# Strengthening families, caring for our COMMUNITY

# 2016 Annual Report





### Facing life's challenges, TOGETHER.



### Repairing the world, one person at a time.

Jewish Family Services is about caring for each other when life gets difficult. We are here for you, a family member, or the stranger in our community.

A breadth of programs strengthen families through education and support to help them flourish at every life stage; guide older adults through the complexities of aging; support our youth by helping them build self-esteem, confidence and a sense of place in the world; and give a helping hand when finances fall short, the groceries run out, or a job is lost.

"You no longer feel you are alone and that no one cares." - JFS client

# Family is our middle name.

Like family, JFS is the place to turn when facing challenges in everyday life or unexpected times of crisis.

Our mission is to support and strengthen the lives of children, families and older adults throughout Kansas City, building stronger families and communities. We connect those in need with a breadth of services and resources - regardless of faith, age, culture and lifestyle.



# A message from JFS President, David Kaseff, and JFS Executive Director & CEO, Don Goldman

The last year has been full of challenging times for our country. We have seen the growth of hate groups, natural disasters, and potential decreases in funding for people in need. During this difficult time, the staff and volunteers at JFS try to bring some light in the darkness, helping families manage crises and live better, more independent lives.

JFS continues to help more families than ever before, helping over 7,000 people with direct service in 2016.



**David Kaseff, Board President** 

Some recent accomplishments include:

- The opening of our 13,000 square feet Brookside East office. The office was designed for growth, client accessibility and efficiency allowing us to expand all programs over the next 5-10 years. This new office, together with the office at the J, will together provide easy access for clients throughout Johnson and Jackson counties.
- We began the operational expansion of the large, new Brookside Pantry which will quadruple the number of families served there, compared to the Missouri pantry it replaced.
- We, along with KU Hillel and the Jewish Federation, launched TribeKC, a program to reach out to Jewish young professionals to help them continue to connect to the Jewish community. In the last year, TribeKC connected to more than 700 younger adults, helping them find their way to social justice and service, while they socialized with their peers.
- JFS, in partnership with SpeakUp, a group of families who've lost children to suicide, and Bernstein Rein advertising, launched YouBeYou, a teen mental health campaign. The campaign was created in response to the rising suicide rates among teens and seeks to spread a message of self-acceptance. Over 14,000 students in 14 middle and high schools will have access to this campaign.
- And to ensure that we can continue our mission for the next 116 years, JFS met the \$7 Million goal for commitments to the Fund for the Future, our permanent endowment.

Don Goldman, Executive Director & CEO

While these are the headlines for the last year, our most important work takes place when each of our staff members or volunteers helps a family in need and makes their lives just a bit easier, whether they are part of our Food and Shelter program, Older Adult Services, Chaplaincy program or Mental Health program. As we begin the year 5778 on the Hebrew calendar, we will continue our mission to providing essential human services for people facing challenges in everyday life or times of crisis—regardless of faith, age, culture, and lifestyle.

David Kaseff
Board President

Don Goldman, Executive Director & CEO

# Food, Shelter and Employment

Two full-service food pantries, financial assistance for essential expenses and a career counseling and employment program provide assistance for unexpected financial and emotional needs.

# **Food Pantry**

The JFS Food Pantry provides monthly food assistance to persons and families who are food insecure. The program serves clients of all ages: seniors living on a fixed income, families and individuals experiencing job loss, and other at-risk individuals.



In Jackson County, over 18% of individuals and almost 25% of children are food insecure. our area, about 56% of those with food insecurity qualify for food from the Federal SNAP (food stamp) program. However, SNAP benefits only provide about 3 weeks of food each month. Therefore, food pantries are needed to provide about 1 week's food each month to ensure that low-income households do not run out of food before the end of the month. For the 44% that are food insecure but do not receive SNAP benfits, the pantry supplements what they can provide from their own resources. Items such as toilet paper and personal hygiene needs cannot be purchased with SNAP funds. The JFS food pantry assists in filling that gap.

Even in Johnson County, a generally affluent area, over 11% of individuals and almost 19% of children are food insecure meaning that without assistance, they do not have access to enough food to prevent hunger and have a healthy diet.

