Equipped to Learn Back to School Drive Celebrates Four Successful Years: Grandparents Share Their Stories

This summer marked the 4th successful year of our Equipped to Learn Back to School Drive. This year we collected 115 backpacks along with more than $1,200 in gift certificates for back to school shoes. A phenomenon we’ve noticed is that many parents and grandparents participate each year with their children and grandchildren. Recently, we interviewed Bonnie Slavitt and Terry Winograd, who’ve contributed each year along with their grandchildren since the beginning of the Drive.

Q: Why do you do this activity with your grandkids?

Terry: We want them (Ari, Elie and Kobi) to grow up with the sense of providing for other people, giving to others. It’s something they can relate to very directly. They can picture a kid getting a backpack. It makes it much more personal of all the tzedakah things you can do – but at the same time it’s anonymous so you don’t feel superior.

Bonnie: Zoey and I do a lot of things together. This gives me an opportunity to do what I call a tzedek activity with her. I want her to always know that there are people not as lucky as she is. This is a way that we can help other people and have an afternoon together. It’s just really important for me to have that connection with her. All I have to say is “backpack drive” and she says, “When is it?” It also gives us a chance to do something that is not typical of what she does. I decided to give experiences rather than gifts. This blends right in; an actual thing that has a big impact. It’s not just buying the thing but deciding what a child would like, spreading out all we bought and deciding how to pack the backpack. At first, she couldn’t spell but now she can read everything, and she uses the skills to assemble the backpack.

Q: Which backpack tags do you pick?

Terry: We try to pick the same age as the grandchild. This year they chose a backpack for an adult learner because the tags for the kids been taken. They still liked doing it. They loved getting the markers, index
From Our President

Accepting a Rewarding Challenge

Joseph Isaacson, M.D.

Dear Friends,

As I take on the role of president of the JFS SV Board of Directors, I accept the challenge of leading an organization that helps people, improving lives and protecting people in our own community.

As a child of Holocaust survivors, I know first-hand about many of the things Jewish Family Services does. When my parents arrived in the US in 1948, they were helped by HIAS and JFS. When my mom moved to Brookdale in San Jose to be closer to family, there were Shabbat services and seders and Hanukkah celebrations, led by JFS chaplain aides. She received holiday gift bags at Passover and Hanukkah from JFS friendly visitors. After years of trying, JFS helped us navigate the maze of the Claims Conference to receive some monetary support for her. I knew that JFS SV was worthy of my support and I am proud to be a member and leader of this powerful organization.

Our Aging with Dignity program provides important services, including counseling, assessment, and care planning; home care; caregiver support, transportation assistance; friendly visitors and ‘navigating the systems’ of Social Security, Medicare, food assistance and more. We are excited to have opened an office at Chai House, where we also provide these services on-site.

Holocaust Survivor Support remains an important program with reparations assistance, emotional and financial support, and home visits.

Our Connections to Work program assists recently-arrived refugees and members of our local Jewish community in finding jobs with local employers. We provide counseling for individuals and families in crisis or in times of transition.

Project NOAH (No One Abandoned Here), is our safety net program which provides emergency food assistance, case management, our Embrace-A-Family Hanukkah holiday gift program, Equipped to Learn Back to School Drive and more.

Although our Refugee Resettlement program has been impacted since fewer refugees are arriving on our shores, we are still committed to providing support for the refugees who are already in our care with ESL classes, career counseling and employment services, housing, groceries and other assistance.

We do all of this and more with only 17 dedicated staff members and nearly 700 volunteers like you. Thank you all!

Our country and our world are in the midst of uncertain times. We must remember why we are doing the work we do. In the end, it is about the lives we can improve and the people we can protect.

Hebrew scripture teaches us to leave the corners of our fields and the gleanings of our harvest to the poor and to open our hands and lend to people whatever it is they need. Helping fellow human beings in need,

President • continued on page 4
Dear Friends,

July marked my 15th anniversary as executive director of Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley. I am nostalgic looking back, optimistic about our future, and proud of what we’re doing right now to restore hope and transform the lives of thousands of people each year. Here is just some of what makes me proud of our beautiful agency:

- Our Charity Navigator 4-star rating. JFS SV has the highest rating given out by Charity Navigator for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

- JFS@Chai House is growing. Last year we opened a branch office at Chai House. We’ve grown to three staff as well as an MSW intern helping the 150 Chai House residents with high quality onsite social services.

