There is a saying, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” This past year has not been about speed, but constant planning, assessment, and cooperation in order to make significant progress from where we were this time last year. Our lives may still look different than they did way back in 2019, yet we have made incredible strides as an agency and a community, to take steps toward brighter days.

Last year, we spoke about how we were “navigating the now” as 2020 challenged all of us to constantly figure out the best way to simply get through each day. As we entered 2021, things may not have immediately improved with the flip of the calendar, but we were all ready to move forward.

Moving forward, by growing...
The mobile food pantry kept rolling, full speed ahead, with the introduction of Poppy’s Pantry in December 2020. The van is a secondary mobile food pantry vehicle, giving us even more flexibility and adaptability in reaching food insecure families in the Greater Mercer region. The mobile distribution schedule fills up more and more each month, and we can now be on two separate distributions at the same time or sending one vehicle to pick-up food from one of our local distributors or food drive partners while the other is making deliveries to those in need.

Moving forward, with healing...
For our clinical and senior departments, togetherness may still be primarily found by screen and phone, yet this has not disrupted our team’s guidance of their clients. Our counselors have been a steady source of support for clients moving through the ups and downs of the year — addressing stress and uncertainty about getting together with loved ones, managing expectations when returning to work or school, and marking one year, and many months, since all our lives shifted. JFCS geriatric care managers have provided similar comfort to our seniors — helping secure appointments for the vaccine, making outdoor, socially distanced home visits when it was safe, and being a constant in the lives of older adults facing change.

Moving forward, with hope...
In some ways, togetherness finally meant being together again in-person. Our fully vaccinated staff returned to the offices on a rotational schedule, our Board was able to meet outdoors over the summer and September, and both teen programs, Gesher LeKesher and the Jewish Community Youth Foundation, returned to in-person meetings this fall following all appropriate safety measures.

Moving forward, with your help...
To move forward now, we will need the support of this community more than ever. In the heart of the pandemic, we were fortunate to receive emergency funding and grants in direct support for COVID-relief services. These funds were one-time grants, yet our programs only continue to expand in reach. We turn to you, as we always have, for your generosity. Please make a donation today. Thank you for your commitment to JFCS moving forward with help, hope and healing.
MOVING FORWARD
BY THE NUMBERS...

30 seniors receive hot lunch
4x a week
at Kosher Café

250 meals
delivered EACH WEEK to seniors through Kosher Meals on Wheels

over
31,000
individuals served through the mobile and on-site pantries in past 12 months

BAG DELIVERIES by MOBILE FOOD PANTRY
- 100 bags -


Raised
$197,000
at first VIRTUAL Gala honoring 65 volunteers who stepped up during pandemic

327
# of counseling clients seen in past year

28 Holocaust Survivors
receive regular case management AND participate in MONTHLY virtual Café Europa programs

114 calls
answered by Senior Helpline

175
older adults receive regular support across ALL senior care programs and groups

16 Caregivers
meet biweekly via Zoom to share support

“This isn’t my support group, it’s my survival group.”

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meet biweekly via Zoom to share support

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Through the darkest days of the pandemic, and for the challenges that continue long after, our mobile pantry program expands to address the increasing need for our services. We have grown the program in the past year to position ourselves as a valuable resource to food insecure individuals in the Greater Mercer region.

**MOVING FORWARD ON MORE WHEELS**

Forced partnerships bringing us further into areas of need in Greater Mercer.

Added Poppy’s Pantry, a second Mobile Food Pantry vehicle, providing more flexibility and bandwidth to reach food insecure individuals.

**SUSTAINING MEMBERS**
Anonymous (1)
Abram Foundation/
Nati Kushner
Leslie Axoart
Stacey Bielow
Shari Blocher
Myra Coltart
Andrea Dedrick
Holli Elias
Barbara Essig
Susan Falcon
Julie Fetterman
Bobbi Freedman
Marsha and Eliot Freeman
Beth Frieder
Andrea Genek
Carol Golden
Ellen Gordon
Nadaviah Greenberg
Paola Heller
Patty Hest
Jill Jaxin
Siva Jaffe-Werner
Kathy Lane
Barbara Lawerence
Carol Lerner
Mel Lubin
Debby Maisel
Cari Massa
Linda Maisel
Michelle Nazel
Regina Niessen
Jacqueline Orr
Roba Orzog
Danielle Pertman
Rita Persky
Carol Polard
Sherly Punnia
Rachel Reiss
Lori Riskin
Phylis Rosenman
Norma Sako
Pat Schlaefter
Marcie Shavel
Dina Shaw
Denny Siegel
Lisa Smukler
Helane Staller
Cathy Strauss
Elaine Sussman
Lisa Tobias
Marisa Treu
Sharon Voskidi
Amy Vogel
Marlisa Wasserman
Stacy Wasserman
Audrey Wootsky

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS**
Anonymous (2)
Gail Alba
Debby Gitterman
Amy Hoffman
Jodi Hornstein
Emily Josephson
Julie Kantor
Lily Krauss
Judy Leopold
Lauren Nazarian
Carole Nimsartoft
Jaimie Orland
Ahna Pedowitz
Julie Ramirez
Jacqueline Schreiber
Betsy Silverman
Linda Weber
Ann Zieher

**SUPPORTING MEMBERS**
Jaimi Gaffe
Debby Gitterman
Amy Hoffman
Jodi Hornstein
Emily Josephson
Julie Kantor
Lily Krauss
Judy Leopold
Lauren Nazarian
Carole Nimsartoft
Jaimie Orland
Ahna Pedowitz
Julie Ramirez
Jacqueline Schreiber
Betsy Silverman
Linda Weber
Ann Zieher

**ON MORE WHEELS**

On October 3, over 250 cyclists gathered at Mercer County Community College for the 1st Annual JFCS Wheels for Meals bike ride fundraiser supporting JFCS food programs. The event proceeds help fund the on-site and mobile food pantries and senior nutrition programs.

