



# FAMILY MATTERS

JEWISH  
FAMILY &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES

Winter  
2005



## The Impact of Natural Disasters on Local Non-Profits



by Iris Young, Executive Director

On December 26, 2004 one of the largest tsunamis ever recorded decimated populations in Southeast Asia.

Then the hurricane season in the United States began with a roar in early June and never let up. Names like Katrina, Rita and Wilma will forever be synonymous with unparalleled destruction.

Americans opened their hearts and showed amazing generosity on a national level. However, at the local level many non-profits like ours were faced with new challenges as client needs increased and financial resources decreased. For the first time in many years we have seen a significant decline in donor support for programs during the holidays, fundraising events and even financial contributions.

Jacksonville has a proud history of giving. From individual donors, to businesses, to local foundations, Jacksonville is a caring community.

At this time more than ever we need you. We need you as volunteers, donors, business partners and advocates. Together we will meet the challenge of helping every individual and family that comes through our doors asking for support.

It is what we are expected to do. It is what we do best.

## Congratulations!

**Michael Shorstein**  
2005 JFCS Business Partner

At the Jewish Family & Community Services' October Board Meeting, Michael Shorstein was awarded the 2005 JFCS Business Partner Award for his outstanding work with First Coast Adoption Professionals here at JFCS. The Honorable Judge David Wiggins presented the award to Michael.



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## JFCS Fact Sheet

- FEMA reports the city of Jacksonville has taken in 2,800 Hurricane Katrina evacuees.
- JFCS is the second largest community-based agency overseeing foster care services in Duval County.
- The Bureau of Labor & Statistics reported the national average of adult volunteerism is 28.8% . The average in Jacksonville is 64%! Way to go.

## Community Service Hours

JFCS is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Volunteers are always needed in the Winn-Dixie Emergency Food Pantry to stock shelves and bag groceries. Call Janet at 394-5714 for information.

## Holiday Meals

You can order prepared meals for special events, Shabbat or holidays at a very reasonable price. Pick up is available Monday through Friday. For a complete menu call 737-9075.



# JFCS Upcoming Programs

## World AIDS Day

**December 1, 2005**—Candlelight Walk—6:30 pm, Memorial Service—7 pm  
Mt. Olive AME , Franklin Street, Jacksonville.

**December 2, 2005**—Luncheon—12 noon BeTheLite, 5865 Arlington Xway  
For additional information call co-chairs: Lynn Selzer at (866) 610-6702,  
Vicki Hitzing at (904) 899-6300 ext. 4116

## The “December Dilemma” • December 5, 2005

The “December Dilemma” is an interactive program for interfaith couples of any age, in which one partner is Jewish, or family members of interfaith couples, led by Beth Shorstein, LCSW and Liza Provenzano, M.Ed Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern. The program will provide an opportunity to discuss a situation often experienced by interfaith couples: the annual reminder that there are two holidays celebrated within one family during the month of December. Call 394-5723 for more information.

## TWO FAITHS, ONE HEART Interfaith Workshops

A new workshop series: TWO FAITHS, ONE HEART, where shared topics of interest to interfaith couples will be discussed. Call Beth Shorstein at 394-5723 to register and to receive dates and times for this upcoming series.

## Bereavement Support Group • Tuesday, January 10, 2006

Bereavement Support group; open to all those who have lost a loved one. A new group will start Tuesday evening, January 10th, and continue for a total of 6 weeks. For further information or to sign up for the group, call Beth Shorstein at (904) 394-5723

## Career Transitions Workshop • Monday, January 16, 2006

The next Career Transitions Workshop will begin Monday, January 16, 2006. Classes will meet weekly from 6-8 p.m. at our main office located at 6261 Dupont Station Court, E. For information call Beth Shorstein at 394-5723

## MAPP Foster Parent Class Orientation • Monday, January 31, 2006

Find out how you can become a foster parent and truly make a difference in the life of a child by calling 394-5757. See the article to the right.



## Save the Date!

Our annual winter fundraiser will be on **Thursday, March 9, 2006.**

Grand Benefactors are Jeff and Debbie Parker. Our goal this year is to “Celebrate JFCS,” not only by raising funds but also by educating and enlightening the community about all we do to help strengthen families.

Our committee is busy making wonderful plans to make this event spectacular! For more information please contact Robin at JFCS, (904) 394-5727 or Event Chair, Caren Appel at 731-9046.

## JFCS Business Partners

*Their support, contributions and business expertise allows us to better serve the Northeast Florida community.*

Advantus Corporation

Blue Cross Blue Shield

Darifair

Dynamic Corporate Solutions

Everbank

Firehouse Subs

The Jacksonville Bank

The Jaffe Group of Wachovia Securities

Kraft/Maxwell House

Landstar Systems

Native Sun

Pizza Hut

Publix

Winn-Dixie

WJWB TV-17

Thank You!

## Do you need money for your education?

Maybe Jewish Family & Community Services can help!

JFCS works in conjunction with The Jewish Educational Loan Fund of Atlanta who grants interest-free college loans to supply those last dollars that enable students to get the education they need to succeed in life.

These loans are available for college and graduate school, vocational training, to update your job skills or to make a career change.

Applications will be available in January, 2006. For more information, please call Renie Levin at JFCS at 394-5721.



# KATRINA'S DIASPORA



Zena Latto

Originally from New York City, Zena Latto, a retired jazz musician, had been a resident of her beloved New Orleans for over 30 years. She lived alone and, due to health problems, had been home bound for three years. She had just been hospitalized for back surgery when Hurricane Katrina hit, and her experience during the few days she was stranded in that hospital without power, food and with limited water, was a time of terrifying uncertainty.

