

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Keys to JFS Success: Community and Collaboration

"The world is a tree and human beings are its fruit." (Rabbi Solomon Ibn Gabirol, 11th century Spain).

In the same way that leaves grow from a single branch, we live in a community that supports and sustains us. One of the beautiful things about Shalom Park is the way that the agencies work together to benefit our community. Active collaboration between Jewish Family Services and other agencies throughout Shalom Park and the greater Charlotte community enables JFS to continue to serve our community with targeted services and innovative programming.

Even though the stock market has ticked upward and the housing market is improving, Charlotte is not the same and complete recovery is uncertain. Like other social service agencies, JFS faces financial challenges. Raising money for programming budget through the Friends campaign has been more challenging this year and other sources of income have diminished. The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte funds a significant portion of the operating budget. The 2010 Federation Allocation to JFS is \$225,000, accounting for 37% of the 2010 JFS operating budget. Many JFS clients who receive therapy services are uninsured, have high deductibles, or cannot afford their full co-pay for services. In 2009, there was an 18% increase in fees waived for therapy. The Federation Allocation enables JFS to offer professional, high quality therapy services to these clients on a sliding fee scale. Without this allocation, JFS would not be able to keep its welcoming doors open. Sue Worrel, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Great Charlotte, notes the role that JFS plays in our community, and the collaborative nature of that role:

"Charlotte's Jewish community is blessed in so many ways, not the least of which is the wide array of synagogues and agencies that exist to meet our varied Jewish needs. ... But of all the organizations that we support, JFS is the only one uniquely positioned to assist those among us who need our help most. Whether it's food, emergency financial assistance, therapy, or vocational services, JFS provides the services and support that so many in our community count on every day. The Jewish Federation is proud to support the work of JFS, and we are grateful that gifts to our Annual Campaign enable JFS to do so much for so many."

According to Stephanie Starr, JFS Executive Director, "Over the past two years, JFS has made a concerted effort to partner more often and more effectively with Shalom Park agencies and other Charlotte organizations."

For example, JFS recently began working with United Family Services to educate our community on the insidious issue of domestic abuse. United Family Services brings unique expertise on the problem of domestic vio-



Sam Strause and Norman Steinberger were honored for the positive impact their focus and generosity bring to JFS clients. Bea Gibbs, Senior Outreach Coordinator, was also honored for her dedication to serving our senior adult population.

lence and combating abuse.

JFS is proud of its long-standing relationships with Loaves & Fishes and Second Harvest Food Bank. These affiliations benefit both JFS and the greater Charlotte community:

* When the demand for food is not met by community donations, these organizations help JFS to replenish its pantry.

* As part of these networks, JFS receives referrals citizens and provides pre-packaged bags of essential groceries to needy citizens.

The responsibility to provide for those in need is shared by agencies across Shalom Park. JFS depends on all of the agencies across Shalom Park to stock our community food pantry with nutri-

tious foods and basic essentials like paper goods. For example, the annual Temple Israel Yom Kippur food drive fed clients for two months. In addition, Consolidated Hebrew High School students regularly donate paper towels and toilet paper. Food and supplies donated through Charlotte Jewish Day School, the Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Camp Mindy, LJCC programming, and the Temple Beth El and Temple Israel religious schools enable JFS to keep up with the steady demand. Home-cooked meals prepared by the women of Hadassah guarantee hot, balanced meals for our home-bound community members.

JFS senior Jewish outreach is



CJP entertainers from Miss Vicky's three-year old class delight guests with their rendition of "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel" at the annual JFS Hanukah party for senior adults.

one of the most valued JFS programs, sparking Jewish connections with approximately 150 seniors who live in nursing, inde-

pendent and assisted living facilities across Charlotte. Bea Gibbs, Senior Outreach Coordinator, (Continued on page 11)

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