

November 15, 2011

Dear Ms. Fox,

The JFS Teen Mentor Program is ready to begin its fourth successful year! I am writing to you to ask for your assistance in sharing this program with teens you may work with. As a teen volunteer of 2 years and a senior at Ridge High School, I know that many students are seeking community service hours to fulfill school requirements and to gain valuable experience prior to college.

The JFS Teen Mentor Program was launched in fall 2008 and currently is looking for potential mentors to join our existing Teen Mentors this school year beginning in January 2012. This program enables teenagers to work directly with a family that has a child with Autism Spectrum Disorders or other disabilities. The teen volunteer will visit the house of their assigned family weekly. They will interact with the child to enhance their social skills while providing the parents with an extra hand. This program will provide hands on experience for teenagers and give them the opportunity to work one on one with a child who has special needs.

The Teen Mentor Program is looking for responsible young volunteers that want to make a difference in their community. Students who have interest in working with children as a career or want to learn more about working with children with special needs would also benefit greatly from this program. Teen volunteers will be expected to work with a family one hour per week for approximately one school year. Family placements will be made with teen input and will take into account student schedules and desired geographic locations.

The program is being run through Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties. JFS is a non-profit, non-discriminatory, social service agency that works with individuals, families and in the community. The organization is 30 years old and continues to grow and expand. The JFS Teen Mentor Program branches off of the JFS Family Mentor Program for adult volunteers. The program is open to all teenagers in the community, regardless of their religion or cultural background.

For more information regarding this program, please contact JFS by phone at **(908) 725-7799** or via e-mail at Admin@JewishFamilySvc.Org. Potential volunteers are asked to complete an application and return it to JFS by September 1st. Once the application has been received, the applicant will be contacted immediately. A Teen Mentor Program orientation will be held early January 2012 for teens that wish to volunteer beginning early 2012.

I want to thank you for taking the time to review this letter and to share this information with interested teens. With your help, we can ensure a strong fourth year for the JFS Teen Mentor Program.

Sincerely,

Andrew Scaglione Volunteer, JFS Teen Mentor Program
Ruth Edelman L.C.S.W. JFS Family Mentor Program Coordinator