

Mishpacha

Volume 6, Number 2 • Spring 2006 • Jewish Family Service • Houston, Texas

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Producing a "JFS Road Map"

Strategic Planning



Linda L. Burger, Executive Director, and Donald Freedman, Strategic Planning Chair

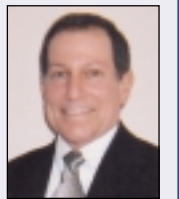
It was incredible. Awe-inspiring, too. Almost 100 people - Jewish Family Service Board Members, Community Volunteers and Staff participated in the three month long strategic planning process. Under the able direction of Donald Freedman, process chair; eight co-chairs; and four recorders, each of the task forces looked at a different aspect of Jewish Family Service with a

seriousness and enthusiasm that was infectious.

At its March 31 board meeting, the JFS board unanimously adopted the suggestions of the strategic planning committee. Each of the individual task force- Image, Development, Program Services and Volunteer Recruitment and Retention - leaders summarized their findings and recommendations. *continued on page 3*

President's Column

Our hope is that everyone shared a warm and festive family Pass-over Season. Jewish Family Service began our 94th year with a well-attended Annual Meeting that created excitement about the many events and projects that are beginning to take shape.



Larry Reader
President,
Board of
Directors

On January 22, we had the dedication of our new home, The Nathan J. Klein Building. Over 300 of our friends were there to help us honor the man for which the building is now named. Many of his family were here to help us celebrate. His daughter, Martha Klein Lottman was here from Canton, Ohio to enlighten us about her remarkable father. This grand opening and dedication will be forever etched in the history of Jewish Family Service.

During this past year, with the devastating happenings of hurricanes Katrina and Rita that fell upon our neighbors in New Orleans, Beaumont and surrounding areas, I came to realize what Jewish Family Service is all about. Now I know what our mission statement means ... to strengthen Jewish individual and family life through counseling, education and social services. Our professional staff should be very proud of what they have accomplished in dealing with the Katrina and Rita evacuees. Each and every one of them gave of themselves so unselfishly to help those in need in this time of crisis. We, the Board of Directors, are truly blessed and fortunate to be associated with such incredible human beings.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I look forward to leading Jewish Family Service in 2006 as we build for the future to make the Jewish Community in our city a better place to live by offering light, hope, and help to the thousands who come through our doors each year.

You are invited to visit us anytime to learn about JFS and see what you can do to help make our community and our city a better place to live. For more information about the programs and services we provide, please call 713/667-9336.

JFS receives accolades for Katrina/Rita services



Larry Reader (left) receives a check from Joe Williams, President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, for \$299,259, to be used for Hurricane Disaster Relief Effort. Over \$130,000 was used for financial assistance to hurricane evacuees, as well as funds for the Employment Services Program, which assisted individuals securing employment following Katrina. The JFS staff spent over 400 hours offering services to over 500 individuals and families following the two hurricanes. Looking on are Linda L. Burger, Executive Director, and Lee Wunsch.

During the agency's 93rd Annual Meeting, JFS received applause for the work provided by the agency over the past six months in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita,

Lee Wunsch, Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, explained to a packed audience, "I'm here tonight to express my personal gratitude for the work of JFS during this act of collective responsibility (serving those who came to Houston following the two hurricanes) and to publicly recognize those JFS Staff and volunteers that are rarely in the public eye yet deserve our communal applause. I hope that each of you will join me in expressing thanks and applauding JFS now and privately for a job well done."

"Six months after all of us in Houston had a shared experience, we can look back at that time and our response to the crisis as one that reflected the best values of

our community as we mobilized, organized and took action," the Federation officer continued. Recently during a visit to Houston of national representatives of the United Jewish Campaign, Wunsch had explained the community's quick and organized response to the evacuees of Katrina. When more than 5,000 members of the New Orleans Jewish community poured into Houston, Wunsch stated at that gathering as well as during the agency meeting, "Just prior to convening our Jewish Community's Emergency Response Team, one of the first calls I made was to Donald Wilson, (JFS Director of Professional Services) who without hesitation, knew what had to be done!"

He concluded by explaining how members of the JFS staff stepped forward and assisted those from the Crescent City with such critical needs as job and employment

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Grants provide more programs

There Houston foundations have answered grant requests from JFS by awarding a total of \$75,000 in funds to advance programs and services of the agency.

