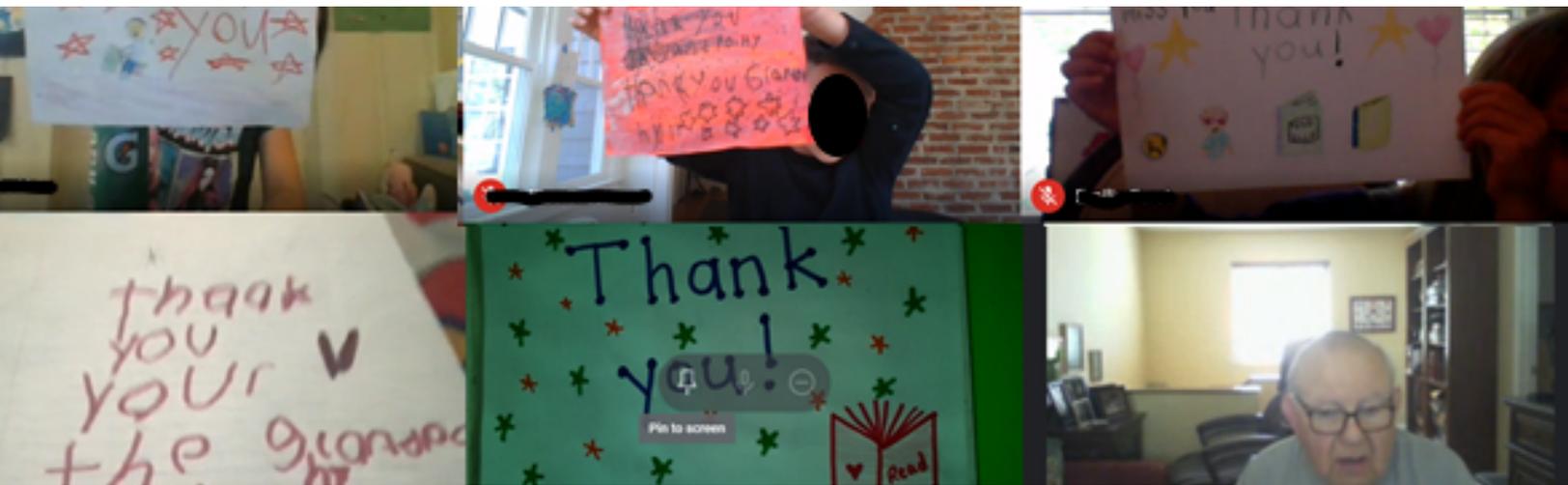




VOLUNTEER SERVICES



SUMMER 2022

We've had a busy spring with many events and activities returning in person. Staff has enjoyed seeing so many volunteers face-to-face again. Keep reading for a recap of our events and tentative plans for the summer and fall.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Volunteer Positions
- Wrap up of An Evening of Laughter and our Volunteer Recognition Event
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Current Community Needs

This section contains current opportunities to serve for our RSVP volunteers (55+). If you are interested in signing up or learning more, contact Stephanie Grove.

JFS Meal Delivery volunteers are needed to pick up freshly cooked meals in Livingston and deliver them to Holocaust survivors throughout Essex and Morris Counties. The meals are delivered on Tuesdays. Each week, a signup sheet is sent out via email and volunteers can sign up to deliver to the towns they choose. The program is very flexible; each week volunteers can sign up for as many or as few deliveries as they like.

JFS's SHIP Medicare Program is seeking a Spanish speaking volunteer to assist Essex County Medicare beneficiaries who have problems with, or questions about, their health insurance. Medicare beneficiaries frequently have questions about benefits, claims, and supplemental policies such as Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans. Volunteer counselors, trained in areas of health insurance coverage and benefits that affect Medicare beneficiaries, provide information and assistance for dealing with claims and in evaluating health insurance options. Counselors also help low-income Medicare beneficiaries apply for Extra Help, prescription assistance, and Low-Income Subsidy programs. Volunteer counselors do not provide legal advice, sell, recommend, or endorse any specific insurance product, agent, insurance company, or plan. They provide information and assistance so that Medicare beneficiaries can make their own decisions. SHIP Counselors must commit to a background check, a 40-hour training, and a minimum of 1 year of service. Volunteers typically serve 2-4 hours a week, but are busiest during Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct 7 – Dec 15).

Red Cross is seeking volunteers for Receptionist positions at their Fairfield location. The main responsibilities of this position include answering the phone, greeting guests and directing them. Volunteers are needed:

- Tuesdays – 12 NOON to 2 PM (High Priority)
- Wednesdays – 8:30 AM to 2 PM (High Priority)
 - This can be divided into 2 or 2 ½ hour shifts and someone can also choose to come in later if that works better for them (9 am or 10 am)
- Thursdays – 2 PM to 4:30 PM

Family Promise, an agency committed to helping homeless and at-risk families achieve self-sufficiency.