$96,591 raised in support of JFCS food programs

**FUNDRAISING to NOURISH our NEIGHBORS**

Over 5,000 meals served at the Kosher Café to low-income seniors in the last year

**FUNDRAISING to NOURISH our NEIGHBORS**

Average household size served by pantry:

- **20**
- **3.3 people**

**average number of mobile distributions per month**

- **over 5,000 meals**

*Listed Women’s Alliance Members as of November 1, 2021.*
Our team of professional social workers became frontline workers in their own right by being the sounding board, the understanding ear, the source of comfort and support to all dealing with mental and emotional turmoil exacerbated by the challenging year we’ve endured.

Working as a licensed social worker during the ongoing pandemic allowed me to recognize the heightened importance in providing therapeutic services to support individuals from diverse backgrounds struggling with mental health challenges. My approach to assist clients encompasses the use of a culturally competent lens to provide services for people struggling with mental health conditions. People of color are more often on the front lines of this pandemic, working as essential workers, placing this population at a greater risk to their physical health, greater risk of losing their employment, greater risk of becoming displaced or experiencing significant financial hardships.

My counselor is exceptional and does an excellent job listening without judgment and providing professional support. I am extremely grateful. — JFCS Client

JFCS Geriatric Care Managers are adapting right along with the seniors we serve. Our senior care team has utilized technological resources to teach Holocaust Survivors how to connect on Zoom, developed creative ways to safely check in and support clients with outdoor home visits, and stayed up to date on the changing needs of a generation.

130 Seniors Received Care Management Support:
- Geriatric Care Assessments
- Secure@Home Membership
- Senior Outreach Service Clients

114 Calls to Senior Helpline:
- Aging-in-Place Questions
- Long-term Care Options
- Local Resources

How it started
Spring 2021, graduated 30 JCYF high school senior participants in the first ever VIRTUAL Check Ceremony

How it’s going
121 JCYF participants and 40 Gesher LeKesher participants enrolled in respective programs

Our teen programs, including Gesher LeKesher, a youth mentoring and leadership program, and the Jewish Community Youth Foundation, a philanthropic program for Jewish youth, were able to return to in-person meetings this fall. Initially meeting outdoors, the teens now gather for trainings and sessions indoors at local synagogues, while following appropriate health and safety measures.

JCYF is a project of JFCS and funded by the Ricky and Andrew J. Shechtel Philanthropic Fund. Gesher LeKesher is partially funded by the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks.
The following donor listings represent contributions from the fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. If we have omitted or incorrectly listed your name, please accept our heartfelt apologies and know that we are grateful for your generosity.

**FOUNDED MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SPONSORS**

- Abrams Foundation
- B’nai B’rith
- The Bank of Princeton
- Bristol Myers Squibb
- Bobbi and Barry Freedman Foundation
- Church and Dwight
- Ruth and Martin Clayman
- The Consela and Bertram F. Boxer Foundation
- Danielle and Jeremy Perlman Family Fund
- Firmer
- Fran and Larry Suchowar Philanthropic Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer
- Jacqueline and Joel Goldfinger
- Richard Goldfinger
- Kais, Owen and Avery Janofsky
- JCCS Alliance

**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 FINANCIALS**

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**ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021**
JFCS STAFF

Michelle Napell
Executive Director

Shirley Bellardo, LCSW, LCADC
Director of Clinical Services

Beverly Mishkin, LCSW
Director of Case Management and Senior Services

Eden Aaronson
Coordinator of Volunteers and Community Programming

Celeste Albert, LCSW
Coordinator of Teen Programs

Janice Baer, LCSW
Holocaust Survivor Program Manager

Julie Bond, LMFT
Marriage and Family Therapist

Wendy Cacacie, LCSW
Social Worker

Beth Dempsey-Rule
Manager of Operations

Beth Englezos
Manager of Senior Programs and Hunger Prevention

Andrea Gaynor, LCSW
Geriatric Care Manager

Beth Hammer, LCSW
Geriatric Care Manager

Debi Henritzy
Kosher Cafe Coordinator

Helaine Isaacs
Resource Development Associate

Belinda Lomi
Administrative Assistant

Amanda McGinnis
Food Pantry Assistant and Driver

Lorena Morales
Program Assistant for Counseling and Hunger Prevention

Arlene Munoz, LSW
Bilingual Social Worker

Mara Myerson, LCSW, LCADC
Social Worker

Barbara Reiff
Director of Finance and Human Resources

Beverly Rubman
Chaplain and Support Group Facilitator

Leslie Schwartz
Tzedakah Basket Program Coordinator

Joyce Weinstein
Teen and Community Programs Assistant

Val Wilson
Kosher Cafe Assistant

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Rich Wold
Josh Zinder

JFCS OF GREATER MERCER COUNTY
help · hope · healing

707 Alexander Road · Suite 102
Princeton, NJ 08540-6331
P: 609.987.8100
F: 609.356.0087
www.JFCSonline.org