



FAMILY MATTERS

JEWISH
FAMILY &
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

Fall
2007

Our Greatest Challenge

by Iris Young, Executive Director



When I am asked what is the greatest challenge facing our agency, I always have to stop and think. Which answer do I give? Is it the challenge to provide all or some of the programs best meeting the needs of our clients or is it the challenge of finding the ongoing financial resources to support those programs?

In order to make a difference in the lives of our clients now and in the future we must identify the changing needs and population of our community. Only then can we best deliver services to help those individuals and families get out of the difficult situation that brings them through our doors.

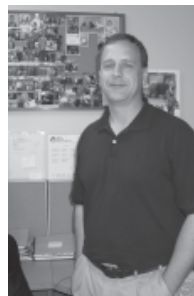
Finding the resources to support those programs is always a challenge. Financial support from government sources is constantly being reduced or held flat. Dollars can become scarce even when a program is a proven success and having a positive impact. Grants from foundations and corporations are essential but there is more competition every day.

The financial contributions from members of the community, who know us, know our services and trust our judgment is a true testament of our success. We count on you, our donors.

The greatest challenge? It is continuing to do the best work in the community, for the community, with support from the community. You help make it possible.

Congressman Cliff Stearns honors Matthew Taylor as an "Angel in Adoption"

Matthew Taylor will be recognized at a National Event in Washington D.C. Matthew has been a dedicated Adoption Coordinator for JFCS for the last two years, having spent the prior five years as a JFCS case worker for children in community based care. With his top priority of finding safe and permanent homes for foster children, Matthew's workday includes weekdays, weekends, late nights, whatever it takes to find loving families. Over the past two years JFCS has finalized 196 adoptions, which Matthew has helped facilitate. This honor is a well-deserved recognition of Matthew's fine work.



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JFCS Fact Sheet

- Jewish Family & Community Services is the number one agency in the state of Florida for dependency adoptions completed in the last two years.
- On June 7, The Winn-Dixie Emergency Food Pantry provided groceries to over 177 people including 53 families.
- Nine students were awarded a total of \$64,818.00 in interest-free college loans through the Jewish Educational Loan Fund.

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.

JFCS Programs & Events

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Bereavement Support

For those coping with the loss of a loved one and needing a place of comfort, groups meet for six-week sessions, several times a year. For further information, call Beth at 394-5723. Location: JFCS Dupont Building

Two Faiths One Heart – Interfaith Support Group

Interfaith couples of any age, in which one partner is Jewish, or family members of interfaith couples, come together to discuss the unique challenges of raising a family in an environment that reflects different religions, cultures and upbringing. For further information, call Beth at 394-5723.

Caregiver Support

Caregiver support group is available for those meeting the challenges of caring for an aging parent or family member. For information, call Beth at 394-5723.

Adoptive Parents Support Group • Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.

First Coast Adoption Professionals a division of JFCS, and *Plan to Adopt* has begun a support group for parents who either want to adopt, or who have already adopted. This group will meet the third Thursday of the month from 7-9 p.m. Call 394-5763 for additional information. Location: JFCS Dupont Bldg.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cosmic Bowling • Sunday, October 21 • 12:30 - 3 p.m.

A fun filled afternoon for families, friends, youth groups and business associates. Come join us for great fun, food and music. Call 394-5721 for information. Location: Bowl America, Mandarin



Earl A. Grollman to speak about Loss, Healing and Hope

Wednesday, October 10, 2007 - 7 p.m.

The Jewish Healing Network, a program of Jewish Family & Community Services, launches the Alexandra Miller Speaker Series with Rabbi Earl A. Grollman. The program will be held on Wednesday October 10 at 7 p.m. at the Jacksonville Jewish Center. It is free and open to the entire community.

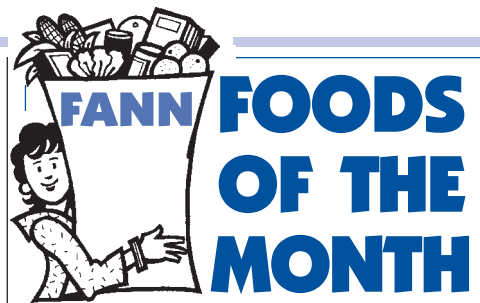
Why is the Food Pantry so busy during summer?

Janet and Brittney are the unsung heroes of the Winn-Dixie Emergency Food Pantry. They treat each visitor with dignity and are a wealth of information in directing pantry clients to additional services.

Here are their observations during the intake process:

“We usually have 30 to 40 families show up every food pantry day. We always have a spike in the summer. The children are not going to school and receiving free breakfast and lunches. As the children get ready to go back to school parents spend money on school clothes and supplies and need help with food. We also see a small spike at the beginning or the end of the month if there is no money left in the family budget. Of course if there is a big layoff in the city we will see an increase in numbers.”

To help support the Winn-Dixie Emergency Food Pantry you can donate to FANN (Feed A Needy Neighbor) at JFCS.



September

Cereal, Cans of Chicken, Beans, Beef Ravioli, Hearty Soups

October

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers, Pastas, Tomato Sauce, Peaches

November

Cans of Turkey or Chicken, Pumpkin, Cranberry Sauce, Sweet Potatoes, Carrots, Fruits

December

Cans of Tuna, Chili, Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cocktail

Volunteer Opportunities

The Community Kosher Nutrition Program (CKNP) has the following volunteer opportunities available:

- Kosher Kart volunteers to deliver meals to Jewish seniors and the home bound
 - Help with Kosher Nutrition's noon day meal at Mt. Camel Gardens.
- Please call Aviva Krause at 737-9075.

