

Volunteers *Change the World*



Thank You!

On behalf of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and our partner agencies, we wish to thank and show our great appreciation to the thousands of volunteers who have generously lent their time, talents and abilities to make a difference this past year.

You have helped every conceivable population in need in our own community – be it by giving food to the hungry, literacy tutoring for children or bringing comfort to the lonely. And you have reached out to the wider community, because need knows no religious boundaries.

This special section recognizes 14 exceptional volunteers, representing the thousands who volunteer through JUF's TOV Volunteer Network and its partner agencies, which meet the critical and ongoing needs of the Jewish and general communities.

We thank them and all our volunteers for helping to strengthen and shape our Jewish community, and for performing the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world.

Call: 312.357.4762 • Fax: 312.553.5491

E-mail: tov@juf.org

VISIT US ONLINE: WWW.JUF.ORG/TOV



The JUF TOV Volunteer Network was created to help involve members of our community in the mitzvah of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, and is a bridge of access to a wide variety of enriching volunteer opportunities.

Art and Anita Borland { Council for Jewish Elderly }

Art and Anita Borland had worked for the nation's largest food warehouse company for many years. When they retired, they went into the food distribution business themselves... in a way.

For the past several years, the Borlands have been delivering meals every week to the homes of housebound people through the Council for Jewish Elderly. Art, 92, and Anita, 90, no longer can climb the stairs to many of these homes, so another CJE volunteer rides with them. But Art does all of the driving to the 14 homes the couple visits each Monday. "We do what we can do," Art explains.

Art's parents owned a grocery store in Humboldt Park, and Anita's family were regular customers when they were both in their late teens. After several attempts by Art, Anita finally accepted a date, on a Valentine's Day. On August 29 this year, the Borlands will celebrate their 68th anniversary.

The Borlands have two children and four grandchildren, all of whom live in the Chicago area. Two of their granddaughters are getting married this year. Art had worked for a grocery firm for many

years, when his company was bought by Sysco. Although he was 75 and had few computer skills, Art was asked to remain. When two of his co-workers were sidelined due to surgery, Anita joined him at the office. They worked alongside each other for eight years until, as Art says, "The children made us retire."

Today, the Skokie couple remains active, motivated by those they help. They attend the minyan nearly every day at their congregation, participate in B'nai B'rith functions, and go swing dancing every month.

The Borlands are very proud to be among other volunteers who "have their hearts in it," and they wonder at those who cannot find "an hour or two" to give back to their community. "It's a wonderful thing" to help people who cannot leave their homes, said Art.

Of his wife, who relies on portable oxygen, Art says he is "glad she's able to come with," as he knows what it means to be housebound. After all, he says, "I can't leave her alone." Is it because he



is worried that she has trouble breathing? Not exactly...

"He's afraid I'll get ahold of someone younger," Anita explains.

Bertha Avis { Jewish Vocational Service }

Bertha Avis has two thick envelopes on her dining room table, each bursting with newspapers clippings. Some boast photographs of cakes and cookies with long recipes printed beneath. Others feature medical intrigues, including a pair of recently separated Siamese twin toddlers playing on a rug, their thick bandages wrapped from chin to crown. These articles don't represent Avis' personal interests. Rather, she reads the newspaper with an eye to what will intrigue the men and women who come to her house once a week to learn English.

"The newspapers give us something to talk about," she says.

Her students are

clients of Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) and recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union. They visit Avis hoping to improve their English and then find work. Her two current students include a classical musician and an economist. Despite their specialized backgrounds and former careers, in the United States both must start anew.

"When people are older it's harder to learn a new language," says Avis. "From week to week, some don't speak to anyone else in English but me." Dressed in a perfectly pressed black and white

blouse with silver-blond hair framing her face, Avis is an empathetic and careful teacher. "Primarily what I offer is just talk," she says. "My students speak more readily because I try to make them comfortable. I make a cup of tea so that they relax."

Avis insists repeatedly that her students are smarter than she is. "They're highly educated because Russia gave them good educations," she says. "They've come to Chicago because the big city has more opportunities." Yet even in a city teeming with potential, Avis' clients often end up with jobs that are beneath their professional abilities. One

"What really makes me happy is when they get jobs and are ready to quit coming."

gentleman who she worked with two years ago could only find a job as a janitor at a synagogue in Hyde Park. "It wasn't his type of work," she says. "But he does everything he can."

Avis laughs a lot and has a gentle, encouraging smile that makes one want to tell her everything. She doesn't speak Russian herself and says she's glad of that since it forces her clients to speak only English to her. "I just want to get them to participate," she says. "I don't interrupt them too often. Some are embarrassed when they think they've said



something incorrectly and I don't want them to be fearful about talking."