After four harrowing days, she was taken from the roof of the hospital by helicopter to Louie Armstrong Airport. Lying on the tarmac for hours, not knowing where she was going next, Zena was finally airlifted to St. Luke's Hospital here in Jacksonville.

Having only packed a bag for what she thought would be a few days in the hospital, she had left everything behind including her musical instruments and a treasure of record albums and memorabilia of her musical career and association with jazz greats such as Benny Goodman. She has yet to find out whether any of these precious memories were spared. But because she was aware of Jewish Family Services in New Orleans, she asked if someone could put her in contact with JFCS here, and Shelley Kulchin, JFCS Geriatric Care Manager, was able to begin providing assistance to Zena almost immediately.

"JFCS has been able to help her to connect with the Red Cross and FEMA," explained Kulchin. "We were also able to provide her with clothing, information about temporary housing and, most importantly, reassurance that she was not alone." JFCS staff has assisted by maneuvering Zena through the sea of paperwork including setting up a bank account without any identification papers, and Jewish Healing Network volunteers have been visiting Zena regularly. She has loved the visits from staff and volunteers because it helped her to not feel as isolated, and everyone who has met her has enjoyed her spirit and enthusiasm for life.

JFCS also helped Zena connect with the Jewish community during the recent High Holidays. Hearing the shofar and experiencing the ritual of the religious service made Zena feel she was home, no matter where she was residing.

"It is uncertain at this time whether Zena will remain in Jacksonville or return to New Orleans," Kulchin explained, "but one thing that is certain, JFCS was able to be a friend, a counselor and also an advocate when Zena needed it most."

## JFCS Does What?



### Adoption

Through our adoption process, adoptive parents and birthparents are matched to create a loving placement that fits the best interest of the child.

### Career Directions

JFCS hosts workshops to help people involved in career transitions.

### Children's Programs

The children programs at JFCS, include school-based programs, counseling, suicide prevention, play therapy and personal counseling.

### Counseling

A staff of qualified professionals works with individuals, couples, families and children.

### Child Safety Programs

JFCS is a provider of safe and nurturing homes for children in the State of Florida's custody.

### Emergency Financial Assistance

JFCS distributes funds to individuals who are having difficulty paying rent, utility bills or security deposits.

### Feed A Needy Neighbor (FANN)

JFCS provides groceries to families and individuals experiencing hunger through the Winn-Dixie Emergency Food Pantry.

### Life Skills Training

Helps people lead productive, self-sufficient lives by teaching skills such as budgeting, tenant/landlord rights, job search techniques and more.

### Older Adult Services

Geriatric Care Management  
The Community Kosher Nutrition Program  
CALL2GO Transportation Program

### Jewish Healing Network

Trained volunteers serve the needs of homebound and frail Jewish individuals through friendly visits, meals, phone calls.

### Jewish Hospice Connection

Trained professionals offer compassionate end of life care to individuals with Jewish needs.

### Ryan White Title II

JFCS is the lead agency for the distribution of Ryan White Title II funds. These funds are used to assist people living with HIV/AIDS.

### Support Groups

JFCS offers a variety of support groups including grief, life transitions, aging issues, intermarriage and more.

## Foster a Future - Foster a Child

### MAPP classes begin February 6, 2006

JFCS reminds you that foster parents are needed to offer temporary care for children who have been removed from their own homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. Find out how you can become a foster parent and truly make a difference in the life of a child by calling 394-5757. The next series of classes begin February 6th, preceded by an orientation on Monday evening, January 31st.

With 58 foster care homes currently under our supervision, JFCS is the second largest community-based agency overseeing foster care services in Duval county.





**JEWISH  
FAMILY &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES**

Changing lives for better tomorrows

Iris Young  
Executive Director

Susan Gendzier  
Chief Financial Officer

Colleen Lloyd  
Chief Programs Officer

Jimmy Fox  
Director of Information Technology

Robin Knezhich  
Director of Human Resources

Stephanie McDonald  
Director of Operations

Robin Peters  
Director of Development

Karen Phillips  
Director of Comprehensive Assessments

Mark Rubens  
Director of Ryan White

Beth Shorstein  
Director of Older Adult Services

Kathleen Stevens  
Director of Adoptions

*The mission of Jewish Family & Community Services is to strengthen the entire community by providing family and individual services, without prejudice, in the Jewish tradition of helping people help themselves.*



**Call us at: 448-1933**

## JFCS Receives COA Accreditation



COA accreditation attests that an organization meets the highest national standards and is delivering the best quality services to the community it serves. Accreditation is effective through August 31, 2009.

## Now, more than ever ...

Based on FEMA reports, Jacksonville has taken in 2,800 Hurricane Katrina evacuees. These are people who have no income and are in need of food and shelter. In addition, many of our friends from South Florida have evacuated to our area due to the impact of Hurricane Wilma. JFCS has been very busy providing services to these evacuees and continues to provide services to our Jacksonville community. However, our resources are limited. Raising funds is crucial to us and other non-profits as the needs of so many unfortunate individuals and families continue to increase.

**Now more than ever we need your help.** Your donation to Jewish Family & Community Services will help by providing immediate relief to so many.

**Please give locally.** The Katrina Emergency Tax relief Act of 2005 allows many significant opportunities for charitable contributions. Check with your financial advisor about how you can support JFCS at this very critical time.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$25       \$36       \$50  
 \$100       \$200       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to: JFCS • 6261 Dupont Station Ct., E. • Jacksonville, FL 32217  
ATTN: Renie Levin/2005**

## Donate Online: [www.jfcsjax.org](http://www.jfcsjax.org)

Just click "Donate Now" on the right side of the JFCS home page. Type in your donor information and click send. Your donation will be emailed directly to Renie Levin, Development Coordinator.



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