

Jewish Family Service

### כל ישראל ערבים זה לזה

All of Israel is Responsible for One Another

As with the floods in 2010 and the Pandemic in 2020 and tornadoes throughout the years, JFS is once again the social service agency for the Nashville and Middle Tennessee Jewish Community in times of crisis. It's important for us to exist. Nashvillians and Israeli evacuees dealing with emotions from the crisis need somewhere to turn. We've been proud to be able to provide:

#### **Emotional Support**

- Counseling
- Support groups
- Additional support from community members
- Beads for Israel therapy program
- Free 30 minute conversations to process feelings
- Healing Circle at Congregation Micah

#### Resources

- Filling a cargo plane with medical and humanitarian supplies for Israel
- Temporary housing\*

News from the HEAR

- Food\*
- Basic Needs\*
- \*for Israeli evacuees

#### Heart of the Matter Toni Jacobsen, LCSW - JFS Clinical Director

On the morning of October 7th, I turned on the news and learned about the horrors happening in Israel. My heart sank as I watched the images of hostages being taken. Their faces reminded me of people in our own Jewish community and I couldn't help but think the only difference between this community and the Kibbutzim is location. The sadness, shock and horror in our community was palpable. Many of us felt helpless. The tragedy hit home for me when I had a meeting at Akiva a few days later. As those beautiful Jewish children emerged from their classrooms, it brought tears to my eyes because in my mind's eye, I was seeing children from Israel.

True to the tradition of Tikkun Olam, we sprang into action and began addressing the needs of our community. We put together a survey to hear what

Israel Response... continued on page 11

Navigating Life's Transitions. Together. Israeli evacuées enjoying a welcome dinner with their host families

2023

#### **Executive Committee**

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Rita Nwedo Office Manager



## A Word from our President

JFS Board President

One of my favorite prayers is Micah 6:8: "You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what God requires of you: Only to do justice and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." I have always viewed that message as a simple, yet very powerful, guide for how to live. Since joining the Board in 2018, I have always greatly admired Jewish Family Service's constant ability to uplift our community. I see how the agency acts every day in accordance with Micah's teachings.

Serving youths to older adults, the agency provides 20 core programs of compassion and care, improving the lives of over 1700 individuals annually. From counseling, financial assistance, to job networking, to adoption services, to senior events... JFS and its incredible staff deliver an immensely impactful range of programs. But, there is a dynamic, if somewhat hidden, capability of the agency: pivoting to meet the challenges of crisis.

As I know all of us do, I desperately wish I was writing this letter with our world and our Jewish community safely at peace. Unfortunately, the crisis in Israel dictates otherwise. In the past weeks, JFS, as it has done across its 160 year history, quickly organized internally and in collaboration with other agencies and congregations to address emerging and shifting needs within our Nashville, Israeli and worldwide community. We expanded counseling, support groups and education programs for Nashvillians who are struggling with processing the war. We helped manage clothing and provision drives to be sent to displaced Israelis. And just last week, JFS provided resettlement support, coordinated host families, meals, translation support and mental health services for families arriving from Israel... from Kibbutzim attacked on October 7. As the uncertainty and unrest continue, JFS stands ready.

None of this vital work merely happens. The generosity of our volunteers and donors makes JFS in all its forms and capabilities possible. And while we share the hope for a world where JFS is not necessary, we know people in our community will continue to need financial, physical or mental health support. May we heed Micah's words and act with justice, mercy and humility.



Navigating Life's Transitions. Together.

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## Our 2023 Chesed Honorees



Chesed Award recipient Ben Russ with his father, Phil Russ (above)

Chesed Award recipient Rae Hirsch and family (below)





Irwin Venick, Chaver award winner with Ben Russ

## Shabbat Services for Our Older Adults

#### Providing Services in Four Senior Living Facilities

"It means a great deal for those attending the JFS Shabbat services where I live. It affords us the ability to keep Jewish traditions, follow our faith, and brings us together in friendship and prayer."

- participant at Abe's Garden community

JFS is thrilled to announce that we've extended our Shabbat Services to two new assisted living facilities this past year – Clarendale and Somerby, bringing the total number of facilities being served to four!



