

JFS Today

The heart of a **STRONGER COMMUNITY**

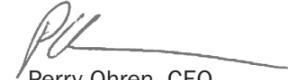
Jewish Family Service
The heart of a STRONGER COMMUNITY
For 90 years

Fall 2017

90 years

Time flies when you're helping people

Throughout our 90 years, through the name changes and moves, through local crises and international atrocities, Jewish Family Service has been dedicated to helping individuals, families and the community with whatever challenges and transitions occur. We do this work humbly, as we should. And while we wish there weren't a need for our continued work, there is. We will keep working for the next day, the next year, and the next 90, to ensure the brightest possible future for our community members and the region. It's what we've always done.


Perry Ohren, CEO

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| <p>Originally incorporated as the Jewish Social Service Bureau, the agency known today as Jewish Family Service was created to</p> <p>1928</p> <p>promote "family welfare and welfare of children among the Jewish people of Detroit and environs."</p>  | <p>At the depth of the depression, the Jewish Unemployment Emergency Council was formed to provide relief.</p> <p>1931</p>  | <p>Resettlement services offered to assist refugees from Germany.</p> <p>1937</p>  | <p>Services include placing children for adoption, offering business loans and providing housekeepers for motherless families.</p> <p>1946</p>  | <p>The Department of Services for the Aged is established.</p> <p>1952</p>  | <p>Name change to Jewish Family and Children's Service.</p> <p>1957</p>  | <p>The agency's expertise in working with older adults is nationally recognized by its selection as one of 40 participating</p> <p>1961</p> <p>organizations in a demonstration project funded by the Ford Foundation.</p>  | <p>Name change to Jewish Family Service.</p> <p>1975</p>  | <p>JFS provides support through caseworkers and home care services to older adults residing in Group Residences</p> <p>1980</p> <p>for the Elderly, later known as the Group Apartment Program and today run by Jewish Senior Life.</p> |
| <p>Supported by funding from the Skillman Foundation, JFS begins the Windows program to address domestic</p> <p>1987</p> <p>abuse, child abuse and neglect.</p>  | <p>More than 7,000 former Soviet Jews arrive in metro Detroit and are assisted with housing, job placement, English classes</p> <p>1990s</p> <p>and other resettlement services.</p>  | <p>In partnership with the National Council of Jewish Women, Safe Place opens to serve women and children</p> <p>1993</p> <p>affected by domestic abuse.</p>  | <p>JFS receives its first grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), most of</p> <p>1997</p> <p>which goes toward home care services for about 50 Holocaust survivors.</p> | <p>With funding from The Jewish Fund, JFS introduces Project Chessed, a network of health care providers who provide pro bono</p> <p>2005</p> <p>care to those without insurance.</p>  | <p>The economic crisis leads to an unprecedented number of people reaching out to JFS for basic needs</p> <p>2008/2009</p> <p>assistance. Staff is increased to meet the demand.</p> | <p>Over \$970,200 in emergency financial assistance, raised by Federation, is provided to the hundreds of families affected</p> <p>2014</p> <p>by flooding of their homes.</p>  | <p>For the first time in history, the U.S. government provides funding for Holocaust survivor services. JFS receives \$160,000</p> <p>2016</p> <p>through a grant from Jewish Federations of North America to go toward training individuals who work with survivors.</p> | <p>With suicide rates on the rise, JFS expands its mental health services to include suicide prevention trainings and</p> <p>2017</p> <p>works toward becoming a comprehensive resource for parents.</p> |

Meet our new board chairperson

A member of our board of directors since 2013, Suzan F. Curhan is now taking the helm. A fan of hiking, reading, and volunteering, Sue is actively involved in our community, serving on Federation's Board of Governors, the Women's Philanthropy executive committee, and the steering committee of Partnership2Gether. She and her husband, Michael, have four children.

How did you first get involved with JFS?

Former JFS President Mark Milgrom gets the credit. He told me about the work of JFS. Intrigued, I did my own research. I found myself excited, so I started volunteering.

What have you most enjoyed about serving on the board?

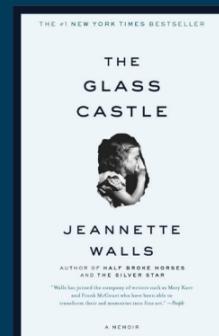
It comes down to relationships. I am inspired by our professionals who work daily with our clients, as well as our board and our community. My fellow board members are committed and talented individuals and we have great discussions promoting the work of JFS. It is sacred work that can only be accomplished by working as a team.

