



FAMILY MATTERS

JEWISH
FAMILY &
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

Winter
2009



Strategic Planning A Path for Our Future

by Iris Young, Executive Director



As we all know change is never easy; and change is inevitable. Over the past year JFCS has been actively involved with strategic planning and continues to address feedback from our board, staff, partners and clients.

Guiding the process is Dr. Hal Resnick, a world renowned consultant. He has facilitated a day long retreat and the entire strategic planning process. His expertise has sparked a new organizational structure and program redesign. The process takes patience and attention to detail. We move forward with a commitment to our immediate goals and a vision for the future.

Working together with our leaders and stakeholders I am happy to share that the process is an exciting one. We are learning much about the community and even better, the community is learning more about us. How you respond to change and the decisions you make as you move forward defines who you are and who you want to be. Being a part of this community since 1917, JFCS leaders have made choices that benefit our agency and our clients to this day.

As Executive Director, I continue to look at our future and the opportunities we have before us. With the ongoing support of our lay leaders and our staff we look forward to the challenge . . . and our success.

Stay tuned as we continue to "Change lives for better tomorrows."

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JFCS Fact Sheet

- Thanks to the generosity of our community JFCS was able to provide gifts to 507 children and 43 seniors during the holidays.
- The Winn-Dixie Emergency Food Pantry provided groceries to 4,850 people from October through December 2008, a 48% increase from last year.
- Children at the Martin J Gottlieb Day School and teacher Edith Horovitz visited over 25 Jewish Healing Network clients throughout the community during the December holidays.

Diaper Bags for JFCS



Rabbi Fisch of Etz Chaim brought his youth group to JFCS for a special mitzvah project for the adoption department. The kids raised money to purchase baby items and spent the morning at JFCS packing diaper bags that will be ready for the adoption staff when they are called to the hospital once a baby is born. Kathleen Stevens, Director of First Coast

Adoption Professionals at JFCS, spoke to the group about the program and the importance of having the diaper bags for staff and the new families at a moments notice. The Etz Chaim group was able to ask lots of questions and learn about many JFCS programs and mitzvah projects.



Rabbi Kaiser and Rabbi Lief shared ideas with staff and each other at the JFCS Open House

JFCS Programs & Events

Two Faiths One Heart - JFCS Offers Support to Interfaith Families
Wednesday, January 28, 2009 • 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Interfaith families face many challenges. Jewish Family & Community Services continues to offer support groups and counseling to help provide insight and understanding of the unique challenges facing interfaith couples and their families. Workshops will be offered on the following topics:

- Raising Children in an Interfaith Relationship
- Dealing with Parents and In-laws in an Interfaith Family
- Facing the Challenges of Combining Different Beliefs and Practices in an Interfaith Relationship
- Couples and Family Issues that Complicate Interfaith Life

For more information, call 394-5723

Coping with Tough Economic Times • Tuesday, February 10 • 10 a.m.

Discovering tips for saving money, reducing debt and tightening your budget without making the family feel deprived.

How to Reduce Stress during Difficult Financial Times

Tuesday, February 10 • 11:00 a.m.

Finding ways to cope with the challenges that comes with job loss, reduction of income, and an insecure financial future.

When Family Moves In – or Back In! Tuesday, February 17 • 7:00 p.m.

Dealing with the emotional and financial challenges of extended family moving in together due to economic factors, whether it be *Bubbe* or *Zayde* moving in, or adult children moving back.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Bereavement Support Group • Monthly/3rd Tuesday, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

For all those coping with the loss of a loved one and needing a place of comfort. RSVP: Beth Shorstein (904) 394-5723

Location: Jacksonville Jewish Center, 3662 Crown Point Road

Caregiver Connections • Monthly/2nd Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

A telephone support group for at-home, long-distance or working caregivers, offering a wide range of discussion topics and tips. Phone-in 2nd Tuesday of the month. Registration fee: \$10 per session Call ahead to receive access code RSVP: Shelley Kulchin (904) 394-5722

The Back to Work Club • 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

A workshop series for those who have been impacted by the current economic crisis. Location: JFCS Dupont Bldg. RSVP: Beth Shorstein 394-5723



FANN FOODS OF THE MONTH

January

Beef Stew, Baked Beans, Vegetables

February

Tuna, Chili, Rice, Tomato Sauce, Beans

March

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers, Cereal

April

Beef Ravioli, Baked Beans, Peaches, Pears, Hearty Soup, Cereal

How is the Food Pantry handling the increase in pantry visitors?

Our food pantry volunteers are challenged daily when packing bags for the increasing number of pantry visitors. We continue to carefully order a broad range of products for the lowest cost per unit as well as collecting food donations throughout the community. We are seeing many first time visitors to the pantry as the economic downturn is being felt right here at home. **Your donations of food at this time, and throughout the year, are such a blessing!**

CALL2GO

Do you need a ride?

Call us:

224-6287

JFCS Senior Transportation Program provides door-to-door cab service for medical appointments, grocery shopping and to synagogue. Cost is \$7.50 one way; \$15 round trip within our service area. There is no cost for rides to Sabbath or holiday services. All that is required is 48-hour notice.

Help JFCS identify programs to better serve the Jewish community

JFCS Focus Groups upcoming dates and locations:

Monday, January 26th • 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. • Jacksonville Jewish Center

Thursday, January 29th • 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. • Etz Chaim Synagogue

Wednesday, February 18th • 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. • Jewish Community Alliance

Friday, February 6th • 10:30 a.m.- 12 noon • Beaches Regional Library (Neptune Bch.)