- Friday nights at the facilities are filled with joy, connec-
- tion, traditions and meaningful moments as JFS and
- our volunteers bring the warmth of Shabbat to the facility's residents.
- Childy's residents.

### Save the Date: Chesed '24

We hope to see you on May 9, 2024 as we honor our 2024 Chesed Award Winners. Please save the date on your calendar!

## **Beads for Israel**

We joined hands at our recent Beads for Israel event, where gratitude met creativity. Some words from the event: "I am grateful for the opportunity to come together to talk openly about the war. I have not had an opportunity to do so."

"I was drawn to the program because of it's uniqueness and the chance to create something with my hands as we talk about difficult topics."

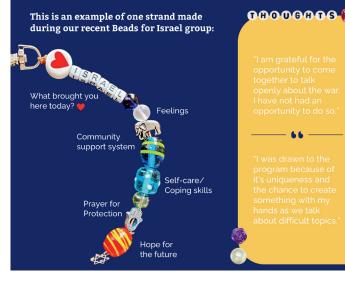


Each bead is symbolic of each person's story, experiences, and feelings. We had some wonderful moments during these heartfelt gatherings.

If you're interested in the program, please reach out to Toni Jacobsen at tonijacobsen@jfsnashville.org •

Beads for Israel

Our Beads for Israel program helps participants channel their concerns and discuss their feelings in an environment of creativity and gratitude.



## **Volunteer Appreciation**

**Celebrating Those That Give Their Time** 

"Spiritually it's uplifting for them and for me. I put myself in their shoes. What would bring me peace at that time in my life."

- Dr. Beth Barnett, JFS Volunteer

Each year, over 125 people give of their time and talent to reinforce and support the efforts of our staff. The time and compassion given by volunteers enhances the lives of our clients by helping them feel less isolated and more connected to the Jewish Community.

In August, we hosted our Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast to recognize these volunteers. It is amazing to reflect on the heartwarming moments from the event! It was a morning filled with gratitude, connection, and the joy of coming together to celebrate the incredible individuals who light up our mission with their dedication!

Learn more about volunteering at jfsnashville.org •





Jewish Family Service is grateful to the families and individuals who participate in our ongoing Tribute program. It is a wonderful way to honor special people in your life, and at the same time, help fund the vital programs of JFS.

#### **IN HONOR**

Haley Attridge Tara & Brian Axelroth

Felice Apolinsky Beth, Tommy, TJ, & Kayla Ducklo

Judy Book Thank you to Judy for your help! Marcia Cohen

Pamela Carver Beth, Tommy, TJ, & Kayla Ducklo

**The Corenswet Family** Tara & Brian Axelroth

Scott Ghertner Beth, Tommy, TJ, & Kayla Ducklo

Scott Fishel Beth, Tommy, TJ, & Kayla Ducklo

Nancy Flexer In honor of receiving the 2022 Chesed Award Michael Simon Sally Wolkoff

Harris Gilbert Beth, Tommy, TJ, & Kayla Ducklo

Adam Hyatt Beth, Tommy, TJ, & Kayla Ducklo **Rae Hirsch** Sara Speer Selber

**Pam Kelner & the JFS team** Market Retrievers LLC Barbara Nogg

**Stephanie & Rob Klein** *Congratulations on your new home!* Nan Speller

**Stanley Kweller** *In honor of being appointed Circuit Court Judge!* Sandra & Steve Hecklin

**Brian Lapidus** Beth, Tommy, TJ, & Kayla Ducklo

Sarah Liess Jean Elizabeth Liess

The Rappoport-Barton Family Laura Thompson & Yuri Livshitz

#### **Trent Rosenbloom**

Thank you for performing the bris of Edo Beeri! Kelse & Tom Beeri Thank you for performing the bris of Ari Windell! Gillian & Zach Windell Maegan & Shauli Greenspan Todd Harman

**Ben Russ & Rae Hirsch** Glen Siegel Beth, Tommy, TJ, & Kayla Ducklo

#### Stan Schklar

Van Pond & David Glasgow

#### **Irwin Venick**

In honor of receiving the 2023 Chaver Award! Arlene Averbuch Teena & Dick Cohen Beth, Tommy, TJ, & Kayla Ducklo

