



Several doctors who had been to Haiti to help after the devastating earthquake spoke about their experiences to the community. Left to right: Maj. Dr. Avi Yitzchak, who led the IDF mobile hospital that was operational in Haiti within 36 hours of the earthquake; Dr. Rob Liesman; Dr. Mark Lewin; Dr. Will Conner.

Sponsoring the program was the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Crisis/Case Management and Community Resources

JFS is the focal point for addressing the social service needs of the Charlotte Jewish Community and is committed to preserving and strengthening the quality of life for individuals and families. Through Case Management, JFS helps others help themselves by providing vital support to our community members at critical stages in their lives. Working directly with individuals and families from all walks of life who are experiencing financial crisis, JFS offers advocacy, referrals, outreach, and emergency financial assistance with the goal of developing effective long-term solutions. In addition, JFS offers vocational and counseling services that compliment this financial assistance. Our programs work collaboratively and seamlessly with one another.



Nicole Levine

Nicole Levine is a Clinical Therapist and Case Manager with JFS. She specializes in helping people with Financial and Community Resources. Nicole has her Masters degree in Social Work from Boston University and is a licensed Clinical Social Worker.

In her role as a Case Manager, Nicole helps individuals and families apply for food stamps, secure lower cost housing, apply for low cost medical assistance, obtain budgeting and finance assistance, as well as many other daily living needs. She collaborates directly with Crisis Assistance Ministries which allows her to complete financial applications so that our clients do not have to travel to the Crisis Assistance location.

When available community resources seem overwhelming and it is difficult to determine the best source for help, Nicole is able to refer clients to the appropriate, available community resources and help clients make the best choices. Nicole collaborates with

other community agencies that assist with finances, housing, medical, transportation, and food needs such as the Department of Social Services, United Family Services, Loaves and Fishes, Child Care Resources, Charlotte Housing Authority, Charlotte Community Health Services, Physicians Reach Out, MedAssist, and the Social Security Administration.

Financial distress can cut across all socioeconomic levels and ages. The increased unemployment rate and cost of living – food, gas, housing, electricity, and clothing – can result in the need for help. Through the Community Tzedakah Fund, JFS is able to provide assistance to any member of the Jewish Community who qualifies for assistance.

Examples of our Assistance:

* Recently a young family came to JFS for financial assistance with their rent and utilities. Due to a health crisis, they were unable to work and their bills were overdue. JFS was able to provide some temporary financial relief. Due to this intervention they were able to regain financial stability

until they recovered and were able to go back to work.

* Jeff, a middle aged member of our community, was laid off from his job and was unable to cope with the financial and the emotional impact of unemployment. Through case management, vocational counseling and weekly therapy, Jeff was able to update his resume, sharpen his interviewing skills and regain his confidence so that he could prepare for job interviews. He also received assistance with his bills and has utilized the JFS food pantry.

Nicole wants the community to know that it is important to contact JFS before financial situations become a crisis. Make an appointment to speak with a case manager before your financial difficulties deepen so that you can be given the resources and tools to get back on track. ☆

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JFS Mitzvah Baskets

**In honor of the b'nei mitzvah of: Sean Keady,
Connor Speizman, Jonathan Rubin**
**In honor of the b'not mitzvah of: Nicole Framm,
Liana Gainsboro, Bailey Kahn**