

Restoring Hope Across the Generations



Family

Album

Jewish Family Service of Rochester, Inc.

Fall/Winter Issue 2006



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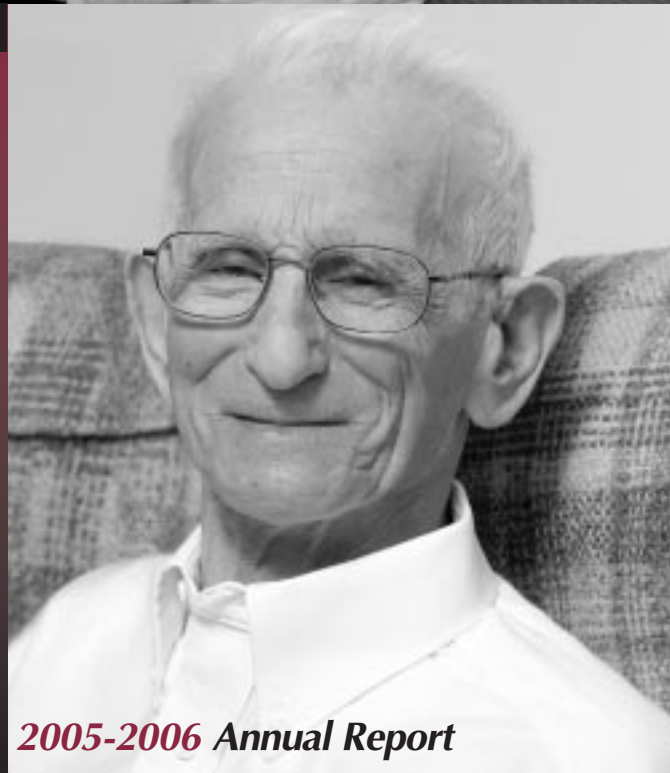
2005-2006 Annual Report

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Comedy Benefit

with Jerry Stiller

Back Cover



Special Edition: 2005-2006 Annual Report

Four Vital Services at the Heart of JFS



A Message from the President and Executive Director

During the holiday season, we light the candles on our Menorah and give thanks for the miracle of Chanukah. We are grateful for the light that fills the nooks and crannies of our homes during this, the darkest season of the year.

It is commonly understood that light can only be seen and appreciated when it's reflecting off of the objects around us, such as walls, faces, even particles in the air. Similarly, the services JFS provides can only be truly appreciated when reflected in the faces of those we help.

In this annual report, we share four touching stories of people from across the generations, whose lives are brightened each day by JFS. These stories are the essence of the important work we do, each one reflecting a small miracle in and of itself.

From fulfilling a couple's desire to adopt children – to giving support to a young man after a near-fatal car accident – to providing teens with a safe place to talk – to enabling a Holocaust survivor to continue living at home – JFS makes a difference in the lives of people of all ages throughout the year.

All of our donors and volunteers are partners in these efforts. We couldn't do it without you. During this season of giving, we ask for your support. Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gift and help us continue to bring light into the lives of so many who count on us for help.

Thank you for your friendship and support. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and bright holiday season.



Donald J. Onimus
President

Barry Stein
Executive Director



Special Gifts, Grants and Awards

The *Goldberg-Berbeco Foundation* donated \$6,000 to support an intensive case manager to assist low income individuals and families.

The *Wilford C. and Kathryn G. Bennett Advised Fund* gave a contribution of \$10,000 to support Passport Senior Services.

Rochester Jewish Relief Organization gave a \$1,000 gift to help Jewish families facing financial difficulties.

JFS received the 2006 *Elmer Louis Award* from the Jewish Community Federation in recognition of its innovative HomeBase NORC program. HomeBase provides support to older adults residing in Ellison Park Apartments.

JFS Welcomes New Board Members

We are pleased to welcome three new board members: Linda Reynolds, Rachel Rosen and Alexander Korotkin, Esq. We look forward to their years of dedicated service to JFS.



