



Jewish Family Services

Charlotte Jewish
FEDERATION
Your Dollars Work Here

Thoughts from Adrienne

By Adrienne Rosenberg, JFS Director

As a social activist and community planner, I have always appreciated the power of grass root groups to champion causes or issues, to be a tool for advocacy and to cause social change. I have sometimes participated in such groups and have had the experience of the emotional highs and lows that accompany such efforts as resistance and fear are overcome and as acceptance and social change are achieved.

It is with this thought in mind that I applaud the efforts and dedication of the Jewish Family Services' task force on the Physically Disabled and the Jewish Family Services' task force on Substance Abuse. Each task force is comprised of six members of the Jewish community who have felt that the needs of the Jewish physically disabled and Jewish substance abusers were being denied and ignored in our community. These task forces were formed in December, 1986. Their goals were and remain educational, service oriented, mutual support and recognition of special needs. They both were formed to make an impact and change those obstacles in our community which made certain members feel unwanted or unaccepted.

The results are showing; change is beginning to occur; power of the people does work in our Jewish community. A small group united can overcome time question what is, begin educating, set up programming, live with frustrations of first being ignored or downplayed, and gradually see results.

On February 21, the six members of the task force of the Physically Disabled saw the culmination of their efforts in a program entitled Handicapped Awareness Day, held at Shalom Park. They first thought of the idea after it was apparent how little knowledge major members of our community had about the needs of the physically disabled. This group was determined that the two near Temple buildings will be handicapped accessible. The program was made possible with the efforts of the co-sponsors: HaLailah Chapter BBW, Charlotte Jewish Community Center, Charlotte Jewish Federation, The Foundation of the Charlotte Jewish Community Center, Charlotte



David Swimmer and Evelyn Berger discuss how it is to be in a wheelchair with Jennie Conrad of Metrolina Independent Living Center.

Jewish Federation, The Foundation of the Charlotte Jewish Community, Temple Beth El V'Shalom and Temple Israel and the assistance of many wonderful volunteers. The equipment was supplied by the Cerebral Palsy Center; Metrolina Independent Living Center was hired to put on the program.

The religious schools were discharged 30 minutes before regular time so the children could participate. Community leaders took part; HaLailah sponsored a free lunch after the program; and over 250 people saw the puppet show, the film, the stations set up to educate about disabilities, and the awareness of what it means to be physically disabled at Shalom Park. A video presentation was made of the day; acknowledgement of need was stated by community leaders; grass roots organizing was successful.

The efforts of the task force on Substance Abuse have been slower to reach such positive results, probably because of the sensitivity of abusers and their families and the rampant denial in our community that Jews do not drink or take drugs. There have been educational programs, articles written, outreach to those who acknowledge they have the problem. There are two next steps planned by the task force members: (1) a questionnaire to the Jewish community to determine knowledge and need about this problem and (2) pressure to achieve acknowledgement and support from our religious community. In this way those Jews who are living with a substance abuse problem and who want support from the Jewish community can feel comfortable enough to ask for it.

I am proud to be involved with both groups and am



Student Loans Are Available

Jewish Family Services will be accepting applications for interest-free student loans for college students. These loans are guaranteed from Jewish Children Service of Atlanta to Jewish youth whose families reside in the Southeast. The following guidelines are essential for eligibility:

- The student and family must have been residents of the Charlotte Jewish community for over one year.
- The loans must be used primarily for college or post-secondary training.
- The student must have been accepted by a recognized school and show his/her intention to complete schooling and to begin paying back the loan after graduation.
- The principal determinant, in addition to the qualifications listed above, is financial need.
- The loan, if granted, will not cover total expenses. Rather, the student must show he/she has applied for other grants or loans.
- Priority is given to state schools where out-of-state tuition is not required; however, other factors are taken into consideration.

Applications must be completed by May 20. To begin the process, please call Jewish Family Services, 364-6594.

Frances Wisebart Jacobs Honored

Mrs. Frances Wisebart Jacobs, known in her time as a social reformer and the "Mother of Charities," joined four Denver religious leaders in 1887 to found the organization known as United Way. Today, 2,300 United Ways and thousands of charitable agencies across America provide human-care services to millions of people. Mrs. Jacobs, pictured in the state capital building's stained glass window, is the only woman among 16 Coloradans to receive this tribute.

In 1865, Frances Wisebart Jacobs, a Kentucky-born Jewish woman, traveled to Colorado in a covered wagon with her bridegroom Abraham. Their destination was the silver mining boom town,



Mrs. Jacobs

Central City, where Mr. Jacobs was a partner with his brother-in-law in a clothing store.

In the 1870s after her children were born, Mrs. Jacobs dedicated her efforts to fund-raising and emergency relief for a variety of causes in Central City and later in Denver.

- She founded the first free kindergarten in Denver;
- With Monsignor William J. O'Ryan, Rev. Myron Reed,

See JACOBS page 7



Ellie and Ron Katz received award for doing the most for the physically disabled in the Jewish community.

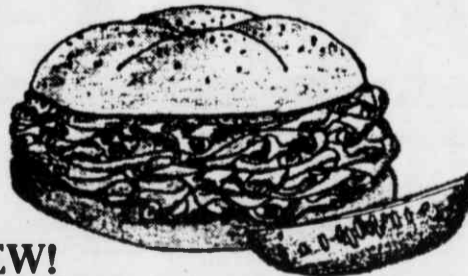
pleased that neither have allowed initial resistance to dissuade from the goals they set for themselves. The strong feelings these twelve persons in our community have and their desire for change and a place of acceptance are seeing results. They can and have made a difference.

Wanted

A volunteer is needed who would be willing to drive senior citizens on Wednesdays or Thursdays on a rotating basis. For further information, contact Adrienne Rosenberg, Jewish Family Services, 364-6594.

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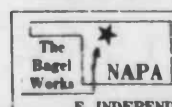
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