



VOLUNTEER VIEWPOINT

September, 2018

A Newsletter for Friends and Volunteers of the Agency

MISSION STATEMENT

Vision- that every youth caring for an ill, injured, elderly or disabled family member will achieve success in school and life.

Mission- to increase awareness and provide support services for youth caregivers and their families by connecting healthcare, education and community resources.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are matched according to their skills, interests and abilities.

- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Community Outreach
- Clerical Assistance
- Fundraising
- Social Networking
- Video Experts
- Writers
- Public Relations
- Basic Computer Skills

TRAVEL TEDDY Award at AACY

The Traveling Teddy Award is presented every three months at a staff meeting to an employee who exemplifies “excellence in utilizing and contributing to volunteer programs.” The continuing success of our volunteer program requires a supportive working relationship between staff and volunteers. The recipient of this “coveted” award is Cindi Pierre, Family Specialist. Cindi is the link between our mentors and our mentees’ families. Congratulations, Cindi!

Dear Volunteers:

This summer, we were delighted to have several high school and college students join our volunteer program. Kathryn, a student at Duke University, inputted all of the data from our end of the year surveys. In addition, she helped our caregiving youth to sign up for a caregiving app which allows them to track hours and responsibilities. Alex, a student at Middle Tennessee State, has done data entry, mailings and filing and even created a new mentoring video for the M.A.C.Y. program. Russell, a Boca High student, worked on social media, our database and set up laptops that are being provided to Caregiving Youth Project students. Adam, who attends high school in Maryland, joined us as well and helped out at several events including the Back to School Bash and the Bowling Party Sleepover.

While many teens participate to fulfill their community service requirements for school, others might be testing out a career choice. Volunteering gives them a “hands-on” opportunity to relate to others in a working environment and also to accept responsibility.

We appreciate all of their assistance and look forward to developing new volunteer opportunities in our agency for other young people.

“The miracle is this – the more we share, the more we have!” *Leonard Nimoy*

Marcy Bezark
Volunteer Manager



Hearts & “Soles” past gala photos

MENTOR USE AND CARE

Mentors are available in both male and female models of various sizes, shapes and colors. No two are exactly alike. The age of a mentor does not have a relationship to performance (however, like fine wine, many models improve with age!) Newer models may display greater flexibility and mobility; however, please note that older models are likely to require fewer tune-ups as they are well broken in.

The basic mentor is self-cleaning and has its own storage base. Most are self-transporting.

The M.A.C.Y. program currently has 18 matches. There is an even split between male and female mentors. The ages of our mentors range from 21 to 78!

Mentoring is a structured and trusting relationship bringing our young caregivers together with caring adults. The time commitment is small, but the rewards can be huge! To learn more about this rewarding experience, contact me at marcy@acy.org.



PERSONALITY PROFILE – DANNY POLEN

Volunteerism has been an important part of Daniel's life for many years. from dog walking at the Tri-County Humane Society to serving as an Associate Member for both The Volunteer LINK and Empowered Youth USA at University of Miami to his current volunteer role with AACY, Daniel is a role model for giving back to his community.

"I had a debilitating disease when I was younger and so did my father, who succumbed to cancer in 2012, so I know what it is like to be sick for a long period of time and to have an ill parent. I was constantly worrying about him and myself and anxious about what others would think, and what to say to them. I wish I had a mentor when growing up."

Daniel has been a mentor with our M.A.C.Y. program (Mentor a Caregiving Youth) for over two years. AACY assists youth who are caregivers of a relative, to restore their role as children and to help them succeed academically, socially, psychologically and developmentally. Mentoring is a large and important component of the Caregiving Youth Project and offers a structured and caring relationship to our caregiving youth. Daniel's mentee is a 16 year old student whose father has MS. The two have developed a solid bond, tossing around a football, going out for pizza and just talking about school, healthier lifestyle alternatives and the future. Daniel even spent this past Thanksgiving with his mentee's family. His mentee recently told us, "I go out with my mentor to different places and we talk about stuff going on at home. It is like an outlet for me."

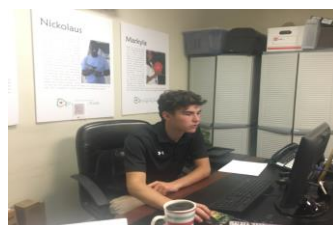
Daniel has said that he was dealt the worst case scenario and had to climb back up to where he didn't think he would ever be. His life is now about sharing joy and optimism through his volunteer work. He has even recruited several friends to become part of the M.A.C.Y. program and joined our Board of Directors.

In addition to Daniel's strong commitment to improving the life of one of our caregiving youth, he also is actively involved with the V. Foundation to Cure Cancer. He and several friends are setting up a South Florida chapter and organize events to raise money and awareness of the Foundation.

"We ourselves must be full of life if we are going to make life fuller for others." *David Sawyer*



Russell assisted us at the office and with technology projects.



Adam visited from MD. Helped with office work and events.



Kathryn at our Back to School Wellness Brunch.



Alex showcased his musical talents at CARE-a-o-Ke for a cause and created CYP videos.