you also get to meet interesting new people," she explained. "We have a lot of retired volunteers, of course, but there's an exciting new trend going on. Stay-at-home moms have time in the middle of the day when their kids are in school or at camp in the summer and more and more are taking advantage of this opportunity to help JFS. They'll have their younger children in the car, and clients just adore being around babies and toddlers. The moms say this is a great way for their children to see how important it is—and how much fun it is—to perform a mitzvah. Outreach becomes natural to them, just another happy childhood memory.

Bonds are forming all the time. A number of our drivers arrange to visit their "matches" outside of the normal driving situation. They stay in touch and become friends. As an added bonus, all volunteer miles are deductible.

Monthly Outreach Program

On the first Friday of each month, JFS coordinates a program at the Carriage Club, a senior facility on Old Providence Road where guest speakers cover everything from political issues to book reviews to the Holocaust. Musicians also perform chamber music on occasion and a Nordstrom Personal Shopper reviews the latest in fashion trends and the "must haves" of the season.

"The rabbis and cantors from

each congregation join us at some point in the year," Proctor said. "Obviously we want our program to be interesting to the Jewish residents, but the program has become popular among the non-Jewish residents, too. We're fortunate to have so many volunteers willing to share their time and diverse talents. We've definitely become a 'hot ticket' at the Carriage Club." Volunteers are needed to present a program or to arrange programs or to get out monthly mailings.

Senior Outreach

Bea Gibbs, Senior Outreach Specialist, heads up the outreach program for our seniors bringing Jewish programming to Sunrise Assisted Living and other assisted living and independent living facilities and nursing homes on a weekly basis. She also provides friendly home visits and phone calls. There is always room for more dedicated volunteers to serve our senior population.

Administrative Assistance

JFS is a small agency with a big challenge. There are phones ringing, clients coming in, donations to be acknowledged, a data base to be updated and maintained, e-mail addresses to be collected and entered, a website to be updated, and mailings to get out and that's just a start. Whew! In a non-profit agency, such as JFS, people wear many hats. Pick a hat you like and join a great team! Get busy serving this wonderful community.

Cooking

Volunteer cooks take turns preparing hot meals in their own kitchens. Each cook usually cooks once or twice a year. The dishes are packaged and then stored in Temple Beth El's freezer where they are then picked up by JFS staff and delivered to home bound clients.

The cooking program is especially rewarding because the recipients are facing extreme medical or financial issues and being home-bound, can often feel that the rest of the world is passing them by. They look forward to visits from JFS staff members not only for home cooked meals they can enjoy but for the company as well. It's easy for most of us to take things like this for granted. When you learn about who's at the other end of a mitzvah, it really opens your eyes.

Tutoring – In a collaborative effort with the Charlotte Jewish Day School, Jewish Family Services is providing tutors for children whose academic experience could be greatly enhanced by some one-on-one time. If you are a

retired teacher or have tutoring experience and a little time to donate, we have some kids that need you.

JFS Food Pantry

The JFS Food Pantry is stocked with donations of food and toiletry items from the community. The pantry has become a well-known and essential resource for clients, especially seniors living on fixed incomes and families with many children to feed.

The need has never been greater. Someone accesses our pantry every single day we're open, and that didn't used to happen. It's a very unsettled economic climate, and we're glad to be able to do our part to make it a little easier for these families who've never had to ask for help before.

Because JFS receives donations from the emergency food program Loaves and Fishes, the pantry is open to Jews and non-Jews alike. But the majority of items are provided by the Jewish community. This is a community that always does the right thing, and always rises to a challenge. We are fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer who meticulously manages every aspect of the pantry. Now he has been joined by two equally dedicated volunteers. Together, they make up the "pantry team."

Keeping our pantry team busy are the temples, the preschools, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Hebrew High, the religious schools, JCC sports teams, kids preparing for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs...they all do their part for JFS. They organize food drives, donate tzedakah and help out in so many ways. It says a lot about a community when the next generation is already showing how much they care.

JFS welcomes anyone wishing to join Mitzvah Makers to help meet the diverse needs of the growing community. All volunteers are asked to fill out a HIPPA form and a form listing their interests, hours and days of availability. Our volunteer steering committee is hard at work devising an updated volunteer manual and training program. Everything is available at the JFS office in Shalom Park.

For more information, call JFS at 704-364-6594. ☆

A big thank you to Temple Beth El for their summer-long food drive and the beautiful baskets they've placed in the lobby designated for JFS Food Pantry. Summer months can be lean and we and our clients are very grateful to be part of such a caring and generous community.

Job Seekers Support Group

Sponsored by Temple Israel and Jewish Family Services, this group is open to all members of the Jewish Community.

If you are seeking employment, considering a job or career change, you are invited to join this dynamic and supportive group. Pick up tips for resumes, interviews, effective

networking and meet new friends.

Meetings are the third Thursday of each month from 6:00 - 7:30 PM in the Board Room of Temple Israel.

Next meeting will be August 21.

For more information, call JFS at 704-364-6594. ☆