

From the CEO

2021 was a year of transition for JFS Houston. In June, Linda L. Burger, CEO of JFS, announced her retirement, and I was honored that the JFS Board offered me the opportunity to take on the lead role for our agency.

Linda's foresight and vision gifted us a year to plan this transition. The transition process was led by then President Philip Tenenbaum in partnership with Carolyn Kaplan who chaired the Transition team. It was important to Linda and me that we approach the transition with the same values and professionalism that have guided our work at JFS. We wanted the process to provide staff, community and clients with confidence that the future of JFS would remain strong. Together we planned for the transfer of important agency knowledge and visited with many of our supporters and community partners to discuss our plans. On May 24th of this year, we came together as a community to honor Linda for her 17 years of service to JFS and for her decades of service to the Houston Jewish community. At that time, I also had the opportunity to share a vision for a future where JFS continues to respond to the needs of today, tackle

root causes of challenges facing our community and prepare for the needs of the future.

Meanwhile, our focus on serving the needs of our clients never wavered. The year 2021 was also a year of transition for our clients, albeit very different in nature. The response to COVID began to shift as we entered the second year



Carl E. Josehart, Joan Alexander, and Linda L. Burger at JFS Houston's "Celebration of Leadership" Event

of coping with this global pandemic. The initial sense of disbelief, fear and confusion of 2020 began to be replaced with fatigue from the ongoing burdens of the pandemic, the stress of changed relationships, missed and altered lifecycle events and ongoing economic pressures.

Throughout 2021, JFS continued to provide expert counseling services on zoom and in person as the circumstances allowed. JFS responded to the tremendous increase in demand for therapy for both children and adults by growing our resources and our team to meet the need. Celebration Company employees returned to work. Little by little, The JFS Houston Music and Spirit Program and the Velva G. and H. Fred Levine Jewish Chaplaincy Program were able to resume in-person visits. JFS programs and services provided connection with the community, with professionals who could help clients navigate the ups and downs of the pandemic's spikes, and opportunities to gather, both in person and virtually.

"From Crisis to Connection" is the theme of this year's annual report showcasing our 2021 highlights, impact and

all of our accomplishments. As we publish this annual report in August 2022, I invite all our supporters and friends to connect with JFS. Come take a tour of Celebration Company, attend our mental health first aid trainings, join our annual gala, JFS LiVE! As you read through this report, including last year's audited financials and a summary of our impact in 2021, join us in celebrating the return to connection and community.

Carl E. Josehart
CEO, JFS Houston

Sincerely,

Sol E Gehart

Carl E. Josehart CEO, JFS Houston

Thank you
for your
charitable giving
to JFS Houston!



2021 Executive Committee JFS Houston Front row: Sandi Helfman Wolf (President-Elect), Vikki Evans, Joy Kaplan, Marcy Margolis Back row: Jonathan Risch, Jay Epstein, Philip Tenenbaum (President), Carolyn Kaplan, Phil Cohen

The Mission of Jewish Family Service is to transform lives by empowering individuals, families and communities driven by compassion, leading through innovation, guided by Jewish values.

2021 Agency Highlights-Spotlight on COVID

Cumulative since March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021

CLIENTS IMPACTED BY COVID-19
2,094



AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID
DISTRIBUTED BY MONTH

\$166,000+



TOTAL FUNDS DISTRIBUTED*

\$3,500,000+

CASE MANAGEMENT

Total Sessions

24,163Total Clients Served

1,454



WINTER STORM

Clients Served

538



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Number of Employment Coaching Sessions

10,338

COUNSELING



Total Therapy Sessions Provided

12,057

OUTREACH TO ISOLATED SENIORS

Delivery of Holiday Meals Seniors Served

100+

Music & Spirit Program Senior
Touches

5,000+



SUPPORT GROUPS

13



Grief LGBTQIA

Managing Depression and Anxiety Love and Limits

Groups for: Men, Women, Adolescents, Teens, Children

... and more!

*Major COVID Financial Assistance Underwriters 2021

Jewish Federation of Greater Houston • Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund: United Way of Greater Houston & Greater Houston Community Foundation • Individual and Family Donors

Our History

In 1913, the founders of Houston United Jewish Charities, located in an office in Levy's Department Store on Main Street, gathered around a table to help Jewish community members facing difficulties. The early minutes of those meetings speak of a farmer losing his livelihood, a mother of three children being abandoned by her husband, and a man needing funds to bury a relative. As in every Jewish community, the founders had a powerful sense of communal responsibility. That commitment continues today.

