
ALEXANDER
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE
2025 ANNUAL REPORT
IGNITING
POTENTIAL
AT EVERY STAGE OF LIFE
SINCE 1913
JOAN AND STANFORD ALEXANDER
JFS
Houston
Light • Hope • Help

# DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

This year, our theme—*Igniting Potential*—captures both the heart of our mission and the momentum we see growing each day within our community. Every interaction we have with a client is an opportunity to spark confidence, foster resilience, and open doors to new possibilities. It is work we are proud of, and work that continues to evolve.

As we reflect on the past year, we are inspired by the countless individuals and families who have taken meaningful steps toward greater stability, well-being, and opportunity. Their journeys remind us that lasting change is rarely achieved alone. It is made possible through the partnership between those who seek support, the dedicated professionals who walk alongside them, and the community that makes this work possible.

In 2025, that evolution was fueled by the energy and vision of the next generation. Through our new Career Catalyst Program in our Career & Employment Center, young adults are not only building their own futures—they are lending their passion, networks, and determination to help others do the same. Their involvement has amplified our impact in ways we could not have imagined, strengthening connections and creating new pathways to success for those we serve.

This report tells the story of a year defined by growth, collaboration, and meaningful outcomes across our full continuum of services. Within its pages, you will meet individuals whose lives have been transformed, learn about the staff who supported them along their journeys, and see how your generosity continues to fuel lasting change throughout our community.

For one of us, this report also marks the conclusion of a term serving as Board President. It has been a privilege to witness firsthand the extraordinary dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Together, we have strengthened an organization that continues to serve as a source of hope, support, and opportunity for thousands throughout our community. I encourage you to explore ways you can deepen your relationship with Alexander JFS in the coming year as we continue to build on this important work.

As you  explore this report, we hope that you feel a sense of pride in what we have accomplished together and celebrate with us the many ways we are igniting potential—today and for the future.

With gratitude,



Carolyn Mintz Kaplan

**CAROLYN MINTZ KAPLAN**
President, Alexander JFS, 2024–2025



Carl E Josehart

**CARL E. JOSEHART**
CEO, Alexander JFS

# IGNITING POTENTIAL
# THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

**Serving people of all faiths, backgrounds, and identities.**

**1,975**
clients served

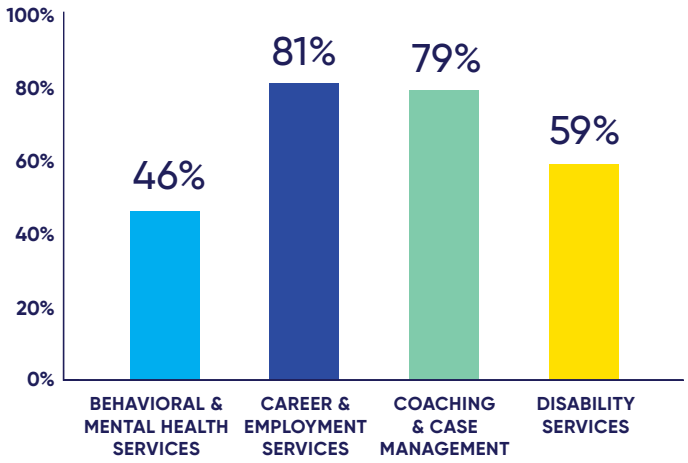
**164**
Greater Houston ZIP codes served

**19,145**
individuals benefited from programs

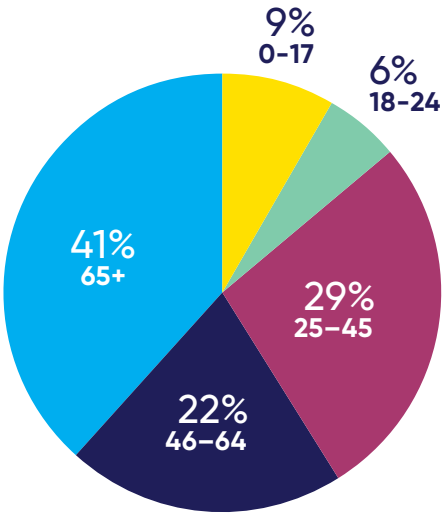
**55,135**
hours of direct services provided

**94%**
client satisfaction rate

## PERCENT OF CLIENTS LIVING AT OR NEAR THE POVERTY LEVEL




## CLIENTS SERVED BY AGE




# MISSION STATEMENT

SINCE 1913

JOAN AND STANFORD ALEXANDER JFS Houston
Light • Hope • Help

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

# IGNITING POTENTIAL

## 34,489

**individual services delivered** to help clients and families strengthen mental health, achieve stability, build independence, and improve quality of life.

## INGNITING STABLITY

**Helping individuals move from crisis to stability**



656

**financial assistance requests supported**



493

**adults and children received mental health counseling**



283

**individuals engaged with the Career & Employment Center**

# IGNITING GROWTH & INDEPENDENCE

**Expanding access to services that empower individuals to reach their goals and thrive**

20
internships secured for Celebration Company employees

187
clients received support from Disability Case Management

$120,000
provided in college scholarships & interest free loans

# IGNITING IMPACT

**Connecting and providing services throughout the community**

2,500+
attendees at ReelAbilities Houston programs & events

6
satellite locations provide select services including counseling, case management, and music therapy

44
mental health trainings given at partner locations including schools, community organizations, and corporations

9,021
volunteer hours in support of JFS programs & clients

# IGNITING CONNECTION

**Reducing isolation through meaningful connection**

592
older adult home visits

5,871
patients and families were seen by Chaplains and/or Chaplaincy Volunteers

133
support group participants



Katie Harlan, LCSW-S, RPT™, Psychotherapist

# BEHAVIORAL & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: IGNITING HEALING AND GROWTH

We empower individuals to build stability, strengthen resilience, and move forward with confidence.

## Adults

### REACH

**395**
clients served

**46%**
live at or near the federal poverty level

**133**
support group participants (+41% over previous year)

### OUTCOMES

**67%**
improved or stabilized anxiety levels

**67%**
improved or stabilized depression levels

**66%**
improved or stabilized general well-being

### THERAPY SUPPORT GROUPS IN 2025

- Golden Group (Age 55+)
- Mindfulness Group
- Grief & Loss Support Group
- Celebrating Bridges (Celebration Company Mental Wellness)
- Caregivers Support Group
- Parenting the Love & Logic Way
- Music Social Group (Age 4-6)
- Music Social Group (Age 7-10)
- Healing Bridges (Family Estrangement)



Sofia Heyl, MT-BC, NMT™, Music Therapist

# Children & Teens

## REACH

**98**
**clients served**

**36.8%**
**live at or near the federal poverty level**

**33%**
**of clients are under the age of 8**

## OUTCOMES



Emily R. Van Laan, LCSW-S, RPT-S™
Children's Mental Health Program Lead

**70%**
**improved or stabilized anxiety levels**

**61%**
**improved or stabilized depression levels**

**77%**
**improved or stabilized general well-being**

**MAJOR BMHS COUNSELING PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS 2025**

H-E-B • The Samuels Family Foundation • United Way of Greater Houston • Lillian Kaiser Lewis Foundation • The Marie Fay Evnochides Fund
**Endowment Funds:** Houston Jewish Family Foundation: • Joan and Stanford Alexander Fund for Mental Health (HJFF) • Robert & Edith Zinn Fund for JFS Mental Health Services (HJFF)



**SPOTLIGHT**

## JFS Play Institute: Igniting the Power of Play

Established in 2025, the JFS Play Institute provides Association for Play Therapy (APT) approved continuing education, clinical supervision, and specialized training to prepare professionals to deliver high-quality play therapy services.

