



**Jewish Family Service**  
OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

IF YOU NEED SOMEONE  
TO TALK TO,  
WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN

2017-2018  
Annual Report

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OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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## Commitment to Community

Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania (JFS) has been there as a local human service organization serving both the Jewish and the broader community for over 100 years helping people with real needs who need real support.

## Mission

Jewish Family Service is a human service organization, which reflects the Jewish tradition of caring and compassion for all people in need. Through professional counseling, advocacy and educational programming, our services seek to enhance and strengthen the quality of individual, family and community life.

## Objectives & Goals

- Help build strong and satisfying family life.
- Provide remedial and rehabilitative services to individuals and families whose healthy functioning is being threatened or already deteriorating.
- Promote and preserve the dignity, self-respect and independence of the individual to the fullest extent possible.



## *From the* **Executive Director & President**

Much has changed since our establishment in 1915, but the core of our mission remains the same. JFS is here to make sure that no one must face their difficult moments alone. Each year hundreds of people turn to JFS and we are here to help them through those tough times. Clients are referred to our agency from schools, physicians, psychiatrists, community agencies and the court system. JFS also gets referrals from other mental health centers, as well as clients who have benefitted from our services. Here at JFS we address the clients concerns with professionalism and compassion. What sets us apart is our collaboration with our community partners and funding sources to achieve the desired outcomes and improve family functioning.

Building a stronger community and improving the quality of life for others has a ripple effect for all of us. Whether it is an older person figuring out how to maneuver their life alone or a teenager dealing with the challenges of life, JFS is here to help. There are times in everyone's life when help is needed.

As someone who has supported JFS, you have made it possible for us to continue helping others through your generosity and commitment to others. With your support we can provide the services and programs needed to help the young and the old and everyone in between.

A community is too heavy for anyone to carry alone. Your philanthropy in annual and planned giving allows JFS to continue to make a positive difference. JFS thanks you for helping us help others.

*Sheila Nudelman Abdo*

Sheila Nudelman Abdo, ACSW, LCSW  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Eric Weinberg*

Eric Weinberg  
**PRESIDENT**



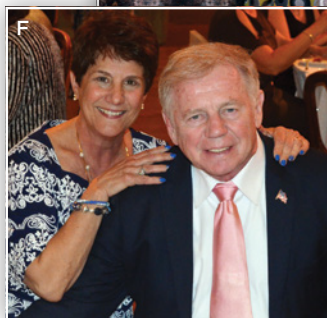
# 3rd Annual Recognition Event

## COMMUNITY *Matters*

May 23, 2018

### CORPORATE SPONSORS

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A. Dan Cardonick, Jane Oppenheim, Mark Silverberg  
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D. Elliot and Renee Schoenberg  
E. Beverly Klein and Sondra Myers  
F. Jim and Susie Connors  
G. Morey and Sondra Myers  
H. Seth and Sheryl Gross



# 2017-2018 Highlights



JFS Social Worker Nicole Friedman took part in the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties Neighborhood Under One Roof at McNichols Elementary School. Pictured here with United Way Director of Education Lisa Beradelli and Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania Recruiter Alix Corbin.



JFS at the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties Campaign Community Celebration!



JFS receives a check from the Villa Capri Car Cruisers in support of the Mae S. Gelb Kasher Food Pantry.



Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders Community Organization of the Game. June 5, 2018.



JFS Executive Director Sheila Nudelman Abdo and now retired Coordinator of Older Adult Services Maggy Bushwick attended the Alzheimer's and Caregiving: An Evening with Kim Campbell event at the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple.



Meeting with Executive Director, Maureen Maher-Gray at the NEPA Youth Shelter.



United Way Campaign Chair Dan Santaniello, presented the United Way Platinum Hand Award to Arthur E. Levandoski, Coordinator of Marketing and Development for JFS. The Platinum Hand Awards are presented by The United Way in recognition of superior commitment to the people of the community through corporate and employee giving. JFS was awarded the Employee Winners award.



JFS held our 3rd Annual Community Matters event in May. Arthur E. Levandoski, Coordinator of Marketing and Development for JFS; Deb Peterson, Scranton Cultural Center Executive Director; Sheila Nudelman Abdo, JFS Executive Director; Jane Oppenheim, 2018 Honoree; Gayle Thorpe Baar, JFS Board Member; Leah Laury, Event Chair; Eric Weinberg, JFS Board President.



