



Fall Fix Up

Huntington Bank team



Seaholm High School Jewish Culture Club



Cub Scout Pack 231



Amy Rosenberg and Lindsay Leder

Sunday, Nov. 9, was a cold, rainy, and snowy day. Hardly perfect conditions for a day of raking leaves, but that didn't stop the more than 400 volunteers who showed up to participate in Jewish Family Service's 29th annual Fall Fix Up.

"It's a testament to how much people love this program and want to help their community," said Lindsay Leder, senior director of marketing and communications at Jewish Family Service. "The weather made the day less than ideal, but people were there and were more than happy to help."

The morning began at Congregation Shaarey Zedek with a breakfast and orientation for all the volunteers. CSZ Rabbi Aaron Starr greeted everyone with a warm welcome and set the tone for the day, calling it "sacred work."

In addition to raking, these generous community members also washed windows and planted bulbs; but perhaps their greatest accomplishment of the day was simply engaging in friendly conversation with older adult neighbors, many of whom are homebound. By the end of the day, 44 houses, including several JARC homes, were prepared for the winter months ahead.

"Strengthening communities starts with organizations like JFS," said Mike Land, Huntington Bank regional president, Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio.

"Their unwavering commitment to helping local seniors through programs like the Fall Fix Up event, speaks volumes about their dedication to making lives better. Our Huntington colleagues were honored to stand alongside them to ensure more seniors received the care and support they deserve, despite the tough weather."

In addition to Huntington Bank, other groups came together to help, including scouts, congregations, law firms and schools, as well as families and friends. For some people, it was their first time joining in the Fall Fix Up fun; others have been participating for many years.

No matter who it was that showed up on their lawns, the older adults served by JFS are always so grateful.

"When I look out the window, I see these wonderful people raking my leaves and having fun," said one older adult served by JFS. "I never would have been able to clean up my lawn on my own. It just means so much to me."

The success of Fall Fix Up would not have been possible without the participation of Fall Fix Up committee members, Andrew Cherney, Jack Cherney, Steven Dunn, Peter Espino, Max Mittleman and Sara Voight; sponsors Gallagher, Congregation Shaarey Zedek and Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit; and JFS staff, including Stephanie Appel, Emily Croitori and Lindsay Leder, who has been at the agency for over 20 years.

"Lindsay is the driving force behind much of our work, including Fall Fix Up," said Perry Ohren, CEO, JFS. "Sadly, she lost her mother, Laurie Leder, this year. Thanks to a generous donation from her family, the Fall Fix Up fund has been renamed to the Laurie Leder Memorial Fall Fix Up fund."

"I've been running Fall Fix Up for what seems like forever, but after losing my mother, this year felt different," Lindsay said. "Having the fund

renamed in her memory is just so meaningful to me." **JN**

While Fall Fix Up is a seasonal volunteer opportunity, there are many other ways you can support the critical work of JFS. Visit jfsdetroit.org for volunteer opportunities, upcoming events and ways to support the JFS mission.