- 9 trainings
- 76 participants since inception
- Participants joined in person and virtually from five states, extending the program's reach beyond Texas.



"Strengthening children's mental health begins with strengthening the workforce. The JFS Play Institute is expanding opportunities to train Registered Play Therapists™ so more children and families can access affordable, developmentally appropriate care."

**Ada Cheung, Ph.D., LCSW-S, RPT-S TM, EMDRIA Approved Consultant™**
Chief Clinical Officer

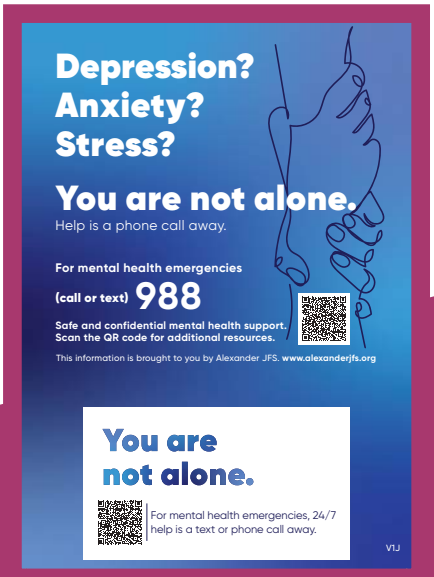
## COMMUNITY INTERVENTION

# Igniting Potential Beyond Our Walls

**3,137**

**participants served**

Community Intervention expands mental health awareness, education, and resources throughout Greater Houston. We help individuals, communities, and organizations build resilience, recognize mental health challenges, and seek support before a crisis occurs.







### AWARENESS

**660**

988 cards distributed to 33 organizations

**12,179**

clicks on the Weekly *Be Well* Column in the *Jewish Herald-Voice*

### SKILLS

**Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)**

**278** participants

**16** trainings

"The Mental Health First Aid training gave me the confidence to recognize the signs that a family member needed help and the skills to support them."

**MHFA Participant**

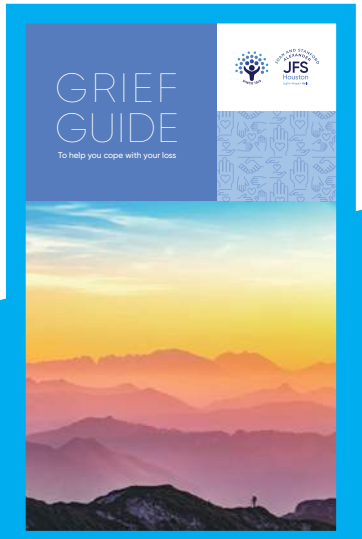



## PREVENTION

**376**
participants in Touching the Heart texting program

**44**
community presentations on mental health, well-being and resilience






## SUPPORT

**19**
attendees at Bright Stars Ceremony of Light & Remembrance

**18**
Grief Therapy Support Group sessions

**550**
free grief and suicide loss resources accessed through print distribution and online downloads

**22**
community consultations in response to crisis, suicide, and grief

**MAJOR BMHS COMMUNITY INTERVENTION UNDERWRITERS 2025**

Joan and Stanford Alexander • Shirley and David Toomim Family Foundation • Levit-Setzer Family Foundation • Eric M. Suhl Foundation • Poppy's Run for Life



# COACHING & CASE MANAGEMENT: IGNITING STABILITY WITH GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

Through personalized support, we help individuals overcome barriers, set achievable goals, and access the resources they need to build stability, independence, and a stronger future.

- **Disaster & Emergency Response**
- **Disability Services**
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Older Adult Services**
- **Student Loans & Scholarships**
- **Holocaust Survivor Services**

## REACH

**1,028**
**clients**

**1,178**
**requests for financial assistance to meet basic needs including United Way 211 referrals**

**126**
**Holocaust survivors received services including medical support, in-home care, food, transportation, social connection**

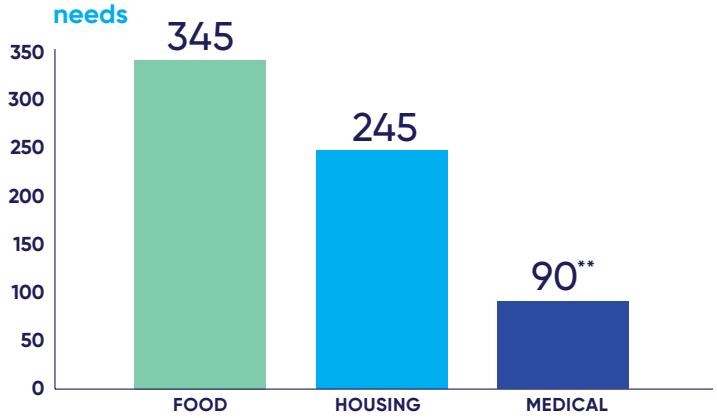
## ACCESS

**79%**
**of clients living at/ near poverty level**

**33%**
**of clients are age 75+**

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE*

**680 clients* received financial assistance for basic needs**




* Unduplicated; many clients receive multiple services
** Does not include Claims Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany funded home care

### MAJOR COACHING & CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS 2025

Jewish Federation of Greater Houston • Martha & Donald Freedman • Jake and Nina Kamin Fund • Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany • Mireille & Harvy Katz Foundation • Mary & William J Osher Foundation • Kavod Shef • Lillie and Dan Sterling Foundation • United Way of Greater Houston • Pauline Sterne Wolff Memorial Foundation • Seed the Dream Foundation • Donna & Philip Tenenbaum • Nathan J. Klein Fund • Aileen & Mark Weycer • Kenneth Horwtz
**Endowment Funds:** Houston Jewish Family Foundation • Nathan J. Klein Fund • The Lloyd & Morissa Parkans Scholarship Fund (HJCF) • Promise of Hope Fund (Jewish Federation and HJCF) • Samuel W. & Goldye Marian Spain Passover Assistance Program (HJCF) • Edith and Robert Zinn Scholarships Fund