Meeting with NAMI Pa Scranton & Northeast Region Executive Director, Marie Onukiavage.



# Legacy Donors

## JFS Presidents

1915 to Present

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1915-1918  
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1918-1939  
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1998-2000  
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2000-2002  
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2002-2004  
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2004-2006  
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2006-2007  
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2008-2011  
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2011-2013  
Susan Blum Connors  
2013-2015  
Jay Landau  
2015-2016  
Eric Weinberg  
2016-Present

\*Of Blessed Memory

JFS recognizes our Legacy Donors who have informed us of their intent to leave a bequest to JFS, those of blessed memory who have already left such a gift and those who have made a monetary gift to a JFS Endowment in their lifetime.

**SHEILA CUTLER**

In Memory of her father  
Frank R. Nutis

**EVELYN  
BERGER**

Estate Gift

**FAYE  
BERNSTEIN**

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**JEROME H.  
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In Memory of his wife  
Pearl Ecker

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In Memory of her husband  
I. Leo Moskovitz

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Ann Levy Goldberg

**FILMORE  
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In Memory of his wife  
Jean Rosenstein

**MAE S. GELB**

Estate Gift



# Legacy Donors

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Estate Gift

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SAPSOWITZ  
FUND  
Legacy Memorial Fund

BETSY  
ROSENTHAL  
Legacy Beneficiary Gift

## Planned Giving

Planned Giving is a method of charitable giving that involves a consideration of your retirement plan and/or family estate to be distributed to Jewish Family Service upon your passing.

*Build Something Today,  
To Support Tomorrow*

### **To Share With Your Attorney**

I hereby give, devise and bequeath to **Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania**, with offices at **615 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, PA, 18510**, federal tax ID # **24-0796423**, or its successors in interest, the sum of \$(amount written), exclusive of my lifetime donations, if any, for use in its most urgent priorities as determined by its board of trustees in their sole discretion. *Your attorney can change this to a percentage of your estate, rather than a fixed amount if you prefer.*

*For more information, or if you have designated JFS as a beneficiary please contact:*

**Sheila Nudelman Abdo, Executive Director (570) 344-1186**

# Mental Health/Counseling Services

Jewish Family Service provides confidential, professional counseling services for families, couples, individuals and groups experiencing a variety of problem areas. Treatment areas include addictions, domestic abuse, depression, panic and anxiety disorders and adjustment difficulties. Relationship enhancement skills are also provided to improve communication, parenting, self-esteem and general quality of life. Information and referral to community resources are also offered.

Jewish Family Service is a participating provider with many insurance companies and accepts Medicare and Medicaid. Sliding fee scale is also offered based on family size and income. Our social workers are licensed clinical social workers in the State of Pennsylvania. Jewish Family Service is accredited in its counseling service by the Council on Accreditation.

## Finding Success with the Help of Counseling

Melissa, now 28, was referred to JFS when she was 15 years old. She was in foster care. Her mother was unable to care for her and her two younger sisters and she was allegedly sexually abused by one of her mother's boyfriends. Initially counseling was scheduled to be for her and her mother so she could decide whether she wanted to return to her mother's home. She received both family and individual counseling.

Early counseling was difficult for Melissa, she became depressed and became a behavior challenge at her foster home. Eventually her mother stopped attending the sessions. As her individual counseling continued she rebounded, doing better at the foster home and school where she got involved in school sports. After some time counseling was no longer needed as she was doing better.

About a year later, Melissa began running away, skipping school and was later found out to be smoking marijuana. As the behavior problems escalated, the relationship she had with her foster parents began to break down. She returned to counseling, however, would end up being moved from foster home to foster home and would stop going to school.

Through the years Melissa would contact me and re-start counseling for multiple reasons including substance issues, family issues, and educational challenges. Each time she would stop attending sessions when the internal demands of change would overwhelm her.

A year and a half ago, this time with the goal of staying on course to complete a nursing certification program, Melissa would return for help. In addition to feeling the old draws, she was struggling with a relationship and was living in an unstable living situation.

Although her road was long she found the strength to complete the nursing certification program, find a job and rent an apartment. Through counseling and a lot of hard work she was able to overcome her challenges and reach her goals.

