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# Giving Back Volunteering Makes the World Go Round

A new year is here! Reflecting back on the holiday season every year, I am always humbled by the amount of community service and doing good for others that I see take place around the holidays. I always make an effort to do my part, and I get The Whisler Law Firm involved as well.

This past Thanksgiving, we partnered with MJ Scarlett Foundation, Inc. and other organizations to assist with their second annual Hope for the Holidays charity event in Downtown Broward to help the homeless. The event was unlike any other — the homeless were able to take a warm shower on the mobile shower bus while listening to music, get a haircut, pick out some new clothes and shoes, and enjoy snack bags and a warm barbecue chicken meal.

An elderly woman stated, "This is my best Thanksgiving in many decades. God's angels are amazing. They come in all sizes and shapes, and I love you all." Having the opportunity for our firm to participate in such a beautiful event to make a difference in the lives of many was such a great way to give back.

Volunteerism and doing good for others is one of the pillars of our firm. Most, if not all, of us lead busy lives, so the idea of volunteering time seems to be impossible. Still, try to find the time in your jam-packed schedule because giving back is important for more than one reason for both the volunteer and the beneficiary.

Volunteering connects you with others. In widening your social circle via volunteering, you have the opportunity to meet new people, strengthen existing relationships, and build ties to your community. The best part is that you'll likely find yourself interacting with groups of people you normally wouldn't find yourself meeting.



Volunteering also builds confidence and boosts your self-esteem. In doing good for others, a natural sense of accomplishment is developed. Especially if you're shy or fearful of stepping outside your comfort zone, volunteering helps to get you involved in ways you normally wouldn't.

Research shows that getting out and helping others actually contributes to lower blood pressure and a longer lifespan. Volunteering in some capacities also involves some physical activity, so getting out and helping the community is also a great way to work some exercise into your routine as well.

No matter how you choose to give back, helping others in a selfless way is one of the best things you can do to make a difference. Helping out the less fortunate benefits everyone, and you never know how much even the smallest act of kindness can help another.

What acts of volunteerism are you planning on getting involved in throughout 2022? Email us at [Intake@whislerlawfirm.com](mailto:Intake@whislerlawfirm.com) to tell us all about it!

*Josh Whisler*

To get involved with or contribute to the MJ Scarlett Foundation, visit their website at [MJScarlettFoundationInc.org](http://MJScarlettFoundationInc.org).

# EMBRACE YOUR INNER BOOKWORM

## *4 Secrets to Finding Time to Read as a Busy Parent*

When you think of reading, you might conjure up an image of yourself curled up next to a cozy fireplace, sipping on coffee, and reading the day away. However, with the hustle and bustle of daily life and raising kids, it's tough to find the time to truly dive into a good book. We know it's important to read to our children, but we forget how valuable it is for them to see us reading, too.

So, how can you fit it into your schedule?

### **Don't leave the house without a book.**

Whether you are waiting in the pickup line at school, at the dentist's office, for your order at the coffee shop, or at your kid's soccer practice, this downtime could be spent reading a chapter of your book.

### **Schedule reading time.**

This one sounds quite silly, but as parents know, if you don't make time for something, it won't get done. Plan out 30 minutes of reading time each day to allow yourself to get comfortable and read without distractions. The trick here is to make sure you don't cancel on yourself!

