

# Jewish Family Services



## Thoughts From Adrienne



Adrienne Rosenberg **JFS Director** 

Most of you do not know that this column begins my twelfth year of writing "Thoughts From Adrienne" for the Charlotte Jewish News. I began this column one month after I came to work at what was then known as Jewish Social Services. I was the Agency's third director since 1980 when it began. I was the only social worker and had a 15-hour-a-week secretary. The office was located at the Armstrong House, what is now the Chabad House. The grounds were being leveled and the pond filled in to begin the building of Shalom Park. The three Temples were in their own older buildings—that was when there were two reform Temples. The Agency budget was \$44,000, 98% of which was funded by the Charlotte Jewish Federation. The major components of the Agency were geriatric and vocational. There was no fee policy in place and very few counseling clients. People were certain that the Agency served only poor Jews and had trouble believing there were enough of those to rationalize having the Agency.

Contrast that today with an Agency whose budget is \$166,800, is 55% dependent on Federation, and has three professional workers and one-and-a-half support staff. The Agency is now called Jewish Family Services; we have definitely outgrown our space at Shalom Park; our largest component is counseling. The Agency depends on fees from private pay, insurance payments including Medicare, its annual Friends Campaign, grants, donations, sale of cards and our Federation dollars in order to operate. Clients come from all economic backgrounds. JFS is well accepted and integrated into the Jewish community as a truly professionally-run Agency. The JFS Board has become stronger and more active since its beginnings, which have further helped the Agency develop and

I am fortunate that I have been allowed to remain with the Agency this length of time and to have been part of both the Agency's and the Charlotte Jewish community's growth. I am pleased that the staff has been able to help many people in need. The challenges of building a stronger financial base, of resolving the space and growth problems, and of meeting client needs are on the horizon. I hope I can continue to be here to work on these demands along with the JFS Board and Staff. For those of you who have supported the Agency up to now, I thank you. If any of you want to know how to help by volunteering or providing economic support, please call me at 364-6594.

## JFS To Play Major Role On **Federation Committees**

two new committees of the Federation of Greater Charlotte. The first of these is a welfare reform task force headed by Lois Benjamin and Marilyn Tuckman. On the local, state and national levels, politicians are calling for a complete revision in many areas of social legislation and suggesting that the sectarian world fill the areas that were once the responsibility of government.

Traditionally, Jews have always "helped their own" when problems arose. However, this may become more difficult when larger number of Jews may be affected by possible cutbacks in the areas of immigration, medicaid, food stamps, medicare, emergency cash assistance, subsidized housing, and educational

Therefore, in a desire to be responsive and pro-active, the JFS and JFGC have appointed a community-wide welfare reform task force to consider policies and options available to the Blumenthal

JFS will play a major role in Jewish Home, preschool, day school, JFS, and synagogues.

The second subcommittee is the lay structure of Project Hope. This is a statewide pilot project run by HIAS, the organization that is responsible for helping to resettle Jewish refugees and immigrants. This program will not be the same one as the Charlotte Jewish community ran for five years. Rather, HIAS will hire the staff and be responsible for helping the refugees who come to North Carolina to resettle. Approximately, 25-30 families will come to Charlotte within a year's time, beginning in October. The Charlotte Jewish community will be responsible with

If anyone would like to serve on either of these committees or learn more about them, call Adrienne Rosenberg at 364-6594 at JFS.

the volunteer efforts necessary to

integrate these newcomers into our

community. JFS is coordinating

with HIAS on behalf of the com-

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Milton and Judy Tager

### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES NEEDS MITZVAH MAKER VOLUNTEERS

Jewish Family Services needs your help. The demand for services in the community is ever increasing. Please fill out this form and return to Laurie Gordon Harris, MSW, Jewish Family Services, 5007 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226 or call 364-6594 for more information

YES, I can donate some of my time and become a JFS Mitzvah Maker Volunteer.

I am available on the following day(s)

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t the followin	g time(s)	_ a.m.	p.m.	
	(circle your	r availabilit	()	

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