

Impact Report2021

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & THE CEO

Dear JFS supporters and friends,

Jewish Family Services of Greater Charleston (JFS) was launched as an independent organization on January 1, 2021. During this initial year as a standalone agency, JFS joined with you and others in the Charleston area in dealing with the challenges brought as a result of the Covid pandemic. Specialized accommodations were made to augment and complement the existing services received by the Jewish community in greater Charleston. Even during the early days of Covid, the doors of JFS never completely closed. We have been available to provide critical assistance and to allay the fear that families experienced due to encountering critical housing, transportation, and financial needs, and hunger. During this time of forced isolation, we maintained contact with our seniors, often as a stand-in for a geographically distant family member. We provided a caring voice of tangible support, even driving to a doctor's appointment. We grieved alongside the families who experienced a loss of a loved one whether due to Covid-19 or not.

Thanks to you, our dedicated donors, grantors, committed staff, volunteers, and concerned stakeholders, JFS has been able to meet the increased needs of our community. It would not have been possible without the outpouring of support from you, ensuring that the work of JFS is sustainable today and in the future. As we continue into this current year and beyond, we hope that we will have your continued support for our everyday, ongoing needs in the community. Not only will we continue to focus on seniors, compromised citizens, and Holocaust survivors, we also look forward to expanding our Circle of Welcome and resettle families from around the globe in our community. Your commitment to tzedakah and tikkun olam is what allows JFS to be a pillar of support.

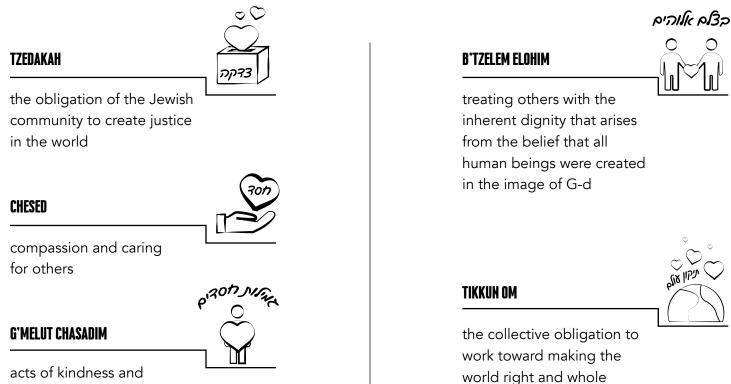
Sincerely, Stu Tessler, JFS President Sara Tick, JFS CEO

OUR MISSION

he mission of Jewish Family Services of Greater Charleston (JFS) is to empower individuals, strengthen families, protect the vulnerable and help seniors age with dignity. Our work is based on Jewish values to improve quality of life regardless

of race, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. JFS is guided by the fundamental Jewish values of tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (repair of the world).

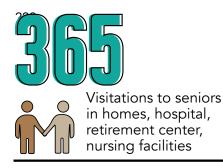
WE ARE GROUNDED IN FUNDAMENTAL JEWISH VALUES, ESPECIALLY:



acts of kindness and assistance toward others

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STATISTICS









Households received emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities and transportation



Challahs deliveries to homebound Jewish seniors



Emergency Financial Assistance: Kosher Food Pantry packages distributed





Scholarships awarded for Jewish Overnight Camp

Interest Free Loans:

Outstanding



Jewish Educational Loan Funds issued totaling of **\$40,370**



mental health counseling sessions in 2021; 90% sliding scale or pro bono





Personal interactions with individuals in our Jewish Community



Due to illness I was forced to go on medical leave. After exhausting all my PTO time, I became behind in my rent and was facing eviction. I only earn a few dollars and I had to make sure my kids had food to eat. I was desperate. Jewish Family Services responded quickly to my plea for help which saved me and my children from being evicted and facing homelessness. Forever grateful.

Anonymous



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

BARBARA JONAS

Mother of Scott and Brian Jonas, and grandmother to three grandchildren, has volunteered with JFS since 2017. A previous MUSC Children's Hospital volunteer, general manager and licensed assisted living administrator at the Jewish Community Housing Corp in New Jersey, and certified elementary school teacher in New Jersey, Barbara's experience and passion has made her an excellent JFS volunteer.



Barbara is always there to put a smile on people's faces and make challenging times a bit sweeter

Barbara helps organize and serve seniors at 'Jewish Family Services' Kosher Food Pantry. Families throughout greater Charleston visit the pantry twice a month and receive fresh and packaged items that are delivered to seniors or picked up at the Sherman House in West Ashley. Barbara also volunteers with JFS by serving dinner at the Hope Lodge for families residing there while undergoing outpatient cancer treatments and services. Barbara is always there to put a smile on people's faces and make challenging times a bit sweeter. We are so grateful for her dedication to JFS, and congratulations to Barbara Jonas for being 'Jewish Family Services' very first volunteer of the year!



TESTIMONIALS

While there's no adequate way to express it, please know I'm eternally grateful for everything you've done for my daughter and me. Without a doubt, your generosity & ability to make what was impossible possible, is one of the greatest gifts I've ever been given. I never would have imagined that I'd find myself in such dire shape but here I am. It pains me that I'm unable to provide all the services that my child needs. I hope you know what a difference you're making—you've impacted our lives in ways that can never be measured. I could not have survived this time without your support."

Anonymous

As a child, I remember putting money in the "pushke" (blue box) each week and being told that when the box was filled it would be sent to help (the newly created country of) Israel and the Jewish people who were building it. However, little did I know that box filled with my small coins was also being used in the community for various Jewish organizations and to help those who needed help or who could not help themselves. All these years later, giving is still critical. I am fortunate to be able to give time and more than the small coins I gave as a child. Supporting Jewish Family Services of Greater Charleston is a way of providing "community" for those who might otherwise not find that enrichment in their lives.

E.L.

Holocaust survivors face unique struggles as they age. The loss of independence and control that occurs later in life can be jarring for people who once had their autonomy taken from them.

A lovely 97-year-old Holocaust survivor living by herself in an apartment was managing ok until arthritis was making activities of daily living increasing difficult. Through our senior outreach program this person now has a companion three days a week giving her the assistance she needs to remain living in her apartment.

Anonymous

TESTIMONIALS



Oftentimes we receive calls from adult children who are managing the care of their mother/father long distance. One case in particular was very moving.

A gentleman had lost his wife of 60 plus years, who was serving as his caregiver due to his diagnosis of congestive heart failure and Alzheimer's. His devoted grandson took leave from his job and was managing the care of his beloved grandfather. The family had exhausted their funds caring for this dear man and had accumulated significant debt. The home health care agency was about to terminate services.

Through our senior outreach program, a home visit was made to assess the situation. We were able to give financial assistance which enable the continuation of the home health to supplement the grandson's care. This intervention had a direct impact for this devoted family struggling to provide the best care for their loved one.

J.H.

GRATITUDE

JFS expresses sincere appreciation to every person and organization whose financial support helps make possible our work to serve the community.

FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

Bill, Jennie, Conni & Harry Ackerman Foundation Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors Charleston JCC Foundation Charleston Jewish Federation Coastal Community Foundation Exchange Club of Charleston Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation Hebrew Benevolent Hebrew Orphan Society Henry and Sylvia Yaschik Foundation Jewish Federations of North America The Leon Levine Foundation Leslie L. Alexander Foundation Nathan and Marlene Addlestone Foundation Next Fifty Initiative Oscar & Mona Sokol Foundation Saul Alexander Foundation Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina TD Charitable Foundation The Good People Fund Trident United Way (EFSP)

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