- Administrative Assistant to help with supplies, answering phones, buzzing people in, and greeting them. The hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and volunteers are needed up to 4 days a week. This is an in-person position in Montclair.
- Circle Ally - Assist a "Circle Leader" (the adult client) in achieving his or her goals to leave poverty behind. Allies and Circle Leaders have an intentional friendship within the matched Circle. Volunteers coach, mentor, and support low-income families trying to pull themselves out of poverty. Each client is matched with two Allies to help them pull themselves out of the cycle of poverty by helping them network, look for opportunities, and make better decisions. Contact Stephanie for the full volunteer job description. Training can take place this summer, but the program does not start until the fall.
- Children's Program –
 - Weekly, community-based (location in Essex County, but TBD), in-person. Training is done online at your own pace and typically takes a few hours to complete. Volunteers must submit to a background check.
 - Volunteers are given a curriculum to follow. They prepare and facilitate lessons for children of varying ages. The curriculum covers social-emotional skills, financial literacy skills, building healthy habits, etc. Some volunteers can also provide childcare for the children under 4 while parents are in meetings.

JerseySTEM - Help promote a love for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math ("STEM") among underprivileged students. JerseySTEM is entirely volunteer led. Volunteers are needed to assist the agency with marketing and communication, grants researcher and writing, finance and accounting, photographers/creative writers. Position are work-from-home with in-person meetings optional.

An Evening of Laughter

JFSMW held its annual gala, An Evening of Laughter on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills. This year, JFS honored the legacy of Maxine Myers z"l and renamed its volunteer department the Maxine Myers JFS Volunteer Services Department.

Maxine Myers z"l was a cherished friend, benefactor, and longtime board member at the agency. Thank you to everyone who joined us at An Evening of Laughter to remember & honor the legacy of Maxine Myers z"l and to celebrate the volunteer department award recipients Stephanie Gerstein, Gary Berger, Susan Rueda, Ayne Klein-Chasid, and Paul Brownstein for their outstanding achievements.



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2022 Volunteer Appreciation Event. Volunteers stopped by our office on May 1st for to-go food and recognition gifts. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we really enjoyed seeing everyone!



MEDICARE MINUTE

Medicare Coverage of Hospice

Hospice is a program of end-of-life pain management and comfort care for those with a terminal illness. In today's review of Medicare-covered hospice, we speak directly to patients as if they are the ones taking these actions or making these decisions. However, discussions about hospice often involve caregivers and family members as well. If you are a caregiver, family member, or a patient's appointed representative, you may be leading these conversations or decisions, rather than the patient.

Understand how the Medicare hospice care benefit works.

Medicare's hospice benefit is primarily home-based and offers end-of-life palliative treatment. Palliative treatment provides pain management services, rather than curative care. The goal of hospice is to help you be as comfortable as possible, not to cure an illness. Services covered under the hospice benefit include skilled nursing and skilled therapy services, hospice aides and limited homemaker services, medical supplies, durable medical equipment, respite care, short-term inpatient care, and other services. Hospice coverage also includes any prescription drugs needed for pain and symptom management related to the terminal condition, while a Part D plan may cover medications that are unrelated to your terminal condition.

To elect hospice:

1. You must be enrolled in Medicare Part A.
2. You must have a doctor certify that you have a terminal illness, meaning a life expectancy of six months or less.
3. You or your appointed representative must sign a statement electing to have Medicare pay for palliative care, rather than curative care.
4. You must receive care from a Medicare-certified hospice agency.

Once you choose hospice, your hospice-related services are almost always covered under Original Medicare. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, it continues to pay for any care that is unrelated to your terminal condition. Some Medicare Advantage Plans participate in a special demonstration program to cover hospice care. If your plan participates in this program, then it will cover your hospice care instead of Original Medicare.

Hospice generally takes place at home, with your hospice provider sending aides, nurses, and/or skilled therapists to provide the pain management services in your place of residence, which might be a facility, like a nursing home, if that is where you normally reside. Hospice can sometimes take place at an inpatient facility, if your hospice provider determines inpatient care is necessary for you. If your hospice provider determines that you need inpatient care, they must be the one to make the arrangements. The cost of your inpatient stay is covered by the hospice benefit, but if you go to the hospital for hospice care and your hospice provider didn't make the arrangements, you might be responsible for the full cost of the stay.



MEDICARE MINUTE

Medicare Coverage of Hospice Continued

Learn how to elect the hospice benefit and begin receiving care.

