

Job Skills Program Exceeds Expectations

In the spring of 2003, Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) awarded JF&CS a grant to provide programs, access and employment opportunities for middle-aged immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The goal was to help participants secure a job that had health insurance as one of its benefits. At the conclusion of the grant, BCBS conducted their results survey and JF&CS received a 100% success rate.

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We were able to help over 150 individuals through this innovative program.



Pat and David Squire

CHAI Celebration 2004

Pat and David Squire are the honorees for this year's Community Housing for Adult Independence (CHAI) Celebration. Over 15 years ago, Pat and David were instrumental in helping establish the CHAI program at JF&CS. Today JF&CS Services for People with Disabilities includes a collection of programs designed for people with special needs and their families. Services include case management, service planning, support for activities of daily living, social skills groups and individual advocacy.

Leadership Development Series Off to a Great Start

Last fall, JF&CS launched the Leadership Development Series for adults, ages 25-45. Over 20 individuals have gotten a chance to help JF&CS clients and learn more about why the Agency's services are so important. The Leadership Development Series is designed to help those who may not be familiar with the Agency learn more and get involved in a wide range of programs. Participants have an opportunity to see JF&CS programs up close and get a feel for what they are all about by talking with directors, staff and clients.

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John Levy to be President

JF&CS is proud to announce that John F. Levy will be the next president of the JF&CS board of directors. John is often heard saying, "JF&CS is a true charity. Its mission is genuine *tzedakah*."

A board member since 1999, John is chair of the JF&CS Finance

Committee and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee and the Board Program Planning Committee. This past year he chaired the Jewish Values Subcommittee of the Diversity Initiative.

John was Waban Inc.'s first President and CEO from 1989 until 1993. He now runs a retail consulting and investment business. John is a long-time Trustee of Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and also serves on the boards of several software, biotech and retail companies.

John received his BA in English from Trinity College and his MBA from Harvard Business School. A Waban resident, John and his wife Gail Rothenberg have two children, Sara and Scott. John enjoys tennis, racquetball, squash and automobile racing.



Executive Director, Sy Friedland, Incoming President John Levy and Current President Alan Dana

Leadership Development *continued*

Dear Friends,

We have a lot to celebrate! Despite challenging times for many families in the Greater Boston area, JF&CS continues to change lives every day with the help of our volunteers, donors, board members and staff. Our Spring newsletter includes the stories of just some of those who are making a difference every day.



This spring the JF&CS board will elect a new president, John Levy. John brings expertise and enthusiasm to furthering our mission and I'm looking forward to working even more closely with him in the future.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Alan Dana who has been our president for the last two years. Alan has been tireless in his work for JF&CS. It was his leadership that resulted in an effective and constructive diversity process and without Alan we could never have moved forward on our real estate plans. We hope he will continue to play an important role in these two initiatives over the next few years.

I hope that you enjoy reading about a few of the ways the JF&CS community continues to touch lives.

Sincerely,



Seymour J. Friedland, Ph.D.
Executive Director



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The Series was launched in September 2003 with the efforts of Leadership Development Chair Nancy Viner, who is thrilled by its success. She said, "It's been a fantastic program. We've had a great opportunity to interact with the recipients and staff and learn first-hand about all the good work that JF&CS does."



Viner said, "Most people don't realize the variety of programs that JF&CS offers. This is a chance for them to get a taste of what JF&CS provides and decide where they might like to get involved, whether on a fundraising or hands-on basis."

At the first event, participants sorted and delivered food for Family Table and met with clients. They also heard from a staff person about the extent of poverty in the Greater Boston Jewish community. Next they attended the Sukkot program for Kol Isha, JF&CS' domestic violence program and in December they learned about meeting the challenges of living with disabilities at a Hanukkah party with residents of CHAI (Community Housing for Adult Independence). They learned about how JF&CS operates at meetings with Executive Director Sy Friedland and its CFO and COO. Many Series participants also joined in the Agency's 140th anniversary celebration at the JF&CS Black Tie.



