Bar Mitzvah Mensch in Action!

The summer of 2017 has been a special one for the Yashar family. They were clear that they wanted to bring extra meaning to Will’s September bar mitzvah. Will’s mom, Lourdes knew that JFS would be a great place to help make this happen.

Lourdes tells us, “I saw the Equipped to Learn Backpack project in the Beth David newsletter and I asked Will, ‘Do you want to do this?’” Will thought it was a great idea, and they met with Sheila Monheit, JFS’ Volunteer Coordinator, who helped Will and Lourdes explore how they could make their participation in the project meaningful.

According to Sheila, “Will was very resourceful. He had a lot of ideas of how to implement the program in ways that were personal and far-reaching. He was extremely eager to brainstorm ideas of how he could reach as many people as possible. We talked about ideas, but he owned it.”

Will then set to work. He tells us how he did it: “I started off writing a letter to my bar mitzvah guest list. It told why we were helping, who we were helping, and my feelings on the project. I posted it on social media and told my friends from school.”

The project became very important to Will. As he says, “There are other projects you can do but there are people right in this area benefitting from this. Some of the people it helps are refugees. Both my parents are immigrants. Both my parents got help when they came. With all the trauma in the Middle East, we need some good stuff in our life.”

Will went off to Camp Newman and Lourdes sent out Will’s letter with the backpack request tags. People began dropping off backpacks, school supplies, and cash for the program at their house and at the senior care homes Lourdes runs. Lourdes and Bar Mitzvah Mensch • continued on page 4
From Our President

Volunteers Are the Soul of JFS

Richard Namm

Dear Friends,

Where would JFS be without our volunteers? All 700 of them!

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of JFS of Silicon Valley, we marvel at the impact in our community. We've got 17 paid employees who administer, develop, manage and monitor a big variety of programs to meet the needs of a big variety of people. And many of those 17 are only part-time!

Volunteers are heroes. Who helps gather, package and deliver all sorts of items for the JFS food program, which assisted almost 1,100 people this past year? Volunteers. Throughout the year, and especially during holidays, they make a difference for single parent families, frail seniors, disabled or unemployed adults, and refugees.

Volunteers are valuable. Consider the 128 Knitzvah members who create thousands of beautiful clothing articles every year for babies, cancer patients, isolated seniors, foster youth, recently-arrived immigrants and other people in need for nearly 20 community based organizations. Did you know Knitzvah created over 24,000 items in its first 12 years?

Volunteers are essential. 22 attorneys in Silicon Valley donate their expertise, experience and time through our Pro Bono Legal Immigration Clinic to help a multitude of refugees apply for permanent legal status and American citizenship after they’ve run the multi-year gauntlet of extreme vetting just to be accepted into the US. In 2016-17 they helped 143 people at JFS.

Volunteers are a life line. During the last year, JFS volunteers brought a smile, a willing ear and a soft shoulder, as well as food and other necessities, to more than 100 Holocaust survivors living in our immediate area. Some of these volunteers are part of the Friendly Visitor program which makes a difference for everyone involved. My wife and I can attest to that.

Volunteers care. Volunteers are people just like you and me, who want to make the world a better place one person at a time. Whether through the popular Embrace-A-Family program every November and December, the Backpack Drive in the summer, or other year-round safety net services, volunteers say the word “WE” in a world of “ME.”

As we contemplate our life and family during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, I’m confident you’ll realize there are few more worthy endeavors than that of being a volunteer. Is there a better way to begin 5778 than by applying Jewish values to the needs of our community?

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year from my wife Patti, and me to all supporters of Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley.

Rich
Executive Director’s Message

Striving for Excellence in the New Year

Mindy Berkowitz

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the Jewish High Holy Days, we’ll wish for excellence in 5778, beyond mere survival.

We at JFS are proud of how we strive for excellence in the many ways we help people have better lives. This fall marks 10 years of Embrace-A-Family, which gives low income seniors and families happy holidays – and generous donors meaningful ways to make a difference. Our 3rd Equipped to Learn Backpack Drive brought in backpacks, school supplies – and big smiles - for nearly 200 preschool through adult learners. Our Shabbat Meals Program, begun in 2009, keeps evolving. We’re proud to announce that Pars Kosher Market is our new partner to bring delicious, kosher meals to isolated seniors, adults and families. (See page 6.)

