



Jewish Family Service  
of MetroWest New Jersey

# VOLUNTEER SERVICES



## WELCOME!

Spring is almost here. We are gearing up for our Purim and Passover programming, as well as wrapping up the school year in Reading Buddies and Listen to Children.

I am so excited to announce that our Annual Volunteer Recognition Event will be a larger celebration, held at the Richfield Regency in Verona. Every year the Volunteer Department looks forward to honoring the amazing volunteers that support our clients and programs. Read on for the save the date. Invitations will follow. I hope to see you there!

-Stephanie

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# SHIP UPDATE

Hi Counselors,

Here are a few SHIP updates to be aware of:

- NJ SHIP Recertification/Evaluation
  - For quality assurance, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) which governs SHIP programs on a national level, is requiring the NJ DoAS SHIP office to administer a recertification exam to all existing counselors in order to maintain active status as a NJ SHIP counselor. There will be a Zoom presentation by the NJ SHIP State office to explain the process of the NJ SHIP Recertification Evaluation. Please mark your calendars to join in on Aug 15, 2024, at 10:00AM for the presentation via Zoom. The link will be emailed prior to the meeting.
- SHIP TA Center
  - Make sure your log-in credentials are active at the SHIP TA center, ([shiptacenter.org](https://shiptacenter.org)) because this is how the NJ SHIP Recertification Evaluation will be administered. If you need assistance, please let me know.
- October SHIP Update Training
  - Our Essex County October Update Training will be held in-person, location TBD. Please save the date for Monday, October 21, 2024.

Thank you, counselors, for your continued dedication to the SHIP of Essex County. Your communities are better because each one of you has said YES to SHIP counseling.

Happy Spring,

Brittany Bynum  
SHIP Coordinator for Essex County

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# MEDICARE MINUTE

## Medicare Prescription Drug Plans



# PART D COVERAGE PHASES

In 2024, coverage phases will remain the same, but the costs during the catastrophic coverage phase will change.

### Deductible Period



Before the deductible period, you pay the full price for covered prescription drugs. Once you meet the deductible, the plan covers the cost. Deductibles vary by plan but cannot exceed \$545 in 2024, and some plans have no deductible.

### Initial Coverage Period

After the deductible is met, the plan covers prescription drug cost with a copayment or coinsurance. For most, the initial coverage period ends when the drug costs reach \$5,030, including the amount paid by the plan and the individual. The length of the initial coverage period depends on drug costs and the plan's benefits structure.

### Coverage Gap

25%

Once drug costs reach a certain amount (\$5,030 for most plans), you enter a coverage gap where you are responsible for 25% of the drug cost. For example, for a \$100 drug and you pay the \$20 copay during the initial coverage period, youthe person would pay \$25 during the coverage gap stage.

### Catastrophic coverage



In Part D plans, you enter catastrophic coverage after spending \$8,000 on covered drugs. Previously, you owed 5% of the cost of covered drugs for the remainder of the year. But in 2024, the 5% coinsurance requirement is eliminated, capping Part D out-of-pocket spending at \$8,000.

### Out-of-pocket costs



Out-of-pocket costs that contribute to reaching the \$8,000 catastrophic coverage limit in Medicare include your deductible, initial coverage expenses, almost the full cost of brand-name drugs purchased in coverage gap, payments made by others, and amounts paid by certain assistance programs.



**SHIP**

State Health Insurance  
Assistance Program

Contact your SHIP with any questions regarding changes in Medicare coverage and costs in 2024.

State Health Insurance  
Assistance Program (SHIP)  
[shiphelp.org](https://shiphelp.org)

This document was supported, in part, by grant numbers 90SATC0002 and 90MPRC0002 from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.





# READING BUDDIES CORNER



We've hit the ground running for the third quarter of the school year here at Reading Buddies. March 2nd commemorated Read Across America – the date is Dr. Seuss' birthday – when schools all over the country celebrate a love of reading and books in young people. Since the date fell on a Saturday this year, our schools chose different days for the holiday – enjoy these pictures of our readers in Orange and West Orange on March 1st and 6th, doing what they do best!

We also want to celebrate the huge donation of books we received from Ocean County RSVP's Reading Buddies program. Unfortunately, their program didn't resume after COVID necessitated a pause, but we're so grateful they thought of us when looking for a new home for their book collection.

