



Jewish Family Service
of MetroWest New Jersey

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To whom this may concern,

RSVP Center of Essex and Hudson Counties mobilizes individuals age 55 and over to give back to their communities through volunteer service. Sponsored by Jewish Family Service of MetroWest, RSVP is a national service program funded by the Corporation for National and Community Services.

Bruce Freeman has been an RSVP volunteer since November 2017. Mr. Freeman serves weekly in RSVP's Reading Buddies and Listen to Children programs.

Reading Buddies engages older adult volunteers in promoting childhood literacy in underperforming public schools. Each volunteer is assigned a small group of children to read to weekly throughout the school year. Volunteers use a read-aloud format that supplements the school's regular reading curriculum. Volunteer Readers help improve literacy, grow vocabulary, and expand comprehension skills among the children they assist. Buddies is a one of a kind program that uses volunteers to support children grades k-2 and educators in the classroom.

The Listen to Children program pairs a warm, accepting older adult volunteer with a Livingston elementary or middle school child on a one-to-one basis. The child-listener relationship allows a child to share conversations, joys, experiences and concerns in a caring, safe environment. The "Listener" often functions as a surrogate grandparent and provides a non-judgmental, secure sounding board for children to express concerns or anxieties.

In his role as a Reading Buddy and a Listener, Mr. Freeman has dedicated time each week to assist children in need in our community. His patience and compassion have helped him connect to the two children he mentors one-on-one in the Listen to Children program. Each week the children in Reading Buddies look forward to his visits and the stories he reads. Mr. Freeman has been a wonderful addition to RSVP and its programs.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Grove, LCSW

RSVP Director

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program Center of Essex and Hudson Counties

Sponsored by Jewish Family Service of MetroWest

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