What's your favorite Jewish holiday, and why?

Sukkot. From the family bonding of building the sukkah to the meals shared with others, Sukkot lives up to its nickname as the Season of Joy. It is a holiday of minimalism. We are surrounded by the elements, reminded how reliant we are on Mother Nature, and how blessed we are. It is a time of renewal and hope. We each have the opportunity to be optimists. Our work at JFS captures that spirit!



We are very excited to announce that our featured Reva Stocker Speaker for the JFS Annual Event on May 30, 2018 will be **Jeanette Walls**, author of *The Glass Castle*.



Contact Debra Marcus at dmarcus@jfsdetroit.org or 248.592.2327 for more information.

Always at your service

OLDER ADULT SERVICES

Jewish Family Service is nothing, if not responsive. So when a fire broke out at Baptist Manor in Farmington Hills and displaced residents served by JFS, our staff didn't just step in—they leaped, assessing the needs of those involved and ensuring both the physical and emotional well-being of the residents. They shopped for clothing and other essential items. They found alternate housing. They offered assurances and soothed frayed nerves. And they reunited one cat with its much-relieved owner. Today, they continue to ensure that all of their needs are being met.

Although it was a core team of staffers that did the heavy lifting, the relief they provided would not have been possible without the support of our community. Your continued generosity allows us to make a difference in the lives of so many.

A SINGLE SOUL SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVE

As suicide rates continue to increase, so, too, do our efforts in fighting this devastating epidemic. Through generous gifts from The Anna and Meyer Prentis Family Foundation and the Jewish Women's Foundation, we'll be able to continue offering the awareness and prevention trainings previously funded by The Jewish Fund. Thanks to successful attendance of Mental Health First Aid, ASIST and safeTALK trainings, there are now 126 more people in our community who are prepared to respond to those in crisis.

JFS is also adopting a Zero Suicide initiative that was created by Henry Ford Health System. Zero Suicide is the foundational belief that suicide deaths for those under care within health and behavioral health systems are preventable. This approach incorporates best practices in quality improvement and evidence-based care, and will be integrated throughout our many points of contact with community members.

If you or someone you know needs help, or if you're interested in our trainings, please contact us at 248.592.2313 or resourcecenter@jfsdetroit.org.

JFS annual event



Arleen & Don Rochlen, Cheryl Chodun, Larry & Melissa Lax



Perry Ohren, Suzan F. Curhan & Jennifer Teege



Sandy & Jim Danto, Art Roffey & Gail Danto



Stacey Deweese & Beth Davidson



Sandy Iwrey, Cheryl Iwrey, Darrell Jacob, Vi Jacob, Elliot & Denise Parr



Mark & Linda Jacobs

Close to 850 community members attended the JFS annual event on June 6 where Jennifer Teege, author of *My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me*, shared her personal story of discovering that her grandfather was Amon Goeth, the Nazi commander chillingly depicted by Ralph Fiennes in *Schindler's List*. Over \$200,000 was raised to support JFS.

Rake to make a difference

Raking and washing windows is more fun when you do it with friends. And last year, more than 500 friends, neighbors and community members joined us for Fall Fix Up. This annual volunteer event helps older adults prepare their homes for the colder months ahead and safely age in place at home.

To register, visit jfsdetroit.org/fallfixup or contact Lindsay Leder at 248.592.2309 or lleder@jfsdetroit.org. To support Fall Fix Up, visit jfsdetroit.org, use the enclosed envelope or contact Jenny Kabert at 248.592.2339 or jkabert@jfsdetroit.org.

Sunday, November 5, 2017

All ages welcome
Congregation Shaarey Zedek,
25735 Bell Road, Southfield
9:30am breakfast and supply pickup.

Young adults

B'nai David Cemetery
9535 Van Dyke Street, Detroit
10am breakfast
In partnership with NEXTGen,
Repair the World and Hillel of
Metro Detroit.