**Katie Wayne** Beth, Tommy, TJ, & Kayla Ducklo

Jack Zager Katherine & Pete DeLay

**Susan Zager** *In honor of all your service!* Sylvia & Jack Zager

#### **Rae Hirsch**

Congratulations on receiving the 2023 JFS Chesed Award! Felicia & Ken Anchor Arlene Averbuch Jeanne Ballinger and Irwin Venick Lynn and David Barton Dianne and Brian Berry Sheryl Blechner Barbara Chazen **Betsv** Chernau **Robin and Mark Cohen** Esther and Roger Cohn Erin Coleman Beth and Tommy Ducklo Jamie and Billy Eskind Marlene Eskind Moses Nancy Flexer Jan and David Fox Risa Klein Herzog and Drew Herzog John Hirsch Jennifer and Mark Hoffman Jackie Karr Saul Kelner Stephanie and Austin Kirschner Elaine and Gus Kuhn Leslye and Steve Lapidus Marsha Raimi

Shirley Rich Johanna Russ Missy and Phil Russ Loretta and Ed Saff Sara Speer Selber Nan Speller Barbara and Larry Speller Shirley and Stuart Speyer Alyse Sprintz Beckye and Dan Sprouse Caroline and Lee Sprouse Marcia and Lee Stewart Dianne and Craig Sussman Alyssa Trachtman Michelle Trachtman Larry Wolfe Susan and Jeff Zager

#### Ben Russ

Congratulations on receiving the 2023 JFS Chesed Award! Felicia & Ken Anchor Arlene Averbuch Jeanne Ballinger and Irwin Venick Lynn and David Barton Sheryl Blechner Elizabeth and Bryan Bleecker Barbara Chazen **Betsy Chernau** Robin and Mark Cohen Esther and Roger Cohn Erin Coleman Beth and Tommy Ducklo Jamie and Billy Eskind Judy and Seth Eskind Marlene Eskind Moses Nancy Flexer Jan and David Fox **Risa Klein Herzog and Drew** Herzog Jackie Karr Saul Kelner Elaine and Gus Kuhn Leslye and Steve Lapidus Danielle Mendelson and Will Kronenberger Lisa and Arthur Perlen Marsha Raimi Johanna Russ Missy and Phil Russ Nan Speller

Shirley and Stuart Speyer Alyse Sprintz Beckye and Dan Sprouse Caroline and Lee Sprouse Dianne and Craig Sussman Alyssa Trachtman Michelle Trachtman Larry Wolfe Susan and Jeff Zager

#### WEDDING

**Chana Tiechtel to Mendel Baron** Gretchen & Randy Goldstein Suzanne & Jimmy Schulman

#### HAPPY HANUKKAH

Dianne Berry Happy Chanukah Grandma Di! Love, Erin, Greg, Rena, Sari, & Tali

#### **BAR MITZVAH**

Sebastian Schneider Leslye & Steve Lapidus

#### **BAT MITZVAH**

**Rena Zagnoev** Beth Barnett Sara Speer Selber

#### **B'NAI MITZVAH**

**Becky and Robin Warren** Erica Haber

#### **NEW BABY**

**Lynne & Steve Swedler** Congratulations on the birth of your new granddaughter, Talia Ann! Leslye & Steve Lapidus

#### **SPEEDY RECOVERY**

Larry Averbuch Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Shelley Averbuch Leslye & Steve Lapidus **Teri Cohen** Nan Speller

Roger Cohn Nan Speller

Karol Feldman Nan Speller

Larry Lubow Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Kenneth Jacobs Nan Speller

Stanley Lee Leslye & Steve Lapidus

**Jimmy Schulman** Cathy & Howard Rosenblum Carol & Roy Smith

**Doug Small** Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Kenny Srebnik Nan Speller

**Phil Stoup** Leslye & Steve Lapidus

#### BIRTHDAY

Terri Cohen's 80th birthday Arlene Averbuch Esther & Roger Cohn Esher Cohn **Doralvn Harris** Sandra Harris Nancy & Irwin Hodes Nan Parrish Judith Royal Carol Smith Lisa & Stephen Small Judy & David Sorin Nan Speller Elise & Jim Straus Martha Templeton Barbara Turner Carol & Ronnie Wilker Lyn Yukon