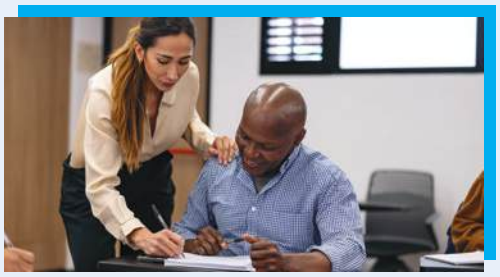

2025 Scholarship Recipients and Alexander JFS Staff Adele Croft and Carl E. Josehart

## SCHOLARSHIP & INTEREST FREE LOANS

**$120,000**
**awarded to Jewish students to support college education.**

### SCHOLARSHIP & INTEREST FREE LOANS MAJOR UNDERWRITERS 2025

Lloyd & Morrisa Parkans • Aileen & Mark Weycer/ Nicole and Glenn Lowenstein • Aileen & Mark Weycer • Edith & Robert Zinn



## FINANCIAL LITERACY & COACHING

**187**
**clients completed coaching**

**41**
**clients increased their savings**



## OLDER ADULT SERVICES

**468**
**clients age 60+**

**592**
**home visits***

**1,000+**
**personal phone calls initiated**

*many clients receive multiple services and visits

### JFS LIVE! 2025 PADDLES UP

Support to Maintain Coaching & Case Management Services and Trauma Informed Counseling

$10,000+: Wendy & Andy Bernstein • Jake & Nina Kamin Foundation • Sheri, Rori & Jason Feldman • Martha & Donald Freedman • Stacey & Louis Gomar • Elaine Helfman • Julia Jacobson • Carolyn & Jay Kaplan • Joy & Joe Kaplan • Jean Mintz • Brittany & Ashton Mossy • Ellen & Steve Robinson • Sonnie Shepps Robinson Foundation • Barbara Sheffield • Alana Spiwak & Sam Stolbun • Jamie & Bert Wolf • Sandi & Steven Wolf • Cyvia Wolff

# IGNITING STABILITY: CASIE



When Casie, a young single mother, was referred to JFS through the United Way's Integrated Client Journey portal, she was facing an immediate housing crisis and needed assistance to keep a roof over her family's head.

Our Case Management team quickly stepped in, providing rental assistance and helping Casie stabilize her situation. Through ongoing conversations, her case manager worked with her to evaluate her monthly budget, maximize available benefits, and build a stronger financial foundation. Casie also enrolled in Alexander JFS financial education classes, where she gained practical budgeting skills and increased confidence in managing her finances.

As Casie began setting long-term goals, her case manager connected her with the Career & Employment Center's SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) Program. Through this partnership, Casie explored career opportunities and identified her goal of becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant. She completed the financial education program, attended SNAP E&T orientation, and enrolled in classes at Houston Community College to pursue her certification.

> "Taking the classes and having those conversations helped me feel more confident about my finances and my future."
>
> **CASIE**

Today, Casie continues to balance the demands of parenting, work, and education while building a brighter future for herself and her daughter. Her journey reflects the power of integrated support—meeting immediate needs while creating pathways to long-term stability, self-sufficiency, and opportunity.

*Note: to protect client privacy, JFS may use alternative names and photos to represent client experiences.*




Laura Alter, CPRP, CPRW, Manager, Career & Employment Center

# CAREER & EMPLOYMENT: IGNITING CAREERS. BUILDING FUTURES.

Economic stability is the foundation of long-term independence. We help individuals overcome barriers, secure meaningful employment, and maintain employment where challenges exists.

## REACH

**42** obtained employment + **12** maintained current employment + **158** prepared for and actively seeking employment + **71** need additional training and/or treatment = **283** client served (+30% over previous year due to changing economy)

**80%** of clients have barriers that may affect job readiness including mental health, financial instability, age, and disability.

## CAREER & EMPLOYMENT CLIENTS SERVED

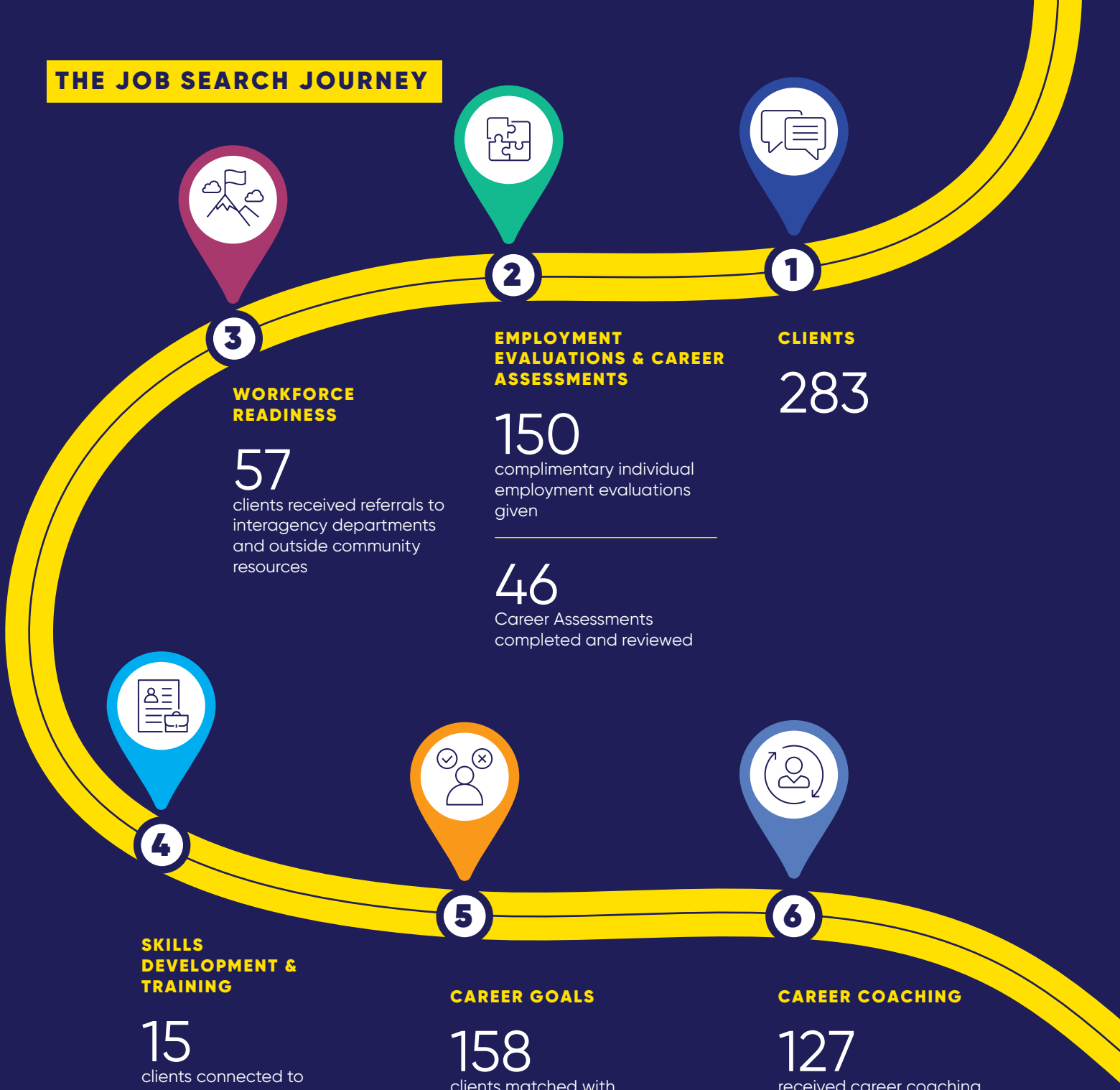
**53%** new or returning clients

**47%** continuing clients from 2024*

**80%** live at or near the federal poverty level

* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports an average duration to complete a job search is 26 weeks and it can be longer due to location and/or industry.