"With the approval by these three foundations to our request for funds, Jewish Family Service has the ability to focus on several social services programs that will help many more clients. It is with sincere appreciation that we accept these grants," stated Larry S. Reader, President.

Houston Endowment, Inc. made a significant grant to JFS of \$50,000 to be used toward comprehensive social services to individuals, families and children. The amount will be forwarded to JFS in two installments of \$25,000 during fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

The Brown Foundation, Inc. responded

with a \$5,000 grant to be used toward comprehensive social services, as well.

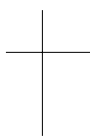
A \$20,000 grant from The Stanford and Joan Alexander Foundation will be used for Project Shalom, a program of JFS for adults with chronic mental illness. The program was started in 1990 to assist this segment of the community to maintain its connection with the Jewish community. A portion of the grant will be used for an enrichment activity for the members of the group, some of whom have been in Project Shalom for the past ten years.

"The members of Project Shalom meet at JFS each week for a hot kosher meal and participate in a variety of activities coordinated by Mira Rueveni, LPC, a clinical

continued on page 6



Rabbi Barry Gelman affixes mezuzah to the Nathan J. Klein Building. For more photos from the dedication, please turn to page 4.



New Faces at Jewish Family Service

"With the retirement of two long-time clinical staff members and a chaplain in the Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program along with increased case loads and expanded services, it was necessary for JFS to add to our staff shortly before the end of 2005," announced Donald Wilson, JFS Director of Professional Services.



Linda Greene

"Replacing these two staff members was going to be difficult because of their long association with the agency and with their clients, but we found two well-rounded clinical social workers to fill the positions in Linda Greene, who had worked for Jewish Family Service 15 years previous and was thrilled to come back 'home'.



Lisa Levine

due to her husband's work. While at JFS, her responsibilities included individual and couple therapy as well as geriatric and adoption services. "During my first several months, my cases were crisis counseling for the hurricane evacuees and now I am working with individual and couples of all ages. I am the agency's adoption services social worker," said Greene. Continuing, she stated, "It was so wonderful to be able to come back to Jewish Family Service...there were some staff changes, but the vision and purpose has remained the same. It is a privilege to work in this setting and offer the types of services we do!"



Rabbi Schloss

of the JFS staff and to serve the agency's mission. The combination of crisis intervention, counseling, consultation and teaching my job entails allows me to meet the needs of the community in a variety of ways. That variety keeps me energized and focused. I envision an exciting future for the agency and am proud to be a part of a team that strives for excellence in all areas of its work."

The three new staff members are Linda Greene, LMSW, clinical social worker; Lisa Levine, LCSW, clinical social worker; and Rabbi Deborah Schloss, part-time chaplain with the Chaplaincy Program.

The new social workers replaced Sharon Gerber, LCSW, and Barbi Topek, LCSW. A member of the JFS staff for 21 years, Gerber worked with individuals, couples and teenagers. She coordinated many of the agency's out-reach Family Life workshops. Topek, who had been with JFS since 1997, was the agency's adoption specialist and was the coordinator of an eight-week Marriage 101 program for couples recently engaged or young married. Rabbi Schloss replaced Rabbi Howard Trusch in the Chaplaincy Program.

ers to fill the positions in Linda Greene, who had worked for Jewish Family Service 15 years previous and was thrilled to come back 'home'. Lisa Levine's numerous years of experience helping adolescents successfully transition into adulthood, and her knowledge and skills in the areas of domestic and sexual violence made her a perfect fit for JFS. And Rabbi Schloss was just right for the Chaplaincy Program," stated Wilson.

At the time Wilson placed the two social workers on staff, the agency was in the midst of moving into its new facility as well as assisting the many people who had moved to Houston from New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Greene had been with JFS from October 1987 until 1990, resigning to live abroad

Levine spent ten years doing crisis intervention, conflict resolution and counseling work at two prestigious Midwestern universities before moving to Houston to manage the Houston Area Women's Center's 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines. Lisa's duties at JFS include providing individual, couples and family therapy, serving as consultant to the JCC Merfish Center and BBYO, and teaching Marriage 101. "I feel so honored to be a part

Rabbi Schloss comes to the Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program with chaplaincy experience as well pastoral service as a congregational rabbi. Rabbi Schloss had served as the resident chaplain for the Memorial Herman Hospital prior to taking the position at JFS to serve the many hospitals in the Texas Medical Center as well as other area hospitals. She is a former assistant rabbi at Congregation Beth Yeshurun and later served as the part-time rabbi with Congregation Beth El Binah in Dallas. The new Chaplaincy employee served as the Sixth Grade Bible teacher and led religious services at The Emery/Weiner Middle School." We are very pleased that she is working with Hope Lipnick, Director of the Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program in the Medical Center," noted Wilson.

