



**March 2019
Volunteer Spotlight**

Karen Selinger
Gishrei Shalom
Jewish Congregation



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- 1) How long have you been volunteering with Family Promise?

I trained at the first class in Southington when the organization was new.

- 2) Do you volunteer with any other organizations?

I have always volunteered in a significant way for one or two organizations holding positions for many years. Girl Scouts, CCD, Rec Soccer Boys Coordinator, PTA, Library Board, Board of Ed communications committee, garden club.

- 3) What are your hobbies?

For fun I garden (mostly digging holes), ski, visit my family.

- 4) What is your favorite part about volunteering with our organization?

People do what they like, and contribute to what they believe in. I started at FP to help off load a friend who was over extended. I totally believe in the goal of supporting folks so they can become financially independent. The mission is an easy home run!

What has surprised me are the parents. Each in their own way is deeply committed to providing the best for their children. Making their children their priority was evident time and time again. Eating vegetables first, drinking milk, singing songs, teaching manners, reading books, playing games, laughing. The parents are looking to build a better life today for the opportunity of a better future for their kids. Our parents are hardworking, realistic providers with unexpected hardships to overcome. I greatly admire their loving perspective and strong determination to build a stable life for their family.

5) What would you say to others to encourage them to volunteer?

Our moms are inspiring, and their kids are the future. When someone makes a meal, brings arts and crafts activities, or sleeps over, they are appreciated and make a difference. Each small act contributes to create a new option for our families that need options. We create new opportunities every day that a family has the support of Family Promise. For our guests, life can be measured one day at a time, and every day counts just as every volunteer counts. Family Promise would not exist without the many folks helping in many small ways that all add up to changing the future for our families.