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**Meet William.** A man in his late sixties from a small town in the Midwest with a jovial demeanor. I overheard him last week in the hallway at the JCC telling someone that "this place saved my life". Intrigued, I found my way over to William to find out more. He shared with me that he has been coming to the J three times a week for over ten years. It started when he had an accident and damaged his leg. His doctor recommended he come here and use our warm-water pool to help in his rehabilitation. What touched me most was what he said next.

He said being in the warm-water did help but it was everything else he encountered here that turned his life around. **The people.** Deep friendships he made while soothing in the spa each visit and the camaraderie of this group of men, from diverse backgrounds, that infused his life with an unexpected feeling of support. He got a little misty as he told me about the heartfelt caring he felt from each staff person every time he comes to the J and the sense of belonging these connections continue to instill in him. **The place.** He laughed a bit when he said he had not known any Jewish people while growing up and never thought he'd feel welcome at a JCC. But, he fills enriched learning about another culture and breaking down old thoughts he had from long ago. William went on to tell me that he beyond coming to the J to keep fit and meet up with his spa buddies, he now comes to adult learning classes and performing arts events here that keep his mind fit too. As our chat winded down, he summed it all up in a special way.

He said the J helped him re-connect with life during a difficult time and remains the essential ingredient that keeps him healthy now - mind, body and soul. **Every week nearly 9,000 people visit our JCC and there are a lot of people just like William.**

**We rely on donations, from people like you, to keep our JCC strong. Our JCC is a gathering place where stories are shared, friends are made, lives are touched, community is built. It can't happen without donations.**

**Will you become our partner and make a [donation](#) today?**

*Giving is easy - online at [marinjcc.org/donate](http://marinjcc.org/donate) or at the JCC.*

*Building community ....one partner at a time.*

Thank You,



Judy Wolff-Bolton  
Executive Director



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