The new Jewish Family Services branch office at Chai House is beautiful! Our staff has wasted no time immersing themselves in the Chai House community, and we’ve loved the warm welcome we receive from the residents, Chai House Board, and management staff. We’ve stepped up our counseling and social services to the residents. This fall we’re adding an MSW intern to Chai House who speaks Chinese languages to help the many Chinese Chai House residents.

Over the past year, we developed a Mental Illness Support Group with Congregation Sinai. It’s co-facilitated by Rabbi Josh Berkenwald and Lisa Warner, LCSW and has been a godsend for those members of our Jewish community whose lives have been impacted by mental illness. Learn more about it on page 4.

As you know, JFS’ focus on resettling and protecting refugees is of paramount importance. It continues to be a troubling environment for our very vulnerable clients, and we greatly appreciate your support.

None of this good work could happen without our community partners. We are so blessed to have the support of the Jewish Federation, JCC, Yavneh, our local synagogues (stretching from Morgan Hill to Fremont to Los Altos Hills) and schools, the high tech community, our donors, and our partners in refugee resettlement. Of course, the nearly 700 JFS volunteers make a big difference every day. (We’d love to add your name to our volunteer list! Call Lori at (408) 357-7467 and inscribe meaning and joy into your life.)

During Rosh Hashanah it is customary to dip apples in honey. Honey, an ancient symbol of strength and a source of sweetness, expresses my wish for you and your family for the coming year. May you enjoy good health, happiness, and koach!

B’shalom,
Mindy

P.S. Want to support our Shabbat Meals Program with Pars? Join your fellow donors who help fund this program monthly. See page 6 for details.

From the JFS Family to Yours
Will started tallying everything up. By mid-August the tally was nearly $1,500 in cash for the program, about 20 backpacks and lots of school supplies. Will, his sister Kimi, his friend JJ, and JJ’s sister Chloe assembled backpacks and supplies at JFS. They had a great time. “It was really fun!” Will declared.

Will learned some important lessons from his bar mitzvah that he was happy to share with us: “In my Torah portion Ki Tavo, I learned about preparation to enter the land of Israel. You need to be ready. Boy Scouts are always prepared. In order to go to school you need the right equipment and the right stuff to learn. I’m always happy when I have two pencils by my side.”

Lourdes also wanted Will and Kimi to get meaning out of this experience. “I wanted the kids to be involved and volunteer,” she says. “We’re very lucky to live in Silicon Valley. We’re doing fine, but I wanted Will to understand that there are kids who go to school without supplies – and to be able to help those kids. It’s rewarding. It’s nice to share.”

Lourdes and Will have messages for all of us about getting involved. Says Will, “We live in one of the nicest places in the world and need to give back.” Lourdes adds, “If everyone helps each other, it’s not really hard. Many of our guests and family contributed to the project and it makes it easy. Will has learned to be grateful and give back. We can all be thankful – and help.”

You too can be a bar/bat mitzvah mensch. Contact Sheila Monheit at (408) 357-7451.

Local teens spend their summers volunteering with JFS. They’ve helped with a food drive for refugees, Equipped to Learn Backpack Drive, creating Mitzvah Hero buttons, and much more. L to r: Sam Chazin, Arthur Gatin, Guy Zuk, Leo Michels, Sharanya Suresh, Eileen Chen. Join us! Contact Sheila Monheit, Volunteer Coordinator at sheilam@jfssv.org or (408) 367-7451.
Due to our current government’s administration, funding for refugee resettlement is uncertain. Our refugee resettlement and Connections to Work for Refugees Programs have depended on annual awards of over $300,000 from HIAS and United Way for the past decade—and these are no longer certain. Refugees in our care need the crucial services that JFS SV provides. Learn more at www.jfssv.org.

JFS SV urgently needs your help! We protect refugees who have experienced persecution due to their religion, ethnicity, political expression or sexual orientation. They come from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Former Soviet Union and various countries throughout Africa. The people we help are fleeing dire and often violent circumstances.

As the second largest refugee resettlement agency in Santa Clara County, JFS SV serves 200+ refugees annually with resettlement, pro-bono legal immigration clinic, vocational English training, job search assistance, case management, and emergency food assistance. Our services to refugees have been funded through HIAS, County of Santa Clara, United Way Silicon Valley, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, foundations, and generous individuals.