Why is this time different from all other times?

For the 17th year, JFS provided a gift certificate to individuals who needed assistance in order to purchase food during Passover to meet their holiday needs.

"Even before letters and announcements were made, we began receiving calls regarding this annual assistance program. JFS was aware there were many more families and individuals who were in need for Passover 2006. For this year, we sent over 650 \$30 gift certificates to those who asked for assistance," stated Avrohm Perl, Chair of the Passover Assistance Program since it began in 1989.

Each year the community is asked to participate in this mitzvah of maos chitim (Passover aid). The program is twofold. It not only offers much needed financial assistance to members of the community, but it involves children in the religious and day schools in the traditions of tzedakah and how their mitzvot helps others.

"Our sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to our Passover Assistance Program this year...from the children in the schools to the JFS Staff and members of the Board of Directors," said Perl.

Each family member three and older was offered a gift certificate from JFS.

Those wishing to make contributions to the Passover Assistance Fund should make their donations to Jewish Family and Children's Fund, Passover Assistance. The checks should be sent to JFS, 4131 S. Braeswood, Houston, TX 77025. The pro-



Hetty Perl, Director of UOS Montessori, gives Donald Wilson pennies, nickles and cash for Passover assistance from her school children.



Donald Wilson receiving tzedakah donation for Passover assistance from young entrepreneur Andrew Kalmans.

gram is funded partially by the Deutser, Hecht, Mandell Fund. For additional information, call JFS, 7113/667-9336.

Ruth Hutton Fred lecture

The 22nd Annual Ruth Hutton Fred Lecture will be presented at Baylor College of Medicine for the faculty and residents of the Department of Psychiatry on Wednesday, June 21, at 10 a.m.

Bruce Lackie, Ph.D. will speak at Baylor on "Leave no Inner Child behind: Katrina's Parentified Children". The presentation will deal with the projected effects of the storm on the children, particularly those who fell silent in the face of the overwhelming experience.

Since 1967, Dr. Lackie has been a practicing clinical social worker in the field of



Traumatology. The lecturer is the Doctoral Faculty Mentor at Walden University in the School of Education & School of Health and Human Services. He received his Ph.D in

the Graduate School of Social Work from Rutgers University.

During the International society of Trauma studies in Stockholm, Sweden in June 2005, Dr. Lackie spoke on New Approaches to the Treatment of Trauma.



**ATTENTION
PAST PRESIDENTS
Save this date!**

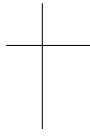
Past President's Council
to meet for lunch
Tuesday, May 9 at Noon in the board
room of the Nathan J. Klein building
4131 S. Braeswood at Linkwood

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Strategic Planning

continued from page 1

rized the work of their committees. Page 3 of this newsletter is devoted to the overall recommendations and to the individuals who participated in the more than fifty hours of deliberations.

The Houston community and JFS clients are the winners of this initiative. The strategic plan is the roadmap for the next few year providing direction and vision for the agency. The board of directors and executive leadership of JFS are grateful to the almost 100 volunteers that made this initiative possible.

Key outcomes agreed upon by the board included:

* Development of a sophisticated marketing campaign to rapidly improve the Image of JFS in the community and one that reflects the professional quality of the staff who provide these services;

* Pursue two of the nine key program areas identified by the Program Services Committee as important to the delivery of services to the community

* Establishment of a Volunteer Guild to enhance the visibility of JFS programs;

* Creation of a (volunteer) Coordinator of Volunteer Services to help fill the more than 25 positions identified through the strategic planning process;

* Support for a development plan that funds the agency's unrestricted operating needs of \$200,000 annually; and,

* Completion of the community phase of the Capital Endowment Campaign through the sale of pavers and bricks (see page)

These broad brush strokes will help the new executive leadership and board of JFS move the agency into a new era of service delivery benefiting the Houston community.