Arthur Freedman Rhoda Schulman **Steve Lapidus** Lin & Jay Kayser Lynne Weinberger & Steve Swedler

Mosh Koch Rhoda Schulman

Howard Safer's 80th birthday Melanie & Doug Hirt Lesyle & Steve Lapidus Elise & Jim Straus

#### IN MEMORY (Z "L)\*

**Blossom Averbuch** Charlotte D. Seloff Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Fannie Leone Barton & Hannah Kayser Palmer Charles C. Cahn

**Steve Bender** Lynn & David Barton

Harold Cohen Jan Liff Cathy & Howard Rosenblum

Isabell Cohen Nan Speller

**Robert Cook** Barbara Cook Diana Cook

**Judy Cram** Ronald Soltman

Steve Eisen Leslye & Steve Lapidus Brenda & Jerome Rosenblum Jackie Tepper

**Doris Farmer** Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Harris A. Gilbert Lynn & David Barton Pam & Saul Kelner Kim & Brian Lapidus Cathy & Howard Rosenblum Nan Speller **Steve Geringer** Melinda & Coleman Geringer

Marcine Goldfarb Leslye & Steve Lapidus

**Joel Gordon** Jan Liff Nan Speller

Allen Green Leslye & Steve Lapidus

**Diana Greenbaum** Jan Liff

**Lois Harad** Rhoda Schulman

**Isaac Hanai** Jan Liff Michelle & Steven Tishler

**Joan Harshman** Jan Liff

**Patricia Hefter** Barbara & Harvey Olsher

**Dotty Jacobs** Lynn & David Barton

Ardis Jacobson Lynn & David Barton Pam & Saul Kelner Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Gus Kuhn III Nan Speller

**Charlotte Lewis** Janet Belser

Diana Lutz Lorna Graff Pam & Saul Kelner Leslye & Steve Lapidus Jan Liff Nan Speller Toby Steinberg

Angelyn Martin Jan Liff

Mary Markle Jan Liff

### Navigating Life's Transitions. Together.

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**Jack Miller** Lynn & David Barton Nan Speller

Queenie Miller Jan Liff

**David Oleshansky** Jan Liff Judy Saks

Marilyn Otis Joseph Baum

Frank Parker Leslie & Charles Higgins Penelope Waller & Wolf-D. Dettbarn

Barbara & Jay Rittenberg Evan Rittenberg

Karen Rogers Jan Liff

**Theresa Rugge** Leslye & Steve Lapidus

**Rudy Sapersterin** Jan Liff

Alan Sear Nan Speller

Beverly Silverman Nan Speller

Janet Wallach Michael Gross

Sally Wolfe Lawrence Wolfe

Sally Johnston Woods Leslye & Steve Lapidus

Marjorie Zager Jan Liff Nan Speller

#### NANCY GAIL FLEXER GREATEST NEED FUND

IN HONOR OF

**Sylvia Shepard's Birthday** Rae & Bruce Hirsch

Rae & Bruce Hirsch's 70th Birthdays Nancy Flexer Polly & David Roffwarg Goldie & Mark Shepard

#### Rae Hirsch's 70th Birthday

**Dianne & Brian Berry** Robin & Mark Cohen Lauren & Michael Cooper Mimi & Frank Friedman Linda & Joel Gluck Gretchen & Randy Goldstein Heidi & John Hassenfeld Sandra & Steve Hecklin Teri & A.G. Kasselberg Leslye & Steve Lapidus Judy & Steve Lefkovitz Patty & Jimmy Marks Julie & Bob Neaderthal Ilene & Steve Nedelman Suzy Perlman Brenda & Bobby Rosenblum Cathy & Howard Rosenblum Suzanne & Jimmy Schulman Sylvia Shepard Lisa & Michael Shmerling Barbara & Larry Speller Karen & Fred Yazdian Robyn & Sam Yazdian

#### IN MEMORY OF

Steven Eisen Jackie Tepper

#### RAE & BRUCE HIRSCH GREATEST NEED FUND

Jamie & Jeremy Brook Robin & Mark Cohen Adam & Mandy Hirsch Barbara & Larry Speller Erin & Greg Zagnoev

In Honor of Rae Hirsch & Ben Russ Johanna Russ

#### TONI JACOBSEN'S PSALM 102:3 GREATEST NEED FUND

Lynn Kanter Linda McBride Eileen Wallach

IN MEMORY OF

**Janet Wallach** Bobbie & Alex Limor & family

\*\*\* Tribute donations received after November 1, 2023 will be included in the next JFS Newsletter.



