Hand Sanitizer for the Soul: Volunteer, Community Engagement, and Donation Opportunities in the wake of COVID-19

Many of us are scrambling to find ways to support our communities while social distancing. Here are some ways in which you can safely help JFS to support WNY’s most vulnerable throughout this pandemic, without ever leaving your home:

Remote Volunteer & Community Engagement Opportunities:

1. Help spread the word about JFS’s Emergency COVID-19 Donation Drive for medical supplies, non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, and personal care items by sharing the following information on social media or via email within your circles:

   Language:
   
   Are you going out to stock up on non-perishable food, personal care items, cleaning supplies, and medical supplies for your family? Do you think you could grab a few items for our families, too?

   Please consider donating to JFS’s COVID-19 Emergency Donation Drive. You can drop off items at JFS (70 Barker Street, Buffalo, NY 14209) in the bins located in the downstairs hallway through our Barker Street entrance.

We are currently asking for the following items:

   Most Needed:
   - rice
   - powdered milk
   - canned meat, fish, vegetables and beans
-cooking oil
-fruit cups
-cereal
-granola bars
-toilet paper
-laundry detergent
-disinfectant wipes

**Ongoing Needs:**
-all purpose cleaners/Windex
-baby wipes
-shampoo/conditioner
-paper towels
-garbage bags
-reusable grocery bags

**Social Distancing-Friendly Options:**

If you are unable to leave your home right now, but would still like to contribute, you can make a monetary donation on our website (www.jfsbuffalo.org) or purchase items on our Amazon wishlist, here: http://a.co/hTFJjxm

2. Make a phone call or write a letter to a Holocaust Survivor who is not able to visit with their loved ones at the moment, due to social distancing.

3. Arrange delivery of groceries or a take-out meal to one of our low-income families who are struggling to make ends meet right now, or for someone who is quarantining due to vulnerability.

4. Make a phone call or write a letter to a senior citizen who is socially isolated in an assisted living home.

5. **Contact your elected officials, asking for support for our community’s most vulnerable throughout COVID-19.** Find your elected officials here: https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials

6. **Volunteer with our local Kosher Meals on Wheels initiative!**
   
   You can help organize remotely, or if you are at low risk and feel comfortable doing so, you can help deliver meals. Contact Rabbi Laizer Labkovski at info@jewishbuffalo.com for more information!

7. **Volunteer with our Parenting Support Program!**

   -Create a video or written guide to a DIY activity that parents can do at home with their children.

   -Facilitate a “Virtual Story Time” session with a group of children.
- Create a list of educational links and free audio books for kids, and send them to our Parenting Coordinator, Jill Gavin at jgavin@jfsbuffalo.org.

8. Print out JFS’s “Virtual Hugs” color sheet. Color and place it in your front window to spread some love and cheer to your neighbors:
file:///C:/Users/sjohnston/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/YHE9I09T/JFS%20Hugs.pdf

9. Update your Facebook profile picture to include JFS’s Virtual Hug frame, and show some love to your online community:

To add a frame to your Page's profile picture:

2. Click your profile picture in the bottom left and select your Page.
3. Search for a frame by entering the frame's name, the creator's name or related words.
4. Choose the frame you want to use from the results.
5. Click Use as Profile Picture.

10. Stay tuned for in to JFS’s Social Media for live Hand Sanitizer for the Soul community engagement opportunities!

Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County
@JFSBuffalo
jfsbuffalo

Donation & Fundraising Opportunities:

1. Contribute to JFS’s COVID-19 Emergency Donation Drive (see info above).

This fund is aimed at helping to manage the economic impact of COVID-19, providing support for a broad array of current and anticipated social services, and offering emergency assistance to those most vulnerable and impacted in our community.

3. Do you have a special skill to share? Host a donation-based online class and donate a portion of the funds to JFS!

If you are interested in one of the volunteer opportunities listed above or for questions about in-kind donations, contact Sierra Johnston at 716-548-0431 or sjohnston@jfsbuffalo.org

For inquiries about fundraising or monetary donations, contact Juliana Teibel at jteibel@jfsbuffalo.org