Development Task Force

Lisa Estes, Staff; Mark Wise, Co-Chair, Sunni Markowitz, Co-Chair Stephanie Beasley, Recorder and Linda Burger, Staff (not pictured)

Development Task Force

Gary Becker
Benjy Herschorn
Kelly Hess
Jacob Leon
Eric Mayer
Linda Sprung
Thomas Wolff
Linda Burger, Staff
Larry Reader, President
Alan Reingold, Staff
Donald Wilson, Staff
Donald Freedman, Strategic Planning Chair

Volunteers Task Force

Shirley Burkom
Mike Gornek
Laura Huvar
Sandy Lusky
Barbara melnik
Marna Meyer
Steffie Odle
Vicki Pravda
Michael Richker
Renee Spolane
Tammi Altshuler, Staff
Donald Freedman, Strategic Planning Chair



Image Task Force

Nancy Reader, Recorder; Linda Burger, Staff; Linda Walter, Co-Chair Irving Pozmantier, Co-Chair (not pictured)

Program Services Task Force

Cutlines: Dolores Wilkenfeld, Co-Chair; Debra Cohen, Co-Chair; Stephen Rosenbloom, Recorder.



Donald Wilson, Staff; and Alan Reingold, Staff

Strategic Planning



Volunteers Task Force

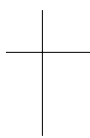
Cutlines: Rici Miller, Co-Chair; Gloria Ribnick, Staff; Cheryl Levy, Co-Chair Tammy Feldstein, Recorder (not pictured)

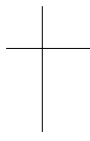
Program Services Task Force

Lana Armstrong, Staff
Lynne Aronoff
Mark Brookner
Fran Friedman
Charles Gaitz
Linda Greene, Staff
Rosalind Kalmans, Staff
Lisa Levine, Staff
Hope Lipnick, Staff
Herb Marchand
Toby Newman, Staff
Janet Pozmantier
Vicki Pravda
Alan Reingold, Staff
Michael Richker
Mira Rueveni, Staff
Marsha Schooler
Renee Spolane
Renee Suchowiecky
Donald Wilson, Staff
Donald Freedman, Strategic Planning Chair

Image Task Force

Rabbi Eve Ben Ora
Sharon Brener
Diane Brezner
Shirley Burkom
Joel Farb
Rabbi Barry Gelman
Arlyne Gimble
Rabbi Brenner Glickman
Shirley Katzin
Rabbi Elizer Lazaroff
Rabbi Michael LeBurkien
Sheryl Levin
Muriel Meicler
Rabbi Steven Morgen
Charlotte Motley
Rabbi Shaul Osadchey
Rabbi Joesph Radinsky
Rabbi David Rosen
Harvey Rosenstock, MD
Rabbi Deborah Schloss
Rabbi Adrienne Scott
Rabbi Jack Segal
Rabbi Pam Silk
Lewis Soliniki
Alana Spiwak, MD
Rabbi Seth Stander
Rabbi Ranon Teller
Rabbi Todd Talblum
Devora Urkowitz
Rabbi Amy Weiss
Rabbi Aryeh Wolbe
Donald Freedman, Strategic Planning Chair





Nathan J. Klein Building Dedicated

For the first time in the history of JFS, the new Nathan J. Klein Building is "made only for JFS!" The agency's history reflects moves from a one room office in a downtown retail store to the last home, a building that had been an insurance agency, but never a building designed just for the needs of the staff and clients.

However, on Sunday, January 22 under gray and rainy skies, Jewish Family Service welcomed over 300 guests for the beautiful and exciting official Dedication and Grand Opening of the agency's new home.

Mayor Bill White recognized the years of service to the Jewish and general community as he presented Larry S. Reader, JFS President, with a Proclamation naming the day Jewish Family Service Day in Houston.

Honoring the many members of the Klein family who were in the audience, Mayor White thanked the late Nathan J. Klein "...as an inspiration for all the fine work he accomplished. Now, through the family's assistance with this new building, so many more people will find help."

