

jarc news

Enriching Lives. Erasing Barriers.



FAMILY AND COMPANIONSHIP:

40 years in a JARC home

fullest with JARC for about four decades. Thanks to a conversation with one of JARC's founding members, Harry Berlin, Bob was able to land a place for Julie at a JARC home and ultimately a second family.

Bob Boesky is grateful that his daughter **Julie Boesky** has been living life to the

Julie lives in JARC's Farmington Hills Nusbaum home with five roommates, many of whom have been together with Julie for years. All six Nusbaum residents, including Julie, went on a "family vacation" to Disney World in January. They visited Sesame Street Land, ate lots of ice cream, and enjoyed the sunny weather. Julie most enjoyed shopping and the safari at the Animal Kingdom. Back at home, Julie is happy to work four days a week at JVS,

"I am so thankful to JARC for the care they give my daughter and their relentless pursuit to help her live her best life." – Bob Boesky

Bob says that among so many other things JARC has helped Julie expand her communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal. "Julie was shy at first, but now she loves to help around the house and make lunches for everyone before they leave each morning. It's clear that Julie cares about her roommates and friends" Bob said. Julie also likes to call the Bingo numbers and help with prizes at JARC's Monthly Bingo night, and she always has a smile on her face.

Julie has many different hobbies and interests and even won an award for her photography as part of the JARC Making Community Connections program. Like many of us, Julie likes to play Monopoly and games on her iPad, and her dad says they enjoy bowling together, meeting new friends, and traveling.

where she is part of a commercial cleaning crew. She's very proud of the work she does and likes to know she's making a difference in the lives of other people.

TaAhanna, a Direct Service Professional who works with Julie in the Nusbaum home, says that she is a second hand to staff. Bob said, "Julie really attaches herself to the staff. She loves them and is glad to go home and see them. They take good care of her and make sure her physical and emotional needs are met."

Everyone loves Julie and she gets along with everyone she meets. Julie exemplifies what it means to be part of a JARC family.

If you would like to support programs like Julie's, please visit us at jarc.org/give or call 248.940.2617.

FROM MONTHS TO YEARS: STAFF RELATIONSHIPS



JARC's residential staff adore the people they serve as much as the people served, adore staff. This is obvious when speaking to **Alonda Abercrombie**, who has been working with Julie Boesky and the rest of the Farmington Hills Nusbaum ladies for most of her 20 years at JARC. While she has worked at other group homes in the past, JARC stood out to her.

Alonda has extensive knowledge about the women in the home and how things work at JARC, and decades of expertise make Alonda an incredible mentor to new staff.

" I love the ladies at the home. We learn from each other. The ladies aren't *like* my family, they *are* my family. "

– Alonda Abercrombie



TaAhanna Quarles-Randolph was fortunate to work with Alonda when she first started at JARC eight months ago. "Alonda was the first person I met at JARC," TaAhanna says. "She was really helpful and taught me a lot about the duties in the house and each individual lady's needs. We trained for a short time together and I learned so much from her."

During her many years at JARC, Alonda was also helpful in training **Katrina White**, who is now the Farmington Hills Nusbaum home manager.

"Alonda was the first person I worked with at Nusbaum. She trained me on how to care for the ladies, what to look for, and everyone's routine. She's been here almost 20 years and still goes above and beyond. She has a bond with all the ladies," Katrina said.

Katrina also appreciates TaAhanna's dedication. "She's the same every day: nice, sweet, and gentle. She always gives 110% and all the residents love her."

In TaAhanna's short time on the job, she recognizes how JARC is different from other agencies. She has worked in other JARC homes and it was obvious to her that JARC homes have "different personalities, but the same heart."

It is Katrina's highest priority that the people we serve are treated well and she holds her staff to a high standard. "I can always tell how staff is treating the ladies when I'm not working, based on how they act when I'm with them."

Katrina is very happy with her staff and makes sure the women living in the home get the highest quality care possible. Alonda and TaAhanna are just two examples of the incredible staff at JARC.

" JARC actually cares about persons served. They care about their social life. Most group homes don't have as many outings. "

– TaAhanna Quarles-Randolph

If you know any kind-hearted people looking for work experiences like these, please contact Ingrid at ingridmitchell@jarc.org or 248.940.2612.



Janis Shulman, Carolyn Koblin, Sharon Alterman

VOLUNTEERS GO BEHIND THE SCENES OF HIRING

With hundreds of hard-working people sending in their applications to work in JARC's residential homes, following up with all of them was turning into a tremendous task. It was all hands-on deck as staff waded through resumes, made pre-screening calls, and scheduled interviews.

Fortunately, JARC's dedicated team of volunteers stepped in to assist. Each volunteer devoted several hours to make hundreds of calls, resulting in many new employees.

a part of the JARC community since the 1970s. She has worked in many different capacities including case manager, board President, and everything in between. In her multiple positions, Sharon has worked directly with staff for decades. Even with all of her experiences at JARC, this was her first time calling applicants.

"There were so many good candidates to talk to who had great stories, the applicants were difficult to narrow down," Sharon said.

" Unless you truly get involved, you can't have a meaningful volunteer experience. That experience translates into becoming an ambassador for the organization, make an impact, and also get something out of it yourself. "

– Janis Shulman

Carolyn Koblin is a new board member and volunteer and her energy was infectious as she spoke to applicants. "When someone hears my excitement about JARC, they get excited too," said Carolyn. Her enthusiasm even led to an in-person interview the same day, as the applicant wanted to meet Carolyn. She said, "You're my kind of people!"

Janis Shulman, who has been involved with JARC for many years in different capacities, enjoyed learning about applicants and sharing what JARC does. "I enjoyed being able to talk about the organization. If someone was really interested in JARC's mission, the conversation would go beyond that." Janis said. She also appreciated the opportunity to help.

For **Sharon Alterman**, the experience gave her a new understanding of JARC's innerworkings. Sharon has been

While Sharon has been involved for many years, this experience gave her a new perspective that couldn't be attained any other way.

All of these incredible volunteers have stepped up many times to help with a variety of projects. They agreed as Janis stated, "It's very rewarding to be able to feel like you're making a difference. You're impacting the lives of people and developing relationships not only with the people we serve, but also with their families."

If you are interested in a meaningful volunteer experience, please contact Jessica at jessicatierney@jarc.org or 248.940.2607.

JARC On Track AT THE M1 CONCOURSE

**April 26, 2020
12-4pm • M1 Concourse
1 Concourse Drive • Pontiac, MI 48341**

This fun-filled afternoon has:

- A driving experience for all ages and abilities
- Triple-digit thrill rides around the track with a professional driver
 - Thrill rides will be pre-scheduled
- Games and inflatables for kids
- Music and dancing with StarTrax
- Kosher food, and much more!

Register at jarc.org/ontrack. For sponsorship information, please contact Jenny at 248.940.2603 or jennykabert@jarc.org.

