

Recognizing Outstanding

F·E·G·S Volunteers

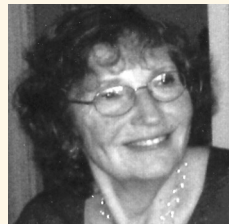
Who Make A Difference



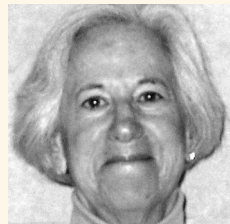
Fran Berger



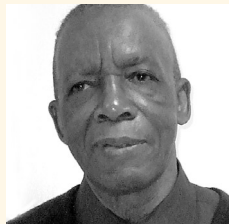
Samantha Brenner



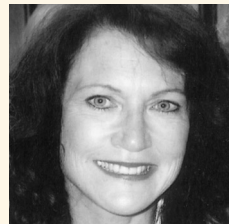
Agnes Goldschlager



Marsha Gray



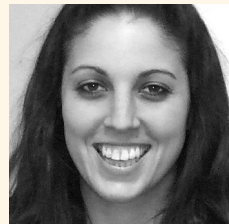
Robert Ishmael



Lisa Mack



Ida Maryanovskaya



Calia Talmor

F·E·G·S Health and Human Services System values the efforts of the more than 1,000 volunteers who enhance and enrich the services F·E·G·S provides to more than 10,000 individuals a day and 100,000 people a year. We honor and thank these seven volunteers who exemplify the contributions of so many.

Fran Berger

SHARING MEMORIES AND TIME TO ASSIST A NEIGHBOR IN NEED

Every week, Fran Berger, a retired bookkeeper, visits Cathy, a frail, homebound 93 year-old neighbor in North Hempstead, Long Island. The two share thoughts on current events, laugh, exchange memories of days past, and enjoy each other's company as any old friends might. The visits are part of a N-NORC initiative by F·E·G·S, the Town of North Hempstead, and others, to ensure that seniors can continue to live independently in their local community. "I am her main contact with the outside world," says Fran. That responsibility creates a bond that gives Fran a very special personal satisfaction. "Whatever I give, I get back ten-fold."

Samatha Brenner

MBA STUDENT LEADER

Samantha Brenner is President of the Columbia University I-PREP program (Interview Practice and Review for Emerging Professionals), where graduate students in Columbia's Business School help participants in F·E·G·S training and employment programs gain valuable résumé assistance and practice job interview techniques. She says her business courses help her "take the skills we learn at Columbia and leverage them into helping others." Under Samantha's leadership, the Columbia students meet with 50 to 70 F·E·G·S consumers each week! With so much focus to prepare for one's own career, the I-PREP program provides students a welcome opportunity to focus on helping others.

Agnes Goldschlager

A CARING HAND AND WILLING EAR TO THE ELDERLY HOMEBOUND

For the past four years, Agnes Goldschlager has volunteered as part of the F·E·G·S Golden Age Project on Long Island, sponsored by UJA-Federation of New York. She offers a caring hand and a willing ear to the homebound seniors she visits each week. "I let them talk, and I listen," she says, modestly. Along the way, she persuaded 99 year-old Mary to consider, and finally to move to, an assisted living facility, and convinced a reluctant 89 year-old, Frances, who lived in a third-floor walk up apartment, to finally see

a gerontologist. It's important that people like Mary and Frances feel connected to the community, says Agnes, "so I make time to give them my time."

Marsha Gray

AN EXPERT IN MAKING CONNECTIONS

Marsha Gray says "Tell me what you need and I'll find someone to do it." She has used her talents, gained from a long career as a community organizer in the field of mental health services, to assist a number of F·E·G·S volunteer initiatives. She has been instrumental in soliciting donations from major clothing manufacturers for our Suited for Work™ program, and arranging free haircuts and makeovers at a well known Manhattan salon for F·E·G·S clients who are preparing for job interviews. Although she says she is "very retired," Marsha remains active, engaged, and committed to community service because "it gives me an internal joy."

Robert Ishmael

RETIRED SOCIAL WORKER CONTINUES TO HELP

Robert Ishmael spent most of his working life in a darkroom, as a photo printer, but in 1990 changed careers to become a certified social worker. Now retired, he still has "a strong desire to help people." Robert spends 25 hours each week working with individuals who have developmental disabilities, by volunteering at F·E·G·S through the Senior Companion Program sponsored by the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. He works one-on-one helping Nelson, a man in his early fifties, to function more independently through neighborhood walks restaurant and cultural outings with personal and caring attention.

Lisa Mack

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR A FAMILY IN NEED

Lisa Mack has volunteered for seven years in the F·E·G·S Adopt-a-Family program, which, in partnership with UJA-Federation and local synagogues, matches Long Island residents who can provide concrete assistance to families in crisis. Each month, Lisa brings a variety of fresh and non-perishable foods to Dawn and her family, who cannot afford them. Equally important, Lisa has become a source of stability, encouragement, and emotional support to Dawn, who writes letters to Lisa between visits, to keep Lisa updated on her successes and struggles.

Ida Maryanovskaya

HELPING EMIGRES REALIZE THEIR AMERICAN DREAM

Ida Maryanovskaya arrived in New York in 1981 from the former Soviet Union, full of hopes and dreams for building a new life. Ida used her M.S. degree from the Foreign Language University in Kiev, Ukraine, where she learned English, and another Master's degree from Adelphi College on Long Island, as the foundation for a long career teaching English to immigrant children in private and public schools. Now retired, Ida, who treasures her own U.S. citizenship, has shared her knowledge and enthusiasm as a volunteer for the past four years in the F·E·G·S Citizenship Program, helping Russian-speaking Jewish émigrés study and prepare for their oral Citizenship Exam, as well as enhancing their assimilation into American culture. The program, one of F·E·G·S's oldest volunteer initiatives, has helped more than 2,000 people become U.S. citizens.

Calia Talmor

AMERICORPS VISTA VOLUNTEER HANDS ON!

Calia Talmor, a recent Cornell University graduate, came to F·E·G·S through the Americorps VISTA Program. She coordinates the I-PREP programs at Goldman Sachs and Fordham Law School, and also oversees the day-to-day operation of Suited for Work™, which provides new business interview attire to clients in F·E·G·S employment preparation programs. "I could have taken an entry level job" says Calia. "But coming in as a volunteer gave me a chance to actually run a program, and that means a lot to me."

Become A Volunteer

You can make a difference in the lives of others. For volunteering opportunities at F·E·G·S, call:

New York City

212.366.8228

Long Island

516.496.7550 EXT. 255

Visit us at www.fegs.org