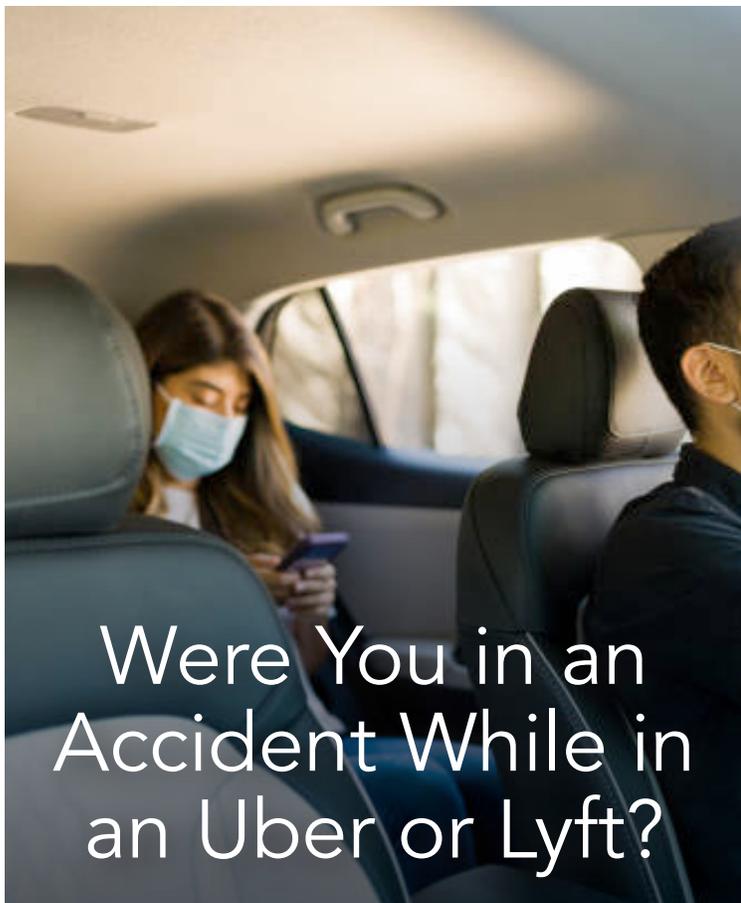
### **Make it a family affair.**

Sometimes parents feel guilty when they take time for themselves that could be spent with their children. If this sounds like you, make time to read together — the kids read their books, and you read yours! Some days, this may last 10 minutes, but other times, they may stay captivated longer. Either way, you are creating healthy habits for your kids while getting in a chapter for yourself, too!

### **Swap out the movies for books.**

Once the kids are tucked in after a long day, it sounds so nice to park yourself in front of the television with a cozy blanket and mindlessly watch a good movie or an episode of your favorite show. However, instead of watching TV for an hour, dedicate some or all of that time to reading. This way, you're still making progress in your book.

No matter how you make the time to read, you will be glad you did. Good luck and happy reading!



## Were You in an Accident While in an Uber or Lyft?

We all have taken an Uber or a Lyft at some point. With their growing popularity here in South Florida, legislation has developed accordingly. As you may imagine, when an accident occurs involving an Uber or Lyft, determining liability can be tough. Even if you were the driver, talking with an attorney to protect yourself from an unfair settlement is paramount because these situations can get messy.

Drivers for ride-sharing companies are independent contractors who begin acting as a commercial driver when they accept a passenger. Even though they likely have adequate personal coverage, they do not have commercial coverage, so insurance companies will not provide coverage if they are in an accident while driving a passenger.

Every driver has a legal obligation to operate their vehicle with due care. If a driver breaches this duty and is responsible for an accident, they are liable for any damages they cause, which is why every state in the U.S. requires drivers to carry liability insurance. But it isn't that simple.

If someone is ever injured in an Uber or Lyft, determining which insurance company is tasked with compensating the injured party is difficult because different coverages kick in during very specific periods during the ride-sharing ride. This is why an attorney is necessary to navigate the circumstances to reach a fair settlement.

The unique situation that Uber and Lyft present when faced with an accident limits the ability to pursue a lawsuit against the companies themselves. It is worthwhile to always discuss your legal options with a law firm like us! Call us today if you've been involved in an Uber or Lyft accident.

# THE INS AND OUTS OF SLIP-AND-FALL ACCIDENTS

One of the most common types of workplace injuries is slip-and-falls, and they can incur some pretty hefty medical bills. If you fell while on the premises of someone else's property, you might have the right to recover a settlement to account for your medical bills and compensate you for your pain and suffering. In Florida, to achieve this, you must be able to prove the following:

1. The fall took place on someone else's property.
2. You slipped on a substance.
3. The substance you slipped on created a dangerous condition.
4. The owner of the property had actual or constructive knowledge of the dangerous condition.
5. The dangerous condition was not repaired when it should have been.

But, how do we prove actual or constructive knowledge of the dangerous condition? Florida law says that if it can be proven that the dangerous condition existed long enough that the owner should have found it, if the dangerous situation took place on a repeated basis, or if the owner knew about the situation and neglected to fix it, then they can be held liable.