*Don Minkoff, JFS Social Worker*





# Mental Health/Counseling Services

## Confidence and Self Esteem Overcomes Anger Issues and Bullying

One of the greatest parts about working at JFS is seeing the positive impact that you can have on a child or adolescent. As a social worker at JFS, I can remember working with an adolescent named Sarah who struggled with managing her anger. When upset, she would yell, scream, curse, and punch walls. Sarah was also severely bullied at school and struggled with confidence and self-esteem. As a result of the bullying that took place not only at school, but online as well, she stopped attending school and began participating in online school.

When Sarah came to JFS for the first counseling appointment, she appeared very nervous. She had never been in counseling before, and would shake her leg and make minimal eye contact. During the first appointment, I explained to Sarah the role of a social worker and how I can help. I also talked with her about the process of counseling and what occurs during the initial session. As the session progressed, Sarah appeared to become more comfortable. Sarah would laugh and smile, and I was able to develop a connection with her through similar interests, such as music and television.

Throughout the course of treatment, Sarah and I worked together to develop de-escalation skills, such as listening to music, exercising, deep breathing, and journaling to calm her down when upset. Sarah and I also created positive sticky notes with characteristics that she liked about herself to look at throughout the day, in order to improve her confidence and self-esteem. As I continued to work with Sarah, her anger decreased and she was feeling more confident in herself. Also, with the involvement of her legal guardian and the school district, Sarah went back to school, developed positive interactions with her peers, and was thinking of her plans for the future. As a result of Sarah's progress and success, she was eventually discharged from JFS. Working with client's like Sarah and seeing the progress that they make, makes being a social worker even more meaningful.

*Nicole Freidman, JFS Social Worker*

## Additional JFS Services

### Financial Aid & Holiday Assistance

Short-term financial assistance for rent, utilities, food or other emergency needs is provided for individuals and families experiencing financial difficulties. The Holiday Assistance Program ensures that the beauty of the Jewish Holidays is shared throughout the year.

### Family Life Education

JFS offers education and enrichment through lectures, guest speakers and workshops on topics relevant to family life, Jewish identity and current issues.

# Adult Guardianship of Person/ Older Adult Services/ Case Management

JFS provides comprehensive Guardianship of Person Service to those individuals who have been determined by the court to be incapacitated and no longer able to make their own life decisions.

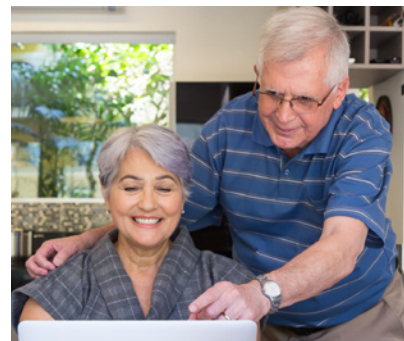
## Adult Guardianship of Person

Jewish Family Service's duties as Guardian of Person include making daily decisions about the

individual's personal affairs, maximizing his/her right to self-determination, and:

- Asserts the rights and interests of the individual
- Respects the wishes and preferences of the individual to the greatest extent possible
- Encourages the individual to participate to maximum extent of his/her abilities in all decisions
- Provides required documentation to the court in a timely fashion
- Visits with the individual once a month and more frequently as needed
- Is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

JFS is accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Guardianship of Person Service. Referrals may be made by individuals within the community, hospitals, long-term living facilities, physicians, attorneys, the court and social service agencies. The Guardianship Service is a fee for service program. All guardianship fees are reported to and approved by the court. This program is funded, in part, by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and the Lackawanna County Board of Commissioners through the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging.



## Older Adult Services/Case Management

The purpose of the Older Adult Program at Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania is to promote and preserve the dignity, self-respect and independence of the individual to the fullest extent possible. The Older Adult Program assists individuals and their families in making choices that foster maximum independence in daily living. Licensed Social Workers and experienced, compassionate volunteers work together to coordinate services for eligible individuals. Consultations are by appointment. Evening hours and home visits are available.

Fees for service will be charged according to a set fee or a sliding scale based on family size and income. No one will be denied service because of an inability to pay a fee.

Some services may be covered by your health insurance or Medicare.