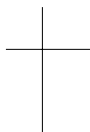
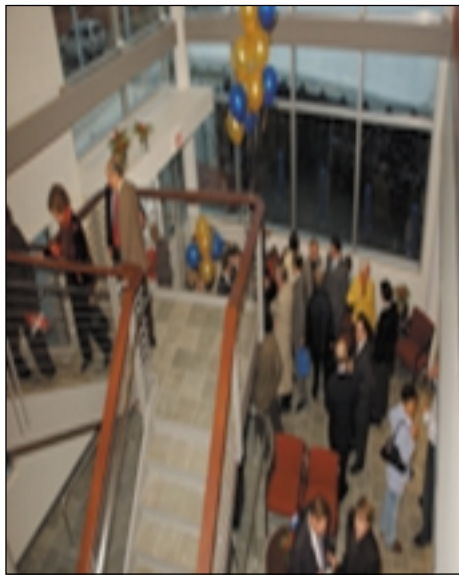
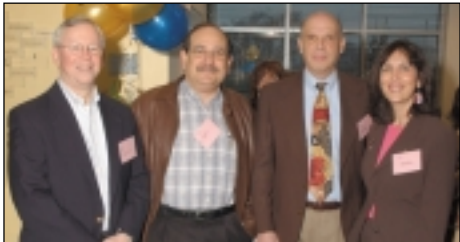
Carol Goldberg, Dedication Chair, welcomed, "The many community partners who

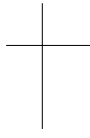
have joined us today as we are witness to seeing our dream becoming a reality." She thanked Jacob Leon, Capital Campaign Chair, and Mike Gornek, Facilities Chair, for their work in bringing JFS to this wonderful day.

Reader introduced the major donors who helped make the building campaign such a success. Children of the building's name sake were presented with a framed three-dimensional art piece in grateful recognition of the long-standing assistance they have given to Jewish Family Service.

Participating in the traditional dedication of the new facility were Rabbi Barry Gelman of United Orthodox Synagogues as he affixed the mezuzah; Rabbi Ranon Teller of Congregation Brith Shalom, a member of the JFS Board, who chanted the shehecheyanu prayer; and Rabbi Roy Walter of Congregation Emanu El as he blew the shofar and gave the closing prayer. The official ribbon cutting closed the program.

Prior to the 1 p.m. program, tours of the 11,000 square foot contemporary building were offered by the JFS staff and members of the board of directors and officers.





Officers are (1 to r): Larry S. Reader, President; Donald Freedman, Vice President; Sunni B. Markowitz, Vice President; Rici Miller, Secretary; Mike Gornek, Treasurer; and Cheryl G. Levy, Vice President. Carol Goldberg is immediate past president.



Reading thank you notes from evacuees are (from left) Lana Armstrong, Linda Greene, Rosalind Kalmans, and Lisa Levine.



New Board Members include (1 to r) Dan Trachtenberg, Mark Brookner, Lynne Aronoff and Rabbi Ranon Teller.



Sunni Markowitz (left) presents the 2006 Shirley and Allen Becker Leadership Award to Rici Miller. Shirley Becker holds the plaque naming all the honorees. Shirley and her husband founded the award in 1999.

JFS Receives Accolades

continued from page 1

needs, health care service for appointments with doctors and the filling of prescriptions, housing and financial assistance. "And all this was done concurrently on the day that JFS was moving into its new building and as Mary Jean Weston was preparing for her final days as the agency's executive director. The work by JFS was done-as usual-with humility, dignity and quiet fortitude...just as it continues to do to this day-in the aftermath of the devastation in New Orleans and our surrounding Texas cities."

Following that note of gratitude, five members of the JFS staff presented compelling stories related to their assistance to evacuees over the past six months.

Telling their individual stories were staff members: Linda Greene, LMSW clinical social worker; Lisa Levine, LCSW, clinical social worker, Lana Armstrong, Employment Services Director; Ruth Sherman, LBSW, Senior Adult Department social worker; and Rosalind Kalmans, case worker and Financial Assistance manager.

Larry S. Reader, elected to serve a second term as president, announced the formation of a Past President's Council that would meet at the agency twice a year. He noted how overwhelmed the officers, board, staff and volunteers were with the tremendous out-pouring of the community for the Dedication and Grand Opening of the new Nathan J. Klein Building. "With a new building and a new director, Jewish Family Service will meet the needs of so many more people in the Jewish and general commu-

Checking over the meeting agenda are (1 to r) Larry Reader, Linda Burger and Thomas Wolff, 93rd Annual Meeting Chair. His committee included Cheryl Levy, Ann Magoon, Renee Spolane with assistance from JFS staff Tammi Altshuler, Gloria Ribnick and Robin Sofer.

nity," stated Reader.