To keep our Refugee Services work going strong, Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley launched the Emergency Fund for Refugee Services.

Please join us!
Your gift will ensure that vulnerable refugees can build new lives and live in safety and freedom.

Enclosed is $ ____________ as my gift for the JFS Emergency Fund for Refugee Services

Please make checks payable to JFS SV, 14855 Oka Road, Suite 202, Los Gatos, CA 95032  (408)556-0600

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✦ Elderly Holocaust survivors

Look!
JFS SV: Repairing Our World

Embrace-A-Family This Hanukkah, November 15 - December 19

Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley makes Hanukkah brighter for those in need!

JFS invites you to be part of our 10th Annual Embrace-A-Family program and help us bring hope and smiles to others. This program is designed to ease the pressure and stress the holidays bring to financially needy families, seniors, and adults. These are people and families that struggle with everyday expenses and the holidays add even more emotional and financial pressure. Recipients include single parent families trying to make ends meet, isolated seniors who appreciate loving care, newly arrived refugees who escape persecution and seek a new life, and low-income, disabled adults. Our clients are very grateful for the gifts they receive and feel better able to face life’s challenges.

Embrace-A-Family began 10 years ago with four dreidel boards in two locations. By 2016, we had 26 boards in 19 locations including local synagogues, schools, churches, and businesses.

We asked Embrace-A-Family volunteers and donors why they support this program year after year. Here are a few reasons that were expressed:

“When I wrap the gift, I put myself in the place of the person who will be receiving the gift. If I didn’t step up and do this, I wouldn’t see the need.”

“It warms my heart to see a person putting a specific wish out there and then they receive the perfect, exact gift.”

“When our parents and grandparents were refugees, they didn’t have a community that did this for them, so it means a great deal to do this now for others.”

“Through volunteering and donating to this program, I get so much more than I give.”

Look for our dreidel boards in the community starting November 15th. Purchase the gift on the tag and bring your unwrapped gift to the JFS office. Your gift will bring a smile – and be a blessing - to someone in need.

Many Ways to Embrace-A-Family

• B’nai mitzvah families can ask guests to contribute gift cards to needy families lieu of gifts. Gift cards provide a safety net to needy families throughout the year. They provide food, gas, and household goods to those would otherwise go without.

• Chavurot can get into the act: Pool your Hanukkah gelt and purchase larger and more numerous gifts for those in need.

• Check out our Target wish list beginning in November on www.jfssv.org.

Join us! For additional information and volunteer opportunities contact Lori Cinnamon, Manager of Community and Volunteer Engagement, at (408) 357-7467 or loric@jfssv.org.

Lori Cinnamon (right) is proud to stand with Josh and Melissa Roza, and Alice Wald and Paul Overmeyer, who were honored at the JFS Annual Meeting for being long-time supporters of the Shabbat Meal Program.
JFS SV: Repairing Our World

New JFS Office at Chai House

Avital Agam, Yanex Orellana, and Lisa Warner are the JFS team at Chai House.

Jewish Family Services is proud to offer social services onsite at Chai House. These services are open to everyone at Chai House, regardless of religious background.

**JFS Chai House staff include:**

**Yanex Orellana, MSW,** who graduated from Fordham University in May and specialized in seniors and palliative care. Yanex’s office hours:
- Monday: 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. (closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm)
- Tuesday: 1:00 to 5:00 pm
- Wednesday: 1:00 to 5:00 pm
- Thursday: 1:00 to 5:00 pm
- Friday: 9:00 to 3:30 pm (closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm)

Yanex can be reached at (408) 947-7256 and yanexo@jfssv.org.

**Avital Agam, BSW** has been a social worker with JFS for 26 years, providing case management and consultation to seniors and their families in the community. Avital’s hours at Chai House are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, noon to 4:30 p.m. Avital can be reached at JFS (408) 357-7450, (408) 947-7256 at Chai House, and avitala@jfssv.org.

**Lisa Warner, LCSW** is the Director of Clinical and Social Services at JFS. Lisa has been a social worker for more than 28 years and specializes in grief counseling. She has expertise with hospice and palliative care, and is experienced working with individuals, couples and families. Lisa supervises social work staff and facilitates caregiver support and grief support groups at JFS, and will be doing that at Chai House. Lisa’s hours are arranged according to counseling appointments and groups. She can be reached at (408) 357-7456 and lisaw@jfssv.org.

