

DONOR NAME HERE
IMPACT REPORT 2019



Jewish
Family
Service
The heart of a
STRONGER COMMUNITY



Since 2016, JFS has been able to serve as a safety net for the community, because of the generosity of the Pitt family. When an individual or family comes to JFS for help, they are most likely facing a crisis or a change in their life. Families may experience job loss, divorce, domestic violence, a serious health condition or the death of a loved one. Any of these situations can incapacitate someone from working and functioning. For individuals living paycheck to paycheck, unbudgeted expenses such as a car repair, illness or increase in utility bills can prove disastrous. Many of those in need may earn just enough to disqualify them from community programs, but not enough to allow any savings. Family Support Services (FSS) offers individualized case management to help these individuals and families maximize their resources to meet their basic needs and gain self-sufficiency.

The FSS team consists of six social workers, two social work supervisors and a director. Our clients collaborate with their social worker to develop a personal plan of action. The goal of FSS is to help clients move forward, and their social worker is a partner in empowering them through this process.

FSS professionals help identify, connect and facilitate access to community organizations and resources. Social workers act as liaisons with other agency professionals to reduce barriers and increase accessibility for clients. Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) is distributed in conjunction with the goals identified in the personal action plan. Social workers ensure that clients have their basic needs met, including a stable place to live, food for their family, utilities and transportation. JFS is the only service provider in the region with a significant flexible fund that can be used to address needs for which there are no other resources. Social workers also provide a significant amount of supportive counseling and crisis intervention to address emotional and mental health needs. The stress and anxiety that clients experience when unable to provide for their basic needs often impairs their ability to function through their crisis. JFS provides the safety net and support our clients need to navigate toward growth. Our social workers are attentive and responsive, always acting to protect the dignity of each client.



YOUR IMPACT

Nancy is a single woman who has struggled with isolation for many years. She lost her only family to cancer in her youth. She has been making efforts to reconnect with the Jewish community and was referred by her congregation to JFS for support with recent financial challenges. JFS Family Support Services provided Nancy with case management support which, in partnership with community agencies, helped Nancy access financial counseling, clothing and food assistance.

Recently, Nancy was facing eviction and had to quickly secure new housing. JFS provided emergency financial assistance to support the client's transition into new affordable housing. She now reports that her home environment has greatly improved, especially without the stressors of a challenging landlord. Nancy continues to participate in JFS holiday programs and services aimed at developing social connectedness, and is happily earning enough to be stable and maintain her finances independently, thanks to the services provided at JFS.

Nancy recently told her social worker:

I appreciate all that you and JFS have done for me.

Sarah is a single parent of three children, including Tom, her teenage son with autism. Sarah lost her job and then her apartment due to her lack of regular income. Two of her children stayed with friends as Sarah struggled with homelessness. Tom, however, would not communicate with anyone other than Sarah and could not be placed separately. Navigating the emergency shelter system is very difficult, but with Sarah and Tom's unique situation, it felt nearly impossible.

Sarah reached out to JFS at a time of hopelessness. JFS provided emergency financial assistance to place Sarah and Tom in a hotel to ensure their immediate safety. During that time, Sarah worked closely with her Family Support Services Social Worker to connect to community resources and reach out to her personal network for support. Ultimately, Sarah was able to find a friend who allowed her and Tom to move in. Sarah shared that she would never have been able to take this step while actively homeless; JFS' support in resolving the immediate crisis helped her focus on accessing this resource.

Sarah continues to work with her FSS social worker to increase her income and meet her basic needs independently. While she has a long road ahead to meet her goals, Sarah knows she has the support of JFS to guide her.

Sarah recently shared:

You have been instrumental in my healing process. I can't thank you enough.

Stacey came to JFS for support when she was in the process of divorcing her abusive husband. She has five children and was caught in an ongoing legal battle for custody that was both emotionally and financially exhausting. Stacey had been isolated during her marriage and JFS worked with her to provide ongoing emotional support and reconnect her to resources within the community.

JFS provided emergency financial assistance for Stacey's mortgage to ensure she and her children could maintain safe, affordable housing. Stacey received food assistance to help meet her family's needs while connecting her to other resources. JFS seasonal programs allowed Stacey's children to receive specialized items like holiday gifts and backpacks.

Over time, Stacey's divorce was finalized and she was earning sufficient income to meet her needs as a single parent. Her children were receiving mental health services and participating in ongoing supportive programs. Stacey met with her Family Support Services Social Worker to express her gratitude. She shared that she is now in a healthy and safe relationship and feels optimistic about the future.

Stacey told us this about her FSS social worker:

“ I want to thank you for all your help and all you've done for me. When I get better, I'm going to give back to the community. You're a lifesaver and I really appreciate it. ”

**YOUR IMPACT
BY THE NUMBERS**
JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

NUMBER SERVED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 544 Distinct People received services from FSS
LENGTH OF SERVICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58% (313/544) in program for 2 or more years • 15% (82/544) in program between 1 and 2 years • 14% (78/544) in program between 6 months and 1 year • 13% (71/544) in program for 6 months or less
DEMOGRAPHICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72% (393/544) are Jewish • 380 are Female • 163 are Male

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:

Distinct Count of People: 340

AREAS OF SUPPORT

RESOURCES PROVIDED	# OF PEOPLE ASSISTED	COUNT OF SERVICES	FUNDS SPENT
Gas & bus vouchers, car payment, car insurance, car repair	194	1,412	\$48,193
Food vouchers (including Passover)	286	2,424	\$242,900
Shelter, rent, mortgage, hotel stay, home repair, moving expenses	86	123	\$116,327
Utilities	64	91	\$36,269
Other emergency needs: Famous Footwear/shoes, nutritional supplements, household supplies/ items, durable medical equipment, cleaning services, clothing, Furniture Bank, laundry services, interpreter services, summer camp	48	96	\$10,353
TOTAL AMOUNT	678	4,146	\$454,042

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- 69% of clients discharged from service were identified as having achieved or partially achieved their goals.
- 69% of clients are currently active and are achieving or continuing with improvements toward their goals.
- 91% of clients reported they have been given resources and information to improve their life situation.
- 86% of clients reported they would refer others needing help to JFS.