



APRIL 2010

JEWISHCARE *volunteer* MATTERS



JewishCare

NEW HOME FOR JEWISHCARE

JewishCare will be holding a Capital Appeal in September/October 2010 to fund the construction of a purpose built new home for JewishCare at Saber Street, Woollahra (just up from the corner of Newland St and Edgecliff Rd) – the previous site of the Burger Centre.

This will enable JewishCare to house all of its Eastern Suburbs based programs in the one building which will serve as the focal point for the essential work of JewishCare in the community.

Importantly this will enable everyone who works for JewishCare whether as a staff member or a volunteer, to better help the thousands of needy and vulnerable people who rely on JewishCare.



FROM THE MANAGER VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Welcome to the second issue of JewishCare Volunteer Matters. Our newsletter gives us an opportunity to keep you informed about important information and volunteering opportunity within JewishCare.

We invite you to send your stories and articles about your volunteering activities to be included in future issues.

For over 10 years I have been given the honour of working with a dedicated team of JewishCare volunteers. Over this time I have been touched by many personal stories which have indicated how volunteers can make such a big difference to the life of a vulnerable or needy person.

Please feel free to call me if you wish to look for new ways to make a difference especially during our Capital Appeal year.

Lana Kofman

Saber Street, Woollahra





2009 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD – DOROTHY CLARKE



The last issue of JewishCare Volunteer Matters posed the question... **Who is JewishCare's oldest volunteer?**

The answer is 89 year old Dorothy Clarke who recently won the prestigious Southern Sydney Volunteer of the Year Award conferred by the Centre for Volunteering. Dorothy is the President of the Triple S Friendship Club, which is one of JewishCare's 12 Friendship Club around Sydney, which provide regular opportunities for active elderly people to get together, have fun and learn.

For the last five years Dorothy has been spending more than 10 hours a week volunteering for JewishCare; organising bus outings, Sunday walks, visits to the local Guild Theatre as well as the weekly meetings which take place at Allawah Synagogue in Gymea. She also visits local JewishCare clients who have mental health issues, volunteers as a mentor at the Gymea TAFE where she helps older women to become computer literate and teaches a course at the Benevolent Society Rooms in Hurstville.

Eva Fischl OAM President of JewishCare said "Dorothy is defying the typical stereotype regarding the capacity and capability of older people. Dorothy has been setting a wonderful example of remaining active and independent well into what many people may consider to be old age. This award is richly deserved and we hope that she will continue to serve her community for many years to come".

In accepting the award Dorothy said "I feel uncomfortable when I am congratulated for whatever I do. I help for the satisfaction of just doing. My philosophy is Life is for Living, don't waste it, be busy, do something for others and use your time wisely"

Long term JewishCare volunteer Lilly Skurnik was awarded a NSW Achievement Award for *Health and Wellbeing* during Seniors week



Lilly has been the President of JewishCare's Lapid Friendship Club (for people with a vision impairment) for many years.

She has been a speaker for Vision Australia and has spoken out about the importance of training guide dogs. Lilly has also published two autobiographical books – 'Shalom, this is Lilly' and 'Out of Sight'

ROBERT AND JAYNE GESCHEIT

Jayne and Robert have been volunteers for JewishCare's Family to Family Respite program for over four years. They are one of ten families who provide invaluable regular respite care for a young person who comes from a challenging environment.

Every four or five weeks, Sam* who has Asperger syndrome (an autism spectrum disorder) stays with Robert and Jayne for the weekend.

Why did you become involved in the program?

We liked the idea of helping young Jewish children. We had a big house, no children at home so the time was right for us to give something back to the community.

Was it difficult at first, meeting Sam and his mother?

Nikki Kaplan, a psychologist with JewishCare who co-ordinates the program briefed us thoroughly about Sam, Asberger syndrome, his mother and how we could best help them. She worked equally on preparing Sam and his mother, showing them photos of us and our house.

How is it now?

