



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE
★ OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY ★

**JFS CARES
ABOUT YOU**

**2024-2025
IMPACT REPORT**

Letter from Leadership



Audrey Nolte
Board President



Debbie Zoller
Executive Director

For more than 50 years, Jewish Family Service of the Lehigh Valley has played an integral role in caring for the local Jewish community and the community at large.

This past year has reaffirmed the essential role Jewish Family Service of the Lehigh Valley plays in the life of our community. Every day, JFS meets individuals and families at moments of vulnerability, when stability feels uncertain and connection is needed.

This year brought meaningful growth in services for older adults, including the addition of a licensed social worker serving as Older Adult Case Manager. This enhancement strengthens JFS's ability to provide thoughtful assessments, connect clients to critical resources, and expand programs that foster belonging.

JFS also deepened its commitment to accessibility and inclusion through empowerment groups for adults with disabilities and support groups for parents. The Counseling Department continues to provide compassionate, professional mental health care to individuals and families navigating difficult and complex circumstances.

Behind every program and service is a devoted community of support. Eighty volunteers give generously of their time and spirit by supporting the day-to-day operation of the Community Food Pantry, providing transportation, and strengthening programs. Their dedication expands the agency's reach and reflects the shared responsibility that sustains this work.

After 13 years of exemplary leadership, the JFS Board of Directors appointed a search committee to identify a successor to Executive Director Debbie Zoller. Working with a national firm, the Board conducted an extensive search, appointing Chelsea Karp to become the next Executive Director on November 1, 2025.

JFS is grateful to our community for its unwavering support. We remain constant in our mission and continue to strengthen our community in meaningful ways.

Food Pantry: More Than a Meal



942
individuals
served by the
Community Food
Pantry

The Community Food Pantry utilizes a choice model to serve 335 households living in the 18104 zip code and Jewish individuals across the Lehigh Valley. Donations from community partners enable JFS to provide a greater variety of shelf-stable food, fresh produce, and personal care items to clients. Individual donors are the bedrock of the Item of the Month campaign, contributing personal hygiene products that are not covered by SNAP.

“This has been a great opportunity for sharing concerns and a source of good information on planning my son’s present and future needs.”

~ Participant of a Parent Support Group

Thank you to our community partners: Second Harvest Food Bank, Giant, Monocacy Farm Project, Not Just Bagels, Community Garden, Wawa, and Wegmans.

Community

At Jewish Family Service of the Lehigh Valley, community is more than a place or group of people. Community is connection. It is the feeling of knowing you are not alone.

Volunteers:

Ambassadors,
Storytellers,
Bridge Builders

Volunteer impact is measured not only in hours served, but in trust built and the connections that are made. This year, food pantry volunteers devoted themselves to learning Spanish, connecting cultures and creating a stronger community. JFS has more than a dozen types of volunteer opportunities to help find the right fit for volunteers of all ages to support the work of the agency.

1929
hours of service by
81 volunteers



Accessibility, Inclusion and Independence

Jewish Family Service creates spaces where adults with disabilities and their families have a seat at the table and a place in the community. The Empowerment Group for Adults with Disabilities and the Parent Support Group complement one another by increasing access to resources, strengthening skills, fostering friendships, and creating family resilience.

Mental Health and Well Being

Counseling

JFS has provided mental health support to individuals and families for over 50 years. Through telehealth and in-person counseling, licensed clinicians help clients develop strategies to cope with feelings of anxiety, depression, grief, trauma, and loss. JFS accepts Medicare and many commercial insurances.

"I love helping clients find peace within themselves and the world around them as they learn to understand and navigate their problems in healthy ways."

~ Laura Garber, MSS, LCSW, Clinical Social Worker



Older Adult Services

Jewish Family Service's Older Adult team guides adults 65 and older through the complexities of aging, with a focus on maintaining independence and connection. Through case management, our staff supports clients in accessing benefits and services, while agency programs and community outreach strengthen social connections.

"Carol and Carah keep the older adults, like my 90 year old father, energized and involved. My dad is engaged in a way that is meaningful for him. He loves the programs JFS runs."