Meeting with her students is pleasurable work for Avis. "They are just the loveliest people," she says. Working with her students keeps her sharp and keeps her reading. "I'm always thinking about what I can do to help them," she says. "But what really makes me happy is when they get jobs and are ready to quit coming." At that point they're not her students anymore, they're just her friends.

Larry Becker { Bernard Weinger JCC }

The indoor swimming pool isn't directly visible from the airy atrium in The Bernard Weinger Jewish Community Center (BWJCC), but the smell of chlorine tickles the air. Just around the corner from where children in goggles and water wings kick and splash, Larry Becker is photocopying, filing, organizing and coordinating mass mailings. He isn't an employee or bound by any contract, but he is at the heart of this Northbrook family center.

Becker, who retired from his full time job as a Purchasing Administrator with a Blue Cross Blue Shield subsidiary in 1999 has been volunteering with the BWJCC for the past five years. "I just help out wherever I can," he says, "I've been active all my life and I just love to work. Whatever jobs are necessary, that's what I do."

Four days a week, Becker arrives at the JCC ready to roll up his sleeves. "I do a lot of the menial tasks," he admits with a chuckle. "No one wants to do filing. But for me, it's water off a duck's back." Becker's upbeat manner and anything-goes spirit have made him a favorite among the regular employees at the BWJCC. "He's like one of the family, and without exception, we all love him," says Eadie Heller, one of

Becker's co-workers and enthusiastic appreciators.

Over the past two years, the Bernard Weinger JCC children's programs have grown significantly, and Larry Becker beams with a quiet pride when he talks about it. "We have a lot of tiny tots here," he says. "The day care program is a real blessing for parents who work." The Children's Enrichment Program is also a marvel. From Mad Science classes to Break Dancing lessons, the BWJCC has after school learning activities to fit the interests of every child.

Larry Becker's grandson is a devout attendant of the Youth Basketball Program, which Becker proudly supports. "Instead of kids sitting in front of the television or playing Nintendo, this is something healthy they can do," says Becker. Even though much of Becker's weekday is spent at the JCC, he's always back on Sundays to watch his grandson's game. "I do office work to promote the kid's programs, and I watch the games to give them support," he says. "Everything I do here is gratifying."



Joanne Hoffman { Mount Sinai Resale Shop }

In 1980, Joanne Hoffman began helping out at the newly opened Mount Sinai Resale Shop on what she expected would be a temporary basis.

Nearly 25 years later, she feels so strongly about the mission of Sinai Health System that she's still there.

"I wouldn't give this up," Joanne said. "It's too important. Mount Sinai is an inner-city hospital. It needs the funds from the resale shop so much."

Joanne sorts, prices and sells merchandise donated to the resale shop, which apart from selling used merchandise, provides much-needed clothing to hospital patients and clients of local homeless shelters. She also makes sure that people shopping at the store – or even dropping something off – don't walk out the door without learning about the hospital and its work caring for the inner-city poor regardless of their ability to pay.

She and her husband, Dick, who owned a business near the hospital, became active at Sinai after doctors there suggested he join the board. Joanne,

who is an artist, started volunteering at Mount Sinai in the mid-1970s, creating art projects for children in the pediatric ward, particularly those with chronic illnesses who were there week after week.

"My husband and I always felt it's important to give back to society," said Joanne, who is a member of Sinai's Women's Board and also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity.

Joanne, who has three sons and four grandchildren, has gotten all her children involved in the resale shop in one way or another. Recently, her 9-year-old granddaughter spent a day at the resale shop, helping out.

"Every day is like a little adventure," she said.

There was the day, for instance, that a diamond ring was found in a bag of worthless costume jewelry. Or the Ben Shahn lithographs that ultimately fetched \$14,000, and the valuable antique table dating from the early 1800s that eventually was sold at auction. All pro-



"Every day is like a little adventure."

ceeds benefitted the hospital.

"That's why I keep coming," Joanne said. "I don't want to miss the excitement."

Michele Rose { Jewish Healing Network }

Slowly, she draws out of the senior citizens, memories they may not have told anyone for years. How a beloved bubbe taught one elderly lady how to light Shabbat candles and how she, in turn, taught a beloved granddaughter. Imitating the great cantorial soloists in pre-war Europe. Hiding from the Cossacks.

"It makes them feel good," said Michele Wolgel Rose, a volunteer with the Jewish Healing Network of Chicago about the Rosh Chodesh program she conducts at the Council for Jewish Elderly's Gidwitz Place for Assisted Living in Deerfield. "They may not remember what I say or what I do, but they remember how they feel."

