

Career Readiness Success!

With the creation of **Re-Launch** Career Services in February 2016, we knew we were on to something. Since its inception, nearly 200 individuals have received assistance at Jewish Family & Children's Services in the form of one-on-one counseling and career workshops. Focused on resume revision, writing targeted, effective cover letters, conducting mock interviews and offering career guidance, **Re-Launch** focuses its efforts on job readiness, not placement.

What's been interesting to see, however, is the success so many of the **Re-Launch** clients have had in LANDING a new job. Nearly one in four people who have received assistance through the program report that they are now in a new or better job. This huge statistic is even more impressive when taken in context – many of the individuals seen had been facing long-term unemployment. Working with other core services of JFCS, including counseling and concrete support services, nearly one quarter of the **Re-Launch** family is now employed and financially stable.

We are proud to be able to provide this type of help to members of our community, and look forward to seeing more of our Re-Launch clients find great success in their career searches.



Reaching the Greater Community

Meet them where they are... It seems so simple, that as mental health professionals, we want to make it as easy as possible for people to access care. We try to remove all barriers of entry to allow for clients and potential clients to feel comfortable – to feel safe. For many people, a familiar location provides this comfort.

With this in mind, JFCS has expanded its Community Outreach program with our Synagogue Social Workers through a grant funded through Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey. Located in synagogues and schools throughout Bergen and Passaic Counties, an individual has the opportunity to meet with a clinician up to three times before scheduling an appointment in one of our three offices. This flexibility provides one with the opportunity to build trust and comfort in a

location where they already feel at home. It also allows JFCS to reach individuals in communities who are not as familiar with our programs and services – expanding our reach and our ability to help those in need.

This year, the program has grown to include support groups, with topics often chosen by the host synagogue. Have individuals suffering from chronic pain? We can provide a support group. Have a group of parents struggling with raising children on the autistic spectrum? Our clinicians will organize a program tailored to your needs. If your synagogue is interested in participating in this unique program, please contact JessicaF@JFCSNNJ.org.



We Change Perspectives.

With a wide array of professional clinicians on staff, JFCS is uniquely qualified to offer counseling services to the entire family – when and where it's needed most. With three offices and flexible hours that include evenings and Sundays, we are able to accommodate even the most difficult schedule.

- Individual, Couples and Family Therapy**
- Specialized Therapy for Children and Adolescents**
- Play Therapy**
- Support Groups**
- Synagogue and School Based Social Workers**

We Change Situations.

With community programs designed to help meet life's many challenges, JFCS can provide assistance in getting individuals and families back on their feet.

- Food Pantry Services**
- Kosher meals-on-wheels**
- Emergency Financial Assistance**
- Re-Launch Career Services**
- Aid and Advocacy**
- Camp Scholarships**
- Financial Freedom Support Groups**

We Change Lives.

When it seems that there is nowhere to turn for help, JFCS is a beacon of light in the darkness. Providing guidance, support and care management, we can provide comfort, support and care through life's most difficult times.

- Senior Care Management**
- Senior Homecare**
- Wolff Caregiver Center**
- Kosher meals-on-wheels**
- Support for Victims of Domestic Violence**
- Bereavement Support**
- Specialized Care for Holocaust Survivors**

1485 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666

1 Pike Drive
Wayne, NJ 07470

17-10 River Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410



Jewish Family & Children's Services
of Northern New Jersey

Based on Jewish tradition and values, JFCSNNJ's mission is to strengthen and enhance the well-being of all who call upon us by providing professional and compassionate human services to effectively meet life's many challenges.

We are now accepting donations of used vehicles in any condition.



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Go to jfcnnj.org and donate your vehicle today! For more information please call 201-837-9090



Find us on



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the first Annual Report of Jewish Family & Children's Services of Northern Jersey, an agency that has emerged from the combination of two organizations within our community. As Board President, I see firsthand that we are exponentially stronger than each of the two "JFS" entities. JFCS is able to better serve the needs of those who call upon us for a myriad of services including mental health counseling, Holocaust Survivor assistance, kosher meals-on-wheels, group therapy, senior services, career counseling, and much, much more. As we continue to increase our capacity, our marketing efforts and referrals have let the community know what we do and know that we do it well. As word spreads, our impact increases. The snowball effect has been astonishing to see.

JFCS relies on support from individual and community sponsors as well as agency partners, and we are grateful for both the financial assistance and the constant encouragement that we receive. We would especially like to thank Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey for their support and guidance throughout this past year. With the creation of our new agency, we continue to work together to address the needs of our community and expand on breadth and variety of services. I hope each of you will take the time to read this report and see what we have been able to accomplish.



With sincere appreciation,

Shira Feuerstein

Shira Feuerstein,
President

Dear JFCS Friends and Family,

What a year this has been. It's hard to fathom that just a few short months ago, there was no Jewish Family & Children's Services of Northern New Jersey. It existed only on paper, a complex design drawn-up, dissected and debated for the purpose of combining two entities into one. Now, as CEO of this new social service agency, I can look back and appreciate the time, thought, effort and, yes, pain that have resulted in its creation.