Today, JFS Houston serves all—every age, every faith, every background—empowering all the communities we serve to become responsive and resilient.

Say Hello to Our Brand New Look!

The year began with the big reveal of a completely reimagined website, one that allowed clients to request services online, increasing website traffic by 90%.



www.jfshouston.org

Behavioral and Mental Health Services

Providing Counseling, Community Intervention and Professional Development

Children • Adolescents • Adults • Couples • Families • Seniors

GOALS

Reduce Anxiety and Depression **Increase Psychosocial Functioning**

Foster Healthy Relationships

Meet Sarah

schools reopened As durina the Pandemic, Sarah became extremely anxious. She would not get out of bed, or get dressed and was inconsolable when her parents left her at school. Her mother brought her in for counseling after two weeks of this extreme behavior. Sarah loved the play kit filled with toys and tools to express herself, but she was sure she would never go back to school. After a few weeks of therapy, she was able to express her feelings without crying. She continued weekly therapy for a total of two months until she felt eager to be with her friends at



school and continued bi-weekly to maintain her growth in the ability to healthfully communicate her feelings.

2027

61% Increase in average number of sessions for children in 2021

49% Increase in average number of sessions for adults in 2021

Professional Development

- Provides internship and fellowship opportunities to practice skills.
- 16 higher education affiliations
- Provides Continuing Education and Association Play Therapy approved Play Therapy training designed for mental health providers.

JFS LiVE! 2021 "Paddles Up" raised significant funds to hire three additional counselors to meet the need.



Sandi Helfman Wolf (President-Elect), Encouraging Support of Paddles Up for Responding to Increased Requests for Counseling

2021—COVID Impacts Mental Health

Steep Increase in Requests or Counseling **Number of Counseling Requests** 120 100 80 60 40 20 0 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2020 -2021 2019 -

Major BMHS Counseling Program Underwriters 2021

Robert & Edith Zinn Fund for JFS Mental Health Services • United Way of Greater Houston • Jewish Federation of Greater Houston • Houston Jewish Family Foundation • H-E-B • Shannon and Brian Small JFS LiVE! 2021 Paddles Up \$10,000+ Donors: Shawna Bloom, Barbara and Mark Brookner, Lance Deutsch, Martha and Donald Freedman, Paula Goldstein, Elaine Helfman, HFW Family Foundation: Renee and Alan Helfman, Sheri Feldman, Rori and Jason Feldman, Sandi and Steven Wolf Joy and Joe Kaplan, Jean and Saul A. Mintz Foundation, Stuart and Limor Smith, Matt Smith, Sonnie Schepps Robinson Foundation, Triple-S Steel Supply/Bruce Stein

Behavioral and Mental Health Services

Community Intervention

K-12 Students • College Students • Young Professionals • Adults

GOALS

Prevent Suicide and Substance Misuse

Lower Barriers to Seeking Help Serve as Local and National Resource on Trauma and Recovery

" I've learned how to know when someone needs help. I also know how to help them."

"I have learned that every person had at least one of the strengths on the wheel, and we can all use those strengths to help ourselves and others."

Prevention



Sources of Strength—a peer led suicide prevention program in schools.



Touching the Heart—A text based connection program for students, young adults and parents.

In 2021, 190 participants received 4,000+ messages.



Intervention

JFS Houston Sources of Strength became an official HISD and Communities in Schools Partner.

School Positivity Campaigns

245 Student participants

62 Adult participants

Mental Health First Aid

Teaches a fivestep action plan to offer initial help to anyone showing signs of mental health distress.



from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

severe illness or mental health crisis, and then connect them with the appropriate professional peer, social or self-help care.

271 ¹

People attended 15 Mental Health First Aid Trainings

354

People attended 16 Community Trainings

Postvention

JFS provides support and visit for families who have lost loved ones from suicide, substance misuse or other tragedies.

Families were served with postvention services.

Participants—Bright Stars
Memorial Service is a
ceremony at which family
members celebrate the
lives of loved ones.



Major BMHS Community Intervention Underwriters 2021

Coaching and Case Management

Supporting clients with resources to resolve difficult situations. Provide support for senior adults to remain as independent as possible.