~ Family member of older adult client

762
counseling hours

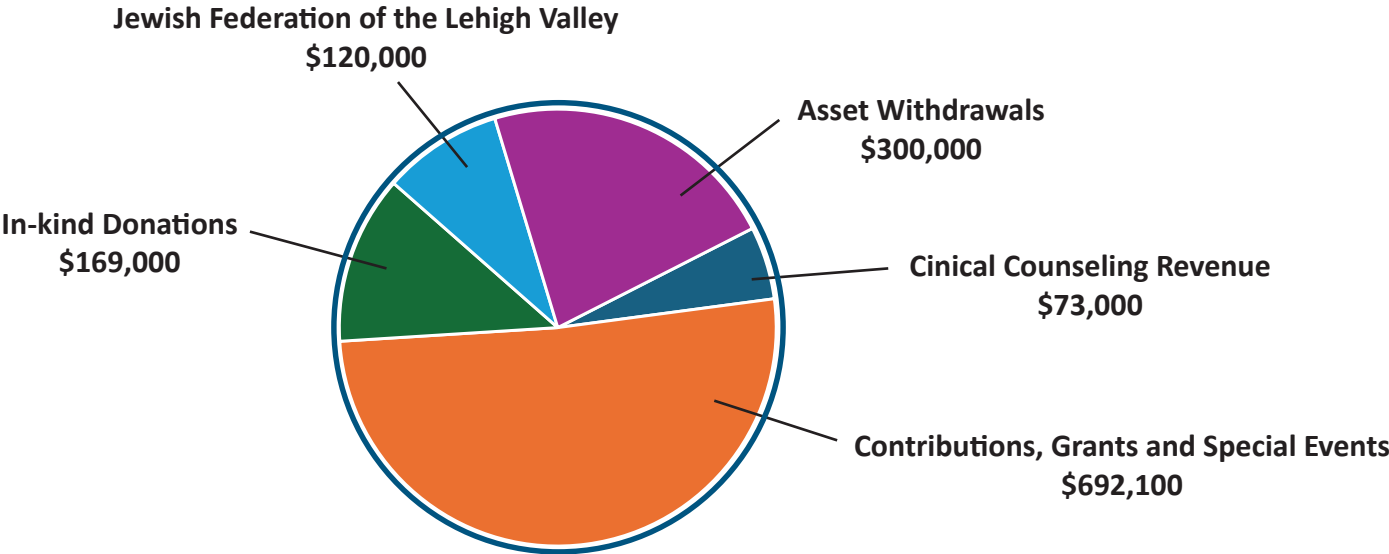
6
programs that support social well-being.

398
visits to clients in long-term care residences

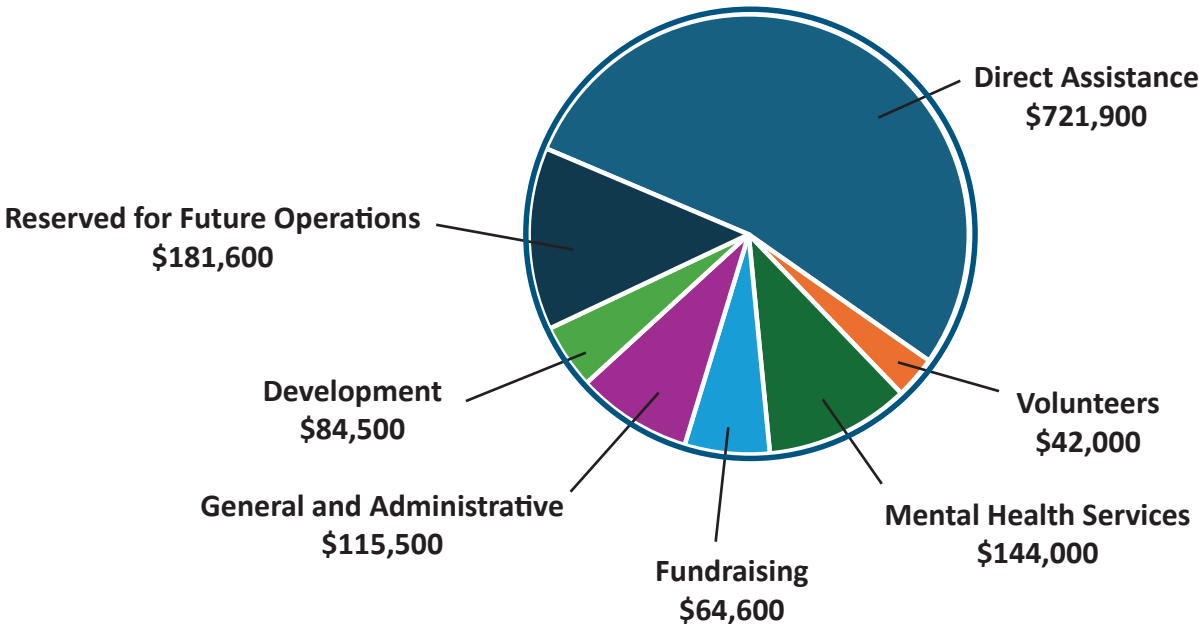


Financials

Funds Received: \$1,354,100 for FY ending 6/30/25



Funds Disbursed: \$1,354,100 for FY ending 6/30/25



Board of Directors

Audrey Nolte
President

Andrew Block
Vice President of Fundraising

Stuart Horowitz
Vice President of Board Development

Emily Ford
Secretary

Andrew Ellis
Treasurer

Robin Rosenau
Immediate Past President

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Allen Abbott
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Emily Ford
Board Recruitment and Development Chair

“Serving clients with dignity and respect is the legacy. JFS is a welcoming, nonjudgemental environment that demonstrates caring and compassion.”



Debbie Zoller,
executive director
for 13 years.

