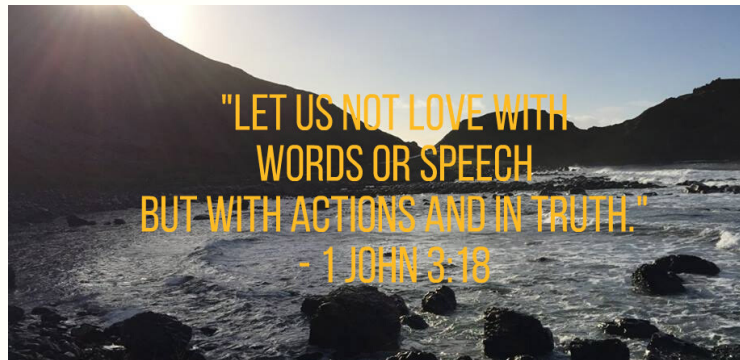


POMEGRANATE JOURNAL

A Glimpse into St. John of God Community Services, its Programs, and its Volunteers



The Heart of a Volunteer

By Casey Schell

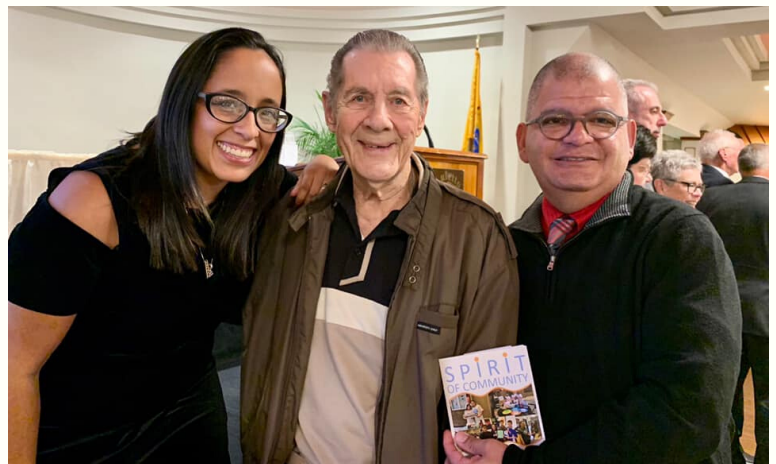
On October 23rd, 2019 I attended an awards dinner hosted by the Volunteer Center of South Jersey. With me was Brother Tom and St. John of God's Volunteer of the Year Hank Yost. This event was a chance to formally recognize Mr. Yost for his dedication to our organization and clients for nearly thirty years (as well as others who volunteer across Southern New Jersey). During a speech the evening's emcee recited a quote from Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle:

"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

Hearing this quote was so invigorating because it so perfectly describes all of our volunteers here at St. John of God- especially Mr. Yost.

Being a volunteer in service to those who happen to have a disability can be equal parts heartwarming as it is heartbreaking. You might witness a miracle, sure. Those are frequent at St. John of God- especially when our students and clients take steps towards independence thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers. But you might also spend your day making a get well card for a client or student in the hospital, or you might attend a funeral. **And yet Hank and our volunteers keep coming back.** Returning- even after a hard day- makes the hearts of St. John of God Volunteers truly strong.

Our organization could literally not function without people like Hank and his fellow volunteers so on behalf of St. John of God Community Services I thank all of them for their service to our programs, clients, and fellow co-workers.



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Volunteers Wanted:



Offered on Saturday mornings from 10:00am- 11:00am our Faith Formation catechists help our students learn about God through stories, art, and music. Students prepare to receive Sacraments like First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Faith Formation also offers support for family members too. Currently, several of our students are in need of 1:1 assistance during instruction time + our St. Benedict Menni Bell Choir always welcomes new volunteers to assist its members in preparing for liturgical events! Those aged 12 and up may apply.



The Fulfillment Center provides skill development and training for those with special needs who are seeking gainful employment in the community. Through contracts with our business partners, adults working within The Fulfillment Center receive training in light assembly, piece work, document shredding, food and janitorial services- all while putting in a full day's work and collecting a paycheck.

Currently, the Center is searching for volunteers aged 18+ to be of assistance to our clients. Here you would assist them complete tasks or take care of projects that the supervisors might need you to do (photocopies, bringing materials to an employee, etc.). Additional paperwork is required.

**Volunteers needed in
Gym Class on
Tuesdays and Wednesdays
from 12:30- 2:00pm!**

ADS Students always look forward to gym class with Ms. Randi and Mr. Paul! We are still in search of volunteers aged 13+ to help Ms. Randi on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 12:30- 2:00pm. Responsibilities include setting up or taking down equipment, being a buddy to a student, pushing wheelchairs, being the music DJ, etc. Volunteering in gym class is a great way for you to get to know a lot of our students since every classroom in ADS participates. If you love sports and the occasional dance break then this assignment is for you!



Volunteer Brunch Recap



On Saturday, October 26th several St. John of God volunteers and coworkers gathered at *Catelli Duo* restaurant in Voorhees for a brunch celebration. It was a chance for those gathered to discuss the significance of volunteers in St. John of God's life and in our organization which bears his name. What especially made this gathering so special was that it gave attendees a chance to become acquainted with those who volunteer at different times during the week and in other programs. Meeting for a meal- some of us for the first time- cemented our bond as one big St. John of God family. We honored those in attendance for their dedication to our clients and students with certificates of appreciation, thank you notes, and *lot* of french toast.



IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE OPEN ASSIGNMENTS OR HAVE QUESTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE POMEGRANATE JOURNAL PLEASE CONTACT CASEY SCHELL @ 856 848 4700 ex. 1131 OR CSHELL@SJOGCS.ORG