Best Wishes for a Happy Chanukah and a Peaceful New Year.

from the entire JFS Board & Staff



ADOPTION SERVICES

*"As soon as they put our daughter in our arms, we knew this was meant to be"**Kim, mother of two children adopted through JFS*

Kim and her husband Mike began their first adoption in 2002 after fertility treatments were unsuccessful. "At first, you couldn't even bring up adoption to me," says Kim. "Then someone said, 'Do you want a pregnancy or a baby?' That's when it clicked."

Once they decided to adopt, Kim and Mike chose JFS because of its

warm and friendly style. "JFS just seemed like the right fit for this major life event," Kim continues. "Now, they feel like part of our family. They take care of all the details and reassure us through every step of the adoption process."

Both Maria, now 4, and her brother, almost 2, have Chinese middle names in tribute to their heritage. Maria's original Chinese name means "hallway" because that's where she was found. Taking the then two-year-old into their hearts they instead chose the name "Meifei," meaning beautiful and intelligent to emphasize the joy Marie brought into their lives. Their second child, Michael En-lai combines his adoptive father's name with one that points to being raised with goodness and good feelings.

Kim and Mike are now preparing for their third child and will soon leave for Vietnam to complete the adoption. JFS adoption caseworkers are by their side as they anxiously await the call that their child is ready to be brought home.



Photo © 2006 Phil Matt

Attracted initially to JFS' flexibility, evening hours, sliding fee scale and outstanding reputation, parents like Kim and Mike keep coming back for the expertise and warmth that have enabled their families to grow and blossom.

Adoption Place Programs and Services

JFS Adoption Place provides comprehensive adoption services to people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. Adoption programs include domestic, international, private and special needs. Services include:

- Answering questions and assisting with adoption choices
- Liaison with placement agencies, private adoption attorneys and family court
- Conducting pre-placement home studies
- Processing paperwork
- Ongoing support while the adoptive parents await word of their new child
- Post-placement visits and reports to the adoption agency
- Adoption counseling

Adoption Highlights for 2005-06

- 51 clients completed the adoption process and adopted children
- 65 additional clients began the process and are expected to complete their adoptions this year

AGING SERVICES

"I'm an only child, and to be far away and know that someone is taking care of everything is very reassuring."

Abram's out-of-town daughter, Julie

"turn to JFS the same way others call 911. If I need help, I know they will be there for me."

JFS has "been there" for Abram since he emigrated from Europe after WWII. It was JFS that helped him and other Holocaust survivors find their way in their new country. It was JFS that helped him find his first job in the United States.

And, it was JFS that stepped in more recently when, after hospitalization, he was temporarily placed at a nursing home for rehabilitation. According to Emily Krohn, Director of Aging Services, Abram is extremely clear about his needs and wants, and both independence and community connection rank high on his list. In close consultation with his out-of-town daughter, Julie, they found a way to transition Abram back home with the services and support he needs to continue to live as independently as possible.

At first, he received home health care through L'Chaim, a partnership of JFS and Lifetime Care. When he no longer required skilled nursing, JFS connected him with its Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP), to meet his needs for case management, personal care and housekeeping.

Abram stays in touch with his circle of friends, including a "friendly visitor" from JFS. He uses JFS Express transportation to get out and about. "You can't call a taxi to help you shop for groceries and schmooze with you while you're at the store," he explains with a twinkle.

His daughter, Julie, is relieved that her father is at home, where he wants to be. "The people at JFS are wonderful about taking the initiative to keep me informed about how Dad is doing. They have such a warm, reassuring, comforting style. They really care."



Over the years, Abram has sent regular contributions to make sure that JFS would be there for others, as they've been there for him. "It's an agency that knows where to get help for the people who need help. It's not always easy to ask for help," he says from personal experience, "but if you had nowhere to turn, that would be much worse."

Photo © 2006 Phil Matt

JFS Aging Services

- JFS Express Transportation – providing transportation and accompanying adults age 60 and over to medical appointments, grocery stores, etc.
- Passport Senior Services – a community partnership of JFS, the JCC, Jewish Home and Jewish Community Federation that streamlines access to transportation, care management, aging at home, social activities, housing transitions, home health care and residential settings.
- HomeBase NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) – JFS social work staff onsite helping older adult residents at Ellison Park apartments live independently.
- EISEP (Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program) – providing affordable services to older adults to help them remain independent in their own homes.

