

## Volunteer Position Description

**Volunteer Title:** Spiritual Care Volunteer

**Time Commitment:** approximately 1 hours per week

**Setting:** Hospitals and Elder Care Facilities

## Our Mission

Jewish Family Services (JFS) supports and strengthens lives throughout Greater Kansas City. We provide essential human services for people of all faiths, ages, cultures, and identities who are facing challenges in everyday life or times of crisis.

## Spiritual Care

The Chaplain, Spiritual Care Volunteers and community clergy visit and counsel individuals and their families in times of personal crisis, often related to a health issue, an ailing relative, or a death in the family. Visits are made to hospitals, eldercare centers, and homes. Often, JFS is the only link for individuals that are otherwise unaffiliated, isolated, and disconnected from Jewish life. Together we ensure the needs of the affiliated as well as the non-affiliated are met.

## Volunteer Purpose

The purpose of the Spiritual Care Volunteer (SCV) Program is to extend caring to those in need by providing comfort and encouragement during times of stress, change, and crisis. It is through their commitment to the *mitzvah* (commandment) of *bikkur holim* (visiting the sick), that the SCV's provide encouragement and hope to Jewish patients/residents and their families. It is the role of the spiritual care volunteer (SCV) to visit people in the Jewish community who are experiencing health and healing challenges. The visits take place primarily at hospitals and eldercare centers but may also include home visits. Visits are usually done weekly. The SCV program, designed by the Jewish community chaplain, includes recruiting, training, supervising, and managing the volunteers, while developing and maintaining positive relationships with area healthcare institutions.

## Tasks

- Make visits/calls to residents, clients or family members on a weekly basis.
- Attend three trainings per year to gain additional knowledge and connect with staff as well as other program volunteers.
- Ability to use Microsoft forms, Zoom and other digital programs autonomously once trained by staff.
- Provide consistent, weekly support to clients.
- May help with identifying others in the community who may be interested in becoming Spiritual Care Volunteers.

## Competencies

- Empathetically listen, while maintaining boundaries consistent with agency guidelines.
- Expert listener; must be able to maintain composure during intense times.
- Passionate about serving Spiritual Care clients.
- Provide compassion, encouragement and hope under challenging circumstances.
- Volunteers who can speak more than one language, especially Russian are in great need.

### **Training/Supervision**

- The volunteer will be trained and supervised by Chaplaincy/Spiritual Care staff.

### **Background Checks and Additional Requirements**

- Recommendation from clergy
- Provide a resume with employment and volunteer history.
- Interview with Jewish Community Chaplain
- Pass a background check & TB test.
- Volunteer confidentiality and training.
- Minimum one year commitment
- Must attend three educational gatherings throughout the year.