If you are interested in Medicare's hospice benefit, ask your health care provider whether you meet the eligibility criteria for Medicare-covered hospice care. If so, they can contact a Medicare-certified hospice on your behalf. There may be several Medicare-certified hospice agencies in your area. If the first one you, your caregiver, or your provider contact is unable to help you, contact another. Once you have found a Medicare-certified hospice, the hospice medical director and your regular doctor, if you have one, will certify that you are eligible for hospice care. Afterwards, you must sign a statement electing hospice care and waiving curative treatments for your terminal illness. Your hospice team must consult you—and your primary care provider if you wish—to develop a plan of care. Your team may include a hospice doctor, a registered nurse, a social worker, and a counselor. Medicare covers hospice care for two 90-day benefit periods, followed by an unlimited number of 60-day benefit periods. Doctor's certification is necessary for each benefit period.

Learn how to end the hospice benefit if you would like to receive curative treatment.

If you decide you want curative treatment, you have the right to stop hospice at any time. Speak with your hospice doctor if you are interested in stopping. If you end your hospice care, you will be asked to sign a form that includes the date such care will end. Afterwards, you will again receive Medicare the way you did before choosing hospice, either through Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan. If you choose to end hospice care, make sure you provide your Part D plan with written proof of the change so that it can update your status in its system. You can elect hospice again later if you continue to meet the eligibility requirements.

Know how to prevent, detect, and report potential hospice fraud, errors, or abuse.

Hospice fraud occurs when Medicare is falsely billed for any level of hospice care. It might occur if you are falsely certified as being terminally ill to be enrolled in hospice or if you are enrolled in hospice without your or your family's permission. If you are eligible for hospice care, you could still experience fraud, errors, or abuse if your plan of care is not being followed. Some examples are not receiving skilled nursing visits during the last week of life, a hospice worker neglecting you, or a hospice worker stealing your medications. You can help to stop hospice fraud by first making sure a trusted doctor has assessed your condition and certified that you are terminally ill. Second, be wary of deals that seem too good to be true. For example, never accept gifts in return for hospice care. Finally, report any potential fraudulent, erroneous, or abusive hospice care to SHIP.

SHIP Program Update

SHIP is continuing to conduct in-person counseling sessions and presentations. We are expanding outreach by partnering with local agencies to spread the word about the services offered by SHIP. Presentations on Medicare and attendance at local events are scheduled for the summer/fall. We have variety of SHIP promotional materials like flyers, notebooks, pens and magnets to hand out to the community and are available upon request.

We held our first in person SHIP Meet & Greet on June 15th. SHIP volunteers were able to reconnect with each other and officially welcome our two new volunteers, Mary Fitzsimmons and Gary Berger.

Thank you for your continued dedication as SHIP counselors, your roles are vital to the Essex County community.

-Brittany

READING BUDDIES CORNER



Reading Buddies has wrapped up for the 2021-2022 school year! Thank you so much to everyone who participated and made this year another huge success. Here are some of the things teachers said on our year-end survey: “We loved our reading buddy. The students really enjoy when someone else reads to them!” “Our reader clearly takes the time to find interesting and fun books to read to the students.” “My reading buddy provided wonderful age appropriate literature and a joy of reading for my students to enjoy. They looked forward to meeting with him each week.” “I loved that our reader was always flexible and had wonderful questions to ask the students.” “My students are working on being respectful towards other adults in a leadership role. This provided them with another opportunity to listen and follow directions, while doing something enjoyable.” “[Our reader] was very interactive with the students and would tailor the books to their interests. The students increased their love for reading as well as their attention and comprehension of stories.” This year had its challenges, but, like always, our readers stepped up and found ways to make virtual reading a compelling, rewarding activity for the [number] children we serve.

With any luck, we will be able to resume in-person volunteering for the 2022-2023 school year. I am in communication with all of our principals and will be working things out over the summer to determine the safest way to continue with Reading Buddies in the fall.

I will also reach out over the summer with information on trainings for new and returning Readers.

-Julie



AmeriCorps
Seniors

MEAL DELIVERY UPDATES

We continue to make weekly deliveries to members of the Chai Café group for Russian-speaking Holocaust survivors. These deliveries will go on through the summer. **Of note: for the summer, we've changed the pick-up time for meals from 10:30 to 11:00, to better accommodate the group and Kushner Academy. If you are delivering, please come at the new time, and please don't ask the catering staff to bring the meals out early.**

We also continue to deliver for major holidays. Our Shavuot delivery went out June 3rd to 131 Holocaust survivors served by JFS. Thank you so much for all your hard work to make these holiday deliveries a success – they are so meaningful to the survivors, both in celebration of the holiday and as a point of connection to their Jewish community.

LISTEN TO CHILDREN

In May we had the last of our monthly in-services and are taking a break for the summer. In-services will resume in September. We're so appreciative of all the JFS Child and Adolescent Department clinicians who presented and shared their knowledge with us, as well as all the Listeners who attended and shared their experience! Listen to Children continues to operate virtually, but we hope that starting in the fall we will be able to move some portion of the program to in-person, as long as it is safe to do so.



