

Volunteer Viewpoint January 2021

A Newsletter for Friends and Volunteers of the Agency

MISSION STATEMENT

Vision- we envision a nation where the lives of caregiving youth are understood, appreciated, and celebrated on their individual path to life's dreams and opportunities.

Mission- we champion youth, who care for chronically ill, injured, elderly or disabled family members, support their role as caregiver, safeguard and celebrate their success in school and life.

FROM THE VOLUNTEER MANAGER

Dear Volunteers:

Welcome to 2021! I hope this year is a healthy, happy and successful one for all of us.

We have been lucky to have some wonderful people start as volunteers with AACY this past year. Our volunteers, both new and seasoned, are such a wonderful gift to our caregiving youth.

January is National Mentor Month. We are fortunate to have close to 40 amazing mentors in the M.A.C.Y. (Mentor A Caregiving Youth) Program. The mentors provide our caregiving youth with such great support, friendship and an outlet from their daily life as a caregiver. Meeting either virtually or socially distanced in person, mentors play a key volunteer role in our organization.

The Holiday Season was celebrated a bit differently this year and the effort and dedication brought forth was truly amazing. For both Thanksgiving and Christmas, volunteers traveled throughout Palm Beach County to deliver food baskets, gifts and meals, donated by many and prepared by Stallone's Italian Kitchen of Boca, along with pies and cookies for our families.

Our annual Holiday Celebration is always a favorite event for our Caregiving Youth and their families. This year, we needed to get creative in order to have an event that would work during the pandemic. So, AACY moved our Holiday Celebration to the Palm Beach Zoo. This evening of lights, animals, games and prizes, was a huge success. We had over 25 volunteers helping out with check-in, directing, scavenger hunt and gift hand out. Let's not forget the more than 30 volunteers who donated and helped wrap gifts the week leading up to the event and those who then delivered to the families who were not able to make it to the zoo.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and happy 2021!

With gratitude,

Amanda Levine
Volunteer Manager



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



On-going Volunteers Needed

For:

Mentoring
Meal Deliveries
Tutoring
Event Transporting
Community Outreach
Clerical Assistance
Fundraising
Social Networking
Video/Photography
Writers
Public Relations
Basic Computer Skills

**Want to make a
difference in the
lives of caregiving
youth?**

**Contact me today!
Amanda Levine
Amanda@aacym.org
561-391-7401**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:



Michael with his dog, Toby.

MICHAEL CONNOR

Michael Connor has been such a huge asset to AACY as our resident photographer and wonderful mentor.

Michael, age 40, who is a construction manager by trade, first came to volunteer with AACY this past summer, through his wife, Renee. She was training to be a mentor and knew the organization was in need of male mentors in the M.A.C.Y. program.

Upon training Michael to be a mentor, it was learned that he is also an avid photographer in his free time- a very skilled one at that. Michael's expertise were almost immediately put to use as he photographed all graduating seniors in pictures with their families at local parks.

When it comes to events, Michael has always been there, camera in hand. He took amazing pictures at Trunk or Treat as well as the most recent Holiday Celebration at Palm Beach Zoo.

Michael became a Mentor with M.A.C.Y. in early Fall 2020, to Justin. Michael and Justin have formed a special bond as mentor and mentee. Both enjoy music and photography. Michael has had the opportunity to meet Justin's family and friends as he was invited to celebrate Justin's birthday last month.

When Michael was asked why he gives of his time to volunteer and mentor, he reflected on a quote that has always been important to him:

"If you're going to be here, there's a responsibility to make people around you better."



Our Caregiving Youth in receipt of meal and gift deliveries from AACY volunteers.



Lori Weakland and Debralyn Belletieri bringing cheer at the AACY Holiday Celebration