Staff

Debbie Zoller MSW, LCSW
Executive Director

Rebecca Axelrod-Cooper MSW, LSW
Director of Client Services

Chelsea Karp
Director of Operations

Ann Biernat-Rucker
Marketing Administrator

Kelly Brightbill
Intern

Amy Buchanan
DBA and Report Analyst

Daniella Di Dea Wolffe
Front Office Administrator

Laura Garber MSS, LCSW
Clinical Therapist

Phyllis Kaufman
Clinical Billing Coordinator

Tavia Minnich MA
Manager of Marketing & Donor Development

Sarah Morse
Bookkeeper

Jennifer Oxfeld
Volunteer Coordinator

Wendy Rapoport MSW, LCSW
Clinical Therapist

Marcia Schechter MS, RN
Outreach Coordinator

Rachel Shurman
Development Administrator

Amanda Thomas, PhD
Accessibility and Inclusion Coordinator

Doug Trachtman
Food Pantry Coordinator

Carol Wilson MSW, LSW
Clinical Coordinator of Older Adult Services

Volunteers

Allen Abbott

Savannah Aguilera

Max Averbach

Zoe Averbach

Thomas Basseches

Clara Bergstein

Carol Bernhard

Jerry Brucker

Marjorie Carroll

Larry Center

Marilyn Claire

Jane Cohen

Ralph DelAguila

Ana Deledda

Doris DenHerder

Elaine Deutch

Shelley Drozd

Gail Eisenberg

Liz Fear

Al Ford

Emily Ford

Murray Garber

Kristen Gasker

Casey Goldblat

Sandra Greenfield

Barry Halper

Anita Hirsch

Robert Hurwitz

Gia Jones

Irving Kaplan

Anna Karp

David Karp

Jannie Kay

Maxine Klein

Roberta Kritzer

Mary Laronge

Diane Lemberg

Rosalie Levine

Moorea Marrello

Kyannah McGee

Rill Miller

Alicia Moreno

Amy Morse

Gabriel Morse

Henry Morse

Richard Morse

Samantha Mosey

Susan Musselman

Julie Mylnarsky

Howard Nathanson

Stella Oen

Doris OSullivan

Alan Penn

Roberta Penn

Phyllis Perkin

Michelle Powers

Alexa Rappoport

Katia Reeb

Liz Reinsmith

Amanda Rice

Ellen Schaffer

Eric Schenkel

Vickie Semmel

Ofer Shimoni

Richard Silverman

Josh Simon

Ellen Sosis

Steven Tager

Diana Talsania

Rochelle Topolsky

Abby Trachtman

Susan Travis

Jack Valuntas

Kimberly Valuntas

Adam Vazquies

Yale West

Lori Wiener

Ben Wilson

Gail Wolson

Susan Zimskind

Leon Zoller

Jewish Family Service is a proud LIFE & LEGACY partner. Thank you to all of the members of our L'Chaim Society, who have already joined the effort in assuring Jewish tomorrows with JFS, the Lehigh Valley Jewish Foundation and LIFE & LEGACY, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Leonard Abrams
Rony Ackerman
Tama Lee Barsky
Sheila Berg
Ross Born
Wendy Born
Emily Charlap
Nancy & Daniel Cohen
Edwin Davis
Rabbi Melody Davis
Glenn Ehrich
Jan Ehrich
David Eiskowitz
Ellyn Elstein
Iris Epstein
Elizabeth Fear
Eileen Fischmann
Roberto Fischmann
Amy Fisher
Fran & Jay Fisher
Peter Fisher
Emily & Brian Ford
Lora & Stanley Geftic
Patricia & Gary Glascom
Shirley Gross Charitable
Gift Fund
Ben Grossman
Melissa & Harvey Hakim
Bonnie & Robert z"l Hammel
Florence & Jerome z"l Hausman
Maryellen & Kevin Hausman
Ellen & Philip Hof
Arthur Hoffman
Barbara Hoffman
Rabbi Allen Juda
Toby Juda
Binae Karpo
Kathi & Seth Katzman
Lucy Korsky
Roberta & Robert z"l Kritzer
Ferne Kushner z"l

Daniel Leisawitz &
Daniela Viale
Pam Lott
Jane & William Markson
Linda Miller z"l
Michael Miller
James Mueth
Taffi Ney
Audrey Alexander Nolte
Michael Notis z"l
Ruth Notis
Dorothy & Morton Parmet z"l
Roberta & Alan Penn
Abby Pozefsky
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Robin & Alexander Rosenau
Lorrie Scherline
Deena & Mark Scoblionko
Lynne & Mark Shampain
Howard Sherer
Sam Shikiar
Rabbi Michael & Alexis Singer
Susan Sosnow
Peggy Stettner z"l
Ron Ticho
Beverly & Stephen Volk
Barbara & Arthur Weinrach
Carol & Bob Wilson
Linda & James Wimmer
Norman Wruble
Sandra Wruble
Rachel Zane
Debbie Zoller
Leon Zoller
Anonymous (8)



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