SHIP Counselors at the SHIP Meet and Greet on June 15th in Livingston.



IN HOME PROGRAMS

Happy Summer to our Money Management, Friendly Visiting, and Tessie's Touch volunteers,

I hope everyone has been enjoying the warmer weather and staying safe! All in-home programs have remained up and running in-person thanks to your dedication to your clients. As always, thank you for the wonderful work you do with older adults in our community. It was wonderful to see several of you during Evening of Laughter, JFSMW's gala that celebrated our Volunteer Department and the amazing work you all do. I want to highlight one volunteer, Paul Brownstein, who was honored for going above and beyond for his clients in Money Management.

Additionally, thank you to everyone who completed our annual survey last month—your feedback is always appreciated. In response to many people wanting to connect more with staff and each other, we are in the process of setting up an in-person Meet and Greet. This meeting would take place outside and allow for social distancing to keep everyone safe. Details will be forthcoming, but I look forward to seeing you all soon!

-Taylor

Upcoming Training:

Meet & Mingle: Getting to know JFSMW staff and fellow volunteers
Outdoors, Livingston Youth & Senior Center
DATE & TIME TBD

COVID POLICY UPDATES

JFSMW staff continue to assess the state of the pandemic and are committed to moving forward and reopening programs safely. Our current policies are below. Most notably, we are no longer requiring masks for outdoor activities such as meal delivery. Volunteer positions involving other agencies or locations are deferring to the policies of those specific sites.

Starting on May 1, 2022 all volunteers and clients may return to in-person service as outlined in this document.

Volunteers and clients must cancel any in-person visits/meetings and notify JFSMW staff if they:

- Are feeling sick or exhibiting symptoms of illness, such as cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, head or muscle aches, nausea, diarrhea, or vomiting.
- Have been exposed to anyone who has COVID-19 in the past 10 days.
- Are awaiting test results for COVID-19.
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not been cleared by a doctor.

JFS MetroWest will provide volunteers returning to in-person service with supplies necessary, such as masks, hand sanitizer, and sanitizing wipes upon request.

If you are unsure whether you should return to in-person service, contact your program coordinator.

Program Specific Guidelines:

Money Management, Friendly Visiting, and Tessie's Touch:

- Visits can take place indoors or outdoors at the volunteers' and clients' discretion.
- Volunteers and clients must continue to wear masks and socially distance indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks are optional for outdoor activities.

SHIP Medicare Counseling:

- Group activities are allowed.
- At this time, returning to in-person service is optional and every effort will be made to provide volunteers with remote service when requested.
- Volunteers serving at outside sites, such as libraries or community centers, will defer to the policies of those agencies, including vaccination and masking requirements.
- However, regardless of a site's policy, SHIP volunteers may ask SHIP clients to wear a mask during counseling sessions.

Reading Buddies and Listen to Children

- The 2021-2022 school year will continue virtually.

Volunteer Stations

- Volunteers serving at outside sites, agencies, or Volunteer Stations will defer to the policies of those agencies, including vaccination and masking requirements.

Meal Delivery

- Masks are optional for outdoor activities.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY CHEAT SHEET

Through our programs, volunteers work with everyone from children to vulnerable homebound older adults. You are the eyes and ears of our programs. If you see or hear something alarming, alert staff immediately. Below is a 'cheat sheet' for how and when to contact staff, including after hours and on weekends. If you are unsure if something is an issue, play it safe and reach out to us! We always want to hear from you. View the full training on what to do in an emergency, here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Ry6fjUlnpl42QzcSzGxi5kHooQvxxv4sDalypWY5_ngWSAYFyV132UEdqHDpxS12M.diX9JgV8pCQJqVBp

If you suspect abuse or neglect, of a child: 1.Call Department of Children and Families (DCF) at 1-877 NJ ABUSE (1-877-652-2873) 2.Call JFSMW staff	Stephanie • W: 973-637-1766 • C: 862-352-8183
If you suspect abuse or neglect, of an impaired adult: 1.Call Adult Protective Services (APS) • Essex County: Daytime: 866-903-6287, After Hrs: Call 911 in case of emergency • Morris County: Daytime and After Hrs: 973-326-7282 2.Call JFSMW staff	Julie – only available M-F 8:00AM – 4:00PM • W: 973-637-1761 • C: 973-370-4945
If a client uses suicidal language: 1.Call JFSMW Staff 2.Call 911 if you can't reach anyone	Brittany – only available M-F 8:00AM – 4:00PM • W: 973-637-1764
If you suspect domestic violence 1.Call JFSMW staff	Taylor – only available M-F 8:00AM – 4:00PM • W: 973-637-1742 • C: 862-235-0785
COVID Exposure 1.Call JFSMW staff	
Medical Emergencies 1.Dial 911 2.Call JFSMW staff	

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