We like to refer to the Food Pantry as a "choice pantry". We provide the dignity to select the items they need and will use during an appointment. Some agencies are only able to offer a couple of bags of pre-selected food until it runs out and force clients to line up for services. We offer pet food, paper goods, diapers and incontinence supplies and have the only VAAD supervised kosher pantry in Kansas City.

Food for cats and dogs is available from our very own Jasmine's Corner, so pet owners don't have to forgo eating in order to keep their beloved pets fed. Last year 1,275 pets received food from the pantry.

The JFS Food Pantry is an affiliate of the Harvesters Food Network and a partner agency of Happy Bottoms, Kansas City's baby diaper bank.



The JFS Food Pantry, with locations in Overland Park, KS and Kansas City, MO, is the community's response to the growing need for food assistance in greater Kansas City. Since opening in the Fall of 2012, the struggle against hunger and food insecurity continues to grow. Since 2012 we have more than doubled the number of families served each month to more than 300 families. JFS distributes 17,500 pounds of food each month to singles, families and older adults. Thirty percent of the people served are children under the age of 18.

"We want to thank you and all of JFS for helping us during a desperate time of our life with rent, utility, and food assistance. We honestly don't know what we would have done without your help."



# **Emergency Assistance**

Crises can happen to anyone. In trying times, JFS offers both financial and emotional support to help struggling families get back on their feet and on the road to self-sufficiency. Specific funds are used to help with emergencies such as rent, medical needs, utility bills and groceries. JFS collaborates with organizations throughout the community to provide the best support possible.

JFS, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and other foundations, manages funds to help community members meet emergency and long-term needs. Qualifying recipients must live in the Greater Kansas City (five county) area.

JFS Food and Shelter Program provides information and referral, connection with community resources, collaborative problem solving, and direct financial assistance to families dealing with financial emergencies that threaten their ability to meet their basic needs. A range of funds allows strategic financial assistance directed to help families get back on their feet. Food and Shelter also serves as an access point to services such as the food pantry, low interest loans, legal support, budgeting, and financial planning.

### **Career Skills & Connections**

Career Skills & Connections (CSC), provides comprehensive job search guidance to professionals in the Kansas City Metro area. Following current best practices, our experienced Professional Career Coaches teach clients to use proven techniques that increase marketability, shorten the job search, and land that next opportunity.

#### Core services are:

Career Coaching: One-on-one support and guidance designed to help clients develop and execute effective career transition strategies to meet their career goals and land their next opportunity.

Skills Workshops: CSC provides eight workshops including Networking, LinkedIn, Interviewing, and Salary Negotiation. Workshops provide a great opportunity to learn while you network!

Coffee Club: Our weekly Monday Morning Coffee Club meets from 9-11 am in the JCC Board Room. The first hour, led by one of the Career Coaches, includes an educational component on a job search related topic. The remaining time provides an opportunity for networking, the best way to land your next opportunity!

"Thank you for showing how much you care about JES clients, not just as candidates for employment (as important as that is), but also as real people with real lives and real challenges."



"My care manager covered everything so that I can remain in my home. If something comes up, I know who to call."

# **Older Adult Services**

Comprehensive aging-in-place programs provide counseling, advocacy, care management, transportation and light home repair.

# Care Management

The Care Management program supports the quality of life of older adults as they age in their own homes and communities. Care managers provide and coordinate home and community-based services which promote health, wellness, social engagement, mobility, and self-efficacy.

Care management is central to our mission to "support and strengthen lives" and is an essential service supporting older adults as they confront the challenges of aging or need help dealing with health, financial, or other crises. Care management is the hub of an array of services JFS provides to support older adults age in community, a top of the mission priority.

Our care management program is a leader in providing innovative and effective older adult services. We are the largest, most active provider of this service in the metro-area. For low-income, vulnerable older adults, JFS is the only provider of this service in Jackson County, Missouri and one of only two in Johnson County, Kansas. We are also leading community efforts toward greater access to services for older and adults and encouraging greater movement toward greater inter-agency collaboration.



### JET Express

JET Express utilizes community volunteers, driving their own vehicles, to provide transportation to older adults, helping to ensure they are able to access required medical treatment, perform necessary tasks such as grocery shopping and enjoy outings such as going to the hairdresser, synagogue or visiting with friends. The programs' objectives are to alleviate the financial and emotional strain of finding and paying for transportation and to provide older adults with the capability to leave their homes, interact with people, enjoy community offerings and most importantly, access the health care treatments they need.