- We advocate for refugees and asylum seekers. JFS SV has resettled and protected refugees and asylees for more than 35 years. With significant help from volunteers and donors, we’ve stepped up how we advocate for the those who seek a new life in Silicon Valley and help them to become contributing American citizens.

- 700 people of all ages volunteer with JFS SV. Every day preschoolers through those in their nineties find myriad ways to help make people’s lives better in our community…and they come back for more!

- JFS SV staff and board work as teams and mutually support each other. I’m so proud of our good-hearted workplace that honors and respects our diverse group of staff, board, volunteers, clients, partners and supporters.

- The JFS SV way of greeting everyone. Our staff envelope every guest in an atmosphere of caring and support. No one stays a stranger for very long.

- JFS SV is a teaching environment. We sponsor and educate interns year-round. Most are social work students; others are college and high school students seeking to enrich their lives in an environment that exhibits strong Jewish and social work values.

- Over 40 years of service to our community. Jewish Family Services began as the vision of two friends and colleagues, both licensed social workers, Gertrude Conrad and Areta Stadler. I’d like to think that Gertrude and Areta would be so proud of how we’ve grown from our humble beginnings in a small office of the Jewish Federation on Hamilton Avenue in San Jose.

We live in an era where many question what we have to be proud of. I feel very blessed that I don’t have to think very hard when it comes to where I spend so many of my waking hours.

I wish you and those you love a sweet New Year in which you find so many things in your life that make you proud.

Shana tovah,
Mindy
Start the New Year on a Sweet Note:
Help Provide Food for Families and Seniors

The Talmud explains that each Jewish community must establish a public fund to provide food for the hungry, and our sages explain that feeding the hungry is one of our most important responsibilities on earth: “When you are asked in the world to come, ‘What was your work?’ and you answer: ‘I fed the hungry,’ you will be told: ‘This is the gate of the Lord, enter into it, you who have fed the hungry.”

This year the FEMA National Emergency Food and Shelter Program withheld its annual allocation to Santa Clara County as it did not meet their economic criteria used to determine allocations. This means Jewish Family Services doesn’t have the funds ($26,000 in 2017) for our holiday food package program. We typically distribute 1,000 bags to low income families and seniors. We’re in the business of giving to those who don’t have, but this year, we simply don’t have the funds. We need to raise money to purchase this kosher food to make this happen.

There are many ways you can help:

- **Sponsor a bag** ($36) or a few bags of food. You may do so in honor or memory of a loved one.
- **Give generously to our Project NOAH emergency food program** so we can provide the food to households in need.
- **Pick up a bag to fill** at our JFS offices and have your child help you fill it, or sponsor a bag for $36. We hope you will give generously.

**Hold a food drive** to benefit the families and seniors JFS helps. Ask your havurah, book group, walking club, or fellow b’nai mitzvah families to help.

Your group/school class/club can sponsor a group holiday food purchase/packing event where your group purchases desired items (list provided by JFS SV), makes cards and decorates bags for needy seniors and families. Contact Lori Cinnamon at loric@jfssv.org directly to get information regarding High Holiday food packages. Your group can shop for the food, decorate cards and provide 10 High Holiday packages for 10 or more households.

For more info please contact Lori Cinnamon at loric@jfssv.org 408-357-7467.

**tzedakah**, is not simply a matter of charity, but of responsibility, righteousness, and justice. The Bible does not merely command us to give to the poor, but to advocate on their behalf. We are told in Proverbs 31:9, to “speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and the needy.” We provide care for Jews and non-Jews as well, always with Jewish values in mind.

As we approach the New Year, let us focus on the good things that are happening every day that give us hope and remember why we are doing the work we do. Like all nonprofits, we depend on community support to provide our services. Please contribute to our efforts, either with your time or your checkbook.

Wishing you and your family a healthy and happy New Year.

* L’shana tovah,

* Joe

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Robin Sabes presents Fagie Rosen with the Bobbi Shulkin Award at JFS 2018 annual meeting.
These three sisters from Azerbaijan arrived in the U.S. in May. JFS is teaching their parents English and helping them find jobs...and they’re now Equipped to Learn through our Back to School Drive.

cards, notebooks, the little things they could pick out.

Bonnie: We pick whatever grade level she’s in. She’s going into 3rd grade this year; she started at kindergarten. I want her to relate to the age group, and to shop for both a boy and a girl.

Q: What is special about the Equipped to Learn Back to School Drive?

Terry: It’s so accessible. The kids really understand what it’s about. By making a shopping expedition out of it, it becomes a family expedition. It puts them more in a position of relating to it in terms of their own family.

