JFS Volunteer Services Team: (from left to right) Marissa Greene, Renee Scott, Hannah Katz.

JFS believes in improving the lives of individuals and families in need throughout Colorado by taking an integrated approach to delivering comprehensive support services. Building a stronger, healthier, more resilient Denver takes all of us, and the Volunteer Services mighty team of three is honored to partner with more than 1,500 volunteers to serve our community!

Please welcome our newest team member - Marissa Greene, Volunteer Manager.

Marissa joins JFS after several years of personal and professional relationship building, from working with and training volunteers to growing her own family. She cares deeply about mission-driven work. As soon as she could drive, Marissa began volunteering with organizations she is passionate about: older adults, animal welfare, and arts.

Marissa earned a Bachelor of Arts in Nonprofit Administration from Cleveland State University. She has used her expertise to help multiple nonprofits coordinate with hundreds of volunteers, plan community and fundraising events, and maintain communications with stakeholders. Marissa is excited to dive into the work we do and looks forward to collaborating and connecting with volunteers. Marissa and her husband relocated from Northeast Ohio in 2018. She loves dancing, singing, and reading with her two young daughters.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The JFS Mobile Food Pantry provides food assistance in areas of need for those facing food insecurity. The Mobile Pantry travels to inner city neighborhoods and housing complexes with high percentages of food insecurity and to community and recreation centers to reach those with transportation barriers.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Mobile Pantry

This is a fun out in the community need to assist in the set up and distribution of food to neighborhood areas where people have limited access to healthy food. Tracking shopper information and greeting all customers are the main responsibilities.

Commitment: Choose your day. Every other week on Mondays—the first and the third of the month, or once a week on either Thursday or Friday. Approximate hours are 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. A 3-month commitment is preferred. Application, brief phone interview, and proof of COVID vaccination required. Must be 18 years and older.

Interested in volunteering with Mobile Pantry? Reach out to Hannah at hkatz@jewishfamilyservice.org or 720.248.4635.

Best buddies

Make a difference in your life and your community and join the Jewish Family Service Citizens chapter of Best Buddies International for adults in their one-to-one friendship program. In the JFS chapter, Jewish adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) become buddies and are matched with Jewish neurotypical adults who become their peer buddies. When you become a buddy, the lasting friendship that develops helps to reduce the social isolation that is frequently associated with individuals with IDD.

Commitment: Flexible. Application, brief phone interview, proof of COVID vaccination and background check required. Volunteers must be 21 and older.

Interested in volunteering with Best Buddies? Reach out to Marissa at mgreene@jewishfamilyservice.org or 720.459.3878.
Names: Jill Miller, Sandy Weiner, Joanne DeMoss, Robin Vidimos, Phyllis Lann (not pictured).
Area(s) volunteer in: Weinberg Food Pantry, Read to Feed program, Aging Care & Connections data entry
More specifically: They work doing ‘back of the house’ tasks to help JFS better serve the clients. The team sorts food, stocks, organizes, bundles diapers, helps with special holiday packing, and whatever else they can do to be of service.

Q: Why do you volunteer?
- I find that volunteering at Jewish Family Services is very satisfying.
- To help people who are less fortunate than myself is extremely rewarding.
- I volunteer at JFS specifically because they do amazing outreach.
- Because the people I work with are so darned much fun.
- JFS is a wonderful organization with a terrific group of volunteers who care about making peoples’ lives better. It is great to spend time with like-minded people.
- We enjoy getting ‘exercise’ while we are volunteering.

Q: What is one fact about you most people do not know?
- One is an engineer and freelance writer who earned a fair amount of college tuition singing in bars.
- Two have been line dancing for more than 10 years.
- One loves playing pickleball and used to own a fencing studio.
- One still volunteers in her 90s!
- One helped restore the seats in a vintage train car for the Wilmington and Western Railroad.
- One went paragliding to celebrate her 50th birthday.
- Two knit and crochet items that are donated to a variety of charities in the Denver Metro area.
- This amazing team has sorted tens of thousands of pounds of food over the years!

PARA-CHAPLAIN SUKKOT HIGHLIGHT

On October 11, the third day of Sukkot, residents at Hi Pointe built and celebrated their truly creative structure. Rabbi Dorian donated the Lulav and Etrog, which were blessed in the sukkah. After the blessing, 11 residents plus their guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner in the sukkah.

Throughout the week, there were numerous activities and residents invited their families to celebrate with a meal in the sukkah. On Friday afternoon, Hi Pointe residents and the JFS volunteer para-chaplain met for their bi-monthly Shabbat service. Again, this week’s service was special because they celebrated Shabbat in the sukkah. After the service was over, everyone stayed for a while to enjoy conversation and the tranquility of the season. This was the first time Hi Pointe residents built their own sukkah. It was a fantastic way to start the new year!

If you are interested in volunteering with the para-chaplain program, please reach out to Renee, rscott@jewishfamilyservice.org or 720.897.6803.

WELCOME NEW SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS AND THANK YOU!
Marvin Aal
Judy Adelman
Gail Anzman
Marie Casaus-Marquez
Dotte Dunevitz
Grace Goodman
Leslie Melzer
Elaine Schultz
Paul Sklarew
William Taylor
Kim Tully
Macala Wallace

JFS is GRATEFUL to all our volunteers!

If gratitude is worth millions, then you are a billionaire. Thank you for the priceless work you do as a volunteer. It will not be forgotten by JFS or by the people you have helped. Enjoy a happy Thanksgiving!

Renee, Director | 720.897.6803 | rscott@jewishfamilyservice.org
Marissa, Volunteer Manager | 720.499.3878 | mgreene@jewishfamilyservice.org
Hannah, Volunteer Coordinator | 720.348.4635 | hhkatz@jewishfamilyservice.org