## A Year of Support

### **Stress Less Teen Workshop**

Teens today are stressed! The American Psychological Association says teens have been reporting higher levels of stress than adults. In fact, an APA survey showed that teens reported higher levels of anxiety and depression than any other age group. Social media has also contributed to the pressure and stress that adolescents face today.

Always responsive to needs in the community, JFS sponsored programming, in partnership with all the Jewish religious schools, for teens in 8-12 grade. 50 teens explored and learned stress reduction techniques including yoga, journaling, therapeutic art, mindfulness meditation, and guided imagery.

Thank you so much to Courtney Grimes, our participants, facilitators, volunteers and everyone else who made this event successful!

### **NARCAN** Training

JFS hosted a group of professionals who work in Jewish agencies and synagogues to discuss an unfortunate reality - the need for NARCAN training in Middle Tennessee. And although this is something we wished we didn't have to do, we are glad that so many joined us to learn more about what to do when situations arise where it is needed in order to save lives.

JFS partnered with STARS Nashville to provide this training where participants learned about the drug Fentanyl, how to recognize a Fentanyl overdose and were trained how to administer Narcan, the lifesaving drug.

Each agency and synagogue that participated received free Narcan kits for their building.

"One Who Saves a Single Soul Saves an Entire World" ~ Sanhedrin 37a ♥











Since launching the Life & Legacy program, the following people have signed a letter of intent indicating they will leave an after-lifetime gift to Jewish Family Service. We are so appreciative of their commitment to ensure that JFS will be around for another 167 years serving the needs of the community.

If you would like to have a conversation regarding your Legacy, please contact either Pam Kelner, JFS Executive Director, at 615.354.1644 or Sandra Hecklin, JFS Team Leader, at 615.356.3473.

Theresa and Kevin Alexandroni Felicia and Ken Anchor Larry Averbuch **Richard Barnett** Lynn and David Barton Didi and Brian Biesman Jamie and Jeremy Brook Starlet Burney **Robin and Mark Cohen** Terry Z. Cohen Renette (z"l) and Abe (z"l) Corenswett Mary Cornelius and Elaine Taubin Erin Coleman Melissa and Norman Davis Karen Dotter Jill and Dan Eisenstein Annette Eskind Andrea and Kevin Falik **Nancy Flexer** Lisa and Rick Forberg Nili Friedman Harris Gilbert z'l Natalie Glazer **Cindee and Michael Gold** Bernie Goldstein z'l

Bernice and Joel z'l Gordon **Robert Gordon** Reta Guttman z'l Heidi and John Hassenfeld Rachel Hauber Sandra and Steve Hecklin David Heller *Reva and Gene z'l Heller* Toni and Dick Heller Rae and Bruce Hirsch Melanie and Doug Hirt Mary Loventhal Jones Jackie Karr Pam and Shaul Kelner Leslie and Howard Kirshner Ruth Klar Glenda and Lee Kraft Roslyn Landa Valerie and Adam Landa Leslye and Steve Lapidus Jan Liff Diana z'l and Shelly Lutz Patty and Jimmy Marks Bonnie and Robert Miller LaQuita Martin and Richard Orland

Suzy and Stewart Perlman Elaine z'l and Frank z'l Parker Daniella Pressner & Rabbi Saul Strosberg Edria and David Ragosin Marsha Raimi Esther and Steven Remer Evan Rittenbera Marissa and Ben Russ Arlene and Howard Safer Stan and Marco Fernandez-Schklar Suzanne and Jimmy Schulman **Goldie and Mark Shepard** Lisa and Mike Shmerling Elise Small Nan Speller David Steine Jr. **Cindv Stone and Mark Glazer** Laura Thompson and Yuri Livshitz Alyssa Trachtman Michelle Trachtman Katie and Adam Wayne Karen and Howie Weil Erin and Greg Zagnoev Anonymous (5)