6th-8th graders

Because We Care Fall Fix Up
1:30-3:30 pm
Groups will meet at pre-assigned
locations.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse and the 100 Mensches are working to put an end to this destructive issue affecting one in every four women. One of the ways they are doing that is with a purple ribbon campaign at area temples and synagogues. 100 Mensches also held their annual essay contest for high school seniors on the role Jewish values play in eliminating domestic abuse, awarding \$5,000 to three winners:

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|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st place | Paul Schmitz | University of Michigan |
| 2nd place | Hunter Jordan Keith | Eastern Michigan University |
| 3rd place | Aria Frawley | Michigan State University |

If you'd like to make a donation and join the 100 Mensches, visit 100Mensches.org.

If you or someone you know needs help, including a safe place to stay, contact JFS at 248.592.2335 (8:30am-4:30pm), or HAVEN's 24-hour crisis line at 248.334.1274.



Making a difference for mothers

Thank you to the 346 donors whose purchases of Joy Project Mother's Day cards raised over \$53,000 that will go toward helping women in our community through counseling, crisis support, domestic abuse intervention and more.

Be on the lookout next spring for the Joy Project and help make a difference.



Brightening up the holidays

When you join our Adopt a Family program, you ensure that more than 700 people served by JFS—people who otherwise may not receive any gifts—have something to unwrap come December. You can choose to shop for a specific family or individual from their wish list, donate gift cards or make a general donation to the program.

To adopt a family, contact Lindsay Leder at 248.592.2309 or lleder@jfsdetroit.org.

Please note that families will not be assigned until November

To make a donation, please visit jfsdetroit.org, use the enclosed envelope, or contact Jenny Kabert at 248.592.2339 or jkabert@jfsdetroit.org.



Let's talk turkey

Now in its 39th year, the Goldberg Thanksgiving Distribution ensures that JFS families in need can enjoy the holiday with a traditional Thanksgiving meal. It's a generous tradition started by the Goldberg family and carried out today by Nate and Nancy Goldberg and their family. It's just one of many ways in which JFS assists community members who might not have enough to eat, including public benefits enrollment, emergency food vouchers, Passover baskets, and Kosher Meals on Wheels.

Just \$50 provides a complete meal for one family. Rather than bringing your holiday host a gift this year, please consider making a donation and giving a meal in their honor.

To donate, please visit jfsdetroit.org, use the enclosed envelope or contact Jenny Kabert at 248.592.2339 or jkabert@jfsdetroit.org.



Board members Micki Grossman and Rabbi Aaron Star

Making the most of mitzvot

Because We Care is a unique program for b'nai mitzvah students that offers fun and fulfilling volunteer opportunities. Have an idea for a project or a specific group you'd like to help? We'll make it happen with step-by-step guides and ongoing support. Kids give back on their own schedule or join us for one (or more!) of our Monthly Mitzvot.

For more information or to register, visit jfsdetroit.org/becausewecare or contact Michael Kelmenson at 248.592.2264 or mkelmenson@jfsdetroit.org.

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| September 17 | Playing with a Purpose |
| October 1 | Sundaes in the Sukkah |
| November 5 | Fall Fix Up |
| December 3 | Hanukkah Helpers |
| January 21 | Chicken Soup for the Soul of Detroit |
| March 18 | Soothing Sunday |
| April 29 | Spring into Action |



News nuggets

OHREN JOINS NJHSA BOARD.

JFS CEO Perry Ohren has been named Vice Chair of the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, the membership association for the more than 140 non-profit organizations in the U.S., Canada and Israel that provide a full range of human services for the Jewish community and beyond. As a member agency, JFS has had the opportunity for staff to participate in the Meyerhoff Early Career Professional Fellowship and to receive support through Americorps VISTA volunteers. These are opportunities that ultimately benefit those we serve.

REPAIRING HOMES...AND THE WORLD.

As part of Metro In-Home Solutions—a unique partnership with Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Presbyterian Villages of Michigan and Southwest Solutions — JFS is making its foray into social enterprise. To date, 18 older adults have received home modification services that will allow them to safely remain at home, and another 30 individuals will soon be assisted. In addition to ensuring the safety of more community members, this venture will help JFS maintain alternative sources of revenue when traditional funding sources fluctuate.

Making our work possible

We serve thousands of people each year through more than 30 programs. But we don't do it alone, and we wouldn't be able to do it at all without the generosity of our community. Here are a few of the recent gifts we've received:

The Anna and Meyer Prentis Emergency Fund is named in memory of the magnanimous couple who, throughout their lifetimes, made a tremendous impact on our community. Recipients of their widespread generosity include Temple Beth El, Wayne State University and many other metro Detroit fixtures. Anna was a past president of Hadassah and Meyer was the former chairman of the Allied Jewish Campaign. This fund is one of many ways the family continues to uphold their legacy of service and giving.