Bonnie: That JFS gives the backpacks and shoes to the community, Jews and non-Jews. That’s really important for interfaith as well as for Jewish families. You take care of yourself and the community as well as the larger community.

Q: What advice would you give to other grandparents/parents?

Terry: Do it! It’s an opportunity to make the kids more aware of the issues. We’re so lucky we can afford our own things but need give to others. It’s a way to start conversations about the issues in general.

Bonnie: You need to prep your children ahead of time. Talk about other people and what other people need. I think it’s important that kids have a really good grounding in helping others. Start with one thing and pay it forward. Grandparents can have a tzedakah box and that can be the beginning to talk about tzedakah. Put money in the tzeda-
kah box and it can become a habit.

Are you a grandparent, parent, aunt or uncle who participates in our Equipped to Learn Back to School Drive with your child? Tell us your story! Contact Mindy Berkowitz at (408) 357-7455 or mindyb@jfssv.org.

JFS@Chai House

We’ve had a great summer at Chai House! We have added some new staff to the JFS office. Caroline Golpashin, who has worked at JFS for 11 years is now onsite at Chai House as our case manager. Additionally, this summer, we have had a college intern, Molly Ball, helping out with residents and groups at Chai House. Our new MSW intern from San Jose State University, Lindsey Amos, will be assisting the staff at the JFS office there. She will co-facilitate groups and provide some counseling and case management to residents.

We currently provide a Conversation Group and an Aging Gracefully Group. The groups meet twice a month. In September, we are starting new groups including a writing group. The writing group will teach residents about journaling and also help them to write life reviews.

We are also holding our second annual Sweet New Year celebration to welcome Rosh Hashanah and the High Holy Days. Yavneh Day School students will blow the shofar. Yavneh Rabbi Laurie Hahn-Tapper will give a special Rosh Hashanah drash. We anticipate that residents will truly enjoy this event.

If you would like to volunteer to lead activities at Chai House, please contact Lori Cinnamon at (408) 357-7467 and loric@jfssv.org. For all other Chai House inquiries please contact Lisa Warner at (408) 947-7256.

We are hiring a full-time social worker for Chai House. Contact Lisa Warner or check https://www.jfssv.org/career.html for details.
JFS SV: Repairing Our World

New Volunteer Opportunities at Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

JFS SV’s 700 volunteers find more meaning in their lives giving their time and energies to others. As we approach the High Holy Days, we invite you to similarly consider enriching your life and the lives of others. As the Torah instructs, you can welcome the stranger and support the frail and isolated. New opportunities abound for volunteers of all ages, individuals, families and groups. These are some of the greatest needs we anticipate for the coming months:

Refugee Mentors support recently-arrived refugees by driving them to their early appointments, filling out applications and helping with their acculturation. Some of the refugees we resettle don’t have local sponsors and these clients need extra support. Consider combining efforts with a refugee mentor team (3-6 people) to spread and enhance the support. This is a great opportunity for a chavurah. Training and support will be provided.

Refugee Hosts temporarily host a new arrival or new arrivals in their home until the new arrivals have gone through the local processing to rent their own apartment. Training and support will be provided.

Food Package Sponsors help JFS by organizing their group or chavurah to sponsor and organize food packing assembly to benefit frail and/or isolated seniors and low-income families. We’ll provide you with shopping lists and the space you need for a meaningful event.

YA-LIVE! (Young Adult Leadership Initiative) Join JFS’ young leadership group of people in their 20’s and 30’s who hold monthly events that help make the world a better place.

Centerpieces for Tzedakah Volunteers use their artistic talent to create beautiful centerpieces for simchas that benefit JFS’ Project NOAH Food Assistance Program. Delivery volunteers are also needed.

Embrace-A-Family Volunteers make the winter holidays better for people in need. Greet donors, wrap packages, create dreidel boards, inventory gifts and much more.

Event committee members help with planning and executing JFS volunteer and donor appreciation events.

For more information contact Lori Cinnamon, JFS SV Manager of Community and Volunteer Engagement 408.357.7467 or loric@jfssv.org.

Vetting and background checks are required for most positions.

