



# Years of Impact



# JFSC

Enriching Lives  
Strengthening Communities

## Message From the Executive

This year marks a remarkable milestone for JFSC: 65 years of service, compassion, and community impact.

For 65 years, JFSC has been there when individuals and families needed someone to turn to. Through times of uncertainty, transition, hardship, and celebration, we have remained committed to strengthening lives, fostering resilience, and building a caring and connected community. As we reflect on this anniversary year, I am filled with gratitude for the generations of staff, volunteers, donors, community partners, and clients who have shaped JFSC's legacy and made our work possible.

What began in 1960 as a commitment to support members of our community has grown into a dynamic organization serving thousands of individuals each year. While much has changed over the past six and a half decades, our purpose has remained constant: to provide compassionate, person-centred support that empowers people to thrive.

Throughout our history, JFSC has evolved to meet emerging needs. We have expanded programs, developed innovative services, and adapted to changing circumstances, always guided by the belief that every person deserves dignity, belonging, and the opportunity to reach their full potential. From newcomers seeking a fresh start, to seniors striving to remain connected and independent, to individuals and families facing financial, social, or emotional challenges, JFSC continues to provide meaningful support at every stage of life.

This past year demonstrated both the growing needs within our community and the remarkable resilience of those we serve. More than 2,500 clients accessed JFSC programs and services, seeking support, guidance, and connection. Each individual brought unique experiences and challenges, and each was met with compassion, respect, and a commitment to helping them move forward.

As economic pressures continued to affect many households, the demand for practical assistance remained significant. This year, JFSC supported over 2400 individuals and families. Behind these numbers are families who were able to put food on the table, seniors were able to age in place, newcomers built stability, and individuals were reassured that they do not have to face difficult circumstances alone. While these numbers tell an important story, they represent only part of our impact. Across every one of our sixteen programs, clients reported increased functioning and improved well-being. These outcomes reflect the dedication and expertise of our staff, the generosity of our volunteers and supporters, and most importantly, the courage and determination of the individuals and families we serve. They demonstrate that meaningful support creates meaningful change.

As we celebrate our 65th anniversary, we are also reminded that our greatest strength has always been community. We stand on the shoulders of visionary leaders, dedicated staff members, committed volunteers, and generous donors who believed in the importance of helping people through life's challenges. Their contributions built the foundation that continues to guide our work today. At the same time, this milestone invites us to look ahead. The needs of our community continue to evolve, and many individuals and families face increasing complexity in their daily lives. JFSC remains committed to responding with innovation, compassion, and excellence. We will continue to invest in programs and services that promote well-being, strengthen connections, and create opportunities for people to thrive.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and leadership team, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff, volunteers, donors, funders, and community partners. Your dedication, generosity, and trust make our work possible and strengthen the impact we are able to achieve together.

As we celebrate 65 years of service, we honour our past, celebrate our present, and embrace the future with gratitude and hope. We know that our greatest achievement is not measured in years alone, but in the lives strengthened, the connections created, and the hope made possible through the power of community.



**Roxanne Dropo**  
*Executive Director*



**Denis Levandovsky**  
*Board Chair*

# 65 Years of Impact: Strengthening Lives, Building Community

For 65 years, JFSC has stood alongside individuals and families through life's challenges and opportunities. While our community has changed significantly since 1961, our commitment remains the same: ensuring that every person has access to the support, connection, and resources they need to thrive.

Today, Albertans face unprecedented challenges. Rising living costs, increasing mental health concerns, social isolation, and housing insecurity continue to impact individuals and families across our province. In response, JFSC provides compassionate, evidence-informed services that strengthen resilience, promote well-being, and help people build brighter futures.

## Key Milestones

1970s

Building Foundations for Newcomers

1980s

Expanding Family and Employment Supports

1990s

Strengthening Community Connections

2000s

Growing Essential Social Services

2010s

Deepening Specialized Supports

2020s

Meeting Complex Community Needs



# Our Impact Today

## Meeting Basic Needs

Nearly one in three Alberta households experiences food insecurity, representing approximately 1.5 million Albertans living in food-insecure households—the highest provincial rate in Canada. Behind these statistics are families making difficult choices between food, housing, transportation, medication, and other essential needs.