The Frank Lazar Memorial Fund was created by Vera and Eric Lev and Colleen and Jeffrey Lev in memory of their father and grandfather, Frank Lazar, a Holocaust survivor whose acts of giving and selflessness inspired the family's philanthropic values. Frank was a Volunteer of the Year, and grandson Jeffrey has continued his legacy of giving by serving as a JFS mentor and board member. Funds support the most pressing needs of the community.

To learn more about all of our named family funds, visit jfsdetroit.org. If you're interested in setting up a named family fund, please contact Debra Marcus at 248.592.2327 or dmarcus@jfsdetroit.org.



Meyer & Anna Prentis



Frank Lazar



Mailing info

Supported by
The Jewish Federation
OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT



2017-2018 Board of Directors

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*Deceased

Services

OLDER ADULTS

24/7 Care Management
Assistive Technology
Friendly Visitors
Geriatric Care Management
Holocaust Survivor Assistance
Home Care
Kosher Meals on Wheels
Mind University
Transportation

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

A Single Soul
Cancer Thrivers Network for Jewish Women
Counseling
Crisis Response Team
Domestic Abuse Intervention
Health Care Navigation
Mental Health First Aid
Mentor Connection
Project Chessed Health and Wellness

SAFETY NET

Affordable Housing Resources
Basic Needs Assistance
Family Support Services
Legal Referral Service
Public Benefits Enrollment

RUSSIAN SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Immigration and Citizenship
Mental Health
Translation and Interpretation

Calendar of Events

- Oct 17 SAFETALK TRAINING**
6-9pm at JFS, 6555 West Maple, West Bloomfield
This free training will give you the tools to help someone with suicidal thoughts connect with a professional. No prior experience necessary. RSVP: Shevy Zigdon at szigdon@jfsdetroit.org or 248.406.0076
- Oct 25 CANCER THRIVERS NETWORK FOR JEWISH WOMEN ANNUAL EVENT**
10am-12pm at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 27375 Bell Road, Southfield
Guest speaker Doug Ulman will inspire you to move "From Oy to Joy" as he shares his experience as a three-time cancer survivor and President and CEO of Pelotonia, a three-day cycling event that raises funds for cancer research. RSVP: Tracy Agranove at tagranove@jfsdetroit.org or 248.592.2267
- Oct 26 SENIOR AND CAREGIVER RESOURCE NETWORK FUNDRAISER FOR JFS OLDER ADULT SERVICES**
6-10pm at the Fairlane Club, 5000 Fairlane Woods Drive, Dearborn
Formal sit-down dinner, drinks and entertainment, including a murder mystery and raffle drawings. More information: Sherita Jones at 313.598.7078 or Lynn Breuer at 248.592.2333
- Nov 1 LEGAL REFERRAL SERVICE – An Evening with Judge Rhodes, Retired Chief Judge, US Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District**
6-8pm, Private home in Farmington Hills
Celebrating ten years of JFS Legal Referral Service. Contact Emily Croitori 248.592.2317 or ecroitori@jfsdetroit.org

- Nov 5 FALL FIX UP – THREE WAYS TO FIX UP FALL**
For All Ages: 9:30am meet at Congregation Shaarey Zedek
For Young adults: 10am at B'nai David Cemetery, Detroit
For 6th-8th graders 1:30-3:30pm at pre-assigned sites
Register: jfsdetroit.org/fallfixup or Lindsay Leder at 248.592.2309 or lleder@jfsdetroit.org
- Nov 8 THE S WORD**
6:30pm at the Maple Theater
Suicide is not the most dangerous word. Silence is. Which is why this moving documentary is working to open the conversation on the subject. Panel discussion to follow. More information: Jenny Kabert at 248.592.2339 or jkabert@jfsdetroit.org. Tickets: themapletheater.com
- Dec 4-8 ADOPT A FAMILY GIFT DROP OFF**
9am-5pm at JFS West Bloomfield
Brighten up the holidays for JFS clients by shopping for gifts and giving those in need a complete holiday experience. Register: www.jfsdetroit.org/adopt or Lindsay Leder at 248.592.2309 or lleder@jfsdetroit.org

For more information on these and other events, please visit jfsdetroit.org or call 248.592.2313.