Since 1999, Michele, a technical writer and trainer for Walgreen Co., has been conducting services, running exceptionally creative programs and writing prayer books that enrich the lives of Jewish senior citizens.

"I do this to honor my parents' memory," said Michele, who lost her parents, Edythe and Joseph Wolgel, in 2000.

Both parents were World War II veterans. A scholarship fund has since been set up in their name at JUF to send young people to Israel for the first time.

"They set an example of Jewish service."

In her Rosh Chodesh programs, Michele uses

music – both traditional melodies they would remember from their youth, as well as contemporary songs – discussion and memories to create meaningful Jewish educational programs for the seniors. The recent Tu B'Shvat program, for instance, segued from talk about the holiday, which celebrates trees, to a more personal discussion of family trees and where they and their parents came from.

"Every time I come here, I wish my parents could have been here," said Michele, who is married and has two grown children and a granddaughter.

Michele led her first service in 1999 when she discovered that the nursing home, where her mother lived, offered Kol Nidre services, but nothing during Yom Kippur day.

"I could either yell at them," she said. "Or do it myself. I can read Hebrew and know the service."

Soon after, she took a class through the Chicago Board of Rabbis to become a parachaplain, and



"I do this to honor my parents' memory. They set an example of Jewish service."

became involved in the Jewish Healing Network about a year ago. She also conducts programs for CJE.

Through her work at Gidwitz, she has become very involved in the lives of the residents, often visiting them when they are hospitalized and per-

forming memorial services when they die.

The work is frequently emotionally exhausting, Michele said.

"But I look at what they get out of it – could I ever stop? These could be my parents."

Jack Levitt—PADS { Public Action to Deliver Shelter }

In January when the weather dipped down to five degrees and the icy streets were deserted, the South Suburban Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) at Anshe Sholom temple in Olympia Fields was filled to overflowing. Jack Levitt—a man who volunteers with so many organizations it's a wonder he has any time to drive back and forth between them—had his hands full registering over five dozen homeless men who needed a place to sleep.

Once the shelter was filled to capacity and Levitt was ready to close the doors, two more men showed up. "We were out of mattresses and the only place we could find for them to sleep was where we served the food," says Levitt. "That they should thank me for this—a spot on the floor and some blankets—choked me up. It's a reality check. I can go home after PADS and open the refrigerator, find some juice, climb into a warm bed, but there's another part of the world that doesn't have what fate has blessed me with."

The PADS program is extensive and every night from October to April there are as many as three temporary shelters open in different locations around the Chicago area. PADS is strongly supported by the South Suburban Jewish Community and the Jewish Federation's South Suburban Office sends volunteers to help out on a regular basis. "I don't know where people would go during the winter if this PADS program wasn't in existence," says

Levitt. In addition to conducting registration, Levitt sets up sleeping accommodations, serves food, and most importantly, talks to those who come to take refuge for the night.

The PADS clientele is widely varied. "There are young people who have difficulties at home and who just need to get out for awhile," he says. One man used to run his own business and told Levitt he wanted a shower and clean clothes so he could get back into the job market. "He had scraggly hair and a beard and he just looked at me like, would you hire me, looking like this?" says Levitt.

Long after the night is over and the shelter relinquishes its inhabitants to the streets, Levitt wonders about the people he has met. He describes one gentleman who has been a regular at PADS since

"Sometimes you can do it one person at a time,

sometimes you have to become involved in a community."

the early 90's. "He has a beautiful deep voice and speaks half a dozen languages," says Levitt. "Why he's there I've never been able to crack, but with the knowledge he has, the places he's traveled—he could be the executive at some company, he could be a writer—he's great to talk to." Levitt thinks for a moment. "Volunteering is a two way street," he says. "Talking with the people I meet, this is some-



thing I get out of it too."

Through his involvement with PADS, the Jewish War Veterans, B'nai B'rith, Maot Chitim and many other Jewish organizations, Jack Levitt does what he can to help those less fortunate than himself. As Jews, "we're taught to repair the world," he says. "Sometimes you can do it one person at a time, sometimes you have to become involved in a community."

Leslie Berger { SHALVA } Finds niche helping abused women

For the last two years, Leslie Berger has devoted much of her free time to helping abused women find safety and peace.

She has spent 12 hours a week – and more, if needed – volunteering at SHALVA, a support center for abused women. She answers phones, does intake interviews with new clients, helps with a cell phone recycling program and accompanies abused women to court to lend them moral support.

"I found my niche here," said Leslie, who works part-time as a medical auditor. "The fact that I'm able to do something – just do something – to help these brave women gives me satisfaction."

For nearly 20 years, SHALVA has provided services to abused women in the Jewish community,

offering a 24-hour help line, counseling, legal information, financial assistance, and rabbinical and community advocacy. SHALVA also educates the community on the subject of domestic abuse and runs programs in schools to prevent bullying and promote healthy relationships.