Development Associate Jill Egel has received wonderful feedback about the emotional impact the program is having on participants. Jill gets calls and emails from the members saying, "After tonight I've decided I want to get involved." She added, "They are very moved."

For example, Jill said, "The members had an amazing experience at the CHAI residents' holiday party. For some of them it was their first experience with an adult with special needs. They sat and talked with the clients and found out why JF&CS services are so important."

The next Leadership Development Series will begin this fall. To learn more about the Leadership Development Series at JF&CS please contact Jill Egel, Development Associate, 617-227-6641 or jegel@jfcsboston.org.

Nicole Lesser Named to National Advisory Board of Teen Dating Violence Campaign

Nicole Lesser, LICSW has been named to the National Advisory Board of the Teen Action Campaign. Lesser is the program director of Kol Isha, JF&CS' domestic violence program.

The Teen Action Campaign, called "See It and Stop It," is a public awareness campaign designed to curb teen dating violence. The Campaign teaches people how to recognize the warning signs of abuse and what to do to stop it. According to Lesser, one in five girls is physically or emotionally abused before she graduates from high school.

Lesser says, "This Campaign brings teen dating violence out of the closet. If you have posters in your school and have a group of kids organizing initiatives it's much easier to say, 'hey cut it out'."

After a successful state-wide launch, Lesser will help strategize how to take the campaign nation-wide.



JF&CS Director Honored for Contributions to Disaster Response

Wayne Kessler, Director of the Center for Family Assistance (CFA), was honored with the Beverly Ross Fliegal Award for Greatest Contribution to Social Policy and Change from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

Wayne was recognized for his work assisting victims of all types of disasters and for developing the NASW's first programs to train mental health professionals in disaster response.

At JF&CS, Wayne and his staff work with families in crisis to help them cope with illness, job loss, eviction, hunger, domestic violence and other trauma.

Job Search *continued*

Rita Blanter directed the grant for Jewish Family & Children's Service. To illustrate the positive impact of this effort, she shared this story; "a 55 year old man came to us, he spoke very little English and suffered from cardiac arrhythmia. He did not qualify for Welfare, because his wife worked as a cleaning lady. They did not have any health insurance. The only way for him to receive medications was to ask his friend to send Russian medications to him with people that traveled to the United States. After participating in our program he was successful in securing a job as a home health aide. This full-time job provides health insurance for his family and, most importantly, he got back his dignity and self esteem."

The program was implemented with the assistance of the Russian Community Association of Massachusetts and North Shore HealthCare Association.



1864 Society

We will honor our history by forging our future

Together we can continue helping those in need. By making JF&CS part of your estate plan—through a planned gift or bequest—you will help ensure that we are able to help individuals and families for generations to come.

If you have already provided for us in your estate plan, or to learn more about how to:

- include JF&CS in your will
- make a gift of a life insurance policy to benefit JF&CS
- or to make a gift of appreciated stock...

please call our development office at 617-227-6641.

Happy Campers

The Elovitz Fund for Vulnerable Families Helps Kids In Need

As much as children need warm beds and full tummies, they need friendship and fun to help them grow into healthy, happy adults. For many children, going to camp is one way to make lifelong friends and enjoy the outdoors.

But for children whose families are struggling – either emotionally or financially – the opportunity to have healthy fun and make friends is one that is out of reach.

Happily, generous gifts from a special family are making it possible for JF&CS to help send these children to camp. The Elovitz Fund for Vulnerable Families is reaching out to children during

some of the most stressful times of their young lives.

The fund was started by a group of Elovitz cousins in honor of their parents – Elaine and Gerry and Gerry’s younger brother David and his wife Fran. Siblings Judi, Bill and his wife Debbie, and Linda and husband Robert and their cousins Sara, Gary and his wife Dena, and Ken came together as a family to recognize their parents’ teachings.

