



# JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES



## “Simchot” for Seniors Hanukkah Party

In December Jewish Family Services held the Annual Hanukkah Party for Seniors in conjunction with the “Simchot” for Seniors program. Over 100 people attended despite the unusually cold weather. The party was funded in part by the great generosity of Norman Steinberger. Every year Norman provides the resources for older adults in our community to enjoy the traditions of the holiday. Due to his kindness the seniors enjoyed delicious potato latkes and live Klezmer music. Each guest received a gift of real “gelt,” silver dollar coins provided by Norman.

Jewish Family Services and Temple Israel collaborate to present the “Simchot” for Seniors program which connects underserved seniors to the community. The program meets Monthly, every 3rd Thursday at Temple Israel and



Karen Knoble, Lee Boxer, and Nancy Bernstein were honored at the JFS Annual Meeting.

locations in Shalom Park.

This program is provided with the generous assistance of the BJH Foundation for Senior Services and the Etta and Louis Greenspon Senior Endowment.

BJH Foundation for Senior Services, founded in 2006, pro-

vides grants to organizations that enhance the lives of Jewish seniors in North and South Carolina. Grants are awarded for activities, services and programs for the elderly in accordance with Jewish values and beliefs. “Simchot” for Seniors provides transportation for those who qualify and a warm friendly environment for seniors to celebrate Jewish holidays and traditions with their peers.

### JFS Annual Meeting

JFS recently held its Annual Meeting where volunteers Karen Knoble, Nancy Bernstein, and Lee Boxer were honored for their extraordinary work with Jewish Family Services.

At the meeting the outgoing board members, Ed Bograd, Brett Goodman, Nancy Sherr and Rebecca Usadi were recognized for their dedicated service and a contribution was made in their honor to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. The 2011 JFS board members are: Adam Altman, Allison Arena, Ellen Engelhardt (president), Sandra Friend, Milton Goldstein, Michael Grey, Michael Jaffa (past president), Lori Jackowitz (secretary), Marty

Kelso, Gary Lerner (treasurer), Jill Lipson, Len Marco, Jenny Meiselman, Wendy Petricoff, Louis Sinkoe, Harry Sparks, Nancy Tarbis, Lisa Vogel, and Herm Ziegler.

### JFS Food Pantry Policy Update

The JFS food pantry is proud to be one of the 18 Loaves and Fishes food pantries in Charlotte. There are 15 large food pantries and three emergency pantries in the community. Loaves & Fishes food pantries provide a week’s worth of nutritious groceries to individuals and families in a short-term crisis. The JFS food pantry is one of the three emergency pantries in Charlotte. The other two emergency pantries are located at DSS and Crisis Assistance Ministries.

Loaves & Fishes was created to meet emergency food needs brought about by a crisis situation. Loaves & Fishes sees its mission as providing a hand up in a crisis, not a hand out which fosters dependency upon its program as a regular food source. Clients are served on a referral basis after careful screening, to assure that only those truly in need are served. Charlotte Mecklenburg Human Service Agencies, qualified ministries, local clergy, school counselors, and medical providers screen and evaluate cases. After screening, clients are sent to one of Loaves & Fishes’ pantries to

receive a week’s worth of groceries for themselves and their family members every thirty days.

On December 13, JFS staff met with Loaves and Fishes staff to discuss best practices in food pantry operations and processes. As a result of this meeting, JFS decided to modify several of its processes in its food pantry operation and distribution to be consistent with the other 17 Loaves and Fishes food pantries in Charlotte. As of January 1, the JFS food pantry has been exclusively providing food to individuals and families who are assessed by JFS staff for need. This includes both clients who are currently receiving services from JFS, such as case management, therapy, or senior outreach services, or who may have received JFS services in the past and are still in need of food assistance. JFS will not be turning away anyone in the Jewish community or anyone employed by any agency within the Jewish community in need of assistance.

The modest changes to our food pantry process will allow JFS to continue to fulfill our mission as well as respond to the growing and changing needs of our community.

For more information about JFS resources and programs or to make a donation or send a tribute card, please contact us at 704-364-6594 or visit us online at [www.jfscharlotte.org](http://www.jfscharlotte.org). ✪



Everyone had a wonderful time at this year’s JFS Hanukkah party for community seniors.



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