"This organization is so selfless. The women here

"The real heroes are the women who come here and the women who work here."

just give, give, give," Leslie said.

Leslie, who is married with a grown son, said that her volunteer work at SHALVA made her understand that domestic abuse does occur in the Jewish community.

"We're not different," she said. "We all may have known someone (who was abused) in the past, but

no one ever talked about it."

Leslie began volunteering at SHALVA after her job as a medical auditor slowed down and she decided she wanted to find an organization to which she could donate her time. She learned about SHALVA from a friend, who also volunteered there, and decided it was well worth the investment of her

time. Before starting, Leslie took a mandatory 40-hour training course on domestic abuse.

"The women are very brave to make that first call and then to show up," Leslie said. "The real heroes are the women who come here and the women who work here."

Sid Frolkis { The ARK }

In The ARK's food pantry, shelves piled with packages of spaghetti, canned tuna, toilet paper, bottles of corn oil, and other grocery items rise high above Sid Frolkis' head. Undaunted, he peels open a black plastic bag and begins loading it up. In goes a can of sliced pineapple; a box of matzo ball mix; some hand soap; some tomato sauce. When the bag is so full that it threatens to break, Frolkis sets it down amidst a pile of other such bags and begins again.

Five days a week, Frolkis works at The ARK, mostly spending time in the pantry, but also picking up and dropping off medical prescriptions and food for housebound seniors. "This is a man who doesn't say no to anything," says Assistant Volunteer Coordinator Diane Krugel. Frolkis looks at it another way. "I'm a gopher," he says.

Frolkis retired from his job as a trucking broker the day before Labor Day in 1995 and started volunteering at The ARK the day after Labor Day that same year. "I've worked all my life," he says. Try and give Frolkis praise or admiration for all the time he has put into The ARK over the past nine years and he'll deny he deserves it. "I'm really a very selfish human being," he says. "I don't do this for the clients, I don't do this for The ARK. I do this because it makes me feel good."

The ARK's clients span the gamut. Most are elderly or have simply fallen on hard times. Some have physical or mental handicaps and are forced to rely on their \$540 monthly disability checks to cover rent, food, and health care. Although The ARK first opened its doors in 1971 as a free medical clinic, it has since expanded its services and now harbors a legal clinic, a home-delivery meal program and of course, the Rhea Segal Food Pantry Program where Sid Frolkis spends so much of his time.

"A lot of (ARK clients) are homebound," Frolkis

"In my own little way I'm able to help. I think that's the essence of our (Jewish) religion."

says. "Even if they can get out, they can't shlep groceries." So along with packing food in the pantry, he also drives across the greater Chicago area to make drop offs. He describes one elderly woman who always insists he sit down to have a glass of soda with her. "But soda costs fifty to sixty cents a can. Of course I'm not going to drink it," says Frolkis. "Now she makes a cup of tea for me. The tea I drink."

One of the other people he visits is 102 years old and has advised the 70-something Frolkis that he should do everything he wants to do before he



turns 92. Although extremely hard of hearing and bedridden, this woman has a "miraculous" funny streak and jokes frequently. "For someone that physically incapacitated to still have a sense of humor is refreshing," says Frolkis.

Sid Frolkis works hard to embrace the Jewish concept of Tikun Olam—the imperative to repair the world one good deed at a time. "I'm certainly not a healer," he says. "But in my own little way I'm able to help. I think that's the essence of our (Jewish) religion."

Cynthia Goldstone { TOV Literacy Project }

"We're helping where we need to be."

Not too long ago, Cynthia Goldstone received the best reward a literacy tutor can get: she saw her student improve in spelling and reading comprehension, and also develop a wholehearted enthusiasm to do better and get good grades.

"Writing became more fun," said Cynthia about the student at Greenbriar Elementary School in Chicago Heights, who is now a sixth grader. "Reading? She knows she can do it. She became excited about school, excited about seeing me every week. It became a source of pride for her that she could show me she was doing better, to show me her accomplishments."

One day, the girl, whom Cynthia tutored weekly for three years, came to her with a paper she wrote. The teacher had asked the children to write about a person they admired. The girl's essay was about Cynthia.

Cynthia stressed that the girl's progress was a team effort. Her mother went back to school; her teachers all gave the child extra attention.

"My job was to see that she had a positive adult experience," said Cynthia, who added that anyone could have done what she did. "The object was that

someone had a good relationship with her, that someone cared about her."

"It's a terrific experience," said Cynthia, who now works with another student at Greenbriar. "It's great to see it really matters."