---

**JFS Services On-Site at Chai House Include:**

- **Case management:** assistance with public applications such as medical, homecare, social security, Medicare, and food stamps; transportation, food, and other assistance
- **Referrals** to resources in the community
- **Counseling** for grief, caregiver stress, life changes, family and relationship problems; and support with daily challenges.
- **Support groups:** grief, caregiver support and adjusting to aging

**JFS at Chai House Office Phone Number:** (408) 947-7256

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Mention this ad and 10% of the proceeds benefit Jewish Family Services.
Development Director Position Opening

Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley (JFS SV) is seeking a Full-Time Development Director to strategically develop, implement and analyze our fundraising efforts.

Your job responsibilities include donor development, corporate giving, event planning and community relations.

You must be friendly, detail-oriented, analytical and highly organized; and have a passion for helping people have better lives.

Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. We offer flexible hours in a pleasant office environment and excellent benefits.

Minimum Requirements:
❖ B.A or B.S. degree
❖ 5+ years of increasingly responsible nonprofit development experience
❖ Exceptional oral and written communication and interpersonal skills
❖ Ability to work independently as well as part of a team, setting priorities and completing assignments in a timely manner
❖ Thorough knowledge of Microsoft Office and database software
❖ Ability to interact effectively with Board of Directors
❖ Ability to be flexible and perform with grace and humor under pressure

Résumés to: jobs@jfssv.org
Donations

Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley Thanks You for Your Support!

Donations from May 19, 2017 to August 10, 2017

Addie and Ray Kopp Memorial Fund
Murray Siegel and Bernice Siegel
Paula and Steven Sneddon

Annual Campaign
Alana Addison
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Eli and Phyllis Bail
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Dorothy and Richard Dorsay
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Ellen and Harvey Gold
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Valentina and Anatoly Kotlyar, in appreciation of JFS Holocaust Survivor Services
Sue and John Krepsick
Ken and Gloria Levy
Sue and Ron Maltiel
Toni and David Mason
Lois Matusow
Elizabeth and Bill Menkin
Alice Nichols
Earl and Donna Nichols
Art and Gladie Rabitz
Loren and Robyn Shalinsky
Manfred and Ginny Siegler
Ron Sosnick
Howard Taub
Grigoriy Vaystikh
Ellen and Harvey Gold

Big Hearted Birthdays
In honor of Janet Berg's birthday: Arlene and Steve Greenberg, Marcia and Joe Riggio, Carol and Bob Tessler
In honor of Susan Englander's birthday: Rhonda Farber, Ruth Miller, Bettina and Dan Rosenberg, Sarah and Norman Rosenberg
In honor of Arleen Greenberg's birthday: Carol and Bob Tessler

In honor of Marcia Ratner's birthday: Arlene and Steve Greenberg, Marcia and Joe Riggio, Carol and Bob Tessler
In honor of Marcia Riggio's birthday: Carol and Bob Tessler
In honor of Carol Tessler's birthday: Arlene and Steve Greenberg, Marcia and Harry Ratner, Marcia and Joe Riggio

Corporate Matching Gifts
GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program: Burt Epstein, Edmond Intrator, Jerry and Rita Jacobson, Manfred Siegler
Morgan Stanley Matching Gifts Program: Cliff Guttermann
VMware Foundation Matching Gifts Program: Michele Healey

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Arleen Kluger
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Ronnie Nasi
Bill Newton
Nikki Segall
Sarah Simpson
Susan Stojstrom
Temple Emanu-El
Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood
Gilda Weisberg
Glenn Yoshimoto

