MISSION
Inspired by Jewish values, Jewish Family Service of St. Paul helps individuals and families build on their strengths to develop the skills and confidence to meet life’s challenges with dignity.

VALUES
Jewish values are the foundation of our work at JFS. We are always guided by chesed (kindness), tzedakah (justice), and tikkun olam (repairing the world).

VISION
To be one of greater St. Paul’s most effective organizations in helping people from diverse cultural backgrounds successfully navigate the expected and unexpected changes in their lives.
Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2017 at JFS, we do so with great pride and gratitude. With pride, we reached more than 3,000 people in the community, an increase over 2016 of more than 25 percent. With gratitude, we share this accomplishment with our staff, board of directors, donors, supporters, and volunteers.

The beginning of the year saw a new partnership with a clinic serving low income seniors in Dakota County. Soon after, we added a therapist to our counseling services, allowing us to provide 350 more counseling sessions. By the end of the year, our therapists’ schedules were full, and a new patient waiting list had been created. We expanded the impact of our chaplaincy program by training 10 volunteer para-chaplains to provide support to members of the community who are isolated or not affiliated with any religious organization.

We renewed our tradition of naming a recipient of our Community Service Award who demonstrates significant commitment to the values and mission of JFS. Rhoda Redleaf was presented with this honor during our first Celebration of Service event in May.

During the strategic planning process, we identified the goals we need to reach to further our mission and vision. Our work to meet one of the goals, diversify revenue streams, was soon tested by United Way funding cuts.

With a sound financial statement and prudent fiscal management, we’re excited to watch our strategic plan unfold during 2018. With key additions in vital functional areas of the organization, we look forward to positively impacting the lives of more people in our community.

To our many friends who made 2017 a success, THANK YOU! You are our champions and we look forward to working together in 2018 and beyond.

Mitzi Gramling, President of the Board of Directors

JFS client Berneen Rudolph (left) discusses her care plan with RN Care Manager Bonnie Jaffee. Berneen is able to live safely and independently through the JFS Living Assistance program. After conducting a comprehensive assessment of Berneen’s needs, Bonnie developed a care plan that includes serving as her advocate at doctor visits and coordinating appointments and care needs.

On the Cover

JFS client Berneen Rudolph (left) discusses her care plan with RN Care Manager Bonnie Jaffee. Berneen is able to live safely and independently through the JFS Living Assistance program. After conducting a comprehensive assessment of Berneen’s needs, Bonnie developed a care plan that includes serving as her advocate at doctor visits and coordinating appointments and care needs.

The Year in Review

More than 3,000 lives touched – UP MORE THAN 25% OVER 2016

Jewish Family Service of St. Paul served 1,771 people, and fielded approximately 320 information and referral contacts. Through our support groups and educational programs, we reached another 938 people.

Client Income

Client Race/Ethnicity

Client Religion

Client Age

We’ve Made an Impact

After unsuccessful surgery left her feet deformed and in constant pain, Rose became less mobile, more isolated, and depressed.

Rose is a widow living alone. Her situation worsened when she fell and broke her ankle. Her doctor recommended custom-fitted inserts and shoes, but her insurance wouldn’t pay for them.

JFS worked with the insert and shoe supplier who agreed to help with her elderly waiver. Rose reports that her pain has been significantly reduced, her mood has improved, and she has become more mobile. She has been able to remain in her home, regain her mobility, and participate in community activities.

TWO easy ways you can help JFS

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/jfssp/ and share our posts

Subscribe to our monthly eNewsletter and share with friends: jfssp.org

Contact Us

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(651) 698-0767
www.jfssp.org communication@jfssp.org

Mitzi Gramling, President of the Board of Directors
JFS helps find caretaker relief. Sylvia, an 87-year-old Holocaust survivor with dementia, lives with husband Stuart, her primary caregiver. Stuart had been managing all the household responsibilities. Sylvia’s dementia has progressed, and she required constant supervision. Her anxiety level skyrocketed and she refused to let Stuart out of her sight.

Stuart’s own health had become compromised. JFS assisted him in obtaining homemaker/companion services to relieve him of some household chores, paid for through the JFS Holocaust Survivor program. The companion stays with Sylvia a couple of times each week so Stuart can get to the doctor, run errands, and occasionally meet friends for lunch.

JFS overcomes barriers by providing bilingual staff. As Tatiana’s parents aged and became less able to care for themselves, she often traveled to New York to help them through medical procedures. She wanted to bring them here, and her parents wanted to be near her, but she was overwhelmed with the task and gave up without taking a single step.

A friend recommended JFS. Tatiana called JFS and talked through her concerns in Russian, her native language. In two meetings, Tatiana’s anxiety was turned into a step-by-step plan to move her elderly parents. JFS coached her through applications for subsidized housing, medical assistance, and plans for continued medical services. “Had I known it would go so smoothly, I would have brought my parents here years ago,” Tatiana gratefully explained.

