

Why I choose to be a Monthly Mitzvah Maker.

Jewish Family and Child Service's monthly donors, *Monthly Mitzvah Makers*, provide the agency with a steady and ongoing stream of income to maintain its current programs and services, while responding to the ever-changing needs of our community. The Monthly Mitzvah Maker program provides donors with an alternative way to make an impactful gift.

"By being a monthly donor, you feel as if you are making a difference to so many people."

As a former JF&CS staff member, Marina Shepaksov knows firsthand the impact JF&CS has on our community. Since moving on from the agency in 2017, Marina has continued to support the organization through volunteerism and the Monthly Mitzvah Maker program.

"For my personal values, it's important to support programs such as poverty reduction, programs for seniors, woman abuse and programs for children. The client stories that JF&CS shares and the awareness building, for example, around the pandemic, motivated me to do what I can to help," explains Marina. She goes on to share that while working at JF&CS, she learned about issues in the Jewish community that are not typically spoken about, especially poverty, child abuse and neglect. In relation to JF&CS' wide breadth of programs, Marina said that our agency "support[s] people at all stages of life, and that's invaluable to me. By being a monthly donor, you feel as if you are making a difference to so many people."

Marina highlights that "the statistics shared about the prevalence of poverty in the Jewish community, domestic

violence, and mental illness are a reminder that we are all susceptible" to the issues supported by JF&CS programs. JF&CS sheds light on these issues and helps support those who are struggling, something that has always been important to her.

As a young professional, giving a sizeable one-time donation can be



more challenging, but for Marina, "monthly giving is a lot more manageable." By donating monthly, Marina recognizes that she can give more to JF&CS throughout the year than she could with a one-time gift. "It's important for young people to know how easy monthly giving is, and it makes you feel good to start giving now. As a young person, you can make a difference."

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