



Jewish Family Services of silicon valley

JFS Needs Community Support for Emergency Food

A story is told of Binyamin HaTzadik. A woman came to him and said, "Rabbi, feed me!" He replied, "I'm sorry, but our pantry is empty, and there is nothing left in the community tzedakah fund." Then looking at her thin face and desperate eyes, he reached into his own pocket in order to feed this woman and her family.

Like Benyamin HaTzadik, JFS needs to find ways to feed our extended family.

This year the FEMA National Emergency Food and Shelter Board (EFSP) withheld its annual allocation (\$775,000 in 2015) to Santa Clara County as it did not meet their criteria used to determine allocations. Because of Santa Clara County's astronomical housing rate we have many people living in poverty - even if our actual poverty rate is above the federal standard used by EFSP. Our County's EFSP Board is seeking an appeal, but unless that appeal is approved, Jewish Family Services doesn't have the funds (\$48,000 in 2015) for our food package program.

We need to collect over 12,000 pounds of kosher food and we need your help to make this happen.

Ways to help:

- *Beginning this summer, look for specially marked food donation bins at the Levy Family Campus as well as at local synagogues. We hope you will give generously.*
- *Hold a food drive to benefit the families and seniors JFS helps. Involve your havurah, book group, walking club, or fellow bnai 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 decorate 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 households.

- *Sponsor a food package for \$36 each. You may do so in honor or memory of a loved one.*
- *Volunteer with our food collection and distribution program.*



Food insecurity is a big problem in our community for the clients we serve and we really need your help and support. Your support is the lifeblood that allows us to help so many people.

For more information, please contact Sheila Monheit at sheilam@jfssv.org or 408.357.7451