

Jewish Family Services

Jobs Needed

Jewish Family Services always has people looking for jobs. Most of the people we have are highly skilled persons. It would be helpful to us if any employer could keep us informed of job openings they have. Although we are not a job placement agency, if we could help a Jewish person find employment, we would be able to help a family in need. Please call Dori at Jewish Family Services at 364-6594 or 364-6596.

Thank You

Jewish Family Services can continue to schedule transportation for the elderly and infirm to go to their doctors and do their shopping because of your help. Some of you have been wonderful volunteers for years, giving away your time, your gas, and your personal comfort. In addition to these sacrifices, you have also been giving consolation and friendship to those you drive.

Those of you who have recently made yourselves available to drive for us, know that you, too, are invaluable. Even if you can drive only once in a while, you are important in keeping this program alive.

Please call us at 364-6594 or 364-6596 and let us know what you can do for our seniors.

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Janet Gnuse

Director of Social Services, Cedar Spring Hospital

and

Iris E. Madison

Clinical Social Worker, Jewish Family Services

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For more information or registration call
Jewish Family Services, 364-6594 or 364-6596

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Thoughts from Adrienne

By Adrienne Rosenberg, JFS Director



As director of Jewish Family Services, there are many facts I have in my head that I often realize not everyone in the Jewish community knows. It is not that we try to keep it a secret, but that denial and stereotyping prevent people from accepting these facts as true. What kinds of things am I talking about?

1. Jewish poverty does exist in Charlotte. At any one time our agency assists and knows of Jewish persons with extreme financial struggles. Most Jews in our community live a middle class or above existence, but many others are struggling to meet the basics of food, shelter and daily expenses because of unemployment, medical emergencies, limited income, single-parent needs or other situational factors. We use the food donated to Temple Israel, Temple Beth El V'Shalom or other Jewish organizations for Jewish people in our midst to help stretch budgets. We are always in need of monies for food and food certificates, partial assistance payments to prevent homelessness, and some medical ex-

penses. Jewish Family Services is happy to help provide confidential assistance when needed. But the truth is our resources are limited. We are in need of more Jewish angels to give tzedakah monies.

2. We have persons in our community, particularly the elderly, who are in need of visitation. This helps them know they have not been forgotten by the community, even when they can not participate. Many of these people do not have families in the area. Volunteers are always needed by our agency and by the caring committees of both temples for friendly visitation, driving, telephone reassurance and other mitzvah deeds on a one-to-one basis. Some people are much more comfortable writing a check to provide the service and assume the staff can do it all. The reality is there are more people in need for the services than staff or volunteers to provide the services.

3. Many people are appalled at how expensive it is to be Jewish and active in Charlotte. I would like to let everyone know that no one is ever turned down from being active Jewishly because they are having financial problems, but it is expensive to run agencies and temples. No one can possibly contribute to

everything, and this stretches the resources in a small Jewish population. However, the reality is that Jewish Family Services relies on the Federation Campaign allocation, our annual Friends Campaign, fees, donations for emergencies and general donations throughout the year. Yet, we never have enough.

4. Jewish Family Services is a social work and counseling agency serving the Jewish community. What that translates to is that we help meet the needs of any Jewish person where there are problems.

We have served Jews with every kind of problem that face people in our society — unemployment, financial difficulties, adjustments to life's problems of child abuse, divorce, death, depression, spouse abuse, substance abuse, eating disorders or other stresses in life. In the course of a year, we serve over 20% of the population either directly or in consultation with other Jewish professions or community agencies by providing information and referral or joint programming. Our Jewish values of taking care of our own can be enhanced with more volunteers and donations of tzedakah. Thanks for all your help. I look forward to calls at 364-6594 or 364-6596 to help us meet these unmet needs.

New JFS Staff Member Hired

Laurie Gordon has been hired by Jewish Family Services as a part-time outreach social worker. She will work on Monday evenings, 5:30-8:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Laurie is a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, working on her master's degree in social work. She graduated in 1979 with a B.A. in Urban Studies and Sociology and was on the Dean's List. Laurie enjoys photography and walking.

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