



Jewish Family Services



Thoughts from Adrienne

By Adrienne Rosenberg
JFS Director



I recently returned from the annual meeting of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's agencies. This is always an opportunity for me to interact with my peers and to learn what is happening in other JFS' all over the country and Canada. I always come back with information that can be helpful to the JFS board and staff and realize that Charlotte is not unique in what it faces. In many ways I see that our JFS is ahead of what other sister agencies are doing and feel we are on the cutting edge. Some exciting news is that our Friends Campaign is seen as the most successful one in the country in terms of both dollars raised and in its organization and that we are unique in what we offer in the vocational area.

The theme of this year's meeting was "Building the Jewish Family for the 21st Century." Speakers included Anne Roiphe, author; Peter Goldberg, President of Family Service America Association; and Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. Session topics included family focused programming, interfaith issues, stepfamilies, gay and lesbian concerns, marketing on a small budget, domestic violence, needs of the developmentally disabled, the impact of Washington decisions concerning immigration and welfare reform on social service programs, managed care, funding of the agency (Federations, United Way, fundraising, joint ventures, government programs, fund development, etc.), spirituality pro-

grams, changing roles of men, women and families, serving the elderly, AIDS, management poverty issues, substance abuse, board development, long-range planning, and ethical concerns for agencies and boards.

It was emphasized that the stereotypical Jewish family is not the norm today. Four out of five women are now working and three out of five children under the age of 18 are growing up in divorced families. Jewish Family Service agencies are seeing the same type of problems seen in the non-Jewish community, including a high incidence of adolescent depression and suicide. The stressful needs of families are happening at a time when insurance companies and HMO's are cutting costs by limiting their payments and the times someone can be seen (managed care).

Traditional sources of funding for JFS's in the past have included Federation and United Way; however, these are shrinking dollars. It was apparent that JFS agencies must become more self-sufficient to survive at the same level of service.

As a result, many JFS' have turned to contracts with state and federal programs to bring in revenue and ensure they can continue to serve everyone regardless of their ability to pay. This brings up issues of maintaining Jewish values while serving all (also a Jewish ethic) at a time when cutbacks are evident in traditional entitlement programs as the Federal government gets out of the business of being the keeper of the poor, elderly, and disabled. Pressure will be on JFS' to serve the Jews who fall in this category while balancing the costs to do so. This is why most JFS boards and directors' time must be spent in fund development and marketing.

For me, attending this meeting confirms that our JFS has many strengths and is on the right track. However, the JFS board and staff will face many challenges during this next year.

Have You Heard The Great News???

Jewish Family Services Is Now Offering Career Exploration For High School Students

It is a fact that someone who works full time, averaging 40 hours a week for 50 weeks a year, will spend 80,000 hours of his/her life at work. Now compare that with the 17,000 hours a student has spent in school by the time they graduate to see just how many more hours one will be in the workforce.

Since so much time is devoted to a job, it only makes sense to discover what kind of a career will make one happy and challenged. Most careers take some type of training such as, college, technical or vocational school, apprenticeship or on-job training. Therefore, the earlier a choice of a career path is taken, the sooner the training can begin to take someone down the road to the right job.

Jewish Family Service's New 4-Part Workshop can help you with your decision. The workshop includes one meeting with someone who does the job you are thinking about.

The cost for the whole series is only \$75.00. For additional information or to schedule your first session, call Sandy Lewis, M.A. at Jewish Family Services (364-6594).

RELATIONSHIP QUIZ

Good communication between partners is the key to maintaining a strong and healthy relationship; and achieving a level of intimacy, respect and trust can be fostered by learning some basic "learning skills." The following quiz is aimed at testing how you are doing in this area:

How Would You Respond To The Following Questions?

1. My partner and I have different ideas about the best way to solve our disagreements. ___ True ___ False
2. I am completely satisfied with the amount of affection my partner gives me. ___ True ___ False
3. Religion has the same meaning for both of us. ___ True ___ False
4. My idea of a good relationship is different from that of my partner. ___ True ___ False
5. We have agreed how our children should be disciplined. ___ True ___ False
6. We do not have a specific plan for how much money we can spend. ___ True ___ False
7. I am satisfied with our decisions about how much money we should save. ___ True ___ False
8. It is easy for me to talk to my partner about sexual issues. ___ True ___ False
9. I am sometimes afraid to ask my partner for what I want. ___ True ___ False

Couples do not have to agree on every answer to have a good relationship. However, the comfort level in communicating about these areas is important. All relationships take work on the part of both partners. At JFS we see many couples who have learned to successfully strengthen their partnership with better communication and enhanced listening skills. If you want help in this area, feel free to call JFS. That is what we are all about! Our phone number is 364-6594.

JFS - JOB BANK

Jewish Family Services is setting up a Job Bank in conjunction with their Monday morning Job Support Group (attendance is open-door policy, participants drop in, drop out) and individual career counseling. Anyone who has a job opening is welcome to list the position with JFS.

Job seekers may either stop in the office and look through the listings, or if they prefer individual help, an appointment with Sandy Lewis, M.A., Vocational counselor, may be scheduled. Individual counseling sessions are charged on a sliding-fee scale. No fee is charged to look at the listings. To list a job or to inquire about additional information, please call JFS at 364-6594.



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Friends Need Friends

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES has launched its annual Friends Campaign with the theme Friends Need Friends. This annual fund drive helps the agency to continue to provide vital services to Jewish families and individuals who are in need in the Charlotte area.

JFS is the only local Jewish agency whose primary purpose is to take care of the social service needs of the Charlotte Jewish community. As the community



continues to grow, so do the demands on the agency staff. Therefore, JFS needs Friends to Be a Friend to others who need the services the agency offers. All that is required is a donation to the annual Friends campaign.

Jewish Family Services is a social work and counseling agency serving the Jewish community. Each year the agency deals with persons who are experiencing concerns about aging, especially as this relates to their adult children; interfaith issues; employment; relationship problems; substance abuse; AIDS; stress; depression; and anxiety and limited financial assistance, as well as other problems people bring to us. Last year JFS helped to meet over 2500 client contact requests and to give out \$21,557 in emergency financial assistance. In addition we helped 7 students receive \$12,870 in college student loans.

In 1994 the Friends campaign had 545 donors and raised a total of \$44,455. The goal for this year is to raise \$50,000. The Friends Campaign committee members include Shel Goldstein, Stan Greenspon, Marlene Jacoby, Gene Marx, Marilyn Shapiro, Bob Speizman, Milt Tager and Marilyn Tuckman.

This could be your way to help meet the ethical Jewish commandment of tzedakah.

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While you can't predict the future, you need to plan for the unexpected, both personally and financially.

Sometimes that's not so simple. Especially when you consider this: the average annual cost of long-term nursing care today is about \$36,000. It's a disturbing statistic, but an important one. You need to ask yourself if you're prepared for the unexpected. That's why John Hancock developed ProtectCare®.

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Roz Greenspon
Long Term Care Specialist
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