With the help and guidance of Jewish Federation of Northern NJ, and the incredible determination of two hard working Boards of directors, JFCSNJJ was born. As with any process, we've had our trials and tribulations. Combining staffs, technical platforms, office procedures, cultures and personalities is not always easy, but I'm proud to say, to the credit of all the participants, we've blended beautifully.

We are thriving. It is clear that our merged agency is better and stronger than the sum of its two parts. Our clinical services are up in all three locations. Clinical calls have increased by 50%. We are serving more geographic communities than ever before through the outreach of our synagogue social workers. Hundreds of individuals have been helped through our Re-Launch career services initiative. Over 900 students are participating in Club Ed - our afterschool program. Our food pantry has doubled in size and capacity. Over 300 Holocaust survivors get in home services through our Senior Services department. Our more than 200 volunteers are delivering 79,000 kosher meals on wheels this year alone.

With sincerest thanks,

Susan Greenbaum

Susan Greenbaum
Chief Executive Officer



I would like to thank our Board of Directors, who give of themselves for the betterment of our community. You are a group of talented, smart, thoughtful and kind individuals who help make JFCS relevant and successful. Thank you to the incredible staff who work tirelessly and with compassion each day. We also rely on our amazing volunteers who generously donate their time and effort and we greatly appreciate all that they do. Susan Greenbaum, our CEO, you are truly an exceptional

leader and your commitment to the agency is evident every day. We are fortunate to have you at the helm, and we know you will continue to ensure the success and growth of the agency.

Finally, I encourage each of you to get involved: volunteer, join a committee, donate and learn what we are about. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued support.

With sincere appreciation,

Shira Feuerstein

Shira Feuerstein,
President

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70,000
Kosher meals-on-wheels were delivered, feeding at risk seniors seven days a week.



Volunteers provided
10,433
hours of service.



JFCS Volunteers made
2,730
Friendly visits to check on homebound seniors.



24,300
hours of individual, couples, family and group counseling provided.



1,079
students attended Club-Ed Afterschool program.



Calls for Mental Health Services have increased
50%
in the first four months of 2017.



JFCS provided
56,625
hours of homecare services to allow 300 Holocaust Survivors to remain safe at home.




Our Impact




R.S.V.P volunteers packed and delivered
250
emergency preparedness kits.



Club-Ed provided
575,367
hours of child care this year.



97%
of our seniors are able to remain independent and safe in their homes.




Food pantry visits are on target to serve
2,896
people this year.




984
Senior Services clients receiving care.



Financial Freedom Support group had
100%
success rate; all of its members are now fully employed and financially independent.



Club-Ed personnel provided
287,684
hours of homework assistance.



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JFCS Creates Passover Food Pantry

Stop & Shop donated two tons of Kosher for Passover food to the JFCS Food Pantry this March, allowing us to set up our first strictly kosher for Passover pantry. This year, JFCS expects to feed nearly 2,900 individuals through the pantry, but we also know that many more families in the community who are on the cusp of needing services cannot afford the tremendous food bills that come at Passover time. The Passover pantry allowed for individuals who do not normally receive services to partake of the pantry on a one-time basis.

Melanie Koslow of Fair Lawn has been a beneficiary of the JFCS Kosher Food Pantry since 2008. A former social service case worker, she says she needed to be taught it was alright to accept assistance. "They have been there for me whenever I needed their help. They have provided me with Shabbat provisions and even make sure I have candles for Sabbath. They are awesome. I am so appreciative of the support Stop & Shop is providing to the pantry. They are making it possible for so many area residents in need to celebrate the Passover holiday with dignity and a full heart."

People in financial crisis in Bergen and Passaic Counties – particularly Jews – are sometimes invisible. They are invisible because suburban poverty doesn't look like the images of urban poverty which we're exposed to. People in severe financial trouble live in our neighborhoods, are well put-together, send their children to school, pray next to us, and for as long as possible keep up "appearances". Behind this facade, however, homes are in foreclosure; family members shower in the dark, in cold water, due to utilities being shut off; despite financial aid, yeshiva tuition remains unpaid; children in larger families eat rationed food; people forgo essential medical appointments and/or medications. JFCS is here for them, with a true sensitivity to preserving their privacy as well as their self-respect.



"Poverty can take many forms. It is important to recognize that there are many people who live within our communities who are struggling to put food on the table and meet other basic needs," said Rabbi Chaim Poupko, of Congregation Ahavath Torah in Englewood, and the President of the Rabbinical Council of Bergen County. "With the coming Passover holiday, some of our neighbors are forced to make difficult choices to provide for their family. We are remarkably fortunate that JFCS is dedicated to address this critically important issue. Stop & Shop deserves special recognition for their generosity in addressing these challenges. Their donation of two tons of Kosher for Passover food to JFCS's Kosher for Passover Food Pantry will enable countless families in the Jewish Community to celebrate the holiday and provide for their families with a sense of dignity. The RCBC is enormously grateful to Stop & Shop and JFCS for being exemplars of charity and kindness."