Aging Services Highlights for 2005-06

- 579 clients were served through our programs
- 260 individuals were engaged by the Passport Senior Services Outreach Social Worker
- 95% of clients increased or maintained activities of daily living
- 100% of JFS Transportation clients reported increased mobility outside the home and greater access to essential services.
- 74 residents participated in HomeBase (NORC), and reported increased levels of independence

C O U N S E L I N G S E R V I C E S

"Teen Talk is the one place I can say what I really feel. It really helps with the stress."

Participant in Teen Talk

Endless telephone conversations. Text messages. Whispers and secrets. This may be how teens communicate today, but face-to-face conversations still have their place. And that's what Teen Talk is all about. This program is a JFS youth outreach effort, designed to provide a safe place for adolescents to talk openly about troubling issues and to help them deal with anxiety they may be feeling.

Teen Talk takes place at Temple B'rith Kodesh, where students elect to take this Sunday morning class. One day, they are deep into a discussion led by JFS social worker Talya Brea – the topic is Stress. When one pre-teen mentions the anxiety caused by her parents' divorce, others jump in with their experiences. The connection is as immediate as an instant message. And, the student who introduced the topic feels supported.

Another week, the planned topic, Friendship, leads to a discussion of what people like about each other, and ultimately flows to body image. How often is a person's appearance the reason for your admiration? What do you think are the most important attributes a person can have? What attributes do you want another young person to admire in you?

Conversation is lively, and students express their opinions candidly on topics as diverse and pertinent as loss, peer pressure and identity, drugs and tobacco, family relationships and time management.

"There's so much pressure to be what other people expect," says one participant. "Teen Talk is the place I can be real, even when I'm upset or feeling negative."

Another Teen Talk student wonders how she'd have made it through the death of a close family member and the suicide of a classmate without the ability to talk about her feelings in this nonjudgmental, constructive environment.

Adolescents struggling to understand the world and their place in it find Teen Talk to be a useful forum for problem solving,



communication skill building and support. Rabbi Alison Kobey endorses the program as a "safe place for Jewish students to talk about a variety of issues." Teen Talk is designed to help teens and pre-teens explore difficult personal issues while building a foundation of Jewish values that will help them make smart choices now and in the future.

Counseling Programs and Services

JFS offers a wide range of professional, confidential counseling services to help deal with growth, transitions and life challenges. Services include the following:

- Assessments and consultation
- Counseling for people of all ages
- In-home consultation, observation and training for parenting challenges and family concerns
- In-home counseling for older adults and those living at assisted living facilities
- Jewish Life Education Series – workshops for parents, families, etc.
- Youth outreach
- Support groups

Counseling Highlights for 2005-06

- 276 clients received counseling services
- 92% of counseling clients were helped to increase their level of functioning
- Clients achieved 92% of self-directed goals

JFS counseling services are offered at two convenient locations: JFS Main Office, 441 East Avenue, Rochester, NY, 585-461-0110 and Pittsford Place Counseling, 3300 Monroe Avenue, Pittsford, NY, 585-586-6190

T R A U M A T I C B R A I N I N J U R Y S E R V I C E S

*"My life is starting over."**Ryan, Traumatic Brain Injury Client*

Ryan started college in 2004 with a bright future as a nursing student. After classes that first day, an automobile crash not only shattered his hopes and dreams, it almost ended his life. His brain injury was so extensive that his doctors didn't expect him to ever walk or talk fluently.

With hard work, expert care and extraordinary determination, Ryan has proved the doctors wrong. Today he not only walks and talks, but he is living life to the fullest. With the support of JFS, he has recently returned to college and works part time as a Unit Assistant at a nursing home.

Ryan's JFS Service Coordinator set him up with Jackie, a JFS Independent Living Skills Trainer (ILST), to help him with areas that remain a challenge due to memory loss. They meet three times a week to tackle organization, finances and school assignments. Jackie also takes Ryan out to re-engage him with social activities in the community such as shopping for music and books or going to the movies.