Rabbi Hugh Said-Valencia treated JFS chaplain aides to a vision of entering into Shabbat using Heschel’s book “The Sabbath.”
Donations from May 3, 2018 to August 3, 2018

Addie and Ray Kopp Memorial Fund
In memory of Addie and Ray Kopp: Carol and Richard Anderson, Murray and Bernice Siegel, Melissa and Gary Katz, in memory of Barbara Wolf Barrie Stone

Annual Campaign
Izrael and Valentina Abramzon, in honor of WWII Veteran’s Association
Altman-Aronow Charitable Foundation
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Marsha and Sherman Geeser, in memory of Gene Rosner
Jonathan and Adele Gershater
Stanley Goldring
Peter Grossinger
Valentina Grytsayenko, in appreciation of JFS Holiday packages and WWII Veterans’ Association support
Eugene and Marilyn Handlrophy
Arnold and Donna Hoffman
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Jenny Pearlman
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Elena and David Weinberg
Elise Wessels
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Donna and Philip Wolkstein
Lourdes and Frank Yashar
Anna and Jeffrey Young

Double your donation!
SObRATO Family Foundation Challenge

The Sobrato Family Foundation has awarded Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley a 2:1 challenge grant of $35,000

$ Every new donor’s gift will be doubled up to $35,000

$ A cash gift from a current donor will be matched 100% by the increased portion of their most recent gift

$ The gift can be for any of JFS SV’s funds (Annual Campaign, Emergency Fund for Refugees, Project Noah, etc.)

$ The gift must be made by June 30, 2019

You can help JFS SV raise $70,000 this year!
For more information, please contact Allison Zur, Development Manager, at (408) 357-7491 or allisonz@jfssv.org

Big Hearted Birthdays
In honor of Noah Bareket’s special birthday: Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz, Robin Sabes
In honor of Susan Englander’s birthday: Ruth Miller
In honor of Rhonda Farber’s birthday: Susan Greenberg, Englander and Jeff Englander, Ruth Miller
In honor of Renee and Howard Fine’s birthdays: Betty and Dan Rosenberg
In honor of Sandy Frankenbush’s 80th birthday: Bonnie and Lee Stone
In honor of Bert Greenberg’s 90th birthday: Dolores Garfinkle
In honor of Karen Hageman’s birthday: Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz
In honor of Ruth Miller’s birthday: Susan Greenberg, Englander and Jeff Englander
In honor of Dr. Shelley Nagel’s special birthday: Marcia and Harry Ratner
In honor of Tamara Parker’s 75th birthday: Dolores Garfinkle
In honor of Tracy Perkins’ birthday: Robin Sabes
In honor of Thelma Ramm’s birthday: Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz
In honor of Marcia Ratner’s birthday: Arlene and Steve Greenberg
In honor of Iris Scher’s birthday: Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz
In honor of Howard Taub’s birthday: Andrew Saunders
In honor of Carol Tessler’s birthday: Arlene and Steve Greenberg, Marcia, and Harry Ratner, Marcia and Joe Riggio
In honor of Sophie and Bernie Weitzmiller’s special birthdays: Linda Sherry

Burt Epstein Community Service Fund
Martin Gandel and Marilyn Bruner, in memory of Debbie Gandel

Centerpieces for Tzedakah
Andrea Katz, in honor of Eric’s Bar Mitzvah
Thelma Ramm, in honor of June birthdays celebration
Adam Richter, in honor of Alex Richter’s Bar Mitzvah
Naomi Salowe

Corporate Matching Gifts
Apple Inc.: Anonymous, Christopher Paul
Mentor Graphics Foundation: Joel Amzallag
UBS: Richard Namm

Donations of Goods and Food
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Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley Thanks You for Your Support!

Good Morning JFS!

Ken Abrams
Linda and Mark Allen
Nancy Avoy
Noah and Ruth Bareket
Rochelle and Harold Baumstein
Jill Becker
Yosef and Iris Bendahan
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Seema Cicerone
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Rhonda Farbe
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Martin and Barbara Fishman
Jack Friedman
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Denise Gordo
Dr. Bobbye Gorenberg
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Andrea Greyber
Cliff and Susan Gutterman
Deborah and David Hoffman
Joseph and Maggie Isaacson
Stephen and Lareen Jacobs
Rita and Jerry Jacobson
Tom and Nissa Johanix
Gail and Ron Joseph, in honor of Janet Berg
William Kaplan
Hana and Dan Lang
Susan and Gary Latshaw
Barbara and Raymond Levin
Sue and Mark Levine
Andrea Linder
Joyce Maskell
Debbie and Grant Michels
Barry and Rosemarie Mirkin
Claudia Muller
Richard and Patti Namm
Ike and Ronie Nassi

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Now, you can be proud of it again.

Donate your unwanted vehicle to Jewish Family Services and support vital programs for families, children, and older adults in need.