Great, Sam is in routine and I know he looks forward to coming to our place. He has so much fun, playing with our dogs and just being part of our family. We really appreciate him being with us and we have great times together.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



ARCHIVING VOLUNTEERS

While JewishCare volunteers are well known for helping vulnerable members of the community, volunteers also undertake a range of other activities which are of substantial benefit to the community.

Opportunity

JewishCare's client files which date back to the 1930s had never been adequately catalogued and were slowly decaying in substandard environmental conditions. Unless action was taken a vital part of the history of JewishCare would be lost.

When the Holocaust Museum in Washington approached JewishCare about acquiring some selected historical data, it was clear that this could not be provided without a huge ongoing commitment from a team of volunteers.

Solution

With years of experience in archiving Denise Lvoff heard about the situation and agreed to take on this arduous task. Three years ago, Denise collected a team of volunteers and began a task which is still progressing to this day.

Denise said "The task was enormous. We had to immediately ensure the paper files were safe and could be stored in

reasonable conditions. Thousands of files had to have all metal (which rusts and damages the paper) removed, then every page had to be refiled in archival standard folders and boxes. At the same time we had to extract key information which was written on the cover of each file, then establish an excel database".

While the task has got a way to go, Denise and her team have already done a great deal in helping preserve these important historical records for our community.



What have you got out of volunteering for the program?

Forming such a close relationship with Sam has really broadened our minds and provided a new perspective on our own family. Another wonderful benefit is that we have been able to provide a Jewish context for Sam that he would not have experienced without our involvement in the Family to Family Respite program

Would you recommend the program to other families?

Absolutely. It is a wonderful experience and importantly the program provides a good deal of flexibility for carer families to choose and change their level of commitment depending on other family commitments.

*Name changed to maintain anonymity.
Sam is now 12 years of age





volunteerMATTERS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT JEWISHCARE

Short or long term commitment accepted

Volunteer drivers – to bring clients to and from

[Friendship Clubs around Sydney](#)

Monday or Tuesday mornings (9.30-10.00) and /or afternoons (1.45-2.30)

Companions - to provide companionship and social support to lonely and isolated clients around Sydney

Walking volunteers – to assist clients with disabilities to keep fit

Mentors aged 30 – 45 years to be linked with young clients with disabilities

Call Lana on 8305 8040 for more details

KEY DATES

When: Monday, 10 May 2010, 9:30–11:30am

Where: Theatrette, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

The Minister for Volunteering, the Hon. Peter Primrose MLC, will launch National Volunteer Week and the 2010 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award at The Centre's Volunteering Awareness Forum. Open to new and current volunteers of all ages, the Volunteering Awareness Forum will explore the ins and outs of volunteering as well as providing real-life case studies and connect volunteers with volunteer roles. Places are limited, please RSVP Lana Kofman on 8305 8040.

SUPPORT JEWISHCARE Donations and bequests

JewishCare relies on financial support from the community so that we are able to continue to provide services for the vulnerable and needy people in our community.

No matter how much or how little you can afford call Maureen on 9302 8003 to see how you can make a real difference.

INVITATION

JewishCare invites you to attend the next community initiative on volunteering "Volunteers' Helping Hands".

Debbie Haski-Leventhal presents:

COPING WITH CHALLENGES: BURNOUT, TURNOVER, UNDER PERFORMANCE AND TERMINATION

Date: 12 May at 7-15 Saber Street, Woollahra

Time: 10am – 1pm

Debbie Haski-Leventhal specialises in: volunteerism, management of NGOs, human resources in NGOs, organisational behaviour, corporate social responsibility, philanthropy, civil society, social entrepreneurship. She is currently a research fellow in the Centre for Social Impact, UNSW, Australia.

Light refreshments will be served so please RSVP to Lana Kofman on 8305 8040



1300 133 660

between 9am – 10pm 7 days a week. PO Box 647 Bondi Junction 1355

www.jewishcare.com.au