Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers find their way to the JFS Village in many ways. Melony has time off from her work as a lawyer on Friday afternoons and wanted to find meaningful volunteer work during that time. JFS Village member Rose Marie has a hair appointment on Friday afternoons and so the perfect arrangement was made. Who could predict that a friendship would also develop between these two women of very different ages while riding in a car together? They both look forward to their time together each week and their bond has extended beyond just a ride home.

Melony started her life journey in Ellicott City, Maryland not far from Baltimore. Her younger brother and sister still live in Baltimore as does her Mother. She received her degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware but knew even before graduation that a career as a Chemical Engineer was not what she really wanted to do. She’d always had law in the back of her mind, so decided to go to law school instead of joining the work force. She attended law school at George Washington University in D.C., but came back to Delaware after graduation to work for a major Delaware law firm. She initially practiced corporate law but after five years, needed a break. She took a year off, then lunched into a position at Balick & Balick, a small firm where she practices commercial litigation.

Melony is very content with this decision. It has led her to the work she loves and a firm that is in her words “perfect for her.” The environment, the ethos, the hours, the location, the projects, and her coworkers at Balick are all exactly right for her.

By having a good work/life balance, Melony has time to pursue her interests. She goes to the gym, plays cards, travels and reads. You always will find her with a book that is usually science fiction or fantasy. Her dream job after retirement is to become a librarian.

When asked what she would like to say about volunteering with the JFS Village, Melony said, “I give so little and get so much from volunteering”. We are very lucky that Melony found the JFS Village.
The first thing you notice as you walk up to the front door of Rose Marie McMann’s house are the beautiful flowers and garden ornaments that line the path and fill the front porch. Rose Marie loves gardening and was a member and president of the Timberlane Garden Club for many years. Growing up in Ovid, Michigan, a small town outside Lansing, Rose Marie’s mother always had a garden and passed on her horticultural skills to her daughter. Rose Marie then went on to Michigan State where she studied journalism and met her husband Leland (Lee) who was studying chemical engineering. They moved to where the work was, starting in Springfield Illinois, Toledo Ohio and then back to Michigan, finally settling in Wilmington, where they raised their 3 children – 2 sons, one of whom is our own JFS Village Care Manager, David, Jim, and a daughter Susan.

Rose Marie was active in her church and followed her interest in costume and antique jewelry by having a booth at the Pennsburry-Chadd’s Ford Antique Mall. She misses being there and talking with her customers but still has a weekly visit from one of her jewelry dealers. Rose Marie joined the Village a year ago after her son encouraged her to try it – David knew she would love meeting the volunteers. Little did Rose Marie know that she would develop such a nice friendship with many of the volunteers, especially Melony.

**JFS Memory Café**
August 7th and 21st from 1:30-3pm at Congregation Beth Emeth
A social gathering for people living with memory changes and their care partners. Contact Karen to register: 302-478-9411

**JCC Field Trip: Colonial Plantation at Ridley Creek State Park**
Wednesday, August 28th from 9:30am-3:00pm
An inter-generational trip back in time to 17th century America! Call the JCC to register: 302-478-5660

**PRE-PAY FOR RIDES!**
Call Karen at 302-478-9411

**JFS Mission & Vision**
To strengthen individuals, families, and the community by providing counseling and support services, based on Jewish values.

Our vision is to use our evolving position as a key social service in Delaware to strengthen the support available to our most underserved populations.