

Monmouth Park Charities Foundation
Volunteer of the Year Nominee
Phyllis Solomon

October 20, 2023

It is our pleasure to nominate an amazing woman who deeply cares for the community! We believe that Ms. Phyllis Solomon truly embodies an exceptional person to be recognized as Volunteer of the Year.

Ms. Solomon is an extraordinary supporter and volunteer for 40 years now, assisting people with developmental disabilities who attend services at FRA. She learned of FRA when her Chancy Foundation first funded our music program (in 1984) for our preschool children with disabilities. Phyllis fell in love with these wonderful children and with our work. While the Chancy Foundation continues to support various music/dance services at FRA, they also support numerous programs and services in the greater NJ/NYC area as well as in Israel, where Phyllis is sure to visit every program that they fund.

As a direct volunteer in our programs over most of the last 20 years, her time given has made an impact on many aspects of FRA. Amazingly, for most of 15 years now, she volunteers (almost) weekly in our adult classes! Her focus has been assisting in programs for developing life skills, learning computer skills and gaining pre-vocational abilities. Phyllis acts as a support person to keep students engaged in the class, and to teach them as well. Over the last 8 years, she has also brought in additional volunteers to assist the students, particularly in jewelry making class where she has made connections with local businesses for help to provide needed materials. Phyllis has even purchased classroom materials and given Chromebooks for our people in the EmployAbility program in the community. Phyllis is loved by all of the students with whom she has interacted.

Her volunteering has expanded to also include being a member of various committees at FRA, such as Strategic Planning (for the past 20 years), Volunteer Development, EmployAbility Committee and she assists on fundraising events as well! Her monthly attendance and involvement at these meetings have guided our programming, increased our services and helped us to locate funding options as well. She is also a generous financial supporter sponsoring every event held at FRA or on behalf of improving our programs.

There are few people in the community like Phyllis Solomon who make this level of commitment! This dynamic, caring, and generous woman is a well-respected, valued member intrinsic to the fabric of FRA! We believe that you will share in recognizing Ms. Solomon as Volunteer of the Year.

Please reach out to me if you need further information.

Thank you for this opportunity to honor this amazing woman,

Nancy Phalanukorn,
Executive Director