# THE JOB SEARCH JOURNEY



## 1 CLIENTS

283

## 2 EMPLOYMENT EVALUATIONS & CAREER ASSESSMENTS

150
complimentary individual employment evaluations given

46
Career Assessments completed and reviewed

## 3 WORKFORCE READINESS

57
clients received referrals to interagency departments and outside community resources

## 4 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

15
clients connected to certification and training programs to support career advancement

## 5 CAREER GOALS

158
clients matched with Career Coaches to set achievable career goals

## 6 CAREER COACHING

127
received career coaching

31
clients with disabilities received specialized employment support focused on job readiness, job search skills, and workplace success

## INNOVATION: NEW PROGRAMS IN 2025

### CAREER CATALYST

The Career Catalyst Program helps recent college graduates and mid-career professionals build their future through workshops, personalized career coaching, and mentorship.

200+ **participants attended free workshops speakers, panelists, and networking**



Career Catalyst Team: Lauren Marouni, Emory Skolkin, Emily Freedman, Mandy Thibodeaux

### DISABILITY INCLUSION IN EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS

315 **local employers and community members participated in five presentations.**

### PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE

Partnered with Workforce Solutions & the Department of Agriculture, Health & Human Services to help SNAP recipients secure employment and build greater self-sufficiency.

32 **participants**

8 **secured employment**

### MAJOR CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT CENTER UNDERWRITERS 2025

CenterPoint Energy Foundation • Jerold B. Katz Foundation • May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust • Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies • United Way of Greater Houston **Endowment Funds:** Houston Jewish Family Foundation • David Leon Career & Employment Advancement Fund (HJFF) • David Leon Career and Employment Scholarship Fund (HJFF) • Harvey R. Houck Jr and Patricia W. Houck Foundation • Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation

7

**JOB MAINTENANCE**

12
received career coaching to overcome workplace challenges and maintain employment

8

**EMPLOYMENT OBTAINED**

42
clients secured employment and increased self-sufficiency



# DISABILITIES SERVICES: IGNITING ABILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND INDEPENDENCE

Disability Services provides long-term support to individuals with disabilities and their families to achieve greater independence. **The Joan and Stanford Alexander Celebration Company** provides training in vocational skills and meaningful employment, helping individuals with disabilities develop workplace skills, confidence, and purpose.

## Adults

### REACH

**137**
clients served

**48**
adults with disabilities employed by Celebration Company

### CELEBRATION COMPANY OUTCOMES

**42%**
of CC employees have internships

**88%**
of CC caregivers indicated loved one maintained or gained new life skills

**100%**
of caregivers would recommend CC to a family or friend

### PROGRAMS & PARTICIPANTS



**Nite Owls**
17



**Independent Living**
10
(+100% over previous year)



**Social Group**
29



**PIT Crew: Program Assistant in Training**
9
(+120% over previous year)



**Celebrating Transitions**
9

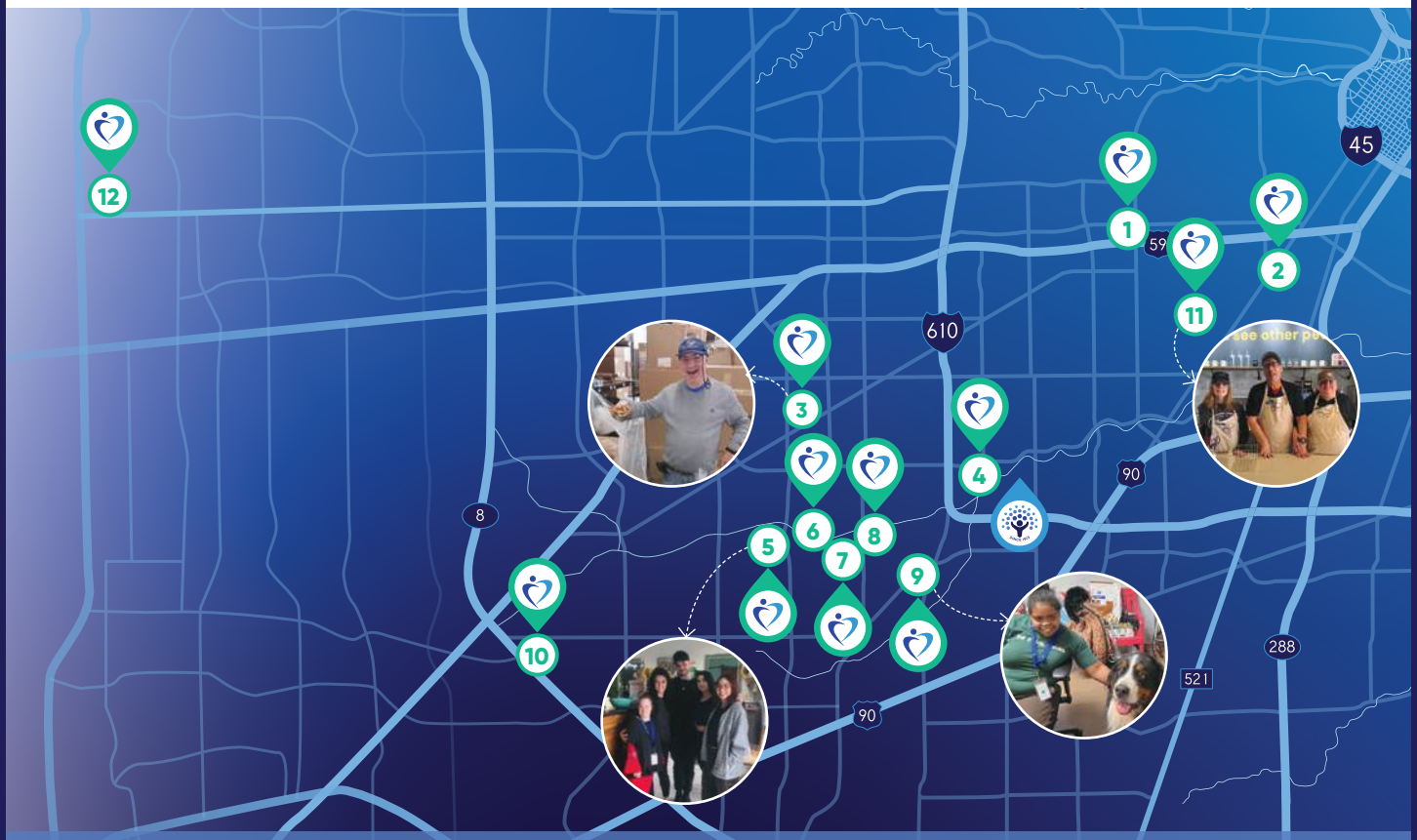


**Celebrating Health & Fitness**
34

SPOTLIGHT

# **Professional Internships:** Igniting Lifelong Potential

20 Celebration Company employees participated in internships with local employers, gaining valuable real-world work experience and professional skills.