Cynthia became a literacy tutor for JUF's TOV Literacy Project about four years ago after she received a TOV flyer in the mail letting her know

"It's great to see it really matters."

that tutors were vitally needed.

"I was looking for a volunteer opportunity and knew this was something I could do. I know I can teach. I'm an elementary teacher and it seemed like a really good project," said Cynthia, who is married with three adult children. "If you can help, it's tremendously important to do so. I'm fortunate I have the time."

Cynthia also serves on the board of the Anita M. Stone JCC, participates in JUF's TOV Mitzvah Mania projects, delivers food for Maot Chitim, tutors students at another south suburban public school and helps out as an unpaid teachers aide in



an adult literacy program at Prairie State College.

She also said she's proud that TOV, as a program of the Jewish community, helps in the greater Chicago community.

"It's good to show that we're helping in the community, that we're helping where we need to be," she said.

Janet and Rob Footlik { JUF Uptown Cafe }

Janet and Rob Footlik were starting a new life together. They were starting new careers. And for some, that may have been enough. But the newlyweds wanted to give back to the community, too, and they wanted to do something together.

They decided that, although they were JUF donors, that they also wanted to give of their time, said Rob. So for the past two and a half years, they have been volunteer servers at the JUF Uptown Cafe.

Janet became aware of the Cafe through her work at another Federation program, the Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders. Health-care advocacy has long been an interest of hers. Her doctorate degree is in public health, she currently works as a health-care consultant, and her previous volunteer work was at hospitals.

For Rob, a financial manager at Smith Barney, his work at the Cafe is his first volunteer position. However, he has since been inspired to become more community-active and now heads up the junior board of Little City.

The volunteers form friendships with the "regu-

lars," as they call them. "We know who has had grandkids, who has moved, who the couples are. And he knows everyone's name and even their drink orders," Janet boasted of Rob. When she can't be there, the clients "ask what's new with Janet," Rob added.

The JUF Uptown Cafe is located inside the Dina and Eli Field EZRA Multi-Service Center, and is a multi-service entity itself. In addition to serving meals to those in need, the Footliks and the other volunteers engage in conversation with their clients, learning about other available services and linking them with the agencies and programs that can help.

The Footliks are both Chicago area natives. Rob was born and raised in Lincoln Park. Janet is from Highland Park; her family is originally from Poland, but settled in Argentina and Chile after WWII.

The couple agreed that they would recommend the JUF Uptown Cafe as a family volunteer experience. "We feel so rewarded for doing this," said Rob.



"We feel so rewarded for doing this."

Jim Allen { Jewish Children's Bureau }

Jim Allen deals cards for a game he calls "Casino" to Mark, who is 10. Mark (not his real name) is not gambling; he is learning. Before he dealt the cards, Jim asked Mark to name a number between 1 and 20, and now that the cards have been dealt, Mark must select three that add up to that number.

For the past year, Jim has been working with Mark as part of a Jewish Children's Bureau (JCB) tutorial program. He meets with Mark one day a week for 45 minutes to go over his math homework.

"I am trying to bring his math skills up to grade level," Jim explains. Mark's fifth-grade class is working on

long division, but he still needs

reinforcement in more fundamental areas. Jim invented this game to ease Mark into his sessions while reinforcing his basic skills.

Although Jim sometimes uses games and sports—Mark is a Cubs fan—to teach math, he is not above making Mark fill in blank multiplication tables. The combination works; Mark has recently mastered them. An investment advisor with CitiBank, Jim is very good with numbers, himself.

An Elgin native, Jim began tutoring years ago, helping a student living in Cabrini Green. His sister, who has two kids of her own, has been tutoring for more than a decade... and ultimately re-inspired him.

Jim wanted "to help kids learn basic skills they will use for life," he says. "I checked out several organizations," he adds, before deciding on JCB. "I've been very happy with the program; I have met a lot of great people here." He is so impressed with the agency's work that he recently joined its board.

Aside from his prior tutoring, Jim had been a camp counselor, but had no long-term experience

working with kids. JCB provided several hours' worth of orientation, including role playing, in dealing with a variety of child behaviors the tutors might face. Jim also received suggestions and workbooks from family and friends who are teachers; his aunt suggested using cards.

Jim is very committed to Mark, and is willing to stick with him through 12th grade if necessary. After all, he explains, he gets a lot out of it himself:



"It's satisfying to help get my student where he needs to be in school and help him learn basic, necessary skills." And also, "It's been fun!"

Michael Passman { Maot Chitim }

Three times a week and nearly round the clock during Rosh Hashanah and Pesach, Michael Passman volunteers at Maot Chitim of Greater Chicago. Whether he's filling boxes with kosher chickens, eggs, gefilte fish and other staples—or driving to the Maot Chitim warehouse at seven in the morning to sign for a food delivery, Passman is constantly on the go. "I'm a man of simple pleasures," he says. "Just doing my little bit to help out the organization makes me happy."