Services provided through the Older Adult Program include:

- Case Management
- Counseling Services
- Home Visits and Telephone Contacts
- Educational and Support Groups
- Consultations with Families
- Referral for Kosher Meals on Wheels
- Referral for In-Home Services
- Coordination of Supportive Services
- Assessments and Personalized Care Plans
- Information and Referrals
- Emergency Financial Aid



# Adult Guardianship of Person/ Older Adult Services/ Case Management

## Guardianship Protects Elderly with Dementia from Abuse and Exploitation.



Life as a journey can be quite beautiful but all travelers meet portions of the journey that are challenging and even treacherous. For Older Adults, with declining strength, health, and resources, such paths can be difficult. For those with dementia, negotiating this leg of the journey is fraught with dangers to body, mind and spirit. As guardians for people with dementia, JFS provides a friendly professional guide who has a road map and access to resources and information to help.

For instance, we serve a gentleman who was depending on extended family in another county. His dementia had made it impossible for him to live alone. That county's Area Agency on Aging discovered that the family was not only exploiting him financially, but there were indications he was neglected and abused. When that county filed a petition for guardianship, the family absconded with the gentleman to our county. Our local Area Agency on Aging responded by petitioning the court and JFS was appointed emergency guardian of person, and accompanied agency staff and police to the house where he was staying the same day. The people in the home denied that he was related to them and said they did not know where he was. The police discovered him in the home, he was undernourished and in need of medical attention.

JFS worked with the Area Agency on Aging to provide a room at a local facility where he is safe, and his medical and nutritional needs are provided. In addition, the gentleman enjoys the activities at the facility that are designed to stimulate his mind, provide friendly socialization and recreation. JFS has since been appointed his plenary guardian and continues to work with the facility to ensure his well-being.

*Lorrie Loughney, Coordinator of Older Adult Services*

## Holocaust Survivors Assistance

Holocaust Survivors Assistance Services are designed to help elderly survivors of the Holocaust live their remaining years safely, with dignity, and as independently as possible. Jews who resided in European countries that were subject to Nazi rule and control between 1933 and 1945 are eligible. All others affected by Nazi persecution are eligible for services as well.

The purpose of the program is to stabilize, if not to improve, the mental and/or physical status of those affected by Nazi persecution. Clients may make a self-referral or may be referred by family, friends and/ or other social service agencies. Counseling services are provided to address needs specific to Holocaust survivors and their families.

Through grants received from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc., Emergency Financial Aid is distributed according to their specific guidelines, which include approval from the Holocaust Survivor Advisory Committee established for this program.

Training is provided to caregivers who come in contact with Holocaust survivors. The goal of this training is to increase their knowledge of the scars that remain with survivors and to make them aware of possible stressful situations that trigger painful memories for the Holocaust survivor.

# DentalCare Center

The Non-Sectarian DentalCare Center has been part of Jewish Family Service since 1920. This unique service is one of only two such clinics affiliated with a JFS in the United States. Jewish Family Service administers the DentalCare Center in partnership with licensed volunteer dentists from the Scranton District Dental Society and Fortis Institute to provide professional dental services. All treatments are provided in private dental offices with initial examination and diagnosis at Fortis Institute Dental Hygiene Clinic, Scranton. Care includes a complete dental examination, x-rays, prophylaxis, restorations and extractions. Specialized services such as prosthodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, periodontal treatment and oral surgery are also offered at a reduced fee to the client.

Residents of Lackawanna County are eligible for services if they are financially unable to afford dental care. Eligibility is determined by a screening and application process completed by Jewish Family Service. The majority of patients receiving dental services have at least one family member employed, is on unemployment, supported by Social Security or Social Security Disability benefits.

## Thank you

to the Scranton District Dental Society and Fortis Institute Dental Hygiene Clinic and the following dentists for volunteering your time and services to the DentalCare Center.

Dr. Samantha Abod  
 Dr. Martin Bifano  
 Dr. Andrew Brown  
 Dr. Justin Burns  
 Dr. Lawrence Gallagher  
 Dr. Joseph Gronsky  
 Dr. Stephanie Potter Hanyon  
 Dr. Patrick Hayes  
 Dr. Brian Kerr  
 Dr. Frederick Lally  
 Dr. Darlene Oleski  
 Sr. Samuel Prisco Sr.  
 Dr. Michael Ratchford  
 Dr. Charles Scrimalli  
 Dr. Stephen Solfanelli  
 Dr. Gary Wadsworth  
 Dr. Nancy Willis



## Improving Dental Care for Lackawanna County Residents



A 60 year old female cancer survivor was unable to find a dental provider she could afford. She came into JFS with her application and proof of income – when told she was approved she broke down sobbing and could not thank us enough. “I am finally going to get my teeth taken care of.”