Giving her first report as executive director of JFS, Linda L. Burger, also praised the entire staff for "the skills and talents that they share with the community as well as the many volunteers who donate countless volunteer hours each week enabling JFS to deliver more services than we could without their help." She continued by explaining a strategic planning process that has been looking into the future of the agency. "Several themes keep emerging from these more than 14 meetings that will provide us with new avenues to publicize, develop, meet unmet needs and enhance the programs and services of the agency," Burger noted.

A dessert reception in Stein Hall at Congregation Beth Yeshurun began the annual meeting. Rabbi Emeritus of the congregation, Rabbi Jack Segal, gave the invocation and Rabbi Pam Silk of Congregation Emanu El closed the meeting with the benediction.



Nurses learn Jewish traditions



Thirteen doctoral nursing students from Texas Woman's University spent the day at Congregation Beth Yeshurun and JFS in order to better learn the traditions and needs of Jewish patients. Dr. Sandra Cesario, Doctoral Program Coordinator for TWU, led the program.

JFS in Action



Linda Burger accepts donation from Leonard Tatar, attorney for the estate of NAME NAME. Looking on is Dan Trachtenberg, JFS board member, and Donald Wilson



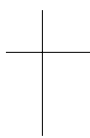
Spending the evening learning about the services and programs of JFS were two visitors from our sister cities in Israel, Joseftal/Dado. They are (1 to r) Ira Kerem, Houston Jewish Federation's Consultant; Moti Levy, Chairman of Dado Neighbor Center; and Ronit Dadon, Executive Director of Community Centers in Joseftal/Dado.

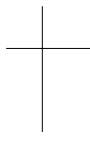


Selling Chunakah wrapping paper and Bennie Babies to raise funds for the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast Community Campaign are Leah Mueller, JFS Senior Adult Staffer, and son, NAME. JFS had 100% staff participation to raise \$10,600 toward the overall United Way 2005-2006 campaign total.



Lana Armstrong (left), JFS Employment Services Director, with Barbara Marcus, a speaker during an Employment Services Workshop.





Jewish Family Service Mission Statement:

To strengthen Jewish individual
and family life through counseling.

Officers and JFS Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Larry Reader- President
Donald Freedman- Vice President
Cheryl Levy - Vice President
Sunni B. Markowitz - Vice President
Rici Miller - Secretary
Mike Gornek - Treasurer
Carol Goldberg - Immediate Past President

Lynne Aronoff
Maida Asofsky
Mark Brookner
Debra Cohen
Henry Hochman
Malvern Lusky
Ann Magoon
Shirley Marks
Eric Mayer
Michael Richker
Steve Robinson
Harvey Rosenstock, M.D.
Marsha Schooler
Renee Spolane
Rabbi Ranon Teller
Dan Trachtenberg
Linda Walter
Inna Wizig
Thomas Wolff

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Lorraine Brown
Frances Friedman
Barry H. Goodfriend, M. D.
Marc E. Grossberg
Jacob Leon
Jay Plotkin
Robert Reader
Arthur Schwarz
George Stark
Shirley Warshaw
Leon Weiner
Harry Zuber

VOLUNTEER STARS

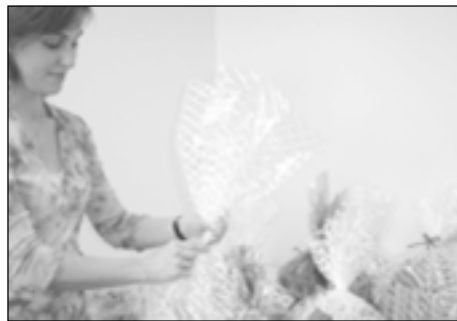
Toby Brown came into JFS to volunteer for one day...NOW she is the Coordinating Volunteer for the agency's Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program working three days a week!