Equipped to Learn Backpack Drive
Anonymous
In honor of Will Yashar's Bar Mitzvah: Jamie and Clarence Chui, Marilyn Palla Droke and Daniel Droke, Abraham and Lillian Exmundo, Kimberly and Howard Gore, Nicole Cushing and Kenneth Hoffman, Jon and Holly Khazam, Jenise Pak Kimyai and Kayvan Kimyai, Alex Kreis, Michael Malick, Joyce Yatsko Kato-McClure and David McClure, Katherine McQuillen, Maxine Quan, Christine Quilici, Lielani Rich, Louis Rich, Rose Meadows Elder Care Staff (Cherry, Christina, Delia, Entie, Lily, Lori and Pat), Jack Samosky, Gail Skinner, Joanne Snow, Adele Stinson, Rebecca Bianchi and Robert Wright
Rabbi Leslie Alexander and Dr. Ken Aitchison
APICC Preschool
Ginny Baird
Nina Bricker
Eric and Susan Broockman
Marlene Burak
Margaret Cant
Linda Castaldi
Lourdes and Andre Castelo
Denise and Steve Chazin
Ivy Chen and Family
Lori Cinnamon
Congregation Beth Am
Congregation Beth David
Congregation Sinai
Roberta Cooper
Janet Dombro
Hillary Farkas
Wayne Firsty
Barbara Fishman
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MJ and Gerald Lopatin
Michal Lubin
Lois Matusow
Meet 2 Succeed
Debbie Michaels
Richard and Patti Namm
Nancy Newman
Carol Parris
Anita Pearlman
Christine Quilici
Leilani and Louis Rich
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Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley Thanks You for Your Support!

Good Morning JFS!

(from May 19, 2017 to August 10, 2017)

David Gitin
Barbara Green
Dan Hudson
Rita and Jerry Jacobson
Judy Levin
Robin Feinman Marino
Howard and Margie Pomerantz
Thelma Ramm
Jay Ross
Mike and Sue Sabes
Joe and Ann Sorger, in memory of Adele Sorger

Jewish Family Services Fund

Sue and Eric Balfus
Kefira Bar-Golani
Congregation Shir Hadash
Noa Horn
IBM Employee Services Center
Joshua Jacobs
Doris and Stan Katz, in memory of Dianne Portnoy
Yekaterina Khmelnitsky, in memory of her son Dmitriy
Arleen Kluger, get well wishes for Harriet Kluger, Jeanne Corn, Howard Adelman, and Michael Ashe; in memory of Tina Smyth’s mother Ira Kurtz
Robert Reicher
Marina and Michael Salzman
Eric Selvin
JoAnn Shank, in honor of Susan and Andy Raider’s 10th anniversary, Andy’s 60th birthday, and their new home
Judith Skopicki
Elise and Kai Wessels, in memory of Thelma Elkins

Knitzvah

Deanna Abma
Sue Anis
Hana Baskind
Jimmy Bean’s Wool
Barbara Berlant
Juana Berstein
Elaine Blais
Rita Clar
Margo Choukroune
Lori Cinnamon
Linda Cohen
Sarah Cohen
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Victoria Ferran
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Wendy Fotland
Marilyn Fuller
Denise Gnasticci
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Alice Izanhour
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Lindy Keelan
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…and many generous anonymous donors

Project NOAH

Anonymous
Rabbi Allan and Mindy Berkowitz, in honor of Bettina Rosenberg’s birthday
Mary Jo and Alan Bernard
Fran and Jordan Brodsky
Congregation Shir Hadash 2016-17 Kindergarten Religious School
Laurel Davis, in memory of Phyllis Mattson
Debra Hannon
Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley, Mahj Jongg Tournament for Emergency Food program

Ruth Perkins Emergency Fund for Refugee Services

Anonymous
Martin and Barbara Fishman
Ida Foygelman
Dan Hudson, in memory of Charles Sabes
Anne Hughes
Rambod Jacoby
LDC Young Women
Linda and David Mihgdoll, in memory of Dan Darling
Fagie Rosen, speedy recovery of Mina Itzkowitz
Mike and Sue Sabes
Linda Sherry and Steve Lopez, in honor of Mike Sabes’ birthday
Bonnie and Lee Stone, in memory of Emmie Karson
Nancy Tivol, in memory of Ruth Perkins, in honor of Kaaren Powers, and Sue Barbieri

Shabbat Dinner Program

Rhonda Farber, in honor of Bettina Rosenberg’s March 20th birthday and Marshall Burak’s birthdays
Daphne Rahmil
Melissa and Joshua Roza
Robin Sabes
Alice Wald and Paul Overmyer

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Your gift to Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley last year made a difference in the lives of more than 9,800 people in our community.

☐ 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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