Monday, February 9th • 1:30 p.m. • Orange Park Headquarters Library

A Great Miracle happened here . . .

One of JFCS's clients was the happy recipient of a whole bundle of Hanukkah presents this year thanks to the generosity of St John's Country Day School and it's teacher, Cheryl Townsend, and several of her Jewish 8th grade advisee students: Jessica Steckler and her mom, and Jess Wilensky and his mom, Cathy.

Here's how it happened: JFCS was contacted by Ms Townsend, asking if we knew of a Jewish family who could not afford to buy presents for their children. We immediately thought of one of our families, a husband and wife, both of whom are struggling with many disabilities and their eight year old Autistic son.

The father, David, who has Parkinson's disease and is struggling to maintain his family in the community, was overwhelmed by the offer and listed one or two small games that he thought son, Jacob, would enjoy. When JFCS staff informed St John's about Jacob's situation, they immediately proceeded to exceed all expectations, purchasing a full set of dress and play clothes, new sneakers, a computer racing game, a race car set, a SpongeBob game and a gift for every night of the Hanukkah celebration.

We are grateful to St John's Country Day School, Cheryl Townsend, and to the Steckler and Wilensky families for their generosity and friendship. They have helped to make a "great miracle" happen here.



Jacob Cohen enjoying his gift. Holiday gifts were distributed to children and seniors in time for Hanukkah and Christmas.

The Many Faces of JFCS

Adoption

First Coast Adoption Professionals places infants and children into loving and nurturing homes and performs domestic and international adoption home studies.



Child Safety

JFCS provides case management services to abused and neglected children and provides prevention services to help keep families strong and stable.

Kosher Kart

Kosher Kart delivers hot, healthy, kosher meals to Jewish older adults in our community.

Counseling

The Counseling Department at JFCS is staffed with quality licensed professionals. Services for individuals and families are based on ability to pay. Services include pre-marital counseling, custody home studies, grief counseling and family counseling.

Emergency

Financial Assistance

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

Feed A Needy Neighbor (FANN)

The Winn Dixie Emergency Food Pantry at JFCS provides emergency groceries to individuals and families.



Geriatric Care Management

Counseling, information and referral, support groups and care management are provided to older adults and their families.

Jewish Healing Network

JHN volunteers visit frail, sick Jewish individuals in their homes and in hospitals.



Jewish Hospice Connection

Jewish clients and their families are served by this program, allowing for a Jewish connection and guidance in addressing end of life issues.

Koleinujax to broaden scope

Koleinu, a user friendly website for parents of Jewish children with special needs, is now open to parents with adult children with disabilities.

Koleinu offers support, a forum to help parents find available resources and the opportunity to dialogue with other parents dealing with similar issues. For more information, click on www.koleinujax.org.



Kosher Kart Meals

Kosher Kart meals are now being prepared through Margo's Catering at the Jacksonville Jewish Center. These meals are available to Jewish individuals throughout the community.

This is a practical alternative for seniors or individuals just recuperating from illness or hospitalization. \$5 per meal with a sliding scale available. To sign up for meals, or to volunteer to deliver meals, call 224-2048.



Do You Need Funds for College?

The Jewish Educational Loan Fund will be taking applications for interest-free college loans starting in January. If you are a high school senior, college student or vocational student who needs funds for school, please contact Renie Levin, at 394-5721 for more information.





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

Nicola Garner
Human Resources Manager

Stephanie Majeskey
Director of Operations

Robin Peters
Director of Development and Marketing

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 individual and family social services in the Jewish tradition of helping people help themselves.



CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY

An investment in a JFCS endowment gives you the satisfaction of knowing your legacy will enhance the lives and nurture the spirit of the community for generations to come.

Contact the Jacksonville Jewish Foundation at 904-394-0720 and turn your passion into action.

Dated Material: January 21, 2009

Big Apple Bash

JFCS Annual Fundraiser • A Night in New York City Saturday, February 28th, 7:30 p.m.



Honorary Chair:
Michael Ward,
CEO of CSX Corporation

MOCA
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART | JACKSONVILLE
333 North Laura Street

Downtown Jacksonville becomes midtown Manhattan for A Night in New York. Join us at MOCA where the Lower East Side and Upper Westside will come to life and celebrate our community as we raise funds to support JFCS and the FANN (Feed A Needy Neighbor) program. The *Big Apple Bash* will include many New York favorites. Sponsorships are greatly appreciated.

What can you do to help?

- Be an event sponsor and help us raise awareness and fund. Contact JFCS at 394-5727 or rpeters@jfcsjax.org to learn more.

Look for your invitation in the mail or go to www.jfcsjax.org and download and email your RSVP. Hurry . . . February 28th will be here in a New York minute. Event co-chairs are Jill Metlin and Erica Jolles.

Congratulations Marilyn Feldstein!



Marilyn Feldstein was awarded the "Excellence in Coaching and Mentoring Award" from UNE, SHRM and ASTD on December 9, 2008 at a ceremony at the University of North Florida. Marilyn A. Feldstein of Career Choices Unlimited partnered with Jewish Family & Community Services to create the Career Directions program for which she was recognized. Marilyn is a career coach and a professional speaker.

Here are some of the ways JFCS puts your donation to work. Your dollars go a long way in meeting the needs of the people we serve.

- \$36 will buy three days worth of groceries.
- \$50 will buy large print books for a senior to enjoy.
- \$100 provides needed therapy to parents working to regain custody of their children



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6261 Dupont Station Court, E.
Jacksonville, FL 32217

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