"To give Hope Lipnick, LPC, Director of the Jewish Chaplaincy Program at the Medical Center and full-time Jewish Chaplain at MD Anderson, and Rabbi Deborah Schloss, the out-reach rabbi for the other hospitals, more time to devote to the emotional and spiritual needs of the patients, I help for those things the family/caregivers, who accompany the patients, call and request," explained Toby.

Toby has made arrangements for transportation to local synagogues, trips to area kosher markets or restaurants and assistance in locating monthly apartments for out-of-town family members. She offered several family members home hospitality during Passover as well as for Seder.

For Purim, Toby arranged with Congregation Beth Israel's Religious School to make baskets filled with humentashen, bottled juice, and other holiday goodies. Toby delivered the baskets to Methodist Hospital where Rabbi Schloss passed them out to Jewish patients in area hospitals. Hope delivered the Purim baskets to patients at M.D. Anderson. Temple Sinai's Religious School was quick to respond with colorful spring gift bags filled with Passover needs. "The bags came stuffed with a box of matzah, bottles of grape juice, a can of macaroons, and Passover candies. What a great treat these two acts of kindness were for those confined to the hospital during the holidays," explained Toby.

"My future plans include working toward a POP (Pool of People) to assist in serving the many hospital patients. I am calling the local synagogues and speaking with their "Caring Committee" in order to coordinate a support program for the hundreds of patients who come to Houston



Toby Brown prepares Purim baskets

annually. Jewish Family Service is such a noble place. By helping Jews who need assistance in so many ways, JFS gives them the tools for a new direction in their life. We are so lucky to have JFS that follows the edicts of the Talmud which states: 'All Jews are responsible for each other,' said the Volunteer Star.

"I feel so professional...I have my own desk, computer and an office of my own as the Volunteer Coordinator! What a wonderful opportunity to give time to the Jewish Chaplaincy program...this is the truest form of tzedakah," Toby said with a smile as she answered the phone and prepared to complete another assignment for an out-of-city family member.

Project Shalom

Noel Foreman
Terry Gundule
Linda Goldstein
Judy Mellon
Ann Abramczyk
MaryAnn Garza
Donna Sisak
ExxonMobil Group
Neida Davis
Toby's brother
Bruce Stein
Barbara Loeser
Miriam Rosenbloom
Lorraine Brown

Shalom Bayit

Toby Myers
Jo Golub
Sandra Goldman
Marty Klashman
Ruth Rabie

Chaplaincy Program

Rae Gerson
Marge Mayer
Dan Trachtenberg
Cindy Abrahams
Heidi Dreyfus
Carol Soroka
Barbara Schneider
Linda Sprung
Steffie Odle

Front Desk

Linda Chess

From Linda's desk ...

This issue of Mishpacha is brimming with the many activities of Jewish Family Service. Recently, we completed a strategic planning process (see page 1) and among the things we learned is that JFS is "image challenged." The good news is that JFS does



Linda L. Burger
President

not have a bad image in the community. In general, we found that community leaders, mental health providers and rabbis know that something good goes on in this building but when asked to describe what, they were unable to do so fully. Everyone knew of one aspect or another about the work of the agency. We are challenged to showcase the professional staffing and the quality and quantity of the work provided by the agency while at the same time maintaining the strictest confidentiality of our clients. Whether a student is seeking a college loan; a Holocaust survivor needs housekeeping services; a single mother needs help with rent, utilities or food; a child needs help coping with her parents recent divorce; a chronically mentally ill adult needs a place to go, a hot meal and an activity; a client needs help regulating his medications; a couple wants to adopt; an indigent person needs a proper Jewish burial; a Jewish woman seeks guidance and support because of domestic abuse; or teenagers need someone to talk to because of drugs, alcohol, gambling or sex - JFS handles it all and more.

The highly credentialed and experienced staff helps individuals, families and couples pick up the broken fragments of their lives and make them whole again! It is a privilege to watch the transformation in a person's soul when the brokenness becomes whole once more. At this time of year, we think about our own transformation from slavery to freedom. We also prepare ourselves to receive the Ten Commandments. When Moses came down from the mountain the first time, he carried the tablets that G-d created. He saw that the people had lost faith and in his anger, Moses broke the original tablets. Later, he wrote the second set of tablets himself. The Jewish people carried the new tablets and the broken fragments of the original tablets with them in the Ark of the Covenant. At JFS, we watch as our clients strive to create a new wholeness of self while never forgetting the broken fragments that brought them to us in the first place. Our image in the community may be vague but the miracles that happen within this building abound. We are forever grateful for your support and for your trust. Call us. I am sure that we can help.