# Help@Home

Help@Home provides the tools and services for older adults to remain independent, comfortable and in control of their daily lives for as long as they choose to stay in their homes. Help@Home provides high quality, dependable home repair services and greater access to a variety of other services which help maintain independence and provides for peace of mind for older adults and their families.



# Counseling & Mental Health

Counselors and therapists offer support to individuals and families struggling with difficulties and mental health problems. JFS leads and staffs the Greater Kansas City Mental Health Coalition to reduce the stigma of mental illness.

For the past 75 years, we have been a provider of mental health counseling to the Jewish and larger community. JFS provides a range of counseling services to people across the lifespan to help improve the quality of their lives and relationships, make healthy adjustments through life transitions, and effectively manage the stresses of everyday life. Counseling services are provided to children, adults, older adults, couples and families. A variety of modalities including individual, couple, and family counseling help clients with a range of challenges such as grief, depression, anxiety, mental health or addiction problems, problems at school or at work, eating disorders, and relationship problems.



We are one of only a few "safety net" providers of mental health services in the Kansas City metro area. Our counselors are licensed master's level mental health clinicians, experienced in a variety of evidence informed psychotherapy practices. Services include individual outpatient psychotherapy, in-home counseling to older adults or those with disabilities, child and family counseling, and grief and loss support.

### Mental Health Coalition

In 2010, a group of concerned individuals in the Jewish community began a frank conversation about mental illness, suicide and our community's response to grief and loss. The Coalition's campaign to reduce the stigma of mental illness was launched in September 2013, but interest quickly grew beyond the Jewish community. In May 2014, more than a dozen community organizations came together to expand the coalition into the Greater Kansas City Mental Health Coalition (GKCMHC). This Coalition, now made up of 25 partner organizations under the leadership of Jewish Family Services, pools resources and expertise to reduce the stigma of mental illness throughout the metro area.

The Greater Kansas City Mental Health Coalition wants to start a conversation in our community. It is our hope that the reduction of stigma associated with mental illness will follow a similar reduction of stigma that occurred with cancer in the 1960s and 1970s and with AIDS/HIV in the 1990s.



## **SPEAKUP**

High School Mental Health Campaign

The Greater Kansas City Mental Health Coalition and SPEAK UP are working to implement mental health programming within local high school communities. The goal is to supplement and expand upon current school efforts where needed, working with each individual school to meet its needs.

# **Family Life Education**

An array of classes, workshops and events for parents, children and professionals to strengthen families and community.



JFS' Family Life Education program ensures that all members of the Jewish community have access to education, resources and support for important family life issues. The goals of the program are to develop stronger and healthier individuals and families, help people connect to the larger Jewish community, support Jewish values and traditions, and promote common Jewish interests and socialization. Family Life Education programs often serve as a re-entry point to the Jewish community for those unaffiliated or for new families by appealing to their unique areas of interest and need.

Family Life Education provides culturally sensitive educational programs that are primarily geared to the specific needs of Jewish individuals and families. Some programs are also

open to the entire community and appropriate for individuals and families from all backgrounds. Family Life Education offers a wide range of programs to strengthen individuals and families and help them deal with challenges confronted at various stages in life. Workshops, seminars, courses, classes, and ongoing small groups offer a supportive environment to help participants develop interpersonal skills, increase knowledge, gain resource information, and achieve personal growth.

The CHAI program is a psycho-educational program with the primary goal of helping Jewish teenagers better cope with the challenges of adolescence and healthy development within a Jewish context. Topics, among others, include: suicide awareness and prevention, Jewish identity, anti-Semitism, bullying, digital ethics, peer pressure, sexuality, healthy relationships, substance abuse, stress management, mental health, teen driving risk awareness, family communication, and conflict resolutions. The program provides for Jewish teens, as well as Jewish parents, educators and youth workers, including consultation/referral services and ongoing support.

The CHAI program works collaboratively with area congregations, religious schools, youth groups and Jewish organizations to identify specific needs for the Jewish adolescent population in our community. CHAI continues to stay relevant by addressing current issues of concern and has the unique ability to modify programs and respond promptly to requests from educators, youth directors, clergy and parents.