Keep in mind that after a slip-and-fall injury, the actions you take can make all the difference in your case. If it happens to you, make sure you report the incident to the owner of the premises, record any witness information, gather any evidence you may have (including photos), report injuries to a health care provider, avoid giving any recorded statements, and attend all of your doctor appointments.

Lastly, reach out to us with all the information surrounding the incident to see if you have a case and how we can best assist you in obtaining the representation and compensation you deserve! We've got your back!



## DEEP-FRIED NEW YEAR'S 'COOKIES'

*Inspired by MennoniteGirlsCanCook.ca*

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp yeast
- 1/2 cup water, warmed
- 1/2 cup and 1 tsp sugar, divided
- 5 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 2 1/2 cups milk, warmed
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 4 cups raisins
- 7 cups flour
- 4 cups canola oil

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, combine yeast, water, and 1 tsp sugar. Wait 10 minutes.
2. Stir in remaining sugar, eggs, butter, milk, and salt.
3. Fold in the raisins and flour. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap. Let the dough rise for an hour.
4. In a high-sided pot or deep fryer, heat canola oil to 340 F. Line a plate with paper towels.
5. Drop a rounded tablespoon of dough into the oil. Fry until golden brown, then set aside on the plate. Poke the cookie with a toothpick. If the toothpick comes out clean, it's cooked through!
6. Repeat until the batter is gone.

## IN AN ACCIDENT?

Check out our  
personal injury blog and  
informative articles at  
[WhislerLawFirm.com](http://WhislerLawFirm.com)

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."

—Oprah Winfrey

*We're so grateful for all the feedback on our newsletter! If you have anything you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you.*

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# SKILLS THAT ENRICH US

## *The Importance of Having a Hobby*

January is National Hobby Month, and since it falls at the beginning of the year, it's the perfect time to try something new! Hobbies add variety to your life and ensure you aren't just living to work, so to speak. The best way to find a hobby you enjoy is to be open to new things. Whether it's gardening, reading, drawing, running, fishing, crafting, or even beekeeping, finding an activity you enjoy is important. Here's why!

### **Hobbies are stress relievers.**

Hobbies offer a healthy escape from your busy lifestyle by keeping you engaged in something you find pleasure in. Instead of just relaxing on the couch and turning off your mind for a bit (which is totally acceptable sometimes), hobbies allow you to remain mentally productive while winding down at the same time.

### **Hobbies also provide eustress.**

Believe it or not, one type of stress is deemed beneficial: eustress. If you aren't overly stressed

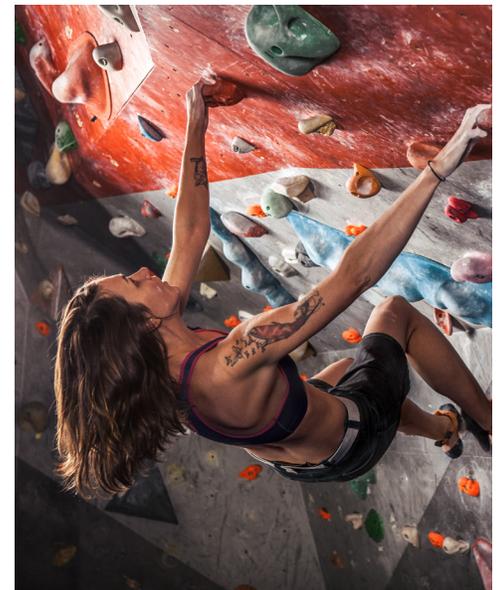
and are feeling a little under-stimulated, a hobby can provide activity for both your mind and body to keep you feeling excited about life and ready to take on new challenges and adventures.

### **Hobbies offer a social outlet.**

Some hobbies involve group activities, such as bowling, sports teams, book clubs, and even wine tasting. Connecting with others offers the social support humans depend on to lead a healthy and fruitful life. Who knows? Maybe you'll find some great friends who share the same passions as you!

### **Hobbies develop patience.**

When you take on a new hobby, you are tasked with learning something new. Whether you're practicing a new instrument, learning a different language, or figuring out how to make jewelry, a learning curve is involved. Building new skills takes patience, a very important attribute for success.



Finding a hobby that suits you may take some exploration and trial and error, but it is all in good fun! Make it your goal to try something new or learn a new skill each month until you find something that sticks. Once you do, you're sure to find that hobbies are both enjoyable and enriching!