Individuals with Disabilities, Seniors and their Families • Individuals and Families Experiencing Financial Stress or Recovering from Disaster

GOALS

Stabilize
Client Situation

Identify Root Causes of Difficulties

Provide Tools to Better Manage Lives

Meet Lisa

I am a 71-year-old reluctantly retired professional, who found JFS, seemingly waiting with arms wide open to me, when I somehow reached out to them, at what I considered to be the



end of my life. In a deep state of clinical depression; barely surviving a totally isolated existence; with resources that amounted to basic subsistence survival: I presented myself at the doors of JFS. I found that inside those doors were the most gracious, kind, understanding, supportive, precious individuals that I have ever met. From the gracious staff at the front desk, to the Security Officer to my Therapist and to my Case Manager—Angels all. They gave me back hope and strength, their unfailing support, valuable life coping tools, encouragement, and life validation when I needed it so very badly. Those JFS staff angels are the reason that I am alive today

Financial Assistance Top Categories:

- Difficulties paying Rent, Mortgage and Utilities
- Food
- Medicine and Medical Insurance
- Basic Resources for Children's Daily and School Needs
- Transportation and Car Repair

The Music and Spirit Program brings music and social connection to isolated seniors throughout the community.

937 Unduplicated clients impacted by disaster events in 2021

Case Management Services, telephone check-ins

Case managers trained in financial literacy

Impact:

70% of Seniors served avoided hospitalizations

of Seniors avoided transfer to nursing homes

of Clients maintained or improved on the Financial Capability Scale

Social determinants of health can account for up to 80% of a person's wellbeing:

- Availability of nutritious food
- Physical activity
- Social connection
- Access to health services
- Economic stability

Coaching and Case Management address these areas which impact health and well-being.

Major Coaching and Case Management Program Underwriters 2021

Theba & Buster Feldman Family Fund • Martha and Donald Freedman • Sally and Bernard Fuchs Fund • Harry A. and Rose Getz Fund • Greater Houston Community Foundation • Houston Jewish Family Foundation • Hugo and Edith Kahn Trust • Jake and Nina Kamin Fund • Social services for Jewish Nazi victims have been supported by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany • Jewish Federation of Greater Houston • Jewish Federation Promise of Hope Fund • Proceeds from JFS LiVE! 2021 Gala • Kavod Shef • The Lloyd & Morissa Parkans Scholarship Fund of HJCF • Joyce and Arthur Schechter • Marc and Jeri Shapiro Family Foundation • Samuel W. & Goldye Marian Spain Passover Assistance Program of HJCF • Lillie and Dan Sterling Foundation • United Way of Greater Houston • Pauline Sterne Wolff Memorial Foundation • Financial Literacy Coaching: Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation • University of Notre Dame, Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, Donna and Philip Tenenbaum, M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation • Music & Spirit Program \$10,000+: Natasha and Michael Bleyzer, The Ira B. and Myra Brown Fund, Spiwak Stolbun Fund

Employment Services

Assisting individuals to find and maintain employment

Young Adults • Transition Age • Adults • Seniors • Individuals with Disabilities

GOALS

Prepare for Successful Job Search

Support Employment Journey

Secure Financial Future

Meet Stan

During COVID, Stan's job was eliminated. He found himself unemployed. His wife went back to work, and he inherited her responsibility of caring for his father-in-law. When the time came for him to return to the workplace, he turned to JFS Employment Services to help refine his resume and prepare for interviews.

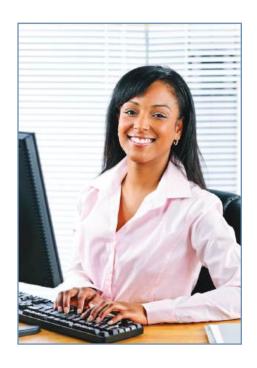


L/**U**

Unduplicated Employment Services Clients

JFS matched him with a company seeking a general manager, and he was hired for the position. "I always heard JFS was a good resource, but I saw it in action and would recommend their employment services to anyone looking for new opportunities. They not only helped me get a job, they boosted my confidence throughout the process."

The vast majority of
Employment Services clients
use additional services,
such as Counseling and
Case Management, as a
part of an integrated client
journey to stability and
wellbeing.



Mental health wellbeing is tied to successful employment.

By helping our clients find and maintain employment, JFS Houston's financial aid dollars can help additional clients.