"Parents usually mean well when they try to motivate their children to do better by making them feel bad about their mistakes. However, they fail to think about the results of their good intentions. The reality is that kids will make mistakes."



"The atmosphere at the spiritual care service truly felt warm and sincere. Thank you again for all your support, kind words and genuine empathy."



# **Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care**

Our Community Chaplain and volunteers provide compassion and connection for people facing setbacks, loneliness, sickness or loss.

The Chaplaincy Program serves as a central address for Jewish spiritual care, with an emphasis on reaching out to unaffiliated Jews, who often feel isolated and disconnected from the Jewish community and tradition as they deal with illness, bereavement, or other health and healing challenges. Of particular significance are the Jewish older adults making up the majority of Jewish people in hospitals and eldercare centers.

Jews are patients in hospitals and residents in eldercare centers around town. The spiritual care needs of Jews in KC, particularly the sick, elderly, and the unaffiliated extend well beyond Menorah Medical Center and Village Shalom. The Jewish Community Chaplain maintains a collaborative relationship with 27 area hospitals and hospice services and 40 eldercare centers. More than a decade ago, the Jewish community decided to have a formal representative to focus on such needs and interface with the healthcare community on behalf of the KC Jewish community.

With ongoing needs far greater than one person's capacity, the JFS Chaplaincy Program looked at different models of lay chaplaincy to develop and implement our own Jewish Spiritual Care Volunteer Program. With ongoing training and development, we maintain a network of volunteers.

The program has trained 35 Spiritual Care Volunteers who have been placed at 8 area hospitals and 8 eldercare centers. Currently, the program has 13 active volunteers serve at 6 area hospitals and 6 eldercare centers. During visits, the Chaplain and SCVs offer spiritual care including, relating to holiday observance and/or pastoral guidance. The volunteer program includes regular meetings led by the Chaplain in which he offers ongoing training and supervision.

"In recent weeks, my mother was admitted into a Hospice House in Olathe. Our family very much appreciated that you had provided both Torah and booklet of prayers for Jewish patients and their families. The selected prayers comforted us during an emotionally difficult and sad time. It is with sincere hope that your efforts will continue to assist families in the community."

# **Volunteer Services**

JFS volunteers help every day, in many ways, having the satisfaction of making a difference in people's lives.

Real lives. Real difference.

JFS volunteering makes a difference for others right here in greater Kansas City.

When you volunteer at JFS, you are helping strengthen and improve the lives of thousands of people throughout Kansas City. Volunteers play a vital role in our programs, providing a helping hand, compassionate smile or meaningful connection. There are many ways to use your time and talents as a volunteer with JFS!

**Food Pantry Volunteers:** The Food Pantry is our response to the growing need for food assistance in Kansas City. Volunteers sort food donations, pick up donations from food drives and local grocery stores, organize and staff the pantry during appointments, make food deliveries to homebound clients, and assist clients who come to our pantry to shop.

**JET Express Volunteer Driver Program:** When you volunteer as a JET Express driver, you are giving an older adult their independence and freedom. Use your own vehicle to give rides to older adults, helping them stay active, independent, and connected to their community.

Help@Home: Are you handy and enjoy helping out around the house? Can you hang pictures, put together a new bookshelf, plant spring flowers or do simple computer troubleshooting? Then volunteering with Help@Home is a match for you!

Holiday Projects: Our holiday projects help Jewish individuals and families feel more connected to our community at Passover, Rosh Hashanah, and Hanukkah. You can help by donating holiday food, adopting a family for Hanukkah, or making home deliveries. These projects are great for individuals and groups, allowing you to spend quality time with family and friends.

**Spiritual Care Volunteers:** This group of dedicated volunteers is integral to the JFS Chaplaincy Program and fulfilling the mitzvah of "bikkur holim" – visiting the sick. Volunteers receive extensive training to work in the healthcare community serving the spiritual needs of Jewish patients in area hospitals and eldercare centers. Volunteers provide connection and support to those who might otherwise be alone or disconnected from community. A warm and nurturing team enhances your own personal and spiritual growth.

Attorney Referral Program: As a legal professional, you may already know there's a growing need for legal services right here in our own community from low-income or disadvantaged clients. JFS invites you to assist with one pro bono case per year.



