
A YEAR OF

TRANSITION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021



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Francesca Liechenstein

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past year has been a trial of endurance and resilience for many of us. It has brought change and challenges to individuals, families, businesses, and the community at large.

Children had to adapt to being in and out of school, learning remotely, and missing their friends. Parents who commuted to busy offices had to find a quiet place at home to establish a work area, often interrupted by lively children and household activities. Many people were under financial stress having lost their jobs or businesses. The oldest family members suffered from loneliness or isolation. Sadly, many families lost a loved one to illness.

Jewish Family Service is accustomed to change, having gone through many transitions itself. It began with a small office and staff under the protective wing of Federation. Although Federation began to cease its own operations, they continued to provide substantial financial support for some years. JFS gradually assumed full financial responsibility for its own existence, reorganized, and established itself as an independent agency. It relocated to larger offices on Allwood Road, and eventually purchased the building in Passaic, which is its current home. This remarkable growth and concurrent expansion of services took place under the leadership of its beloved Executive Director, Esther East. Her inspiration and determination to help those in need has earned the agency a reputation throughout the State of New Jersey and beyond for excellence in innovative programs, range of services, and compassionate care. With gratitude and admiration we wish Esther well in her recent retirement from JFS.

Our new Executive Director, Alexander Herzog joined JFS at a turbulent time, but has already brought about a smooth transition to our future. He brings not only experience and expertise, but keen perception and thoughtful decision making. His commitment to our mission and to the community assures us of success under his leadership. It is our pleasure to welcome Alexander to the agency and offer our full support.

Francesca Liechenstein



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Transitions can be difficult. Jewish Family Service has experienced a number of stressors this past year that have prompted the agency to adjust and grow unlike ever before. Challenges in life are often first perceived as negative and unpleasant, but they can lead to discovering blessings and new perspectives.

This may be compared to swimming lessons. We might first experience the water as chilly, unpleasant or scary. We bravely wade into the waters and acclimate to the temperature, gradually trusting the sensation of buoyancy. Next comes the hard work of learning to swim. After months or years of practice, the novice is now not just swimming, but learning new strokes and

jumping in with a smile. The cold water now feels familiar – even warm.

This metaphor of adjusting to overcome adversity is apropos to the past year with JFS.

Coronavirus brought most in-person services to a halt in 2020. We adjusted and took our show on the road of the internet highway and were able to continue a large percentage of our programming and services virtually to meet the needs of the community. Initially, telehealth was met with skepticism. In short time, it turned out to be not only an effective medium for therapy but one now preferred by many clients and therapists. As many other agencies and medical centers can attest, virtual care is here to stay in some form or another.

This past year, JFS also bade farewell to its extraordinary leader of 26 years. In the immediate void that followed, many felt the darkness of the unknown and questioned the future of the agency. For the next person to sit in the Executive Director's office and chair, whomever that would be, the task would be challenging...

Hi. I'm that person. My name is Alexander and my friends call me Ozer. I've been a resident of Passaic for 16 years and have been in the field of mental health for nearly 15 years, recently serving as the Chief of Social Work for the Veterans Administration NJ Health Care System. I bring with me knowledge, training and experience, together with a desire to learn about and support the dedicated and talented staff, praiseworthy clinical programs, specialized community services and the family feel at JFS.

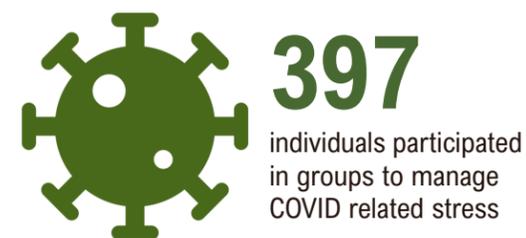
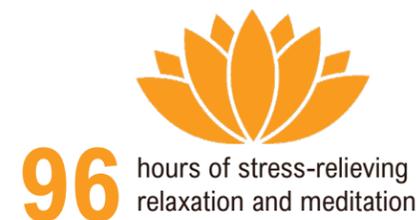
My first few months have been an adjustment for everyone at the agency as we have all waded into the uncharted waters. Three months later, I believe the water has warmed; we are finding our bearings and are feeling more comfortable and confident as we embark on our future together.