Dr. Richard & Diane Smookler 1911 Society of Legacy Donors Members

Diane and Richard “Ricky” Smookler have been fixtures in the St. Paul Jewish community for decades. Both born in the Twin Cities, they didn’t meet until studying at the University of Bologna, Italy. St. Paul has been their home for 45 years and their service, dedication, and support of many Jewish organizations runs deep.

Their connection with JFS is long. Rick served on the JFS board of directors for 10 years, from 2001-2011, and they have been donors for 27 years. “What we do is important, even critical,” Rick and Diane share a deep sense of caring about the Jewish community and want to make sure the programs and services we provide are here for those who come after us, including their nine grandchildren. Says Rick, “somebody needs to be there to help.”

They call on everyone to help spread the word about JFS. The Smooklers also believe it is crucial to get more members of the community involved. They hope their enthusiasm and increasing involvement can help change that.

Designated and Endowed Funds

The following designated and endowed funds have been established to support the mission of Jewish Family Service of St. Paul:

- Irma & Adolf Aller Kosher Meals on Wheels Endowment Fund
- Bass Mental Health Fund
- Bear-Schoenkin Leadership Development Fund
- Bebe Endowment
- Board Centennial Fund
- Brian & Judith Kraizow Fund for Senior Services
- B’Yachad Fund
- Calvin Youth Services Fund
- Stanley Cohn Special Needs Fund
- Community Senior Services Fund
- Dena Fischberg Fund for People with Advanced Cancer
- Domestic Abuse Project
- 8th Degree Fund
- Freeman Rosenblum Children’s Health Fund
- Glaser Fund for Senior Services
- Celia Goldstein Elderly Training Fund
- Hanson Senior Services
- Herman J. Birnberg Endowment Fund
- Jewish Domestic Abuse Collaborative
- Marjorie Sigel Staff Wellness Fund
- Rose Smith Mirsky Endowment
- Newman Emergency Aid
- Office Improvement Fund
- Sylvia Pelin Endowment Fund
- Maurice and Ruth Rischall Endowment Fund
- Rosenblum Unmet Needs Fund
- Schwartz Vocational Education Fund
- Shapiro Resettlement Fund
- Sheldon & Sandy Olkon Endowment Fund
- Simon Endowment Fund
- Milton & Evelyne Smith Endowment Fund for Office Improvement
- Samuel & Esther Strauss Endowment Fund

1911 Society of Legacy Donors

Friends of JFS (6)
- Gary J. Benedict
- Herman J. Birnberg (z”l)
- Dr. Arnold Brier
- Judy Brier
- Elinor Brodie (z”l)
- Stacey & Michael Dockman
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- David & Dede Smith
- Edith Naomi Smith
- Butch & Marcia Sonenshein
- Dr. Richard & Diane Smookler
- Rabbi Adam & Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker
- Lee G. Strauss (z”l)
- Alex Treitler

Life Enrichment Action Program (LEAP) helps older adults who suffer from low mood or persistent sadness. Ron was dealing with the grief of recently losing both his wife and his long-time best friend. He had also been in and out of the hospital with health issues. He felt lonely, depressed, and disconnected from his usually upbeat self.

During LEAP’s eight in-home sessions, Ron focused on simple actions toward improvement. He regained hope as his body continued to heal. He was paired with a JFS volunteer visitor. They hit it off and get together regularly. “It’s a great thing for me,” said Ron. “I had been feeling so down and sick, and this program helped me a lot. I really love JFS for what they did for me.”

76 Served by LEAP

Hours Donated by volunteers across JFS

Identify as Holocaust survivors

92 clients

It’s your Legacy. Your Life. Your Community. Your Legacy. 1,831
Thanks to the generous support of JFS’s donors, the JFS now offers more services to more people than ever before.
Thank You 2017 Volunteers

JFS depends on the generosity of volunteers who share their skills, talents, and time in support of our mission. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of others.

Ben Abramson  
Elaine Alper  
Semyon Axelrod  
Erin Baldinger  
Dana Bartocci  
Nechama Bendet  
Sharon Benmaman  
Lindsay Berg  
Elisa Bernick  
Jason Buck  
Amelia Burgess  
Dana Christoph  
Joan Cleary  
Amy Cytron  
Maureen Davidson  
Carolyn Deters  
Shirley Devine  
Fred Dullas  
Betsy Ellis  
Catherine Engstrom  
Julie Farber  
Hayley Faulkner  
Elizabeth Feinstein  
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Andrea Freidberg  
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Bea Roitman Johnson  
Beth Johnson  
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Deb Weiss  
Jordyn Whitman  
Sheri Yarosh  
Dina Yushkevich  
Debbie Zuckerman

Get in Touch: Make a Difference

Visit us online www.jfssp.org to learn more, or give a gift

Gifts can also be mailed to:  
Jewish Family Service of St. Paul  
Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Building  
1633 West 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102

Tell your story, or volunteer:  
Phone: (651) 698-0767  
communication@jfssp.org