Grant info

from page 1

social worker. Our most recent activity for the group and their guests was the celebration of Passover with a model Seder hosted by Bruce Stein. Our plan is to find an enrichment program that will be designed especially for Project Shalom. We are grateful to the Alexander Foundation for this important grant," said Linda L. Burger, Executive Director.



Project Shalom's model Seder

JCRS Housed at N. J. Klein Building

Jewish Children's Regional Service (JCRS) was one of the agencies that fled New Orleans in days before Hurricane Katrina. JCRS, a social work agency and charitable fund that serves Jewish children and young adults in the seven southern states, had offices in Metairie, Louisiana.

Ned Goldberg, JCRS Executive Director, and Melanie Musser, Education Coordinator, (pictured) came to Houston for a "few days" before the hurricane.

Initially JCRS was housed at both the Jewish Herald-Voice and Myron-Steves Insurance Company.

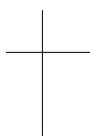
"Having just moved into our new home, JFS had several offices with desks, computers, and phones...we were the ideal site for JCRS.. So we invited the agency to come on over," stated Linda L. Burger.

"On behalf of everyone associated with Jewish Children's Regional Service, I ex-



tend our deepest gratitude to Houston's JFS for providing office space, supportive services and an aura of care and concern for me my staff and all the other New Orleanians who have found themselves in surprising and difficult circumstances over the last six to eight months," exclaimed Goldberg.

If you need to reach JCRS, they can be reached at 713/ 667-9336.



We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

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Every effort has been made to insure accuracy. Please notify the Development Department with any corrections, 713/667-9336.

Wise continues as JFS Foundation President

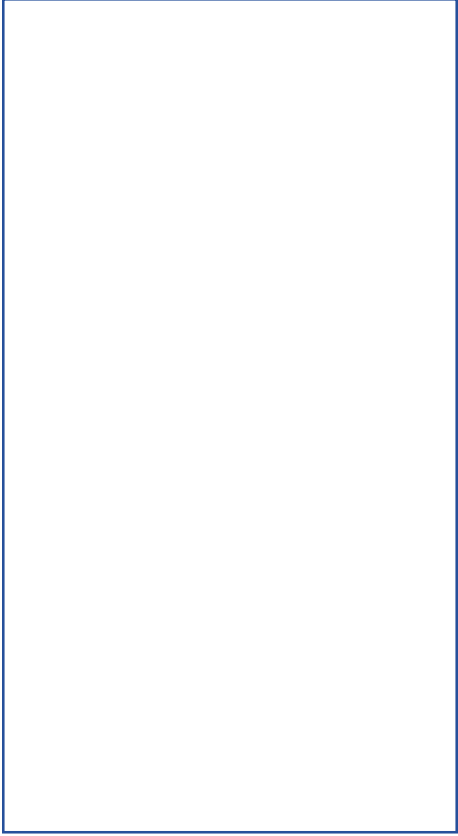
Mark Wise has been re-elected as President of the Jewish Family Service Special gifts and Endowments Foundation for 2006. Wise, a member of the JFS Foundation Board since 2000, will also serve as Treasurer.

Following a recent meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors, Wise announced the awarding of a \$2,000 gift to the Jewish Community Center of Houston for its Meals on Wheels program. "The gift is designated to purchase canned goods or other non-perishable foods for distribution to those needing meals. The Foundation Board was pleased to provide this assistance for the Meals program," stated Wise.

"The JFS Foundation has assisted Jewish Family Service since 1987 by making allocations to support programs offered by the agency," Wise said. "We are seeking new avenues to expand the Foundation's assets to further strengthen our funding position for the services and related programs needed by JFS."

Joining Wise are Shirley Toomin, Vice President; and Mickey Graubart, Secretary. Other Trustees include Jerry Bass, Carol Goldberg, Jacob Leon, Larry Reader, Linda Sprung, and Linda L. Burger. Alan Reingold serves as CFO.

If you have questions or are interested in discussing a gift to the Jewish Family Service Special Gifts and Endowments Foundation, please contact Wise at 713/552.1234 or Burger at 713/667-9336.



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