**B'nai Mitzvah / Community Service Projects:** Becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a special time. It includes accepting new responsibilities as an adult, which include embracing the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam, and making a difference in the world around you. We can help you define a meaningful Mitzvah Project or link you to rewarding volunteer opportunities for community service projects.

"Volunteering has been one of the most gratifying things I have ever done."

# **Board of Directors**

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Dale Wilcox, Community Handyman

### Out of need, came growth in Missouri.

JFS had literally outgrown its Missouri offices and could no longer meet the growing demand for client services. This prompted a search for a new home. After many months of research, looking at buildings, fundraising and planning, a building for renovation was selected at 425 E. 63rd Street in Brookside East. Our generous supporters made the new building a reality and the move was official on January 13, 2017.

The new location is in a vibrant, community-minded neighborhood. Demographics indicate there are many families in need along this east Brookside/Troost corridor, yet the neighborhood currently lacks a fullservice food pantry. The new JFS location has a spacious full-service pantry, better accessibility to bus lines, easier building accessibility for families and older adults, a large community meeting space, and the strong backing of many community partners.

The food pantry occupies approximately 2,000 square feet with ample storage and a loading dock to accept deliveries. The expansion enables JFS to meet the needs of 50% more people in Missouri. Additionally, JFS provides a breadth of programs and services, with the goal of helping people in difficult times get back on their own feet.

JFS is excited to become an invested neighbor and community partner for years to come. We look forward to meeting our new neighbors and collaborating with area businesses, places of worship, healthcare providers and other community organizations as we become a trusted neighborhood resource.

#### Thank You To Our Generous Donors Who Made Our Brookside East Office Possible

#### \$250,000+

The Sosland Family

#### \$125,000+

Irwin and Rita Blitt Hall Family Foundation Shirley White\*

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\*- of blessed memory





We are grateful to the following donors that will help strengthen our community for generations to come through their gift to the JFS Fund for the Future Endowment Fund.

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We are grateful to the following people who plan to support JFS through their wills and estate plans.

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#### Many thanks to you, our wonderful 2016 donors. Your generosity helped JFS strengthen lives throughout Kansas City!

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Every attempt has been made to ensure this list is accurate and reflects all financial and in-kind donations made from January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016. Please report any corrections or changes to JFS Development Office at 913-327-8299.

### **Upcoming Events**

December 3
12:00pm - 2:00pm - Hanukkah
wrapping party & tailgate at the

December 7
6:30pm - Service of Comfort at Village Shalom

December 14 1:00pm-2:00pm -Jewish Humor with Lou Asner at the JCC

January 15 to March 26 6:30-9:00pm - NAMI Family to Family 12-part series: for family and friends of individuals with mental illness at the JCC

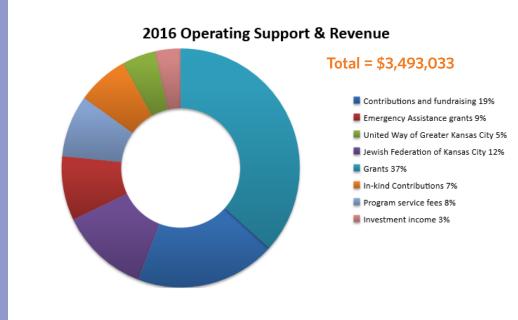
January 18
1:00-2:00pm - HAVE I GOT A
STORY FOR YOU: Henry Block-the
man and his gift to the people of
Kansas City at the JCC

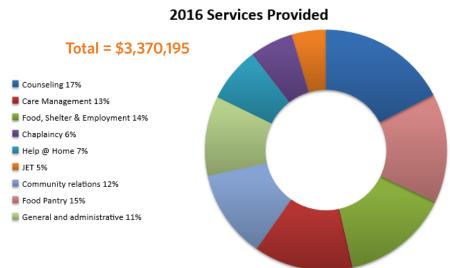
February 4 10:00-11:30 am - Driving Risk Awareness for Teens and Parents facilitated by Susie Hurst & LT Mark Terman at the JCC

February 15
1:00-2:00pm - Mindfulness
Meditation and Self-care
facilitated by Sarah Chao and Julie
Nielsen at the JCC