FANN (Feed A Needy Neighbor) needs volunteers to:

- Help organize food drives at community organizations
 - Pick up and deliver food donations
- Please call Robin Peters at 394-5727.



CKNP volunteer, Stella Finck

Worried About Mom

Dear Pearl:

The last time I visited my mother, she seemed out of sorts and was having difficulty remembering things. In addition to that, her house was dirty and she has always been an immaculate housekeeper. I'm very worried about her but she doesn't think anything is wrong or different. What should I do? — Wits End



PEARLS OF WISDOM

Dear Wits End:

Being the adult child of an aging parent is tough. You are worried about the changes you see in your mother and are concerned she can't manage everything on her own anymore. Yet, you are sensitive to her maintaining her dignity and some control of her changing situation. Perhaps interjecting a third party with expertise in this area would give you peace of mind and allow your mother to remain independent and safe in her own home for as long as possible. Professional support and guidance is available through the Older Adult Services Department at JFCS (394-5722), the Center for Independent Living, or log on to www.caremanager.org.

Pearls of Wisdom is a regular column of the Older Adult Services Department at Jewish Family & Community Services. If you have a question, call (904) 394-5722 or write her at dearpearl@jfcjax.org.

Did you know? In fiscal year 2006-07, over 10,000 individuals visited our Winn-Dixie Emergency Food Pantry and were provided with groceries. Over 2,000 were children.

Help make the holidays special



Jewish Family & Community Services' Holiday Gift Giving Program is an annual event that provides gifts for our clients, young and old, during the holiday season.

All you need to do is register for the program below and we will send you gift lists and simple instructions.

YES! We want to participate in Holiday Gift Giving!

Contact Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Holiday Gifts for: Senior Citizens Children Either

Number of persons you would like to sponsor \$25/person: _____

I prefer to make a donation to the Holiday Gift Giving Program \$ _____

Send to: JFCS • 6261 Dupont Station Ct., E. • Jacksonville, FL 32217
ATTN: Holiday Giving Program/Development

The Many Faces of JFCS

Adoption

First Coast Adoption Professionals placed 60 infants and children into loving and nurturing homes and performed 21 domestic and international adoption home studies.



Child Safety

JFCS provided case management services to over 550 abused and neglected children, successfully closed 240 cases and held 139 Family Team Conferences. The Agency finalized 91 adoptions and provided prevention services to 90 families.

Community Kosher Nutrition Program

The Community Kosher Nutrition Program provides over 26,000 hot, healthy, kosher meals to older adults in our community.

Counseling

4,328 clients participated in 22,644 hours of counseling. Services include pre-marital counseling, custody home studies, grief counseling and family counseling.



Emergency Financial Assistance

JFCS distributed federal and state funds to 9,613 individuals who were 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 provided emergency groceries to 10,336 hungry individuals.

Geriatric Care Management

784 hours of counseling, information and referral, support groups and care management were provided to 366 older adults.

Jewish Healing Network

An average of 45 frail, sick Jewish individuals are visited monthly by trained and dedicated JHN volunteers.



Jewish Hospice Connection

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



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

XXXXX????
Director of Human Resources

Stephanie Majesky
Director of Operations

Robin Peters
Director of Development and Marketing

Susan Spinella
Director of Comprehensive Assessments

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.



MAZON:
A Jewish Response to Hunger



Shanah tovah u'metukah . . . A good and a sweet year.



During the High Holidays, JFCS looks to the Jewish community for *Ahavat Chesed*, acts of loving kindness.

Over the past year we have been challenged to provide services to more clients than ever before. We have asked the Jewish community for support and have been truly grateful by your response. The Jacksonville Jewish Federation, all the local synagogues and our partners at River Garden and JCA have helped us help the community. You make our successes possible. By changing the life of one person we indeed can change our community, and the world.

Please donate to JFCS so we may continue to change lives for better tomorrows.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

JFCS Friend: \$25 \$36 \$50 \$75

JFCS Donor: \$100 \$150 \$175 \$200

\$250 Silver Member 10 personal tributes

\$1000 Gold Leaf Member 10 personal tributes plus an engraved leaf in the JFCS Parker-Wilf Boardroom

Send to: JFCS • 6261 Dupont Station Ct., E. • Jacksonville, FL 32217

ATTN: Renie Levin/High Holiday Donation

How you help the community

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.

\$15 buys a round trip cab voucher for an older adult to go grocery shopping

\$50 will buy school supplies for a foster child beginning high school

\$100 provides needed therapy to parents working to regain custody of their children

Easy ways to donate

Online banking: Add JFCS as a payee. After "identifying information" simply put donation-children, donation-seniors or donation-general so we may apply your contribution appropriately. Each month send any amount you wish.

Microdonation: Designate a quarter a day to JFCS. It adds up! \$7.50/month, \$91/year. If 1,000 people made this small contribution it would amount to over \$91,000 a year!

Matching donations: Many companies will match donations made to 501 (c) 3 charities. You may be able to double your donation to JFCS through your workplace.

Dated Material: September 7, 2007



Changing lives for better tomorrows

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Jacksonville, FL 32217

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