Judi Elovitz said the family got the idea for the fund after they helped send her son to camp during a difficult time. She said it was a wonderful break for him that helped both her and her son “get

over the hump.” Stepping in to help is a common occurrence in her family. She said, “We’ve always had each other to fall back on. Whenever there’s a crisis we do what we can to help each other out.”

They realized the ability to help each other during hard times is a luxury that not every family has. So they decided to find a way to honor their parents and give families in crisis a helping hand. Judi said, “JF&CS inspires *ruach* (spirit). You walk into the offices and you can feel it.”

The Elovitz fund has allowed JF&CS to respond to an increase in requests for camp scholarships. The funding is used to help families without sufficient financial resources send their children to camp for at least two weeks. With increased support from the Elovitz family and other donors, JF&CS was able to provide more children with the opportunity to go to camp.

Judi and Sara credit their parents with giving them a strong sense of responsibility to each other and to their community. Judi said, “My parents always taught us two things – to make them proud and to share our good fortune. The world is a big place and we’re here to take care of one another.”

The children who the fund helps are living in a wide range of challenging circumstances. Some of the children suffer from chronic



The Elovitz Family

physical or mental illnesses – such as bipolar mood disorder – or have learning disabilities. Some come from abusive homes. Some are from single-parent homes or homes in which one or both of the parents are suffering from a chronic or life-threatening illness. All the children need love and attention in a safe, fun environment.

Typical campers are a 12-year-old from Sharon, and her younger brother, who attended Camp Grossman in Westwood. Their parents are divorcing and camp gives the children a safe place for socialization, physical activities and the development of leadership skills. “He is learning to mix into groups, form new friendships and speak Hebrew out of the house. He loves anything with a ball,” says his mother. “Their friends from camp have become their Jewish neighborhood.”

Another camper is an 8-year-old, who went to Cedar Camp in Boston. She is from a home with a single parent with disabilities who receives only Social Security income. She has had problems with anger management and the intellectual and social stimulation she receives at camp is something that she cannot receive at home due to the mother’s disability.

The children love going to camp and the families are thrilled with their children’s joy. One parent wrote, “As the summer progresses, I watch my daughter laugh, gain confidence, become more adventurous, and open to new friendships and experiences. There is no greater joy for a parent than to watch their children grow and have fun. Your staff at JF&CS has a significant role in making this happen. My most sincere thanks.”



Fran & David and Jerry & Elaine Elovitz

“The children love going to camp and the families are thrilled with their children’s joy.”

The Elovitz family continues to support the fund through gifts honoring the happy occasions of their lives. They are living examples of the philosophy, “Do what you say but say not what you do.” Judi described her parents as humble people with a desire to help others, especially children. Their generosity and kindness are felt around the world, from sponsoring a van for children with disabilities in Israel to helping Russian high school students in the U.S. help even more recent immigrants.

A former special education teacher, Elaine has always had a warm spot for children, especially those with special needs. She believes it’s important to help children get a good start in life. She said, “Family

values have to be transmitted from one generation to another.”

From our sister city Haifa (Judi serves on the Boston Haifa Committee) to the programs of JF&CS, the family has made a difference in so many lives. Judi noted that one of the things that her family likes about JF&CS is that “they take care of everybody.” She added, “What really impressed me about JF&CS is how friendly everyone is and how quickly they get to know you. It is so easy to get involved once you poke your head in the door.”

She urges others to get involved because it feels so good, saying, “Whatever you can give is so appreciated. The more you do the better you feel.”

Susan Kardos

The Friendly Visitor Program matches caring volunteers with frail and isolated elders to provide companionship and a treasured connection to the Jewish community. Susan Kardos has been a Friendly Visitor volunteer for four years. She visits an Austrian emigrant who will be 96 years old in June. Susan has just completed her doctoral thesis at the Harvard School of Education. An active volunteer, she is also a member of the JF&CS Leadership Development Series.