Donate Today!
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1-877-537-4227
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Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley Thanks You for Your Support!

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When Chai House is the choice, you can rest assured that your loved ones will be offered opportunities for a more fulfilling, healthier lifestyle. Our comfortable living spaces and community living environment provide ample opportunities for seniors to stay socially connected and engaged.

Chai House is the only Jewish retirement community in Santa Clara County, yet we are open and inclusive to all, reflecting the diversity of Silicon Valley.

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Ken Abrams, in memory of Jon Kaplan
Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz; in memory of Mary Farfel and Bud Loewith; in honor of Heather’s return to Silicon Valley and Maggie Rosen’s service to JFS; to the Bareket Family in honor of Ruth’s powerful speech, for a complete healing for Maya John Bracken
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Project NOAH

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Linda Golan, in memory of Eva Scherzer, mother of Hana Baskind
Debra Hannon
Arlene Hitchcock, in memory of Lon Hitchcock
Marcia and Harry Ratner, in honor of Alex Healy’s graduation from college
Sinai Memorial Chapel, for Ma’ot Chitim
Bettina and Dan Rosenberg, in memory of Ivy Chesser’s stepmother Nancy
Barrie Stone
Peet’s Coffee
Yavneh Day School

Congregation Sinai
Congregation Sinai Religious School Ktah Gan, Morah Monique’s class
Los Gatos Meadows Residents Fund, in honor of Deborah Zimmer for conducting Shabbat services

In memory of Evelyn Namm: Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz, Karen and Richard Grayson, Marshall and Sue Heller, Joseph and Maggie Isaacson, Dorene and Jim Kastelman, Marty and Wendy Lazar, Sue and Mark Levine, Richard and Patti Namm, Maggie Rosen, Rochelle Rubenstein, Madeleine Salzman, Edward and Josephine Stein, Richard and Carol Zbriger
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Sandi KaneLorie Kaplan
Dorene and Jim Kastelman
Vladimir and Sima Kats

Shabbat Dinner Program

Rochelle and Harold Baumstein, in memory of Richard Silberstein’s father, and Margie Pomerantz’s father
Daphna Rahmil
Bettina and Dan Rosenberg, in memory of Mary Farfel
Melissa and Joshua Roza
Alice Wald and Paul Overmyer

Share Your Garden’s Bounty with JFS

Anonymous
Gayle Miller

Marilyn and Daniel Keelan
Ellie and Ed Kiss, in memory of their grandparents
Elena and Peter Kulvets
Annette and Steve Ladowitz
Natalie Lazar
Alex and Zoya Lazer
Steve and Gerri Lurya
Robert and Jacqueline Mutz
Diana Perkins, in honor of Rachel and Russell Darling’s wedding
Susan and Allen Rosenzweig
Rob Sabes
Linda Sherry
Florence Silverman
Joyce and Robert Steinfeld
Bonnie and Lee Stone, in memory of Dr. Glenn Hait
Michal Strutin
Howard Taub and Vicky Deggs
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Alice Wald and Paul Overmyer
Herman and Renee Winick
Edward Yates
Richard and Carol Zbriger
Deborah Zimmer
Allison Zur

Anonymous
Elie Berkowitz
Linda Castaldi
Linda Lee Coon
Glenda and Harry Glatstein, in honor of Lena Rajna
Linda Golan, in memory of Eva Scherzer, mother of Hana Baskind
Debra Hannon
Arlene Hitchcock, in memory of Lon Hitchcock
Marcia and Harry Ratner, in honor of Alex Healy’s graduation from college
Sinai Memorial Chapel, for Ma’ot Chitim
Bettina and Dan Rosenberg, in memory of Ivy Chesser’s stepmother Nancy
Barrie Stone
Peet’s Coffee
Yavneh Day School

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As a 4-Star Rated Charity

May 1, 2018

Charity Navigator

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☐ Jewish Family Services Fund supports JFS’ work in our local community
☐ Burt Epstein Community Service Fund supports JFS SV collaborations with local groups to provide community service
☐ Project N.O.A.H. (No One Abandoned Here) provides emergency services to the most needy among us
☐ Ursula Gusdorf Memorial Scholarship Award grants educational scholarships so refugees can pursue their education
☐ Addie and Ray Kopp Memorial Fund supports programs for seniors and émigrés
☐ Harvey Belsky Fund for where the need is greatest
☐ Ruth Perkins Emergency Fund for Refugee Services supports refugees in our community

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