

Jewish help non-Jews spend Christmas with loved ones

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The Christmas Mitzvah Project unites the Jewish community during the holiday season as hundreds of volunteers lend a hand on Christmas Day, relieving hundreds of employees local charitable organizations and senior-living facilities to spend Christmas with their loved ones.

For 21 years, the Christmas Mitzvah Project has been providing volunteers to support various charitable organizations during the busy holiday season. This year, JEWISHcolorado teamed up with 17 sites throughout metro Denver with more than 300 volunteers participating.

Denver area Christmas Mitzvah sites included:

- Children's Hospital Colorado, Aurora
- Christian Living Communities, Centennial
- Christmas in the Park Program for the Homeless, Denver
- Denver Health – Newborns in Need
- Denver VA Medical Center – Inpatient Psychiatry Unit. Volunteers worked with veterans admitted to the hospital for acute psychiatric crises, with diagnoses ranging from PTSD and major depression to schizophrenia and bipolar mood disorder. Volunteers engaged in activities with these patients.
- Delores Project, Denver
- Family Tree Inc. Shelter for women and children, Wheat Ridge
- Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Denver
- JEWISHcolorado, Denver
- Kavod Senior Life, Denver
- Littleton Adventist Hospital, Littleton
- Rocky Mountain Feline Rescue, Denver – Volunteers cleaned the shelter and visited/played with the cats
- Ronald McDonald House, Denver
- Shalom Cares Senior Living Home, Aurora
- Sloan's Lake Rehabilitation Center, Denver
- Sunrise at Flatirons (senior assisted-living facility), Broomfield
- Zuma Rescue Ranch, Littleton – Volunteers helped care for 40 rescue horses, feeding and cleaning for this provider of equine therapy, which serves as a sanctuary and place of healing for both humans and animals in the Denver area.



Volunteers, including Britta Nissl and Chet Schwartz, cooked and served breakfast for about 60 residents of the Dolores Project Shelter as part of a program that encourages Jews and others to fill in for Christmas celebrants at nonprofit organizations.

The concept of tikkun olam (repairing the world) and caring for the vulnerable are key areas of focus for JEWISHcolorado. Providing volunteer relief to JEWISHcolorado's Christian counterparts throughout the community so that they may enjoy the holidays with their families, directly aligns with JEWISHcolorado's mission and purpose.

The Christmas Mitzvah Project affords participants an opportunity to do a mitzvah (good deed) during the busy holiday season. No special skills are required to participate, only a few hours of support to donate for a good cause. Friends and family of any faith are encouraged to participate.