\*names noted in teal have formalized their gift

## A Story of Community

Read more from Gary Rosenblatt about the work being done by the Nashville Community to welcome Israeli evacuees and celebrate Jewish culture at garyrosenblatt.substack.com/p/southern-comfort **v** 



### Ways to Give

#### BE SOMEONE WHO GIVES HOPE.

Generous community support provides indispensable funding for all Jewish Family Service programs and services, ultimately improving the lives of the 1,700+ clients we serve every year. There are so many ways to help:

**Restricted or Unrestricted Giving:** Every contribution helps make a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most. "Unrestricted" donations support the full range of programs and services – allowing us to direct funds to the greatest need – and to support our operating costs. As a donor, you can also "Restrict" the gifts to specific programs or services that have special meaning.

**Memorial and Tribute Gifts:** When your gift is a "tribute" for a special occasion, or in honor or memory of someone special, you get the satisfaction of giving a truly meaningful gift and we take care of sending the card. **Auto Donations:** JFS partners with Charitable Auto Resources to accept donations of automobiles, boats and motorcycles. Net proceeds go to help support our programs and services. To donate, please call 877.537.4227.

Life & Legacy: See Page 10!

**Volunteering:** Volunteers are a vital part of how JFS supports our clients. By giving their time, energy and experience, JFS volunteers provide a helping hand to our staff, isolated seniors and others in our community.

**Kroger Plus Card:** Now it's easier than ever to support JFS while shopping at Kroger! Just follow these easy steps:

- 1. Go to kroger.com and SIGN IN or CREATE AN ACCOUNT
- 2. Click on Savings and Rewards near the top of the page
- 3. Scroll down to Kroger Community Rewards
- 4. Scroll to the "I'm a Customer" box and "view details"
- 5. In the Search bar, TYPE in "Jewish" (or #YR766)
- 6. Select "Jewish Family Service"

### jfsnashville.org/ways-to-help

### Heart of the Matter Continued from page 1

individuals wanted, we offered free counseling sessions related to the war, we offered a Beads for Israel program, support groups and a planned interactive art project. JFS is no stranger to disaster responses, but this was personal. This one brought us to our knees, left us speechless for a moment and has left a scar on our hearts.

In addition to caring for the Nashville Jewish community, we opened our hearts and resources to Israeli evacuees. JFS arranged kosher food, housing, transportation, medical care and provided social and emotional support for Israelis passing through and Israelis staying for a while. As social workers, we had the privilege of interacting with the evacuees in basic but meaningful ways to help provide a place of refuge for the time being.

A few of my favorite moments have been seeing pictures of Israeli children smiling and having fun with donated art boxes from Eileen Wallach, hearing the excitement from a relative as I tell him the teenager he is caring for can join in sports with JMS and Kehilla, hearing the relief from a family who just received a new refrigerator we were able to purchase at a reduced rate from Electronic Express and can now store a week's worth of groceries for their large family and the moments when someone entrusts you with their experiences and feelings about the war and you can see their burden become a little lighter as we listen to every word. It's all about making connections with Jews in a time of need and connecting them with the community whenever possible.

For the next few months, you will hear from various staff at JFS about the work we have been doing since the war began in more detail. Being the Clinical Director, puts me in the prime position of watching all the love and support our community has to offer each other whether it be a local resident or a brother/sister from Israel.





### **Jewish Family Service**

Jewish Family Service of Nashville and Middle Tennessee 801 Percy Warner Blvd., Suite 103 Nashville, TN 37205 615.356.4234

Non-Profit Organization **U.S.** Postage Paid Permit No. 4043 Nashville



# Who We Are Serving Nashville Since 1853

Jewish Family Service of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide professional social services from Jewish perspectives which respond to and support individuals and families through life's transitions.

Passionate providers of comprehensive social services, we are advocates, allies, educators, cheerleaders, and guides who create solutions to problems facing families and individuals of all ages. We are a collective of social workers, volunteers, generous supporters, compassionate hearts, spirited and spiritual human beings.

We are one of the oldest social service agencies in Nashville, but that doesn't mean we are stagnant. We are constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of the people we serve. Above all, we never cease finding new ways to enrich, enhance, and empower the lives of those in need of help.

### "One who saves a Single Soul Saves an Entire World." Sanhedrin 37a