How did you become interested in visiting the elderly?

I went to Brown and my college roommate was really involved with the Jewish Home for the Aged in Providence. She talked about her adopted grandmother and she introduced me to another woman who needed a visitor – Mrs. Israel. I was interested in teaching and young children and at first it didn't have the same appeal as working with kids. But her commitment rubbed off on me and it became a habit. Visiting felt fulfilling and it felt like something I was doing for someone else rather than for myself.

Why is visiting someone from her generation so important to you?

My field is education policy research but I have a deep personal interest in holocaust history. When I moved here from New York City seven years ago I wanted to find someone to visit from Europe because I felt strongly that there shouldn't be anyone who was alive during that time who is alone now. I think it's criminal if a holocaust survivor is alone. There are so many of us who are young and able and it's the easiest kind of *tzedakah* to give.

What keeps you going?

I keep going because I can. I do a lot of other things, but my visits to Elfie are the single most generous thing that I do. She has no family. Our visits are only alive for her now in those moments. I feel I owe something to the generation that came before – it's part of what I'm supposed to do.

How do you make your friend feel special?

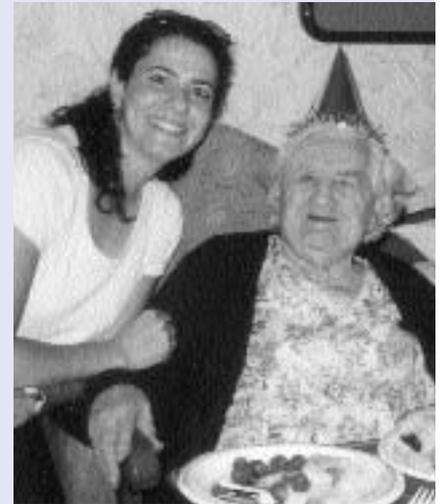
Every year I throw her a birthday party in her room in the nursing home. I invite other people to come. I decorate her room with balloons and bring cake, candles, cards and flowers. And I always bring her something to eat. She gets enormous pleasure from a bagel with cream cheese.

What advice do you have for others thinking of volunteering?

My advice is to get involved. It's enormously rewarding and it's easy to do. Sometimes people are afraid of human contact and find it easier to make donations or go to events – meeting people can be intimidating. But at JF&CS there are so many different types of activities that need volunteers that it's easy to find something that suits your comfort level.

Why do you like working with JF&CS?

A hurrah to JF&CS for giving people the vehicle to do these acts of kindness. It's part of creating the kind of Jewish community and human community that I want to live in. Even though I'm not a recipient of a JF&CS service, I have the opportunity to participate in a community that's loving and kind through their programs. This is the kind of world it should be. No old people should be alone in their last years and JF&CS knows that.



“I feel I owe something to the generation that came before – it's part of what I'm supposed to do.”

Jennie Glass Memorial Fund Helps Connect New Mothers and Seniors



Jennie Glass

JF&CS' Nurturing Rooms have supported and connected dozens of new mothers and senior citizens. Now a new fund established in honor of Jennie Glass, one of our first Nurturing Room volunteers, will help continue this unique program.

Nurturing Rooms, located in senior living facilities, are places for new mothers and their babies to interact with senior residents and JF&CS staff. The service has received a Boston Parents Paper Award this year for outstanding and innovative programs.

Jennie Glass became involved with Nurturing Rooms during the program's earliest days. A life-long resident of Brooklyn, Jennie moved to Cabot Park Village in Newton at the age of 89 to be near her two children, Rachel Bratt and Leon Glass. At that time, the Nurturing Rooms were just beginning and Peggy Kaufman, Director of the Center for Early Relationship Support, was looking for people who wanted to get involved.

Even though Jennie had just arrived at Cabot, she was already known as someone who would want to help. As soon as she learned about Nurturing Rooms she jumped at the chance. Jennie had done a great deal of volunteer work in Brooklyn and was trying to find something meaningful to do here. Rachel said, "Nurturing Rooms fit in with my mother's strong interest in people. She loved the activity, the sense of purpose and the connections it gave her."