**INTERNSHIPS**

1. Dessert Gallery
2. St. Matthew Lutheran Church
3. Houston Pecan Company
4. Jack Segal Academy Library
5. TFO Salon
6. Bertha Alyce Early Childhood Academy
7. Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
8. Bricks & Minifigs Meyerland
9. Meyerland Animal Clinic
10. Gourmet Table Skirts & Linens
11. Bitty and Beau's Coffee
12. Learning Express Toys

**MAJOR DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS 2025**

Jennifer Falik Memorial Fund for Celebration Company Scholarships • Ellen & Steve Robinson • United Way of Greater Houston • Harvey R. Houck Jr and Patricia W. Houck Foundation • Houston Jewish Community Foundation • Judy & Marc Herzstein. Brooke Feather, Bari & David Fishel • Martha & Donald Freedman • Jake and Nina Kamin Foundation • Eric & Isabelle Mayer • Lynne Lipsitz and The Melvin A. Lipsitz Family Foundtion • Sandra & Myron Friedman **Endowment Funds:** Joan and Stanford Alexander For the Good of Life Fund to Ensure the Future of Celebration Company (HJFF) • Toomim and Robinson Families Fund for Celebration Company (HJFF) • Leon Family Fund for the Good of Life Fund (HJFF)

# IGNITING INDEPENDENCE: DISABILITY CASE MANAGEMENT

Individuals with disabilities remain one of the most underserved populations, often facing significant barriers to housing, transportation, employment, health care, and public benefits. Through Disability Case Management, we help individuals and their families navigate these challenges while building the skills, confidence, and resources needed to achieve greater independence.

Using a client-centered approach, Disability Case Manager Irene Guerrero empowers individuals to advocate for themselves, build independence, and achieve their goals.

### DISABILITY CASE MANAGEMENT PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- **Social Security Disability (SSI/SSDI) preparation, application, and appeals support**
- **Medicaid and SNAP enrollment assistance**
- **Housing and transportation resource navigation**
- **Transition planning for young adults**
- **Life skills and independence coaching**



"Many of our clients face barriers that can feel overwhelming. While progress may take months or even years, every step toward greater independence, confidence, and self-advocacy is a meaningful success."

**Irene Guerrero**
Disability Case Manager

**187**
**Clients Served by Disability Case Management**



# FROM TRAINING TO EMPLOYMENT: RACHEL

Rachel Rich's story demonstrates the power of Alexander JFS's integrated approach to supporting individuals with disabilities.

Rachel spent approximately 18 months participating in PIT Crew (Program Assistant in Training), a vocational training program within Disability Services that helps adults with disabilities develop workplace skills and professional habits.

As Rachel's skills progressed, Disability Services partnered with the Career & Employment Center to support her transition into the workforce. Together, the two programs provided a seamless pathway from skills development to job placement.

Rachel's hard work paid off when she secured a position at **Panera Bread**, achieving a significant milestone on her path toward greater independence. Her success demonstrates how collaboration across Alexander JFS programs helps individuals move beyond barriers, reach their goals, and realize their full potential.

# ALEXANDER INSTITUTE FOR INCLUSION: IGNITING A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE

Building a more inclusive community by changing perceptions, inspiring action, and empowering individuals with disabilities to reach their full potential.

**SPOTLIGHT**

## Disability Inclusion Guide




**500+**
**copies distributed at events throughout the year and available free online.**

## REELABILITIES EVENTS & ATTENDEES



**ReelArt Opening | 290**



**ReelWorkplace | 110**



**ReelArt For All & ReelCommunity | 351**



**ReelPeople | 187**



**ReelFilm Screenings | 574**



**ReelEducation | 650+**

**ReelMusic 305**




REFRAMING DISABILITY
REELABILITIES
HOUSTON FILM AND ARTS FESTIVAL

## February 2–23, 2025

Our annual film and arts festival brings together individuals with and without disabilities to celebrate diverse stories, challenge stereotypes, and foster meaningful dialogue about inclusion and accessibility.

**2,500+**
**attendees**

**24**
**events throughout Houston**

**35**
**collaborating partners supported and/or hosted ReelAbilities events**

**ALEXANDER INSTITUTE FOR INCLUSION MAJOR REELABILITIES SPONSORS 2025**

Joan & Stanford Alexander • Bank of Texas • Comfort Systems USA • Paul Grossbard/MGA • Houston Arts Alliance • HEB • Ivanhoe Foundation • Isabelle & Eric Mayer • Novum Energy • PAGE • Riverbend Energy Group • Sysco Corporation • Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities • TIRR Memorial Hermann



Hope Lipnic, MA, LPC, CHTP and Rabbi Barry Cohen, Alexander JFS Chaplains.

# CHAPLAINCY: IGNITING HOPE AND CONNECTION

**The Velva G. & H. Fred Levine Jewish Chaplaincy Program** provides spiritual comfort and guidance, hospital visits, and community resources.

## REACH

**5,871**
**patients & families served**



**1,700**
**Shabbat Boxes Delivered**
**The Velva G. & H. Fred Levine Shabbat Box Program** mobilizes volunteers to decorate, fill, and deliver Shabbat boxes that bring comfort and connection to patients each week

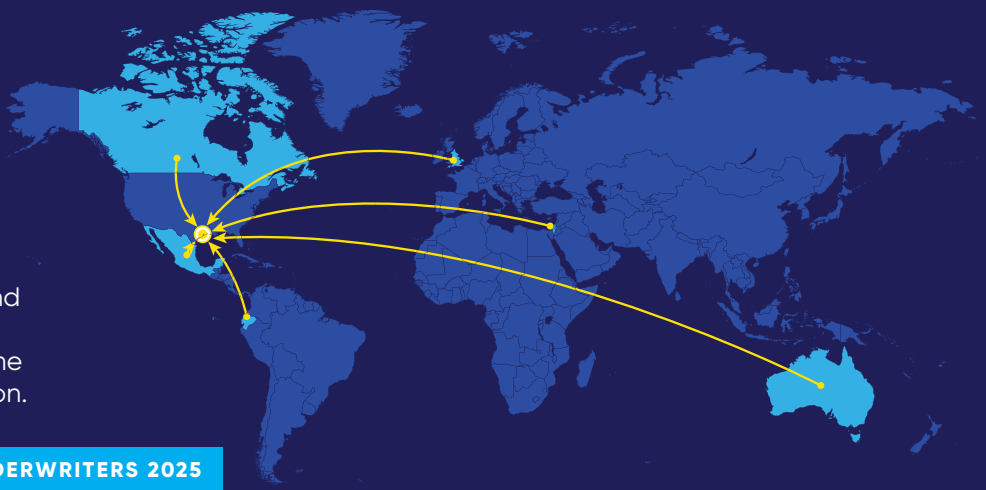


**9**
**hospitals served in the Texas Medical Center, Greater Houston, and Sugar Land**

## SPOTLIGHT

## Serving Patients from Around the Globe

In partnership with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, we help Jewish patients and families from around the globe feel connected, supported, and at home while receiving treatment in Houston.



**CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM MAJOR UNDERWRITERS 2025**

The Velva G. and H. Fred Levine Jewish Chaplaincy Program Endowment Fund (HJFF) • The Velva G. and H. Fred Levine Shabbat Box Endowment Fund (HJFF) • Dolores Wilkenfeld Chaplaincy Fund and The Velva G. and H. Fred Levine Jewish Chaplaincy Fund (HJCF) • The Maurice Amado Foundation

# JEWISH VALUES: IGNITING COMPASSION AND COMMUNITY

Jewish values guide everything we do, transforming compassion into action through service, support, and care for individuals and families at every stage of life.



Cantor Vadim Tunitsky, Music & Spirit Program Director

## PASSOVER ASSISTANCE

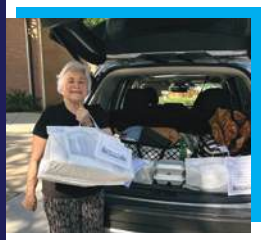
323

**households were provided with grocery gift cards to ensure traditional Passover foods could be purchased**

## COUNT ME IN

352

**gift cards provided to families to purchase gifts; 75 Senior Bags and 60 Family Gift Bags delivered for Chanukah celebrations**



## KOSHER MEAL DELIVERY

100

**isolated older adults received fresh kosher meals for Rosh Hashana and Passover**

Barbara Kalmans delivers kosher meals to older adults for Passover

## MUSIC & SPIRIT PROGRAM

423

**seniors living in assisted living communities participated in Jewish cultural, spiritual, and holiday programming**

80

**concerts**

60

**Shabbat programs**



**OPEN HEARTS OPEN DOORS MAJOR PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS 2025**

Sasha & Kevin Alexander

**COUNT ME IN MAJOR PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS 2025**

Ellen & Steve Robinson

**MUSIC AND SPIRIT MAJOR PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS 2025**

Norelle & Brian Becker • Ira B. and Myra Brown Fund • Kaki & Larry Buck • David DeVido • Rowena Young & Myron Steves, Jr. • Alana Spiwak & Sam Stolbun • Stan Shniderson




Woodside Energy Volunteers and Alexander JFS Staff, Rebecca Jones, Jessica Bursten, Emily R. Van Laan, Melanie Goldberg

# COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEERS: IGNITING POSSIBILITY TOGETHER

Volunteers provide hands-on support and professional expertise to expand our reach and deepen our impact.

## OUTCOMES

**427**
**volunteers**

**9,021**
**hours of services**

**Combined value of**

**$303,015***

*Value calculated using the Independent Sector's estimated hourly value of volunteer service in Texas ($33.59/hour).

**MAJOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS 2025**

Gretchen Gemeinhardt & Becky Proler



"Alexander JFS helped shape who I am, and volunteering here has given me the chance to give back while preparing for my future in mental health counseling."

**Michal Illouz, Volunteer**







# JFS LiVE!
# REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

## November 11, 2025

More than 1,100 supporters of Alexander JFS gathered for this annual event to raise the unrestricted funds needed to support the core services that transform the lives of thousands of people in Houston each year. We thank the extraordinary leaders that made the evening successful.



Rosalyn & Barry Margolis
and Leslie & Russ Robinson
**HONORARY CO-CHAIRS**



Gary & Sunni Markowitz, **EVENT CO-CHAIRS**
Carolyn Mintz Kaplan, **BOARD PRESIDENT**
Vicki & Andy Bursten, **EVENT CO-CHAIRS**




Sandi Helfman Wolf, **PADDLES UP CHAIR**
Marcy Margolis, **JOAN CHESED AWARD**
Phil Cohen, **FINANCE CHAIR**



Julie Gilbert and Fredda Friedlander
**AUCTION CO-CHAIRS**

**YOUNG ADULT AFTER PARTY CHAIRS**

**ANDREW BURNETT & ADRIAN HEID**

**SAMANTHA & ZACHARY GAITZ**

**ANDI & BRETT RIESENFELD**

**SPONSORED BY THE SKOLKIN AND TILLIS FAMILIES**
**IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF HOLLY HARWOOD SKOLKIN**



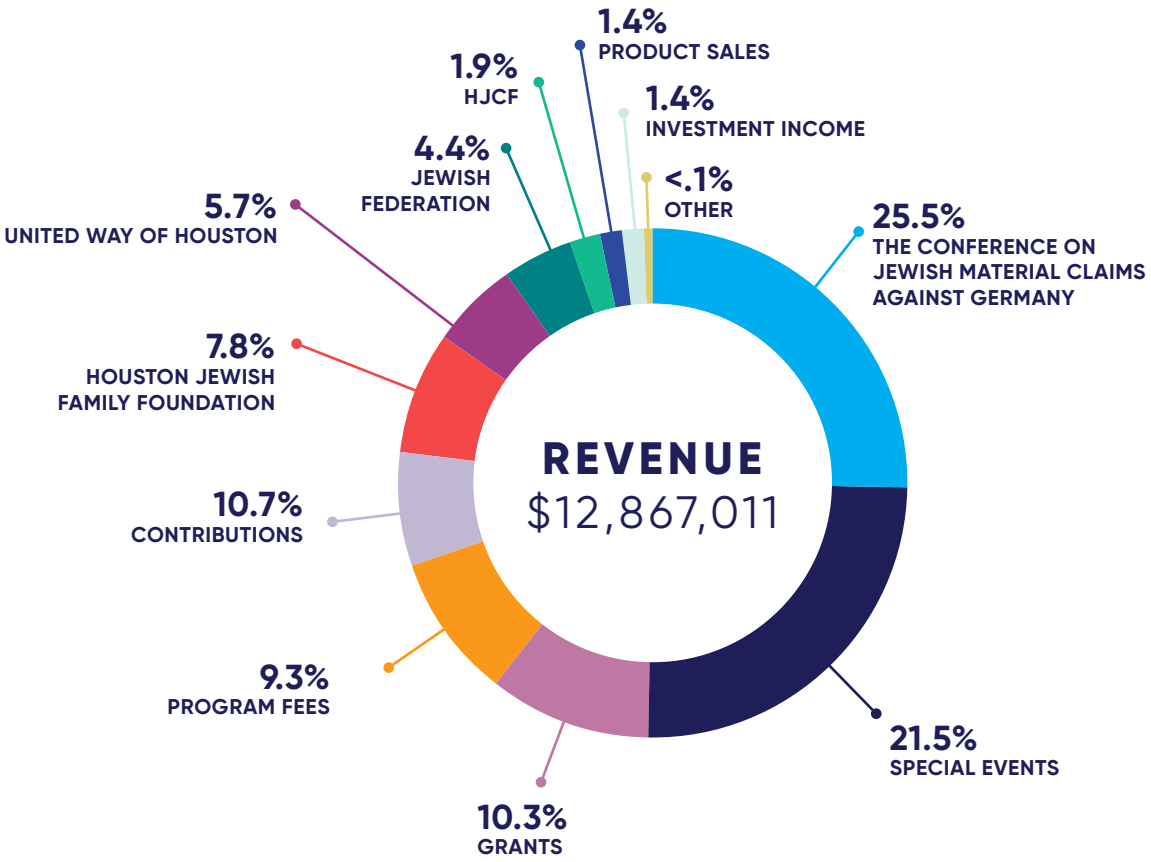




# 2025 FINANCIAL RESULTS

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2025

Fiscal Year 2025




| | |
|---|---|
| THE CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY | $3,279,659 |
| SPECIAL EVENTS | $2,773,320 |
| GRANTS | $1,326,142 |
| PROGRAM FEES | $1,201,401 |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | $1,388,781 |
| HOUSTON JEWISH FAMILY FOUNDATION | $1,003,102 |
| UNITED WAY | $740,000 |

