

# JFS Volunteer Newsletter

*Lives Transformed. Hopes Realized.*



To ask about our  
current volunteer  
opportunities...

Call 734-769-0209

## New Face at JFS: Sarah Hong



Sarah Schneider Hong joined JFS in April 2014 as the Director of Jewish Family Life Education and Outreach. She earned her bachelor's degree from Duke University and her master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan. Sarah has an extensive background in behavioral health education. She has designed and delivered educational programming nationally, including but not limited to, programming at the University of Michigan Health System, for the US Army, for the University of California San Francisco and Kaiser Permanente. Sarah is especially interested in how families cultivate and incorporate Jewish wisdom, values, traditions and rituals into modern family life. She looks forward to partnering with the community to build programming on important family issues to reduce individual and family stress and strengthen quality of life. Sarah is a clinically licensed M.S.W and will also be providing direct counseling services at JFS.

Sarah Hong  
Director of Jewish Life Education and Outreach  
[sarah.hong@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:sarah.hong@jfsannarbor.org)

*“Volunteers are the only  
human beings on the  
face of this earth who  
reflect this nation's  
compassion, unselfish  
caring, patience, and  
just plain loving one  
another”*

– Erma Bombeck



## Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

- Citizenship Volunteers
- Friendly Visitors
- Employment Volunteers
- Partners In Care Concierge
- Translators/ Interpreters



## Calling on Our Volunteers for Outreach Assistance

Do you know of any older adults who find it hard to connect with their tech-savvy grandchildren? These adults may have family thousands of miles away and connecting through video chat may be the answer to their lonesome distance! We have trained volunteers, through our **GenChat** program, ready to assist and we are calling on you to seek out anyone you know who may benefit from this service! There is no charge for the video visit and the older adult does not need their own computer or internet provider to participate. Please contact Kate Thomas- Palmer at [kate@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:kate@jfsannarbor.org) or 734-769-0209

Do you know of any older adults who may be homebound, and/or have minimal friends or family in the area? Our **Friendly Visitor** program offers regular home visits to clients, in hopes of reducing social isolation and offers older adults or disabled clients a personal relationship with an individual from the community – something they may be lacking. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this service, please contact Lisa Shapiro at [lshapiro@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:lshapiro@jfsannarbor.org) or 734-769-0209

### Highlighted Volunteer: **Steve Schiff**



## Welcome New Volunteers

**Bob S.**  
**Elaine C.**  
**Fatima A.**  
**Hannah B.**  
**Hormuz S.**  
**Lianna I.**  
**Marian H.**  
**Ruhullah K.**  
**Sandra W.**



JFS would like to acknowledge ESL volunteer teacher, Steve Schiff, for his contribution to the success of the ESL program. Steve has volunteered at JFS for several years. He has been a volunteer teacher for the past year, for 3 mornings per week during which time he has developed a loyal band of students. Steve describes his experience as “always a joy”. His students really look forward to the days he is here.

Steve is a volunteer who is always willing to do what needs to be done, always stepping up and contributing to the needs at hand. Jessica Vinter, ESL Program Coordinator, states that “Steve always comes with a smile on his face, an eagerness to begin teaching and a reassuring attitude that really encourages his students to learn and participate. It is a real talent of his, and I am very appreciative of what he brings to our program. He truly enriches the experiences of all involved.”

One of his students, Eugene D., put it this way: “Steve is a very good teacher, a good man, and a beautiful person. He is very knowledgeable and kind. I have many questions and Steve always answers them fully. He is not only a good teacher but a good friend.” Thank you, Steve, for all of your hard work and dedication.

## Do You Wish To Be Connected?

The continued growth of JFS includes an increase in volunteers. Often times, many volunteers do not have an opportunity to meet one another. Do you wish to be connected? We are conducting a survey so we can hear from YOU to see how you would like to connect. This could include a meet and greet, an online communication board, or other opportunities for connection. Please fill out the survey by following this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JFVMPRL>

You may also email Lisa Shapiro with any comments or suggestions at [lshapiro@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:lshapiro@jfsannarbor.org)

### Letter from Editor

Hello JFS Volunteers, my name is Lisa Shapiro and I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Michigan and the new Volunteer Coordinator for summer 2014. I will be working at Jewish Family Services until August 2014. I am eager and excited to be working in this position. I encourage any input from all volunteers. Please forward questions, comments or concerns my way via email, phone, or come stop by and say hello!

~Lisa Shapiro, MSW Pending 2015  
[lshapiro@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:lshapiro@jfsannarbor.org)

## Changes Are Coming to JFS

Jewish Family Services has been growing, and with growth comes change! With 41 employees, 7 of which are fully licensed MSWs, and BSW/MSW internship placements for 10-18 students per semester, JFS has outgrown itself and is moving into a larger space. 3,800 square feet of additional space has been acquired within the McKinley Executive Centre to accommodate this growth as well as an expansion of the Food Pantry and new counseling program.

### The Statistics for This Year...

A record number of 4,038 cases have been served and 16,186 units of services have been provided by JFS staff in the year 2013. 1,628 food pantry clients have been provided specialty food items and the highest number of resettlement clients since the 90s were referred and resettled. Transportation Services has provided 3,502 round trips to medical and other appointments for 216 elderly and disabled individuals and 596 older adults have received services through our varying programs offered. 331 people attained employment and career services and 59 clients have received counseling services.

JFS has increased transportation services for older adults and unemployed clients by receiving funding for three vans and one bus with two wheelchair lifts. Programs, such as the Jewish Bereavement Group, have been conducted through new funding and the Employment Services has expanded to include Refugee Employment Services and a Recertification Program.

### Thank You, Volunteers!

All of this growth and change could not have been possible without the incredible gift of our volunteers' time and commitment to our agency. As JFS continues to develop its services, the continued dedication of our courageous and caring volunteers is eminent and appreciated. JFS Staff would like to thank each and every one of its volunteers for all that they do!



We want to hear from you! If you have any personal stories, pictures, etc... that you would like to share in the next newsletter email me at [lshapiro@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:lshapiro@jfsannarbor.org) . If there is something you think could be improved or if there is a topic you think should be included in this seasonal newsletter, let us know. **WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

Editor- Lisa Shapiro, Volunteer Coordinator, MSW Pending 2015  
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 9am -5pm, Tuesdays 1pm-5pm

Director- Diane Fenske, Older Adult Services Coordinator, MSW