

Jewish Social Services



(L to R) Adele Bedrick, Barbara Zelickson, Adrienne Rosenberg, Trish Golumbe with Ha Lailah Chanukah baskets distributed by Jewish Social Services.

Thoughts From Adrienne

By Adrienne Rosenberg
JSS Director

According to 1984 statistics of the U.S. Census Bureau, single parents headed 25.7 percent of the families with children under 18 in the United States. It is not definitely known how many single parents we have in our Charlotte Jewish community; however, it is certain there are a number of us out there, both custodial and noncustodial who struggle with what it means to be a single parent in a religious background that emphasizes two-parent households.

All single parents can not be generalized into one grouping, of course, but there are certain familiar themes: the financial strains (single custodial parents are now classified nationally as the "new Jewish poor"), of having to do with less when most middle class families have two incomes; the adjustments from married parent to a nonmarried parent and trying to be a parent figure, homemaker, employee, sex symbol, and balance the four, sometimes without an adequate support system; the

struggles and triumphs of establishing new parental roles for both those who see the children daily and those who only have visitation time; the worries about the effects on the children with all of the guilts, pain, anger, desperation and hope one can carry about being a single parent. There are adjustments to be made and remade with no set guidelines and not very much societal structure.

With these stresses in mind, Jewish Social Services and the Jewish Community Center will be coordinating efforts to help single parents and their children feel they do have support and activities within the

Jewish community. The Jewish Community Center will be offering social activities for single parents and their kids. We will be offering support groups, first for single parents themselves, and second for kids of single parents. Each group will offer opportunities to discuss how it feels to be part of a one-parent home and to learn how others cope. All activities will be for custodial and non-custodial parents and their children and open to anyone in the Jewish community.

For further information, please call Jewish Social Services, 364-6594 or Jackie Fishman, of JCC, 366-0357.

A Special Thank You To:

- Temple Israel for donating food for those less fortunate.
- Temples Beth El/Beth Shalom Religious School for canned goods for the Jewish poor at Thanksgiving.
- Temple Beth El Youth Group for their special projects on behalf of some of our clients.
- Temple Israel confirmation class for becoming friendly visitors to shut-ins.
- Ha Lailah B'nai B'rith Women for Chanukah baskets for Jewish persons in non-Jewish nursing homes and families who would otherwise go without.
- Temple Beth El Men's Club for donating Kroger food coupons for our distribution.
- All those who volunteer to visit and call seniors who might otherwise be lonely or feel forgotten.
- All who are supportive of Jewish Social Services and what we are accomplishing in the community.

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