"Little bit" might be a smidge of an understatement. Passman is an everything man and during the Jewish holidays when 5,000 food packages are delivered door to door to more than 10,000 needy individuals, he can be found circulating through the warehouse, problem solving. From inspecting cartons of eggs for breakage, to distributing bags of onions between boxes and taking out the trash, Passman's enthusiasm is contagious.

Last Rosh Hashanah when he stopped to flatten out and recycle a menacing pile of cardboard boxes, he ended up recruiting an entire team to help him. First he hooked a teenager who was wandering past. Then an older gentleman crossed his line of sight. Other workers whispered to Passman that the man was a rabbi and shouldn't be asked to

do menial labor. But the rabbi just rolled up his sleeves and jumped into the pile—inspired just as everyone else is by Passman's work ethic. "Believe me," says Passman with a laugh, "that rabbi did the best job that anyone ever did breaking down those boxes."

Although Passman mostly works in the warehouse and in the Maot Chitim office, he has done his fair share of home deliveries as well. He still remembers the senior citizen center where he took his children on the family's first-ever Maot Chitim

"It feels nice to know that someone doesn't need our help anymore, that they've gotten back on their feet."

volunteer experience. Maot Chitim has been around since 1908 and Passman says that a lot of adult volunteers delivered their first food packages with their own parents when they were children. "With hope and luck, when my kids have kids, they'll do it with their children too," says Passman.

For needy Jewish families living in the greater Chicago area, receiving food from Maot Chitim helps them celebrate the holidays with dignity. For Michael Passman, volunteering at Maot Chitim



gives him something to look forward to—a place where his help is valued and utilized to full capacity. What he enjoys most is when he opens a note from a former Maot recipient. "Every once in a while people will tell us that they're not in need of a food delivery this year," says Passman. "It feels nice to know that someone doesn't need our help anymore, that they've gotten back on their feet."

Jillian Wilner { Response Center }

Jillian Wilner comes from a family where it's a given: if you're part of a community, you give back to the community.

Some of her earliest memories include being shlepped along as a child while her mother volun-

"By working with this I can get a message of safety out to other people"

teered. Later, when she was in junior high, she became a volunteer swim instructor and then worked summers helping out in The ARK's food pantry.

For the last three years, Jill has been a teen leader at Response Center, which provides counseling, medical services, and outreach programs for teens and their families.

In her freshman year, she was attacked while walking home from school.

"A man held a knife to my throat and attempted to rape me," Jill said. She escaped physically unharmed but came to Response Center in Skokie for counseling. A few months later, her beloved grandfather died, and she stuck around. When she was on the brink of leaving, a counselor mentioned

to her the many programs that could use her enthusiasm and dedication.

"It was the best thing that ever happened to me," said Jill, now 18 and a senior at Von Steuben High School in Chicago.

Jill spends most of the year planning and then staffing Operation Snowball, a three-day weekend program in April that draws teenagers from all over the Chicago area, who, in Jill's words, "come to have fun, meet new people our age, bond and learn new things." In short, to be a teenager in a safe place. During the weekend, teens discuss issues that affect their lives, such as drugs, health, parents, education, sex and sexuality, trust and acceptance of others.

"By working with this I can get a message of safety out to other people," she said. Jill also volunteers at her congregation, The ARK and at her school. She also works at a local restaurant and plans to hold down as many jobs as it takes to save money for college.



"I've met some of the greatest people here that I would have never met otherwise," she said. "I've also had an opportunity to make an impact on the community."

Steve Miller { TOV Literacy Project }

Computers have often been blamed for discouraging children from reading. For the past three years, however, volunteers like Steve Miller have been using computers to teach children how to read— especially those students who need a little extra help. Students like Carly (not her real name). For a half-hour every Tuesday morning, Steve takes a break from his home-based venture capital business to tutor the first-grader from his desktop computer... while Carly sits at one at her school.

Through the Online Tutoring Program— part of JUF's TOV Literacy Project— Steve and Carly work on her

reading online. They both log onto an interactive program called Innovations for Learning. The software allows both participants to share a screen-view at the same time, so Carly can read the words appearing on the screen into the phone while Steve guides her. When Steve moves his mouse to point at a word, the pointer on Carly's screen moves, too. When Carly says that the words are too small, Steve can increase their size in both places at once. After his session with Carly, Steve summarizes it online so her teacher can know what was covered

and how well.