| | |
|---|---|
| JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HOUSTON | |
| Financial Aid | $306,688 |
| Annual Allocation | $190,000 |
| Case Management | $50,000 |
| Disaster Assistance | $15,000 |
| HOUSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | $244,424 |
| PRODUCT SALES | $181,285 |
| INVESTMENT INCOME | $163,327 |
| OTHER | $3,882 |

## THROUGHOUT 2025, ALEXANDER JFS HELD EVENTS TO CELEBRATE OUR CLIENTS, DONORS, AND VOLUNTEERS.





**Annual Meeting**

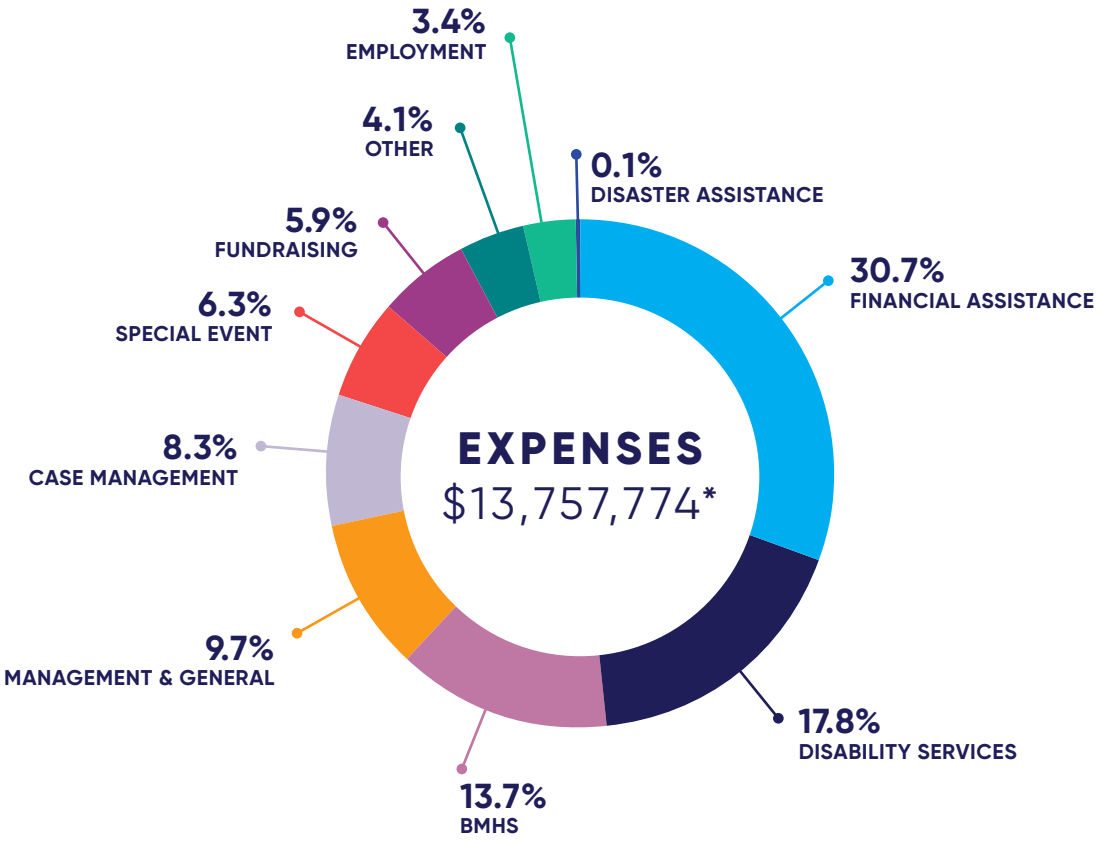
*2025 Alexander JFS Executive Committee* *Dee Dee Dochen and Lainie Gordon*






**High Impact Dinner**

*Courtney Cohen Garson, Carolyn Mintz Kaplan, Carol Goldberg* *Joe & Joy Kaplan and Vikki & Rich Evans*




| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE | $4,220,589 | FUNDRAISING | $819,059 |
| DISABILITY SERVICES | $2,415,582 | OTHER | $571,521 |
| BMHS | $1,885,830 | EMPLOYMENT | $464,887 |
| MANAGEMENT & GENERAL | $1,341,972 | DISASTER ASSISTANCE | $14,503 |
| CASE MANAGEMENT | $1,149,671 | MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS | $0 |
| SPECIAL EVENT | $874,160 | | |

**The difference between revenue and expenses was budgeted to be covered by $1,170,000 in prior year fund balances and multi-year grant commitments.*



**Legacy Reception**
*Lauren Seigel Foster, Jacob & Barbara Leon*



*Galina Yoffe, Barry & Carol Goodfriend, Borris Yoffe, Linda Lesser*



**Celebration Company "Sweet 16"**
*Ashley Katz, Sandi Helfman Wolf, Jackelyn Katz*



*Gabrielle Howard and Halley Turner*

## A BRIEF LOOK AHEAD

As I begin my term as 2026 Board President, I am grateful to Carolyn for her extraordinary leadership and for helping build a strong foundation for the future of Alexander JFS. Building on that foundation, and with an eye toward the evolving needs of our community, I have chosen *Strengthening Our Roots, Growing Our Reach* as the theme of my presidency–reflecting a commitment to deepening our impact while expanding access to those who can benefit from our services.

Our continued success depends on strengthening the roots that sustain our work: delivering measurable outcomes, evaluating our impact, and deepening the partnerships that make our mission possible. With those roots firmly in place, we can expand our reach and serve more individuals and families across our community.

By building strategic partnerships with organizations already embedded in underserved communities, we can bring services closer to those who face barriers to access. Together, we are building a future where more people can move from crisis to stability—and from stability to independence.