JFS is like the sprout on the cover of this report that has pushed up from the dirt after a long winter and a year of uncertainty, emerging with a bright future and readied for continued growth.

Alexander Herzog

JFS CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

“My therapist has done absolute wonders for my mental health. I still have my struggles, but I feel healthier than ever. I am forever grateful for the help I've received and continue to receive here.”



The New Jersey Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) is in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and is funded through a FEMA/SAMHSA grant.



AUFZIEN FAMILY CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- Art and Movement Therapy
- Family Therapy
- Medication Management
- Multiple Family Groups
- Parenting Training
- Play Therapy
- Psychological and Psychiatric Evaluations
- Sand Tray Therapy
- School-Based Social Workers
- Social Skills Groups

STANLEY JOEL FELD SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES

- Parent Resource Center and Rutie Peikes Library
- Project Leah In-home Respite
- Sibshops
- Special Needs Parent Support
- Working It Out Program

ADULT

- Blended-Family Therapy
- Evidence Based Treatment
- Grief Counseling
- Individual and Couples Therapy
- Post Divorce Counseling
- Pre-Marital Counseling
- Psychiatric Assessment and Medication Management

SOMAICH ACHIM FAMILY SUPPORT

SUPPORTING high need families within our community.



64 families benefited from Case Management, and assisted in receiving government benefits and community resources such as food stamps, Medicaid, Social Security disability and energy assistance



296 individuals received staples from our Food Pantry



2,147 hours of case management towards helping our clients



20 cases successfully closed

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PROVIDING children, teens and adults with Mental Health Services.

“*These past three months have been such an emotional rollercoaster, and you have been there with guidance, support and care from the start in so many ways. I have great appreciation to you and the entire JFS team.*”



1,624 calls to our intake team



244 new cases



12,352 hours of clinical counseling

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

INCLUDING individuals and families in meaningful opportunities.



14 individuals participated in our Caregiver Support Group



241 families assistance in obtaining affordable health insurance



133 synagogues and Jewish organizations joined the Project S.A.R.A.H. Many Voices One Message Campaign



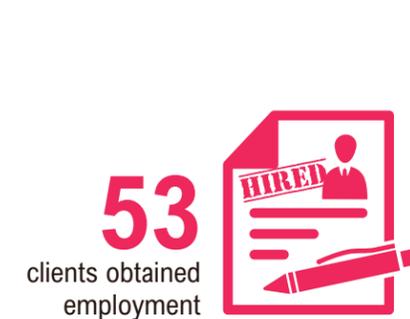
33 individuals helped plant our Dig in! daffodil garden

The Health Literacy is partially supported by the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. Dig In! is sponsored by the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders.



PROJECT CHIZUK

COACHING individuals in vocational services.



53 clients obtained employment



122 candidates seen for vocational counseling

“*Now I know why it's called Project Chizuk - you gave me the strength to move forward to the next step.*”



22 clients seen by the Center of Hope

Project Chizuk is primarily supported by private donors. Work with Emerging Adults is partially supported by the Eric Eliezer Levenson Center for Hope and Price Waterhouse.



RUTH L. NECHAMKIN SOMAICH ACHIM

- Benefits Advocacy
- Camp Assistance
- 1-to-1 Case Management
- Crisis Intervention
- Emergency Assistance
- Financial Counseling and Debt Management
- Food Pantry
- School Advocacy

ERIC ELIEZER LEVENSON CENTER FOR HOPE

- Mentorship Program
- Vocational Counseling

PROJECT CHIZUK

- Career and Job Counseling
- Interview Skills
- Job Search
- Networking Events
- Resumé Building
- Toastmasters International