Knowing her medical history I suggested she get her medical clearances from her oncologist and referred her to Fortis Institute Dental Hygiene Clinic for her exam and evaluation (she hand carried her x-rays from her previous dentist). She was then referred to SDDS dentist Dr. Darlene Oleski, who recommended full mouth extractions and immediate dentures. Dr. Oleski is working with SDDS oral surgeon Dr. Stephen Solfanelli, to coordinate treatment at a reduced fee for the patient. She will soon be able to eat normally again with treatment she could now afford.

This is just a small sample of how the JFS DentalCare Center has changed the lives of the residents of Lackawanna County one smile at a time.

*Colette Jesikiewicz, Administrative Services Coordinator*



# Kosher Meals on Wheels/Mae S. Gelb Food Pantry

JFS, in cooperation with Meals on Wheels Office of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania, delivers kosher meals to those in need. Kosher Meals on Wheels (KMOW) are available to those people in our community who adhere to Kosher dietary requirements. The program serves those who are temporarily or permanently disabled and who require outside support in order to function independently at home. Kosher Meals on Wheels provides adequate, well-balanced, home delivered meals to those who are unable to shop for and unable to prepare meals for themselves. The meals are prepared at the Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania under Kosher dietary guidelines. Kosher Meals on Wheels is able to accommodate most special diets, such as diabetic, low salt, low fat, chopped, etc. Recipients are billed monthly for the Kosher Meals on Wheels. Funding for meals may be available from the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging for senior citizens who have a lower income and meet the full guidelines.

## KMOW Meal Delivery Makes Cooking Easier

One of JFS's KMOW's clients discovered he could no longer maintain regular, nutritious meals due to a recent onset of a disabling heart condition. He reported that he would become exhausted in the middle of preparing a meal. He retired and moved to a smaller apartment, where the kitchen is small and has limited storage for kosher requirements. KMOW now delivers nutritious meals to his home at an affordable price. He continually expresses gratitude for the support which makes it possible for him to observe his faith while enjoying tasty dishes prepared by the Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania.

*Lorrie Loughney, Coordinator of Older Adult Services*

## Mae S. Gelb Food Pantry

The Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry, established in January 2001, was developed to provide assistance with food and other necessary household items to families and individuals during times of significant financial stress.

Clients include the elderly who may be isolated and living on a limited income, unemployed adults in need of interim assistance and members of our community who are struggling financially due to difficult family situations or declining health. Clients can make a self-referral to the Kosher Food Pantry or may be referred by family, friends and/or other social service agencies. If a client is known to this agency and receiving services in another program area, their social worker may also refer.

An appointment must be made with an agency social worker to complete a Kosher Food Pantry screening form. If determined that the client is eligible for pantry services, the worker will accompany the client to shop in the pantry area. The Food Pantry is supported by donations from the Gelb Foundation, generous community members, synagogues and other Jewish organizations.



# Membership

Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania is extremely grateful for the generous support received from the community during the 2017-2018 Membership Campaign. Contributors to our Membership make the work performed by Jewish Family Service possible, and we are extremely proud to recognize them. This listing includes gifts received July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

## Benefactor \$5,000 and Above

Jane Oppenheim

## Exceptional \$2,500 - \$4,999

Herb and Sylvia Rosen

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Howard M. and Rochelle Spizer  
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Rabbi Marjorie Berman  
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Paula Wasser  
Caryl Weinberger



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Wm. Rosenstein & Sons Co.  
Marc and Lauren Wolfe  
Mary Ziman

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This list of annual donors is for  
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or incorrectly listed your name, please let us  
know and accept our heartfelt apology and  
know that your gift is greatly appreciated.