Jennie was a dedicated volunteer who came to the Nurturing Rooms for four years. Her daughter Rachel said, "From the beginning she was smitten with the idea of having moms bring their babies to Cabot. She wanted to play with the babies and talk to the moms." Peggy added, "This was where she put her heart and attention, her commitment to families."

Peggy described Jennie as "a vibrant, elegant and refined woman who was still dancing at parties into her 90s." Rachel recalled, "My mother had dozens of party shoes and even after her stroke she wanted to

Celebrating Our Volunteers

The Simone Lottor Exceptional Service Award

The 2004 recipient of the Lottor Award is Hope Albert of Newton. Hope has given countless hours of her time and energy to many JF&CS programs. She has served as chair of the annual CHAI (Community Housing for Adult Independence) event for 15 years, was a Visiting Mom for three years and for the past 10 years she's helped the director of Human Resources in our Boston office one day a week. Her husband is also committed to JF&CS and serves on the board. A mother of two grown sons, Hope is active in a number of different organizations, but has given her heart to JF&CS. She said, "I happen to love the people who work at JF&CS. They're very committed, very dedicated, and it's a happy place to go to."



Hope Albert

The Simone Lottor Exceptional Service Award was created by the Lottor Family to honor the memory of Simone Lottor. For many years, Simone was a dedicated volunteer for JF&CS. The award is presented annually to a JF&CS volunteer who exemplifies the values of *tzedakah* and service to the community, an individual whose efforts have made a significant contribution toward *tikkun olam*, the repair of our world.

wear those instead of orthopedic shoes. Every time we went to a party I had to talk her into putting on her practical shoes!"

A teacher by training who had intended to be a stay-at-home mom, Jennie went back to work when, as a young mother with two small children, she was widowed. Her daughter called her "a teacher's teacher." She said, "People looked up to her." Jennie's husband was a high school math teacher and they inspired a love of teaching in their children. Rachel is professor of urban and environmental planning at Tufts and her brother Leon is a cardiologist and professor of physiology at McGill.

According to Rachel, "After our mother died, we were trying to decide how to keep her memory alive and we came up with the idea of this fund."

For more information about the Jennie Glass Memorial Fund, please contact Marla Kannel, Chief Development Officer, at 617-227-6641 or mkannel@jfcscoston.org.

Jewish Family & Children's Service Challenge

- Community-wide challenge to bring in 1,400 new gifts to our annual Friends Campaign
- Funds will directly impact lives of those most in need throughout the Greater Boston area
- This Challenge is part of our two-year 140th Anniversary celebration
- Donations from the Challenge enable JF&CS to provide program support to seniors, children and families



We want to increase the number of people who know about and support our agency. Please help us by taking on the challenge. Every gift counts.

Help spread the word. If every supporter of JF&CS helps us by getting one new person to donate to the agency we will surpass our goal. Please help us continue offering high quality caring services to those most in need throughout our community.

Call Jill Egel at 617-227-6641 or email jegel@jfcsboston.org with any questions.

“Help spread the word.”

save the dates

To learn more about these Events, please call the development office at 617-227-6641.

* CHAI 2004 Celebration

Wednesday, May 19
Four Seasons Hotel, Boston

Community Housing for Adult Independence invites you to an incredible evening of dinner, entertainment and more. Proceeds benefit JF&CS Services for People with Disabilities.

* Women's Breakfast

Thursday, June 3
Pine Brook Country Club, Weston

The Center for Early Relationship Support will host its annual Women's Breakfast to support the Center's award-winning programs.

* JF&CS Black Tie

Saturday, October 30
Seaport Hotel, Boston

The evening includes dinner, dancing and an auction. Our largest annual fundraiser, this event raises critical support for JF&CS programs and services.

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