- Provide client-centered services to each client individually.
- Assist clients to find the right job. We stay with clients throughout their job search and employment years.
- We partner with Texas Workforce Commission, Vocational Rehabilitation (TWC, VR) to provide services to clients with all types of disabilities.
- All Employment staff is certified by TWC to provide disability services.
- Provide training to employers about hiring employees with disabilities including accommodations, confidentiality, types of disabilities.
- Main Street Opportunities (MSO) assists adults with disabilities, who
 have barriers to finding and maintaining employment, with: prevocational skills, job coaching, job placement, supported employment
 and career exploration.
- Comprehensive career counseling services assisting clients in obtaining productive careers. Assistance in developing job search strategy and social media strategy.

Major Employment Services Program Underwriters 2021

Disability Services

Empowering individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers through affordable, high-quality professional services, education, advocacy and opportunities.

Transition-Aged Youth • Young Adults • Adults • Individuals with Disabilities

GOALS

Gain Self-Sufficiency

Ability to Self-Advocate

Enhance Quality of Life

Support for Families/Caregivers

Meet Lily

"The best part about Celebration Company is Lily's enthusiasm for work every day. She even asks to go on weekends! She needs the structure, routine and especially the socialization with her peers that your program provides. I feel she is safe, respected and happy there. This makes me smile!"

-Karen S., Lily's Mom



Unduplicated clients and family members served

15,174

Service hours provided for individuals with **Disability Services**

31,536 Hours of respite and ability to maintain employment for caregivers



store.celebrationcompany.org

Celebration Company (CC) was the first on-site program to return in person at JFS Houston, and their efforts to follow COVID protocols set a high standard for the entire agency.

Disability Services Includes:

- Celebration Company
- Transition Age Program
- Self Advocacy Training
- PACT (Parents and Caregivers Support Group)
- Social Group
- JFS Houston Alexander Institute for Inclusion
- Disability Case Manager/Navigator
- Transition Audits
- Information and Referrals









Major Disability Services Program Underwriters 2021

Joan and Stanford Alexander Philanthropic Fund of the Houston Jewish Community Foundation • May & Stanley Smith Charitable Foundation • Joan and Stanford Alexander For the Good of Life: Celebration Company Endowment Houston Jewish Family Foundation • Jennifer Falik Memorial Fund for Celebration Company Scholarships · Seth Tenenbaum Memorial CC Scholarship Fund · Proceeds from JFS LiVE! 2021 Gala · Congregation of Emanu El · Triple-S Steel Supply/Bruce Stein

JFS Houston Alexander Institute for Inclusion

Fostering a community that includes all individuals; advocates for disability services that advance inclusion; strives to eliminate the stigma associated with disabilities; and encourages community support and participation to create and sustain new and existing disability services.

Everyone in Greater Houston and the Local Disability Community

GOALS

Promote Inclusion

Embrace Diversity

Convenes Policy Makers and Stakeholders Collaborates Locally, Nationally, and Internationally



Working with community partners to provide programs and strategies for the inclusion of people with disabilities.

- Disability Etiquette Seminars
- Event Accessibility Consultation
- Technology Accessibility Strategies
- Self and Community Advocacy
- ReelAbilities Film & Arts Festival
 - ReelAbilities Houston is a FREE citywide film and arts festival that promotes inclusion and celebrates the lives, stories and talents of people with disabilities—making an impact that lasts far beyond the week of the Festival.
 - In collaboration with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities.
 - The 2021 Festival was offered virtually, allowing greater access for viewers and students isolated during COVID.
 - 2021 Leadership: Benjy Hershorn, Chair Eve Lapin and Marcy Margolis, Co-Chairs

"As a mom of a young child with disabilities, this Festival hits home in so many ways. It gives me comfort and hope for the future."

"This program influenced me to rethink the way I will interact and engage with people who happen to be differently-abled than I am in every aspect of life."



HOUSTON



ReelAbilities Houston Film & Arts Festival showcases and leverages the unique contributions of people with disabilities in an effort to foster inclusion, erase stigmas, change perceptions and create pathways to employment across Houston.

8,000+

Attendees from across the world– represented a 33% increase over 2020

91%

Of attendees reported that the films and programs positively influenced their perceptions of people with disabilities

18

Schools, from preschools to colleges, participated in ReelEducation, bringing the message of inclusion to students

60+

Collaborating Partners joined Festival efforts and events

6,536,000+

Impressions from print, broadcast, and digital media

Major ReelAbilities Underwriters 2021

The Velva G. and H. Fred Levine Jewish Chaplaincy Program

Providing spiritual comfort and guidance, hospital visits and community resources

Jewish Hospital Patients and Their Families • Jewish Hospice Patients

GOALS



Jewish Community
Connection

Spiritual Support Ease Patient and Family Stress



JFS Houston

Velva G. & H. Fred Levine Jewish Chaplaincy Program

A joint project with Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

3,740

Chaplain Visits—Chaplain saw patients all year long

9%

Increase over 2020

868

Volunteer Visits—Volunteers began to visit patients starting in May 2021

"Nothing makes the stress of an illness more simple and less of an issue than receiving so kind an offering. You are indeed performing a great mitzvah." Since 1965, the Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program has served thousands of Jewish patients, their families and caregivers who come to the Texas Medical Center from all over the world. We deliver Shabbat boxes and holiday packages to those who are ill.