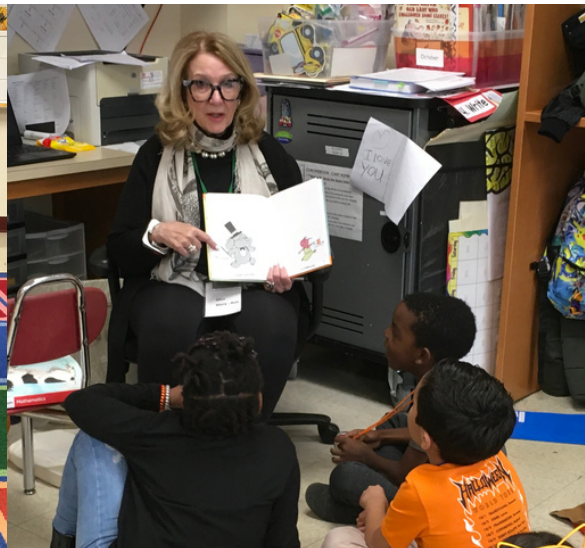
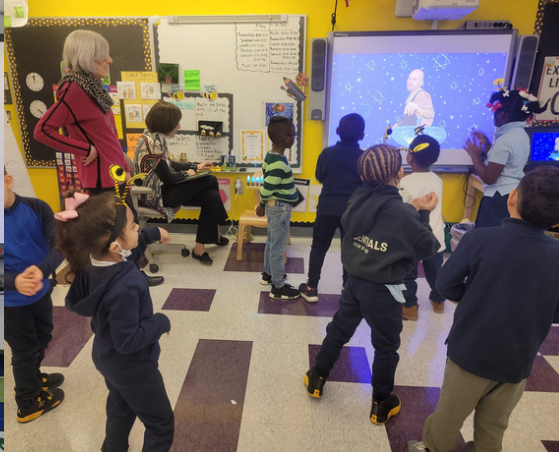
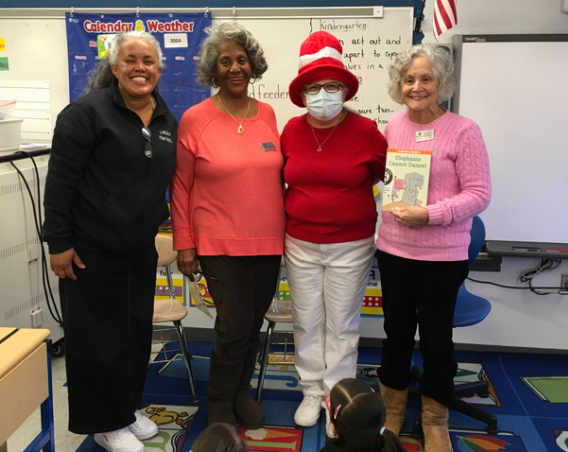
There are currently no open spots in Reading Buddies but we always have a need for substitutes, so if you know someone who would be interested, please feel free to give them my number!

-Julie



**AmeriCorps**  
Seniors









*Save the date!*



*You are invited to the Kenneth Glass*

## **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BRUNCH**

TUESDAY, JUNE 4 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

RICHFIELD REGENCY

420 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, VERONA



**AmeriCorps  
Seniors**



Jewish Family Service  
of MetroWest New Jersey

This brunch is generously underwritten by Merle Glass in memory of her husband, Kenneth Glass z”l.

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# **HOLIDAY DELIVERY UPDATES**

Mark your calendars – our next two holiday delivery dates are March 22nd for Purim and April 19th for Passover. Sign-ups will go out two weeks in advance of the delivery date.

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# **LISTEN TO CHILDREN**

We are up to twelve students matched! Considering this is our first full year post-COVID, we are so excited to be ramping back up to our full capacity. Listeners make such a difference in the lives of their students and help them feel seen and heard, building resilience and self-confidence.

There are still a handful of unmatched Listeners so we are not accepting new volunteers at this time, but we really hope this will change next school year.

This year's training dates and topics are as follows:

March 19th: ADHD, April 16th: Anxiety, May 21st: Saying Goodbye

All sessions are from 9-10 on a Tuesday morning. All sessions will be virtual unless otherwise indicated, and a recording will be sent out after the session for those unable to attend.



# IN HOME PROGRAMS

To our in-home programs volunteers,

I hope you are staying healthy and happy during the winter months. While we have noticed a natural lull in clients reaching out for services, we anticipate the normal spring surge of new and reemerging older adults seeking volunteer services. Thanks to your hard work and dedication, we are looking forward to reaching even more people in the coming months. As always, we are looking for additional female volunteers that can serve clients in Friendly Visiting and Tessie's Touch for both Essex and Morris counties. I specifically am requesting female volunteers because, by and large, women have been reaching out for this service and they often feel most comfortable with another woman visiting with them. Thanks to your flexibility and commitment, all of our current clients are matched but if you know someone who may be interested in volunteering with us, please send them my way!

As we approach springtime, I have scheduled our first Volunteer Forum of 2024. These programs have been helpful for volunteers and staff alike and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the next one! I have sent an email but as a reminder, the next Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th at 10AM in our Livingston office. If you have any questions or still need to RSVP, please contact me.

Happy Almost Spring!  
Taylor

# Current Community Needs

Literacy Volunteers of America - Volunteer tutors are needed to help adults learn to speak, read, and write English. LVA offers instruction for tutors in Basic Literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages. 18-hour Tutor Training Workshops are held on Zoom this spring and summer.

The JCC's preschool in West Orange is looking for volunteer hall/bathroom monitors to watch the hallway and walk children to/from the restroom and make sure they get back into their classrooms. Children are 4/5 years old and volunteers are needed from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Volunteers are welcome to split the time into shorter shifts. All volunteers need to submit to a background check and fingerprinting.

Family Promise helps homeless and at-risk families achieve self-sufficiency by providing shelter, social services, and housing assistance through a community-based approach. Currently, they are seeking volunteers for:

1. Front Desk/Reception at their Montclair office – Volunteers are needed on weekdays from 9-2 to answer phones and screen visitors through the front door camera. This position is flexible and volunteers can split the time into shifts. Help is needed the most on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
2. Community Outreach & Fundraising Events – Help plan, support, and participate in events to raise awareness and funding for families. Use your skills to help share Family Promise's mission at community events.
3. Circle Ally – This position has direct client interaction. Allies align themselves as friends with a Circle Leader (the client motivated to move out of poverty), by supporting them for 18+ months to move towards economic stability. This includes: listening, supporting, weekly meetings, goal setting, problem solving, and celebrating accomplishments. Online and in-person training is provided. You also have staff/coach support for the entire duration. Volunteers are also needed to join Resource Teams (Jobs & Education, Services, Community, Recruitment, Big View), to facilitate special workshops, assist with youth programming, and provide weekly meals which support the Circle Leaders and Allies.

## JFSMW VOLUNTEER SERVICES STAFF



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