**PHIL COHEN**
President, Alexander JFS, 2026–2027

## PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

We continue to invest in advanced certifications and specialized training for our staff to ensure we can effectively address the evolving needs of our clients. In 2025, staff members earned and maintained specialized credentials, including:



**Anna Ashburn**
Perinatal Mental Health Certification(PMH-C), Adult Mental Health First Aid National Instructor



**Justin Cannon**
Emerging Leader Institute, a partnership between Centerpoint Energy and United Way



**Rafia Mian**
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)



**Raymond Saucillo**
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)



**Mandy Thibodeaux, MBA, CEMP**
AARP Senior Planet "Train the Trainer" Program for Older Adults Technology Services



**Judy Young**
Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Certification (EMDR)

# IGNITING EXCELLENCE

We are proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of Alexander JFS leaders, volunteers, and community partners whose dedication, expertise, and service have earned recognition from professional organizations and the community alike.



**MARCY MARGOLIS**
Joan Alexander Chesed Award

**ENTERPRISE MOBILITY**
Alexander Jewish Family Service Community Investment Award

**COURNEY COHEN GARSON**
The Shirley and Allen Becker Leadership Award



**CARL E. JOSEHART, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Distinguished Alumni Award, Washington University



**CAROLYN MINTZ KAPLAN, BOARD PRESIDENT**
Lay Leadership Award,
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies



**ADA CHEUNG, CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER**
Professional Leadership Award,
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies



**LAURA SIGNET, EVENTS AND DONOR STEWARDSHIP SPECIALIST**
Alexander JFS President's Award

# 2025 ALEXANDER JFS LEADERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS

**Carolyn Mintz Kaplan**
*President*

**Jan Zuber Miller**
*VP, Program Services*

**Greg Lewis**
*VP, Administration*

**Vikki Evans**
*VP, Development*

**Sasha Alexander**
*Secretary*

**Phil Cohen**
*Assistant Secretary*

**Gretchen Gemeinhardt**
*Treasurer*

**Jay Epstein**
*Assistant Treasurer*

**Marcy Margolis**
*Board Engagement*

**Emily Freedman**
*Community Engagement*

**Sandi Helfman Wolf**
*Immediate Past President*

## DIRECTORS

Shayna Andrews
Debra Boniuk
Andrew Burnett
Karen Edelman
Jeffrey Feinstein
Rori Feldman
Ellen Brodksy Gaber
Courtney Cohen Garson
Julie Gilbert
Deanna Goldner
Lainie Gordon
David Harris
Cindy Ivanhoe, MD
Larry Jacobs
Debbie Kaplan
April Love
Sunni Markowitz
Michael Mazvinsky
David Morris
Susan Patt
Michael Richker*
Silvia Riff
Jonathan Risch
Ellen Toomim Robinson
Lauren Rubenstein
Susan Schneider
Rabbi Adrienne Scott
Michael Segal
Elisha Selzer
Bruce Shelby
Susan Chapman Smith
Deborah Sopher
Jill Talisman
Kim Trimble

*Lifetime Member

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Madeleine Appel
Mark Brookner
Debra Cohen
Donald Freedman
Frances Friedman
Carol Goldberg
Barry Goodfriend, M.D.
Marc Grossberg
Joy Kaplan
Jacob Leon
Eric Mayer
Larry S. Reader
Robert Reader
Steve Robinson
George Stark
Phillip Tenenbaum
Shirley Warshaw

## 2025 HIGH IMPACT ENDOWMENT GIFTS TO BENEFIT ALEXANDER JFS

(In 2025 endowment gift level or yield level or combined)

Joan and Stanford Alexander Family
Joan Alexander in honor of Shirley Toomim
Linda L. Burger CEO Discretionary Endowment Fund
Andy and Andrea Diamond Foundation
Estate of Anne and Donald Graubart
Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
Harvey R. Houck Jr and Patricia W. Houck Foundation
Nina and Jake Kamin Fund for Medical Financial Assistance – Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and Houston Jewish Community Foundation
Nathan J. and Amelia Klein Endowment
Nathan J. Klein Building Fund
David Leon Advancement Fund
David Leon & Jacob Leon/Leon Family Fund
The Velva G. & H. Fred Levine*
Matilda Melnick Fund
Jeane Strauss Mintz Employee Assistance Fund
Promise of Hope Fund -Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and Houston Jewish Community Foundation
Robinson and Toomim Families Fund for Celebration Company
Grace Weiss Fund
Robert & Edith Zinn

# HIGH IMPACT FUNDERS 2025

## PLATINUM

Joan & Stanford Alexander*
Martha & Donald Freedman*
Becky Proler & Gretchen Gemeinhardt**
Judy & Marc Herzstein/ Brooke Feather/ Bari & David Fishel
Joy & Joe Kaplan
Mireille Katz & Harvy Katz***
Levit-Setzer Family Foundation
Samuels Family Foundation
Shirley and David Toomim Family Foundation*/ Ellen & Steve Robinson

## DIAMOND

Elaine Helfman
Carolyn & Jay Kaplan
Joy & Joe Kaplan
Isabelle & Eric Mayer
Leslie & Russ Robinson
Shannon & Brian Small
Alana Spiwak & Sam Stolbun

## GOLD

Sasha & Kevin Alexander**
Lisa & Joel Bender
Rita Blumenfeld
Barbara & Mark Brookner
Vicki & Andy Bursten
Rhona & Bruce Caress
Vikki & Rich Evans
Clive Fields
Marjorie Fields
Carol & Michael Goldberg
Nicole & Evan Katz
Marcy & Jeff Margolis
Sunni & Gary Markowitz
Barbara Sheffield
Shawna Bloom & Andy Singer
Barbara Winthrop & Jay Steinfeld
Jamie & Bert Wolf
Melvyn and Cyvia Wolff Family Fund
Edith & Bob Zinn

## CORPORATE FUNDERS

Enterprise Mobility™
H-E-B
Helfman Dealerships
Sysco
TIRR Memorial Hermann

## FOUNDATION FUNDERS

Harvey R. Houck Jr and Patricia W. Houck Foundation**
Ivanhoe Foundation**
Lewis and Joan Lowenstein Foundation
Jerold B. Katz Foundation**
Jake and Nina Kamin Foundation
Mary & William J. Osher Foundation
Marc and Jeri Shapiro Family Foundation
Sonnie Schepps Robinson Foundation
Lillie and Dan Sterling Foundation
Eric M. Suhl Foundation**
Pauline Sterne Wolff Memorial Foundation

## ORGANIZATIONS

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
Houston Jewish Community Foundation
Houston Jewish Family Foundation
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
Kavod Shef
Poppy's Run
United Way of Greater Houston

* JFS Bridge Funder Family
** Program Support
*** Capital Support

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

**Carl E. Josehart, MSW**
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Ada Cheung, PhD, LCSW-S, RPT™**
*Chief Clinical Officer*

**Tiffany Dorsey**
*Chief Development Officer*

**Rachel W. Davis, M-JS**
*Chief Legacy & Major Gifts Officer*

**Tammy Hopwood, CPA, MBA**
*Chief Financial Officer*

*A United Way Partner*

United Way Greater Houston

ועידת התביעות Claims Conference
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

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

Platinum Transparency 2025 Candid.

Charity Navigator FOUR-STAR

*Partner Agency of*

Joan and Stanford Alexander JFS Houston Light • Hope • Help

Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

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