Participating hospitals include: MD Anderson Cancer Center, The Methodist Hospital–Texas Medical Center, The Methodist Hospital–Sugar Land, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Texas Children's Hospital, Memorial Hermann–Texas Medical Center, Ben Taub Hospital and Memorial Hermann–Southwest.

Special requests are honored whenever possible by sending volunteers to other hospitals.

Major Chaplaincy Program Underwriters 2021

Velva G. and H. Fred Levine Jewish Chaplaincy Program Endowment Fund of Houston Jewish Family Foundation • Velva G. and H. Fred Levine Shabbat Box Endowment Fund of Houston Jewish Family Foundation • Dolores Wilkenfeld Chaplaincy Fund and the Velva G. and H. Fred Levine Jewish Chaplaincy Fund of the Houston Jewish Community Foundation • The Maurice Amado Foundation • Joy and Joe Kaplan

Volunteer Services

Providing structure, training and recognition for 400+ volunteers

Children • Teens • Adults • Seniors

GOALS

Expand Agency Services Provide Opportunities for Meaninigful Volunteer Service

Volunteer Recognition

2021 Highlights:

- Volunteers helped deliver kosher holiday meals to 100 isolated seniors at Passover and Rosh Hashana.
- Volunteers decorated hundreds of Shabbat boxes and holiday gifts for hospital patients.
- Volunteers provided hand-made greeting cards for isolated members of the community.
- Volunteers returned in person to help at JFS LiVE!
 2021, A Sparkling Stars Evening.

8,775

\$250,000

Hours of service by JFS Houston Volunteers

Combined value of professional and nonprofessional volunteer time. This time has added immense benefits for the organization.

Major Volunteer Services Program Underwriters 2021

Gretchen Gemeinhardt and Becky Proler

JFS Houston 2021 Annual Report Financials

January 1 through December 31, 2021



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Social services for Jewish Nazi victims have been supported by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

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Fed Tax ID: 74-1152607

High Impact Funders provide foundational annual agency support or specific program support at the \$100,000+, \$50,000+ or \$25,000+ levels for the ongoing services of the agency.

HIGH IMPACT FUNDERS

PLATINUM

Joan & Stanford Alexander*

Martha & Donald Freedman*

Paula Goldstein

Elaine Helfman

Helfman-Feldman-Wolf Families

Levit-Setzer Family Foundation

Shirley and David Toomim Family Foundation*/ Ellen and Steve Robinson

DIAMOND

Bernard Fuchs
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GOLD

Anonymous Rita Blumenfeld Barbara & Mark Brookner **Debra & Steven Cohen** Theba & Buster^{z"|} Feldman Judy & Marc Herzstein/ **Brooke & Dan Feather** Carolyn & Jay Kaplan Mireille & Harvey Katz Shirleyz" & Jay Marks* Ione & Sidney Moran Samuels Family Foundation Joyce & Ambassador Arthur Schechter** Barbara Sheffield **Limor & Stuart Smith** Barbara Winthrop & Jay Steinfeld

- * JFS Bridge Fund Family
- ** Program Support

Jamie & Bert Wolf

Edith & Robert Zinn

CORPORATE FUNDERS

ChairKing Backyard Store
Cornerstone Home Lending
H-E-B
Helfman Dealerships
TIRR Memorial Hermann
Triple-S Steel/The Stein
Family

FOUNDATION FUNDERS

Harry A. and Rose Getz
Foundation Fund
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Foundation
Eric M. Suhl Foundation

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Foundation

ORGANIZATIONS

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

Houston Jewish Community Foundation

Houston Jewish Family Foundation

Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

Kavod Shef

United Way of Greater Houston

JFS Houston thanks the many generous endowment donors and legacy gifts supporting the Houston Jewish Family Foundation in 2021. A separate HJFF report will acknowledge these gifts.