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Let's Hear it for the KIDS!

Teaching children and young-adults compassion, empathy, and a sense of responsibility for their fellow man is a long-term process. Schools, synagogues, youth groups and parents are always on the lookout for opportunities to actualize these values through mitzvah projects in the community. Jewish Family & Children's Services is fortunate that we have a continuous stream of calls offering assistance – so much so that we now have a coordinator on staff just to handle all of these projects.

Last summer, Camp Ramah in Nyack held a bowl-a-thon, raising over \$750 to purchase emergency supplies for homebound seniors in our meals-on-wheels program. The campers collected additional provisions, including shelf-stable food, paper goods, whistles, batteries and bottled water. After listening to a staff member from Jewish Family & Children's Services describe the need for emergency preparedness, the kids packed all of the necessities which were delivered by our volunteers.

Jackie Zide, a 7th grader from Teaneck, has been volunteering at JFCS throughout the year. Her bat mitzvah project was to put together packages of craft supplies for the children in the Club Ed afterschool program. She has volunteered her time stocking shelves in our pantry, packing emergency supplies for our meals-on-wheels clients, and even held a lemonade stand on a Friday afternoon, making almost \$500 in lemonade sales to help feed families in need.

Daniella Grinker, in 6th grade at SSDS, has joined the Wheels-for-Meals Ride to Fight Hunger committee this year with her dad, Shepard. Shep has been involved in the ride for several years through the Tenafly Bicycle Workshop. When he brought Daniella to a meeting one evening, it lit a spark in her, encouraging her to do her share to help the effort. Daniella is smart and well-spoken, and has asked her school to allow her to address the student body in an effort to encourage other students to join the ride. Putting up posters throughout the school, she is an avid ombudsman for the event, and we're excited to see her passion for the cause.

The Israeli Scouts, who meet at the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades, have taken on JFCS as a partner agency. They have performed mitzvah projects throughout the year, visiting seniors at Café Europa, holding food drives outside a local grocery store, and stocking the shelves of our Kosher for Passover Food Pantry. They have become part of the family. Many of the Scouts' mothers participate in our Israeli Connection program, and did their own mitzvah project this year, creating dozens of mishloach manot packages for Purim to be distributed to our clients.

We are so very proud of these kids, and of the many others whose mitzvah projects and volunteer efforts help JFCS provide services to the thousands of individuals we assist each year.



Gala 2016

In the ballroom, a beam of light shined down on the speaker, who began to tell her story:

"The abuse began slowly - screaming, a shove once in a while. He always apologized and told me he loved me. Soon, though, it escalated. My kids witnessed it. My son stepped in to protect me, and it was then that my husband turned on my kids as well. I left the marriage, but moving on emotionally has been tough on all of us. I'm working two jobs to make ends meet, and my time and funds are limited. I knew that we all needed help - we each needed someone to talk to - to help us understand that it wasn't our fault. I have three kids, and therapy is expensive...I was referred to Jewish Family Service by our pediatrician. They have a great team of clinicians, late hours, and thankfully, they accept all insurance. They see each of us at the same hour - four different people in four different therapy rooms. Every other week we come together for family therapy. It's good to be able to speak together in a safe environment. The bruises are all long gone, and the emotional scars are healing too. It's a process. I'm grateful to see my children smiling again... I am a JFS client."



Susan Greenbaum, Beth Nadel, Ellen Finkelstein, Debra Harris and Shira Feuerstein

It wasn't an actual client, but a volunteer actor, reading the words of an individual helped by the agency. One by one, volunteers stood and shared these personal stories, bringing to life the work done every day by our staff of professional clinicians and case managers. Emotional and raw, the stories struck a note for each person in attendance.

This year's Annual Gala, the last one to be held by JFS of Bergen and North Hudson, was the most successful one to date. Honoring Ellen & Lloyd Sokoloff and Lisa Marcus Abramowitz and Steven Abramowitz, the agency brought in over \$400,000 to be used for programs and services. Held at the Woodcliff Lake Hilton, our more than 300 guests left a wonderful evening with a new appreciation for the tremendous work being done each day. We are deeply grateful to our leadership for their hard work, incredible generosity and sheer passion.



Lisa Marcus Abramowitz and Steven Abramowitz, honorees



Suzette and Harry Diamond

Event Chairs

Beth and Jay Nadel

Sponsorship Chairs

Debbie and Mickey Harris

Journal Chairs

Suzette and Harry Diamond

Committee

Elana Bensadigh

Diane Fink

Laurie Goldman

Helen Graf

Sanda Kessler

Bernard Koster

Angela Maman

Joan Oppenheimer

Lisa Oshman

Sheryl Sarnak

Karen Scharfstein

Diane Seiden

Bonnie Silfen

Lisa Urbanski

Arlene Weiss



Ellen and Lloyd Sokoloff, honorees