

# WHO IS THE JFGH?

## Taking a look inside the lives of dedicated Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg Staff

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg (JFGH) has been successful for over 100 years, in part, due to our dedicated and talented staff. MarkJoseph Mumma Kasian, Aquatics Director, is just one of many staff who keeps this organization safe and welcoming to community members.**



**M**arkJoseph holds many titles as a part of the full-time staff. Members know him fondly as the “Head Lifeguard,” however, he is officially known as the Aquatics Director, Pool Manager, and Certified Pool Operator. These roles came fairly easy to MarkJoseph as he has many years of experience and intensive training in the field.

MarkJoseph began swimming at four years, old and by the time he was eight he was already helping his “Mom-Mom and Pop-Pop” maintain their own pool. He knew all about and how to operate pool mechanics and how to keep a pool clean.

Growing up, MarkJoseph participated in various sports, and was even a NCAA Division II soccer player in North Carolina for a few years. During practice, the day before a game, MarkJoseph suffered an upper shoulder injury and could no longer play alongside his teammates. This wound created many physical challenges for him, that is, until he began aqua therapy to improve his motor skills in his injured arm. He says that his time in aqua therapy reminded him of how much he loved the water and his natural talents in aquatic activities. “It was a time of reflection and I knew right then what I wanted to do -- make a difference offering aquatic therapy and saving lives,” says MarkJoseph. With his love for the water resurfaced, he focused on turning his passion into a career.

On March 26, 2006, MarkJoseph started his career in aquatics by becoming a lifeguard for the JCC’s Summer Day Camp at our Green Hills campus. He was only fifteen years old! During his time as a JCC part-time lifeguard, MarkJoseph taught swim lessons (both private and through the Camp). Over time, he gained more skills and experience and was offered a position as the Head Lifeguard for

**IT WAS A TIME OF REFLECTION AND I KNEW RIGHT THEN WHAT I WANTED TO DO -- MAKE A DIFFERENCE OFFERING AQUATIC THERAPY AND SAVING LIVES...**

both pools at Green Hills and the JCC campus. MarkJoseph was still quite young but was grateful to have a career following his passion -- enforcing pool safety, saving lives, and being around water.

With this new title, MarkJoseph had to take many courses to increase his knowledge in aquatics. Not only is he a Certified Pool Operator, he is also certified in First Aid, in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) -- a machine designed to provide electrical shock to the heart so that the heart resumes a normal heartbeat. MarkJoseph is also a state licensed lifeguard and a Pennsylvania Pesticides Applicator for Category 24, which means he can legally operate and maintain pool chemicals. “Since things are constantly changing, it is good to be up to date on the new rules and regulations in the field,” he explains. MarkJoseph continues to make sure he is doing everything he can to keep members safe and happy with water activities. Additionally, he attends a lifeguard training once a week during the summer at Green Hills.

MarkJoseph’s love for the water keeps him busy and keeps our pools safe and friendly for public usage. All of his hard work and training has paid off and MarkJoseph says, “I can see myself doing this for the rest of my life.” Dedicated workers like him keep the JFGH “afloat” and keep community members coming back to the JCC.

*Thank you, MarkJoseph, for all of your hard work!*