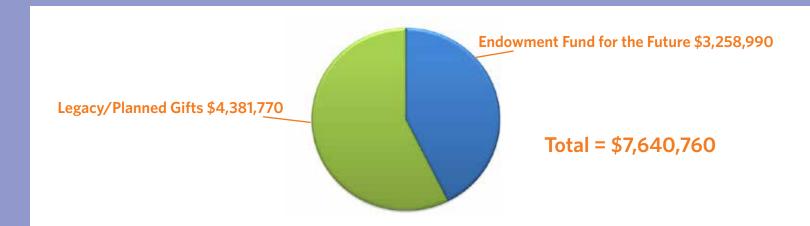
Monday Mornings - Ongoing 9:00-10:00am - Careers, Skills & Connections Monday Morning Coffee Club at the JCC

\*No cost to above programs but registration required





### **Endowment & Planned Gifts**



### **2016** Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2016	2015	Liabilities	2016	2015
Current Assets			Current Liabilities		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,236,393	730,992	Accounts payable	55,780	26,478
Accounts receivable, net	43,334	78,020	Accrued expenses	173,715	101,146
Grant receivable	423,893	343,579	Deferred revenue	11,116	11,116
Current pledges receivable	266,467	90,583	Total current liabilities	240,611	138,740
Investments	1,738,819	1,498,920			
Inventory, Food Pantry	44,810	45,099			
Prepaid expenses	70,394	20,979	Net Assets		
Total current assets	3,824,110	2,808,172	Unrestricted	1,289,364	1,106,949
			Temporarily restricted	3,668,025	1,915,701
Long-term pledges receivable	529,340	231,167	Permanently restricted	100,000	100,000
Property and equipment	944,550	222,051	Total net assets	5,057,389	3,122,650
Total assets	5,298,000	3,261,390	Total liabilities & net assets	5,298,000	3,261,390

# 2016 Statement of Activities

Support & Revenue	2016	2015	Expenses	2016	2015
Public Support			Programs & Services		
Contributions and fundraising	668,627	545,040	Counseling	586,480	616,825
Emergency Assistance grants	303,188	253,099	Food, Shelter & Employment	978,969	886,676
United Way of Greater Kansas City	159,523	159,523	Chaplaincy	195,837	181,212
Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City	422,600	349,600	Older Adult Services	849,444	799,503
Grants	1,279,955	1,214,694	Other	116	
In-kind Contributions	245,329	240,373	Total program services	2,610,846	2,484,216
Total support	3,079,222	2,762,329			
Other Support			Support Services		
Program service fees	292,387	326,910	Fundraising and Community Relations	398,999	359,630
Investment income	121,424	(60,526)	General and administrative	360,466	286,949
Other income		23,492	Total support services	759,465	646,579
Other income - non-operating	1,812,017*	519,000			
Total revenue	2,225,828	808,876	Total expenses	3,370,311	3,130,795
				-	
Total support & revenue	5,305,050	3,571,205	Change in net assets	1,934,739	440,410

 $<sup>^\</sup>star$ Large one-time amount due to Capital Campaign & other non-operational revenue

# JFS Volunteer Opportunities

We can't do it without YOU! Join our volunteer team and help those in our community who need YOU! JFS Volunteers touch the lives of over 7,000 people in our community.



#### **Volunteer Driver Program**

As a Jet Express driver, you choose when you drive, where you drive and who you drive through an easy online sign-up. It's a great way to make a difference in an older adult's life.

#### **An Aging-In-Place Program**

If you can hang pictures, put together a new bookshelf, or help with a computer, then become a volunteer for Help@Home to enhance the quality of life for older adults.





### Feeding the Hungry in Kansas City

The JFS Food Pantry provides assistance to families in need. Volunteers shop with clients, sort and pick up donations from food drives and local grocery stores, or deliver to homebound clients.



# The Jewish Community Foundation is proud to be a partner of Jewish Family Services.

We make it easy to support Jewish Family Services and the other charitable organizations you care about.

- Create a Jewish Legacy with a planned gift that ensures
   Jewish Family Services can provide essential services for
   years to come.
- Open a JCF Donor Advised Fund, a charitable giving account, and JCF will match one grant from your new fund to the charity of your choice. (Inquire for details.)



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