

SERVING

Four Years of Faithful Service



After volunteering at Jill's House, Leena Alattar considers a career in special education.

Leena Alattar is a senior at Langley High School. She's been volunteering at Jill's House almost every week since 2011. She's a huge help to our childcare team and a shining example of joyful service.

1. How did you hear about Jill's House?

My high school theater teacher told me about it. She suggested I volunteer because it would be good experience for me. That was in 2011, and I've been volunteering ever since.

2. What do you do at Jill's House?

I'm an extra set of hands at Friday night check in. It's always a busy evening as the staff prepares for the weekend. I help them greet the families, carry the weekend luggage to the bedrooms, and take inventory of child items brought from home. I do whatever I can to help. I've also served as a pool

volunteer, kitchen helper, and group buddy. Whether I'm playing with the kids or helping make their meals, I love seeing the weekend run smoothly. The staff and volunteers work as a team to make an awesome weekend for the kids.

3. What have you learned by serving at Jill's House?

Before serving at Jill's House, I never knew about the stress on parents raising kids with special needs. Now I see it in their faces during Friday night check in. When the childcare specialists come to take the children to their rooms, the parents look sad and relieved. Obviously they are sad to say good-bye to their children for two nights, but they also look ready to rest and ready to focus on themselves or on their other kids.

4. Why do you serve at Jill's House?

I'm happy at Jill's House. I love getting to know the kids and seeing their unique talents. I also like serving alongside the staff. I've been here for so long now that I miss them whenever I miss a shift. It's also given me great professional experience. I'm preparing for college and I may pursue a degree in special education. Jill's House is helping me get ready for that.

5. What would you say to someone who is considering volunteering at Jill's House?

Do it! The staff will make sure you feel prepared to serve and you'll love getting to know the kids. It's a great experience.

To learn more about serving at Jill's House, visit jillshouse.org/serve or email maryrachel.robbs@jillshouse.org.