



# Jewish Family Services



The following individuals have purchased "Honor Cards" by making a donation to Jewish Family Services recently: Helga & Hugo Rosenberger, Marilyn and Mike Tuckman, Evelyn & Leonard Berger, Blanche & Henry Hirschmann, Ira & Dorothy Schulman, Judy & Milt Tager, Al & Doris Rouso, Rose Luski. More names will be announced next month. We thank all those who have made donations for "Honor Cards" and to our food pantry.

## Transitions



**By Laurie Gordon Harris, Interim Director**

I actually laughed out loud when I heard someone use the phrase "he was so tired, he fell asleep while he was talking."

This is not to say that the speaker was uninteresting, just exhausted. I am sure that there are moments in all of our lives that this phrase seems to ring true. Yet, at other times, there are events which seem to serve as a wake-up call, when we have the opportunity to experience or see something with renewed energy, amazement, or "the knowing nod." Now, what do I mean by this, you might be wondering? It's when something unexpected occurs, when so many details fall into place it's hard to ignore, and the timing of this surprising event offers only one explanation—fate/beshert.

On a Friday afternoon, I received a call from a YSO group touring the U.S. The group was interested in visiting Jewish elderly in a nursing home before sundown, and were calling from a several hours drive away on the interstate. The Blumenthal Jewish Home was suggested as a possible stop.

I was planning to drive straight home after work that day, when suddenly I felt the urge to stop at a supermarket that I have never frequented. A whim, you might say. I went into the market, and noticed several groupings of

teenagers. As I was leaving, I felt an odd sensation, a nagging feeling that I needed to look at this small band of teenagers again; this time I noticed that one of the young men was wearing a kippah. I approached, asked for the name of the young man I had spoken to earlier, and learned that this was indeed the same group. They were as surprised to meet me as I was to meet them. As it turned out, the trip to the Home was not possible because they could not then get back to their hotel prior to sundown.

One of the counselors with this group of 11 teenagers from across the U.S. was having difficulty at rush hour locating a sufficient number of taxis to take them to visit and distribute flowers to the closest hospital near their downtown hotel.

And as luck would have it, I was present when only two of the three cabs appeared—perfect timing! I appeared at the time they needed some assistance. The full extent of my help took less than an hour, but the time I have since spent reflecting on the amazing "coincidence" of meeting this group is lasting. The counselor was going to use the day's events in the group's evening study session. However, it seems to me that these miraculous coincidences occur all the time, but we only happen to notice them at distinct or isolated times. Just think, you, too, could be delighted by unexpected serendipity if you allow yourself the time.

Volunteer with us and see what happens! All you need is an hour or two a week to donate to our Mitzvah Maker Volunteer Program. Please call us at 364-6594 to learn more.

The Board of Directors and Staff wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Help!!! Our computers are crashing and we need new ones! If you plan to replace your old computer, please consider donating your used system to us. We need two IBM-compatible machines in excellent working condition. We'll gladly give you our sincere thanks and a form you can give the IRS!

## Jewish Family Services Needs Mitzvah Maker Volunteers

Jewish Family Services needs your help. The demand for services in the community is ever increasing. Please fill out this form and return to Laurie Gordon Harris, MSW, Jewish Family Services, 5007 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226 or call 364-6594 for more information.

YES, I can donate some of my time and become a Mitzvah Maker Volunteer.

I am available on the following day(s)

I can help weekly \_\_\_\_\_ bi-weekly \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_\_\_ at the following time(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ morning \_\_\_\_\_ afternoon \_\_\_\_\_ evening

I would like more information on the ways I can help:

- \_\_\_\_\_ weekly phone reassurance
- \_\_\_\_\_ grocery shop assistance
- \_\_\_\_\_ drive to a medical appointment
- \_\_\_\_\_ friendly visitation/respite
- \_\_\_\_\_ local errand running assistance

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ AM \_\_\_\_\_ PM

### Mitzvah Makers Quiz #2

#### Volunteers -- Test Your Knowledge

Our new volunteer program, the MITZVAH MAKERS, is beginning to pick up the pace in order to meet the ever-increasing needs in the Jewish Community. Please take the "Quiz" below to quickly test your knowledge of MITZVAH MAKERS:

1. "MM" stands for:
  - A. Small chocolate-filled candies
  - B. Money machine
  - C. Mitzvah Maker
  - D. Marilyn Monroe
2. "Mitzvah" is Hebrew for:
  - A. Leavened bread
  - B. Deed to property
  - C. Good deed
  - D. Ouch! My oven mitts are hot.
3. Volunteers do which 3 of these:
  - A. Telephone isolated community members
  - B. Solicit money
  - C. Drive people to store or doctor
  - D. Give respite to care giver
  - E. Pedicures and manicures
  - F. Windows
4. Time requested of Volunteers weekly:
  - A. 20 to 90 minutes
  - B. 2 to 4 hours
  - C. 4 hours on a called-as-needed basis
  - D. Whatever you can give
  - E. All of the above
5. To obtain Volunteer Application: (Choose 2)
  - A. Call 364-6594
  - B. Visit JFS in Shalom Park - Room 21
  - C. Register at Mecklenburg County Court House
  - D. Ask for a form at any Post Office

#### ANSWERS:

- 1) C. 2) B 3) A, C and D 4) E 5) A and B

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