

JFS Volunteer Newsletter

Lives Transformed. Hopes Realized.



**To ask about our
current volunteer
opportunities...**

Call 734-769-0209

JFS Kicks off its 20th Year in Style!

By Cindy Klein

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County celebrated its 20th Anniversary with its "Constellation JFS" event on April 21, at the University of Michigan North Campus Research Complex. Almost 350 attendees were treated to a jazz reception and tasting of Sandhill Crane Vineyards wine with catering by Amanda's Kitchen. The constellation theme was carried throughout the enormous room by large globes hanging from the ceiling illuminated with stars (created by Russell Video) and fiber optic centerpieces on each of the tables.

The awards were followed with the debut of "The Faces of JFS", a moving, five-minute video chronicling the lives and the needs of typical JFS clients as seen through their eyes. The video may be viewed online from the JFS home page: www.jfsann Arbor.org. It was created by David Mayer of Video-Burst.

The afternoon ended with the sun setting through the windows behind the stage while many current and former JFS staff and board members gathered around a lovely cake provided by Simply Scrumptious Catering. The first two directors of JFS, Susan Sefansky and Aliza Shevrin, were acknowledged and the group ended with the singing of "Happy Anniversary" to JFS.

The event raised nearly \$100,000 for JFS. "What a wonderful way to kick off our 20th Anniversary Campaign!" said Anya Abramzon. "We thank our community partners and event sponsors, and our donors for helping make this event so successful."

**"Do not forget small
kindnesses and do
not remember small
faults".**

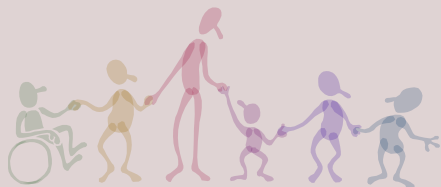
-Chinese Proverb



PiCC Volunteer Dedication

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

- Friendly Visitors
- Conversation Partners
- Resettlement Volunteers
 - Arabic Speakers!!
- Employment Volunteers



The role of a volunteer partner for the Partners in Care Concierge (PiCC) Program is to provide accompaniment for older adult clients who are attending a medical appointment in the community. The goal is to allow the older adult clients the ability to attend their appointments safely and independently (without family); as well as enabling them to feel supported and confident in their interaction with health care providers. Facilitating communication with medical staff is a key component of this program for the volunteer.

Our current volunteers are amazing and we wanted to share some statistics about these volunteers.

- Seven volunteers
- Average time with agency= 3 years
- **Combined time with agency= 23 years!!**
- All have a professional background such as; social work, nursing, business and health care.

Do you feel you have what it takes to be a PiCC volunteer? If so, call 734-769-0209 and ask for Diane.

Minimum 18 month commitment!

Gen Chat

We are looking for volunteers and older adults out in the community to take advantage of this great free program. As a reminder Gen Chat volunteers will be trained on how to use Skype, face-time and/or iChat on an iPad. The purpose of this program is to allow older adults to talk face to face with relatives that live far away.

If you know of an older adult that could benefit from this program, please give us a call. We are also still in need of a few volunteers, so if you are interested, please call **734-769-0209** and ask for **Kate**.



What is an iPad?

An iPad is a tablet computer designed by Apple. It has most of the same capabilities of a normal computer or laptop.

Highlighted Volunteer: Sara



"The Partners in Care Concierge Program (PiCC) is indebted to volunteers like Sara VanderVoort". Sara always shows empathy and kindness to even the most challenging clients and their personal situations. She takes great interest in every client/patient she meets, and leaves them feeling special and as if what's going on with them really matters to her. Sara's personal schedule is filled with classes, family, church activities, etc., but she makes time to volunteer at JFS. We are so fortunate to have volunteers like Sara!"

Diane-Older Adult Services Coordinator

Website Improvements



Have you checked out our website recently? Go to jfsannarbor.org and to the volunteer section. There is a lot more material for your viewing available.

How much do you know about our agency and what we do? Go to the website under how to become a volunteer. On that page there is an orientation presentation. Take a look. At the end there is a link to complete a short survey so we can see who saw the orientation. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

If there is something missing from the website that you think should be there, email me at chelsea@jfsannarbor.org. I want to hear your comments.

Thank you Interns! By: Lisa Franklin

Spring is always a bittersweet time at JFS. We welcome the lovely weather as we say good bye to our wonderful interns. This April we bid farewell to four social work interns who made a huge difference to the agency and to the individuals they served. Deborah, Alicia, Emily and Lan will be missed. Lucky for JFS our fifth intern, Morgan, is also an employee and; therefore, as she said good bye to her intern role in our Refugee Services Department, she continued on in her employee role as JFS Resource Advocate and Food Pantry Coordinator.

JFS could not do the quality work we do without our dedicated volunteers and interns. Each intern brings a different background with varying interests and skills. This year, Lan, a BSW student from Eastern Michigan University essentially took over the management of the JFS Food Pantry. Deborah, a Wayne State University MSW intern, showed her compassion and dedication through visiting older adults in their homes, counseling, and coordinating activities for Older Adults for residents at Brookhaven Manor Senior Community. Emily, an MSW intern from the University of Michigan, connected with our younger clients through facilitating two social skills groups at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor. Alicia, a BSW student out of Wayne State University, integrated seamlessly into the JFS Employment Services Program helping JFS clients write resumes, practice interviewing skills and locate job leads. Morgan, an Eastern Michigan University MSW intern, conducted her internship in the JFS Refugee Services Department, providing case management services (including greeting them at the airport!) needed to ease the transition for clients new to this country.

JFS would not be able to reach our current capacity without the amazing dedication of our interns and volunteers. JFS is especially proud of the fact that students from the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and Wayne State University reach out to us because of the reputation JFS has for providing students with a well-rounded internship. Interns leave JFS with a toolbox of social work skills that will be with them wherever they go in the future. And interns leave JFS with the effects of the hard work and dedication they bring while they are here.



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 Chelsea at chelsea@jfsannarbor.org. If there is something you think could be improved or if there is a topic you think should be included in this monthly newsletter, let us know. **WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

Editor- Chelsea Yarbor MSW Intern
Supervisor- Diane Fenske, Older Adult Services Coordinator