

## Bright Spots from Jewish Family Services

### Message from the CEO and Board Chair



Karen Mozenter and Joy Soll conduct essential business at a safe distance, signing checks for home health care for Holocaust survivors.

It is not exactly "business as usual" at Jewish Family Services right now; it's more like "business as usual and then some!" When our staff went remote a month ago, the transition was smooth and the focus laser sharp. As always, our team thought first of their clients, assessing needs and figuring out ways to continue delivering individualized, empowering supports and services during a time of crisis.

- **Our community services team** fielded phone, email and online inquiries, providing real-time information and access to a wide range of agency and community resources and processing emergency requests for food cards, financial support and other assistance.
- **Our career services team** helped clients file for unemployment and access other community resources like technology, food and baby products, while working with them to develop individualized employment plans.
- **Our counselors** quickly obtained necessary training and switched from in-person to teletherapy to provide emotional support and coping strategies.
- **Our senior services team** partnered with the [Jewish Community Center](#) and [JewishColumbus](#) to provide meals for vulnerable Holocaust Survivors and other seniors, and began training volunteers to make friendly phone calls to isolated clients and [Wexner Heritage Village](#) residents.

During this difficult time, we are grateful to our supporters who make Jewish Family Services a priority in their philanthropy. Right now, many in our community need help and may not know where to turn. This includes people who have never needed to ask for help before. Thanks to our generous donors, we are here to help community members navigate life's challenges, including job loss, anxiety or depression, issues related to aging, and financial distress. All are treated with compassion, and all services are confidential. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Through Jewish Family Services, together, we answer the questions posed centuries ago by Rabbi Hillel – questions that couldn't be more relevant today:

*If I am not for myself, who will be for me?  
But if I am only for myself, what am I?  
If not now, when?*

*Joy Soll*  
Joy Soll  
Board Chair

*Karen B. Mozenter*  
Karen B. Mozenter  
Chief Executive Officer

### Crisis Breeds Innovation



How does Jewish Family Services continue to provide services when social distancing is our strongest tool against COVID-19? We innovate! Counselors began offering teletherapy, strategic job search workshops for professionals shifted meetings to Zoom, and a team that was already focused on increasing access to services through technology began implementing its ideas, including a new [online take](#), that is helping us assist clients almost immediately. Even our traditional Passover gift drive shifted gears. To minimize 1:1 contact, team members spread out, donned gloves, and packed 400 gift bags for at-risk community members and then distributed them via a drive-thru in our parking lot. Jewish Family Services has a reputation for innovative service delivery, and the current crisis is no exception.

Columbus Jewish News highlighted our ability to face the service delivery challenges brought on by COVID-19 [In age of COVID-19, JFS Columbus reaches farther.](#)

### An Unexpected Perspective



by Austin Barger, Jewish Family Services Vice Chair

Over the last few months, I saw a side of Jewish Family Services I never thought I'd see. For ten years, I have been a proud advocate, as a volunteer, donor, board member and officer. I became a Life & Legacy donor by naming Jewish Family Services as a beneficiary in my will. Then, in late October of 2019, I lost my job due to a mass layoff. I knew exactly where to turn for help. As Jewish Family Services staff helped me navigate the challenges of a job search, I experienced firsthand the high level of personal attention and support the agency provides to all who walk through its doors.

Successfully landing a new job is in large part the result of timing, talent, and tools. JFS career consultants ensured I was best positioned to stand out from others in the market. My journey began by participating in the strategic job search workshops facilitated by one of JFS' most passionate team members, Malka Bendor. Malka and her expert speakers energize and motivate job seekers by sharing the most relevant skills and tools required to successfully navigate the search process while fostering a sense of comradery and community.

The JFS team tapped into its tremendous network of professionals in roles and organizations that matched my interests. Malka spent time getting to know my professional background and the direction in which I wanted to take my career. I watched her dedicate the same level of passion and support to other job seekers that she provided me, exemplifying the level of care JFS dedicates to all clients.

When interviewing, practice makes perfect. JFS career consultants are on the front lines helping people find jobs, and they helped me hone my interview answers and fine-tune my pitch. This support was invaluable, particularly because I was interviewing for highly competitive positions. Central Ohio is extremely fortunate to have an organization like Jewish Family Services where the person-centric delivery model means each client receives support tailored to their individual needs. I can't say enough about the dedication, talent, and enthusiasm of the JFS career team.