"JFS has been wonderful, and Jackie is a great person to work with," he says. "She has a great sense of humor and she knows when to push me to do more."

Though he still lives with uncontrollable trembling, Ryan's sense of humor remains unshaken. When asked why he is no longer pursuing a career in nursing, he responds, "Would you want me to give you a shot?!" Although he hasn't yet decided on his new career path, it will still be in the



Photo © 2006 Phil Matt

human service field. "I've received so much help," he explains.

"Why not return the favor?"

Because of his shaking hands, Ryan has great difficulty writing. So, through its network of local agencies, JFS arranged for a support person to bring him to classes and take notes for him. Now, nothing stands in the way of his success.

Life has certainly dealt Ryan some of its toughest challenges, but with JFS by his side, his future is bright once again!

Traumatic Brain Injury and Developmental Disability Services

- Service Coordination for People with Developmental Disabilities and those with Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Assessments
 - Development of Individualized Service Plans
 - Assistance accessing and maintaining services
 - Housing support and financial planning
 - Educational advocacy and family education/training
- Independent Living Skills Training – designed to help people with traumatic brain injury live as independently as possible. The services are provided both in the home and within the community.

Developmental Disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injury Services Highlights for 2005-06

- 24 clients with developmental disabilities and 42 clients with traumatic brain injuries received service coordination and continue to live independently or with their families.

Fall Education Conference "1-2-3 Magic" for Parents & Teachers

Featuring **Dr. Thomas Phelan**

Expert on Child Discipline and Attention Deficit Disorder



Once again the Fall Conference hosted by JFS and The Greater Rochester Teacher Center Network was a great success. Close to 400 educators and parents attended the "1-2-3 Magic" presentation featuring **Dr. Thomas Phelan**, a well-known clinical psychologist, whose award-winning and entertaining presentation addresses the difficult task of

child discipline without arguing or yelling. Excellent feedback was received from many attendees who enjoyed Dr. Phelan's humor and found his lecture quite informative.

Special thanks to **Trudy Bantle, Director of the Fairport Teacher Center** for partnering with us, not only as a co-sponsor, but also in coordinating co-sponsor efforts with other teacher centers. And, we are also grateful to all of the following organizations for making the event possible with their co-sponsorship:

- BOCES 1
- Brighton Central School District – Teacher Center
- Fairport Teacher Center
- Fairport Central School District
- Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley, Inc.
- Greece Teaching & Learning Center
- Hillside Family of Agencies Learning Institute
- Monroe County Youth Bureau
- Pittsford Central School District
- Rochester City School District
- Rush Henrietta Central School District – Teacher Center
- St. Joseph's Villa
- Tri-County Teacher Center
- Victor Teacher Center
- Wayne Teacher Center
- West Irondequoit Teacher Center
- YMCA

Family Tree Society Party

Picture yourself with friends, enjoying fabulous food and listening to soothing harp music — all while taking in an assortment of beautiful artwork. This was the setting of our Family Tree Society event on October 17th. Donors who give at the \$500 level and above are members of the Family Tree Society, which includes an elegant event such as this as our way of thanking them for their generosity and dedication to our agency.



Harpist, Amy Walts

This year's event was hosted by Donald Onimus, JFS Board President and his wife, Lorraine Wolch. Guests were treated to a lovely evening at the Nan Miller Gallery, surrounded by many different styles of stunning art, as they sampled delicious foods and mingled with friends. A wonderful time was had by all.



