VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHY
ABOUT MOTHERS & CAREGIVERS OF THE YEAR

Every Mother’s Day, we here at TJC get to reflect on and celebrate the best part about our jobs: our courageous and inspiring clients. We are looking for volunteer photographers to take family portraits of our Mothers and Caregivers of the Year.

We began this celebration in 2000, when our Executive Director attended the visitation for an 18-year-old client. His mother Paula, a home health nurse, was burying her second son due to a rare genetic neurological disorder. She was moved by the love and tenacity Paula showed in fighting for the health care her son desperately needed, but when she asked to see a family photo, Paula said that there was never time or money for that.

Since then, we have honored over 100 moms and caregivers as TJC Mothers and Caregivers of the Year. Each of these families receives a professional family portrait with their honor. Their photos line the front wall of our office, and their stories inspire us all year round.

DETAILS

Some of these pictures will be printed in large sizes, so we ask that you take and send high resolution shots.

Ideally this will be a family portrait, so we are looking for photos not just of the caregivers but of the entire family. Many photographers in the past haven taken a variety of pictures including full family shots as well as some with just the parents, just the mom and kids, etc. This is a great way to make sure the family gets a truly special gift!

Most photographers give at least 15-20 photos so that the families have an array of pictures to choose from. We ask that you please refrain from only sending us one or two select photos, as this entire photo shoot is supposed to be a gift to the family.

You may be working with someone who has complicated health needs. Please be patient and respectful as you strive to get the best photo possible.

These mothers and families have often worked very hard to get specialized care for a relative or loved one. Often, this will be their first family portrait as time and money can be scarce when dealing with health complications. These families have struggled greatly and we will not tolerate any disrespectful behavior towards our clients. We are looking for volunteers who will treat our clients with the utmost kindness and respect.
HOW IT WORKS

STEP 1: Please let us know how far you are willing to travel when you volunteer. We will match you with a caregiver and send you an email with their name, a little bit about their story, and their contact information.

STEP 2: You will arrange a time and place with your assigned caregiver (and family). You can arrange to meet them at their house, in a park nearby, or whatever is comfortable for the two of you. **Note:** Due to the ongoing pandemic, we ask that you please coordinate your sessions to take place outdoors. Make sure to schedule the photoshoot in a timely manner. **In order to meet our deadlines, we will need to receive the photos by April 8th.**

STEP 3: You can discuss attire with the families – they can dress nicely, casually, or whatever you think is best.

STEP 4: Go take the photos. Gas will be reimbursed for your travel. What we find truly special in a photo is when you can capture the relationship and love between these family members. It is always nice to have a variety of photos that include posed family portraits, and some candid shots that express emotion and connection.

STEP 5: You can send us the photos when they are completed – in any way that is easiest for you – and we’ll make sure the families get them digitally as well as a printed and framed photograph. We ask that you do not send the photos directly to the families because we usually send them in a package as part of a Mother’s Day gift.

STEP 6: We will only choose one or two photos to post on our website and in press releases, but the rest will go to the family. Therefore please don’t feel as though you need to edit any or all of the photos. Many families just want some nice unedited pictures to hang on their wall!

STEP 7: You will be credited for the photos and can provide the information that we post with the picture, including name, website, contact info, etc.

WHAT OUR PAST VOLUNTEERS SAY

“I was so moved by this organization letting these women know they are awesome!! It’s obvious they have had a strenuous journey, but something as simple as a gift basket and beautiful photos let us know this is given and received from the HEART!!”

“Hearing about their story made me wonder how many other people we encounter on a daily basis who may appear to be well physically but are dealing with serious medical issues and spending so much of their time navigating the insurance/legal aspects while also trying to manage their illness.”

Ready to volunteer? Please contact Dranda Whaley at dwhaley@tnjustice.org and we’ll get you matched with one of our Mothers/Caregivers. Thank you!