Like Steve's previous two tutoring clients, Carly is a student at the George Manierre Elementary School, a Old Town-area public school. He met her in person once, at her school, and has been working with her since the beginning of the school year.

Steve has no formal background in education— his degree is in business— but he received training in the tutoring process and software though the



"Working with children has taken on a whole new meaning once I had one."

TOV Literacy program. Aside from having Internet access and a separate phone line, the only requirement for signing up for the program is being able to read oneself. Working with children requires much improvisation, too, but Steve has trained with the Second City comedy troupe. "Sometimes, I can make them laugh," he smiles.

Initially, he learned of Online Tutoring through JUF's High Tech Division. The project is tailor-made for active people like Steve, who, when not working, spending time with his family, or tutor-

ing, finds time for a round of golf.

Although he started tutoring before he became a father, "Working with children has taken on a whole new meaning once I had one," he observes, propping up Rachel, his very alert four-month-old, who had been polite enough to nap through her father's tutoring session. A dedicated father, he speaks highly of his Chicago upbringing, especially as it included a grounding in the need to give tzedakah, do tikkun olam... "to give back and make a difference."

❖ UPCOMING 2005 TOV PROGRAMS ❖

Three Opportunities for YOU to Make a Difference!

Spring Mitzvah Mania

Sunday, April 17 – Sunday, May 22

Mitzvah Mania, a calendar of one-time volunteer projects, includes delivering Passover food packages, planting vegetable and flower gardens, celebrating at seders with the elderly, restoring an abandoned cemetery and much more.

Israel Solidarity Day

May 15

This year Israel Solidarity Day celebrations are being held in eight communities in and around Chicago. Each site will have its own kick-off events, Walk with Israel, entertainment and activities.

More than 1,000 volunteers, ages 15+, are needed to help with greeting, registration, activity assistance, walk route and kick-off management and much more.

Children's Book Drive

Sunday, April 17 – Sunday, May 22

TOV is sponsoring a book drive at area synagogues and JCCs this spring. New and gently used children's books are welcome.

Collected books will be donated to schools participating in the TOV Literacy Project and to other local social service agencies.

Contact TOV for a list of requested books and for collection site locations.

For more information or to sign up for any of these programs, visit the TOV website at www.juf.org/tov or call the TOV hotline at (312) 357-4762.

Jewish Federation Agencies and Supported Programs

Jewish Federation agencies and supported programs are committed to volunteerism. To volunteer your time, contact the JUF TOV Volunteer Network.

JUF TOV Volunteer Network

www.juf.org/tov

TOV, Tikkun Olam Volunteers, is designed to link prospective volunteers to volunteer opportunities in the Jewish and larger Chicago community, so that members of our community can participate in the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world.

The ARK

www.arkchicago.org

The ARK provides free social services for the needy including crisis intervention, shelter, food, programs for the mentally ill, legal assistance and health care. Volunteer opportunities include food pantry work, meal delivery, mentoring, English-language tutoring, medical services, home visiting and holiday programming.

Associated Talmud Torahs (ATT)

www.att.org

The Associated Talmud Torahs, ATT, was created in 1929 to serve the greater Chicagoland Jewish community as its central agency for Traditional and Orthodox Religious Education. Currently, as the supervisory agency of a network of more than thirty regional schools, special education and learning disabilities programs, the ATT helps in curricular planning, professional development of teachers and assists schools in evaluating and improving their educational standards. Volunteers are needed to serve as tutors.

Community Foundation for Jewish Education (CFJE)

www.cfje.org

CFJE was formed to better serve the educational needs of the Jewish community through the enhancement of formal and informal Jewish educational programs. They work with a network of 76 synagogues, institutions and the Jewish community to provide the broader Jewish community with high quality Jewish education. Volunteers are needed as teachers' aides.

Council for Jewish Elderly (CJE)

www.cje.net

CJE provides services for older people and their families including bill paying assistance, home delivered meals, transportation, personal care and live-in companions, adult day services, counseling, health services, respite services and consumer assistance. CJE offers government subsidized and below market rent apartments, retirement housing, assisted living and skilled nursing. Volunteer opportunities vary and include friendly visiting, home delivered meals, art instruction and holiday meal, kiddush and religious service assistance.

EZRA Multi-Service Center

The Dina and Eli Field EZRA Multi-Service Center provides emergency services, community education programs, group and immigrant services, shelter, job placement and advocacy for vulnerable populations in the Uptown community. Volunteers are needed to serve meals at the JUF Uptown Cafe, housed at EZRA.

Hebrew Theological College (HTC)

www.htcnet.edu

HTC, an accredited institution of higher Jewish education, provides rabbis, educators and scholars to the Jewish community. Volunteers are needed to assist in the office.