Donald J. Onimus and Lorraine Wolch

We hope to see even more people become members of the Family Tree Society and join us for this special evening in the fall of 2007. The list of Family Tree Society members for 2005-06 appears on page 9 of this publication. **To join the Family Tree Society, contact JFS at (585) 461-0110.**



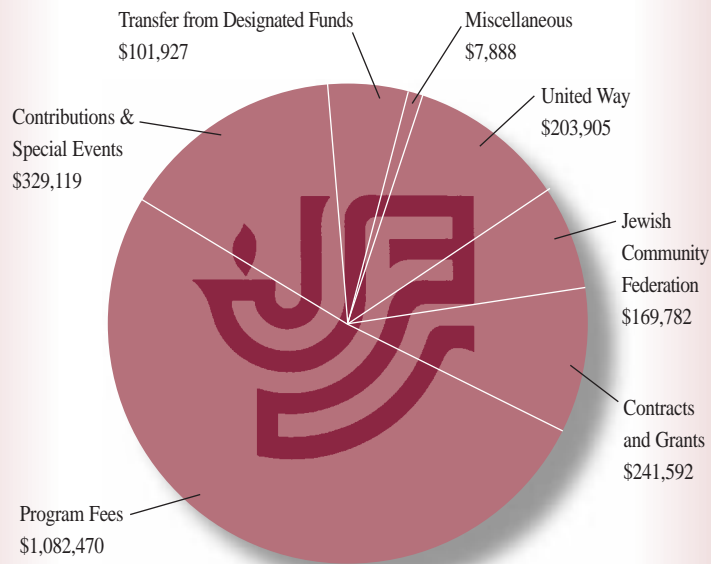
Barry Stein with Joan and Harold Feinbloom

FINANCIAL/STATISTICAL REPORT

For Operations from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

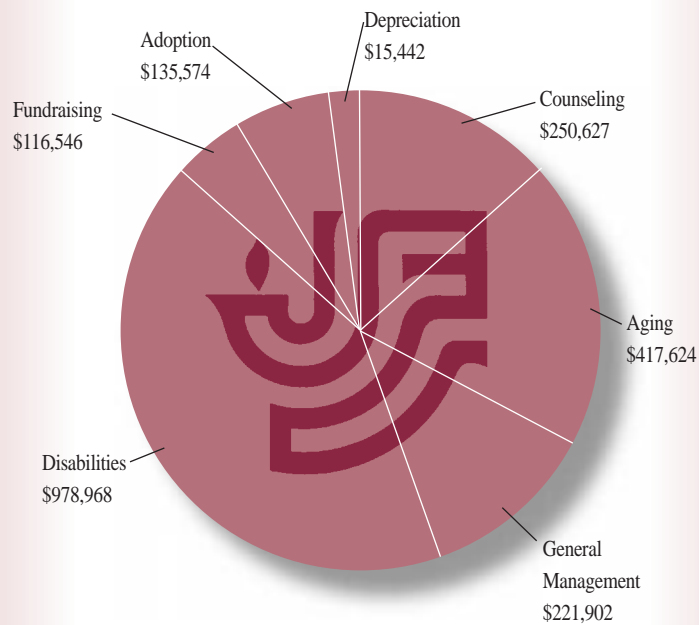
Revenue Sources

\$2,136,683



Program Expenses

\$2,136,683



Annual Campaign Donors

July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

We are very grateful to the hundreds of donors who contributed to our 2005-2006 Annual Campaign. Donations help provide much needed funding for programs and operations. While all gifts are truly appreciated, due to space limitations, gifts under \$36 are not acknowledged in this report. If we made an error in our efforts to thank you, please accept our deepest apology. We welcome your corrections – please contact us at 585-461-0110.

The JFS Family Tree Society

The Family Tree Society is a group of generous households contributing \$500 or more to our annual campaign. Benefits are as follows:

\$5,400 and above

- Customized indoor or outdoor tree, with personalized plaque
- Framed, original piece of artwork, commissioned for the Family Tree Society
- Invitation to the annual Family Tree Society social event
\$1,800 and above
- Framed, original piece of artwork, commissioned for the Family Tree Society
- Invitation to the annual Family Tree Society social event
\$500 and above
- Invitation to the annual Family Tree Society social event

To join the Family Tree Society, contact Mary Ann Colamarino at 585-461-0110, ext. 123

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Tabor Oak (\$5,400 and above)

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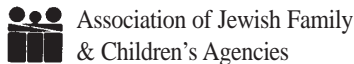
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