### From Generation to Generation: Life & Legacy

Since 1908, Jewish Family Services has had the unique privilege of representing the *tzedakah*, compassion, and loving kindness of the Jewish people to the broader community. Many of our clients are not Jewish, but *all* of them learn what it means to be Jewish. Through Jewish Family Services, our community responds to the most vulnerable among us: **Hineni, Here I am.**



Now, more than ever, your support is critical to help Jewish Family Services respond to changing social and economic demands of the current crisis through innovative programs and services that keep clients at the center. With your support, Jewish Family Services will serve our community through this crisis and continue to strengthen the lives of future generations as well. To support our current services, please contact [dschrimpf@jpscolumbus.org](mailto:dschrimpf@jpscolumbus.org) or use the "Donate Now" button at the end of this newsletter.

For those taking this opportunity to consider their legacy in our community, we would also welcome a conversation about how your support can ensure that community members in need will always be able to turn to Jewish Family Services.

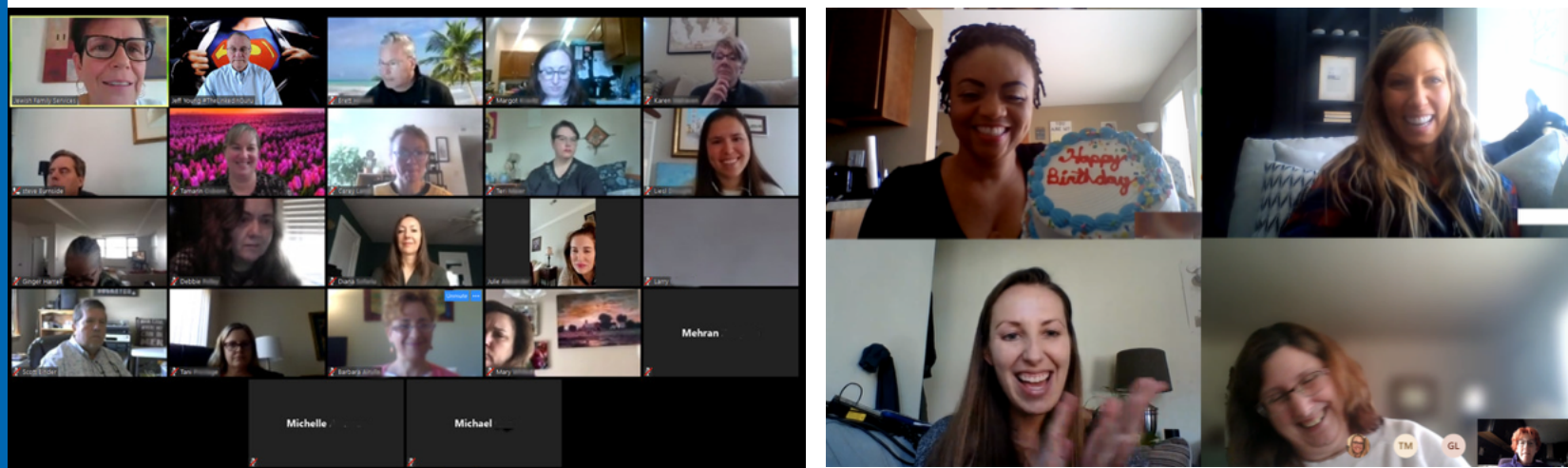
Jewish Family Services is one of 18 Jewish community partners in Columbus participating in Life & Legacy, a four-year-long program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Life & Legacy is designed to help Columbus build a stronger, more cohesive Jewish community through a focus on after-life-time giving that will leave a legacy for our children, our grandchildren, and ensure a vibrant Jewish community for generations to come.

For more information, email [Diana Schrimpf](mailto:Diana.Schrimpf@jpscolumbus.org), Director of Resource Development.

### We Miss Seeing You in Person



We hold a weekly all staff meeting to discuss evolving community needs, what new partnerships we should develop to meet those needs, and explore ways we can improve services during this pandemic. **We are here for you.**



Malka Bendor (top left), Adult Workforce Facilitator, conducts weekly workshops and meet-ups via Zoom.

The importance of celebrations is heightened at this time. We marked Career Consultant, Cassandra Stewart's, birthday with laughter.

### Jewish Family Services is a 2020 Census Community Partner



Every member of our community counts. Make your impact by completing the 2020 Census. You can respond by phone at 844-330-2020, online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov), or by mail. You will be asked for the PIN number that was included in your mailer. However, you can still complete the questionnaire simply by selecting the "No PIN" option and it will bypass this field.

#### What's in it for me?



Your responses inform where over \$75 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.



Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.



Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### Thank You

We are grateful that many of our supporters continue to make Jewish Family Services a priority in these uncertain times. The unrestricted gifts that come from individuals like you enable us to be flexible and responsive to changing community needs.

[Donate Now](#)