BETTE EINHORN SENIOR SERVICES

- Café Europa
- Case Management
- Holocaust Survivors Support Services
- In-Home Family Assessments
- Psychiatric Evaluations and Treatment

CLUB SEQUOIA

- Afternoon of the Arts
- Exercise Program
- Holiday Events
- Lunch Available 4x Weekly
- Monthly Health and Wellness Services
- Recreational Activities
- Silver Sneakers

DR. SANDY RAPPAPORT TRAUMA CENTER

- Trauma Informed Care
- P.A.L.S. (PEACE: A LEARNED SOLUTION)**

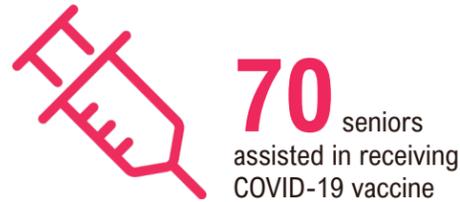
PROJECT S.A.R.A.H.

- Advocacy Services
- Batterers Support Group
- Community Education
- Confidential Counseling
- Crisis Hotline
- Domestic Violence Victims Support Group
- Magen Yeladim International (Parent and School-Based Programs on Safety)
- Pro-Bono Legal Consultation
- The Sharon Seligson Relationship Videos
- Training for Rabbis and Professionals

SENIOR SERVICES

ENGAGING our seniors to improve social and mental health.

“My in-home therapist comes to visit me and gives me the will to continue living.”

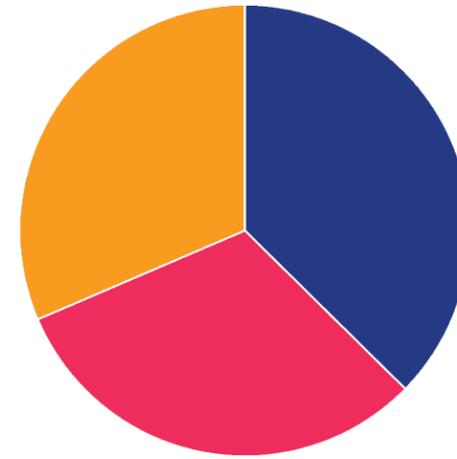


Services to holocaust survivors are supported by The Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany. Caring People Inc. continues to provide the matching requirement for Holocaust survivors. Thank you to the foundations and government agencies who support our work with seniors: The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Passaic County Cultural Arts Commission and The Brookdale Foundation, Passaic County Office on Aging, St. Mary's, Hackensack Meridian Medical School.



FINANCIALS

Public Support and Revenue



Grants	\$1,543,146
Donations	\$1,287,638
Clients	\$1,297,849
Total Revenue	\$4,128,633



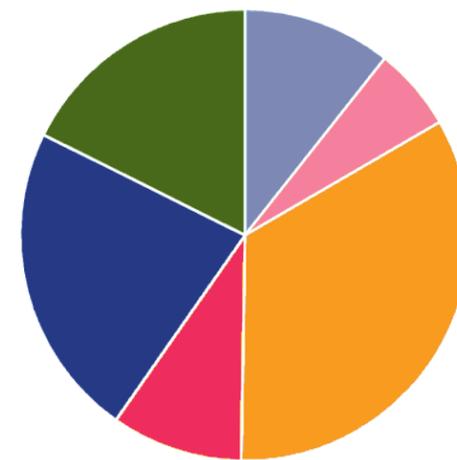
PROJECT S.A.R.A.H.

SUPPORTING survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse.

EDUCATING community members and students about domestic violence and sexual abuse prevention.



Program Expenses



Administration	\$428,863
Fund Raising	\$239,958
Mental Health and Psychiatric Services	\$1,349,576
Family Support and Vocational Services	\$380,092
Trauma Related Services	\$906,986
Senior Services	\$709,401
Total Expenses	\$4,014,876



“I was completely overwhelmed and could not be a good parent. My therapist taught me how to take care of myself and thereby take care of my family.”