*\*Of Blessed Memory*

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The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

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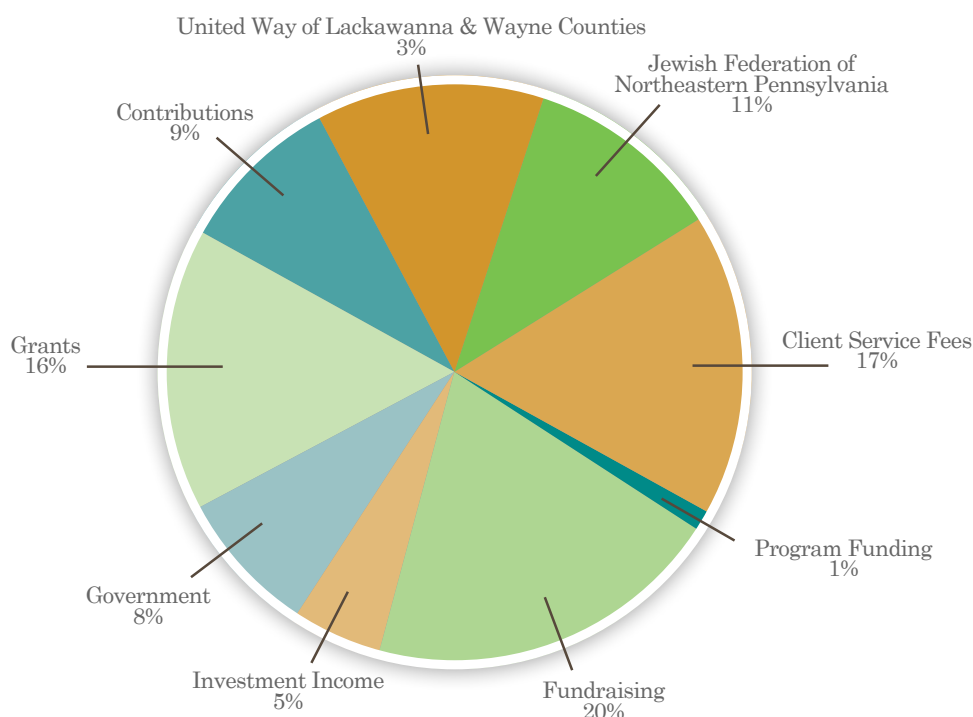
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of Northeastern Pennsylvania

## Financial Information 2017/2018

SUPPORT & REVENUE TOTAL: \$607,075





# Statement of Financial Position

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2017  
(WITH SUMMARIZED INFORMATION AS OF JUNE 30, 2016)

	2017	2016
<u>ASSETS</u>		
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 23,636	\$ 27,926
Accounts Receivable	28,340	34,601
Grant Receivable, Temporarily Restricted	50,000	-
Loans Receivable, Net, Temporarily Restricted	5,400	5,900
Prepaid Expenses	10,265	11,700
<u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>117,641</u>	<u>80,127</u>
<u>INVESTMENTS</u>	<u>340,877</u>	<u>320,922</u>
<u>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</u>		
Leasehold Improvements	157,944	157,944
Equipment and Furniture	76,195	76,195
Subtotal	234,139	234,139
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	74,097	50,958
<u>TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>160,042</u>	<u>183,181</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 618,560</u>	<u>\$ 584,230</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 7,799	\$ -
Accrued Wages	10,867	10,444
<u>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	<u>18,666</u>	<u>10,444</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		
Unrestricted	499,985	529,791
Temporarily Restricted	99,909	43,995
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>	<u>599,894</u>	<u>573,786</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 618,560</u>	<u>\$ 584,230</u>

An independent audit was completed by Ginader, Jones & Company, LLP, Certified Public Accountants for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 and is available for review at the JFS office. The official registration and financial information of Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania may be obtained from The Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, in Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999

# Volunteer Services

JFS volunteers act as drivers and runners for Kosher Meals on Wheels, friendly visitors, shoppers for our Kosher Food Pantry and assist with preparing and delivering holiday gift projects to the homebound.

Volunteers who deliver the meals are interviewed and screened by Jewish Family Service. These volunteers not only bring a nutritious meal to your home, but also provide a friendly greeting and an important safety check for each individual who receives a meal.

## *A Very Special Thank You* TO OUR 2017-2018 VOLUNTEERS

Jordan Alter  
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Deborah Fink  
Sam Flexer

Rick Gelb  
Murray Glick  
Janet Holland  
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