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Chicago (HIAS Chicago)

www.jfcschicago.org

HIAS-Chicago offers a broad range of services to assist refugees and immigrants through the immigration process. Volunteer opportunities include instructing citizenship classes and tutoring.

Jewish Children's Bureau (JCB)

www.jcbchicago.org

JCB is the official child welfare agency of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Comprehensive services for youth and their families include: therapeutic education and day care, foster care, group homes, legal advocacy, counseling, adoption, disability and respite services. Volunteer opportunities include mentoring, tutoring, childcare help, respite work, office help, and special event assistance.

Jewish Community Centers of Chicago (JCC)

www.jccofchicago.org

JCC offers a wide range of social, educational, and recreational activities and services. There are multiple city and suburban locations. Volunteer opportunities exist with the JCC Women's Auxiliary, JCC Senior Service League, Maccabi JCC of Chicago, Camp Chi, JCC Day Camps, JCC Early Childhood Learning Centers, and JCC's Project Chesed.

Jewish Family and Community Service (JFCS)

www.jfcschicago.org

JFCS offers a wide range of counseling services for individuals and families of all ages. Volunteer opportunities are available through the following JFCS programs: the Jewish Healing Network of Chicago and the Deaf Parent-to-Parent Program.

Jewish Federation South Suburban Jewish Community Services Office

www.juf.org/southsuburban.asp

The South Suburban Office offers referral services and works with Jewish community organizations and other area social service networks to address local needs. Volunteer opportunities include the Shabbat basket delivery program, tutoring through the TOV Literacy Project and special event assistance.

Jewish Healing Network

www.jfcschicago.org

Jewish Healing Network of Chicago (JHNC) is a joint program of Jewish Family and Community Service, Council for Jewish Elderly, the Chicago Board of Rabbis and the Jewish Federation. JHNC ensures that people in the Chicago Jewish community struggling with illness and loss are able to find out about and access social service, health, and spiritual resources. JHNC offers the comfort of human connection and a sense of community in a time when people need it the most. Volunteer opportunities include nursing home visitation, participation in synagogue-based Bikkur Cholim programs and work on maintaining a resource library in Skokie.

Jewish Vocational Service (JVS)

www.jvschicago.org

JVS provides vocational counseling and job placement services for adults including those unemployed, underemployed, disadvantaged, disabled, and elderly. Volunteer opportunities include English language tutors and mock interviewers.

JUF Uptown Cafe

www.juf.org/tov/cafe.asp

The Cafe is coordinated by the Dina and Eli Field EZRA Multi-Service Center under the auspices of the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago. The Cafe, which is the first kosher, mass-scale anti-hunger program, provides meals to people who are hungry while, at the same time, nourishing their spirits. Volunteers are needed to serve restaurant-style meals four days per week.

Keshet

www.keshet.org

Keshet enables Jewish children with disabilities to participate as fully as possible in the mainstream of Jewish life, regardless of the family's religious orientation or child's disability. Volunteer opportunities include assisting at Keshet's Sunday School, summer program and special events.

Maot Chitim of Greater Chicago

www.maotchitim.org

Maot Chitim of Greater Chicago provides food to needy Jewish people in Chicago and its surrounding suburbs for Passover and Rosh Hashanah so that they may observe the holidays in a traditional and dignified manner. Volunteers are needed to pack and deliver food twice a year and to work in the office year-round.

Mount Sinai Hospital

www.sinai.org

Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center, located in Chicago's Lawndale neighborhood, is committed to a mission of high-level patient care, medical education and research, and community service. Mount Sinai operates on the principle that health care is a right, not a privilege, and that quality health services must be delivered regardless of the individual's ability to pay. Volunteers assist and visit patients and work in the resale shop, hospital gift shop and office.

Response Center

www.responsecenter.info

Response Center provides adolescents and their families with counseling and medical services aimed at preventing STDs and pregnancy, and outreach, prevention and education programs in a teen-friendly environment. Culturally sensitive, bilingual counseling services and athletic programming for teens from the former Soviet Union are also available. Volunteer opportunities include serving on the board, participating in the teen leadership program, REACH, and planning Operation Snowball, a teen-led weekend retreat.

SHALVA

SHALVA is the Jewish community's response to domestic abuse. SHALVA provides counseling services to Jewish families experiencing abuse and has an extensive outreach, education and prevention program. Trained volunteers are needed in the office, at the speaker's bureau, and to facilitate prevention and education programming in the schools.

Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies

www.spertus.edu

Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies houses a museum, a library, an archive and an accredited graduate level college, and hosts a lively series of ongoing public programs exploring Jewish life, past, present and future. Volunteer opportunities include archival/library research and assistance, leading tours of museum exhibitions and assisting with special projects or events.