For 65 years, JFSC has responded to emerging community needs with dignity and compassion. This year, our Basic Needs Program provided 1,969 food, personal hygiene, and pet supply hampers, supporting 2,029 household members. This represents a 27% increase from the previous year and reflects the growing demand for emergency supports throughout our community.

By ensuring access to basic necessities, JFSC helps individuals and families stabilize their circumstances and focus on longer-term goals related to health, employment, education, and overall well-being.



**1,969**  
Hampers Distributed



**2,029**  
Household Members Supported

**27%**  
Increase in service demand

## Mental Health & Wellness

Mental health challenges continue to affect individuals and families across Calgary. One-third of Calgarians report their mental health as fair or poor, while many struggle to access timely and appropriate support.

JFSC provides accessible, community-based mental health services that help individuals build resilience, strengthen coping skills, reduce isolation, and improve overall well-being.

Demand for services continues to grow. This year, referrals to the Seniors Mental Health and Addiction Response Team increased by 52%, while calls to the Mental Health Support Line increased by 64%.

The impact of these services is significant. Eighty percent of clients in the Seniors Mental Health and Addiction Response Team demonstrated measurable improvements in key areas related to mental health and addictive behaviours. Program outcome measures also indicate meaningful positive change in mental health, addiction-related concerns, physical care, and overall personal wellness.



**52%**  
increase in Seniors Mental Health and Addiction Response Team referral



**80%**  
of clients demonstrated improved outcomes



**64%**  
increase in Mental Health Support Line utilization

## Supporting Seniors and Older Adults Program

More than one million Albertans are over the age of 60, and this population continues to grow. As more older adults choose to age in place, access to supportive services, social connection, and practical assistance becomes increasingly important.

JFSC's Older Adults Program supports seniors in maintaining independence, dignity, and quality of life while remaining connected to their communities.

This year, more than 1,500 older adults received support through JFSC services. Program outcomes demonstrate that 84% of participants either improved or maintained stability in areas critical to healthy aging, including housing, financial security, emotional well-being, and daily living.

Outcome data identified finances, housing, and emotional well-being as the areas of greatest need among participants. Significant positive change was observed across all three domains, contributing to substantial improvements in overall quality of life.

**1,500+**

*Older Adults Supported*



**84%**

*Improved or maintained stability in key quality-of-life indicators*



**Significant improvement in housing, financial well-being, and emotional wellness**



## Strengthening Families

Families across Alberta continue to face increasing financial and emotional pressures. Rising housing costs, food insecurity, employment challenges, and mental health concerns place significant strain on family functioning and well-being.

JFSC's Family Enrichment Program helps families build resilience, strengthen relationships, and access the supports they need to navigate life's challenges.

This year, 72% of participating families demonstrated improvement in key areas related to family cohesion and wellness, including employment, financial stability, mental health, physical health, housing, and social connection.

Outcome data identified employment, financial stability, mental health, housing, and social connection as the areas where families required the greatest support. Positive change was observed across each of these domains, contributing to improved family functioning and stronger family relationships.

**72%**

*of families demonstrated improved outcomes*



**Positive change in employment, financial stability, housing, and mental health**



**Improved family functioning and family cohesion**



# The Power of Volunteers

Volunteers are at the heart of strong communities. Across Alberta, volunteer contributions are equivalent to approximately 233,000 full-time jobs each year, strengthening social services, recreation, education, and community engagement.

For 65 years, volunteers have played a critical role in the success of JFSC programs and services.

This year, JFSC volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours supporting program delivery, client services, community engagement, and board governance. Their generosity, compassion, and commitment extend the reach of our services and enrich the lives of those we serve.



More than 3,000 volunteer hours contributed

Support provided across programs, events, and governance

Strengthening community through service and connection



## Volunteer Spotlight: Wynne Thal

For Wynne Thal, volunteering with JFSC began with a simple ask and became a lasting commitment to the community.

When Karen Greenberg, then overseeing volunteers, asked Wynne to help with Miriam's Well by picking up food once a week, Wynne said yes. She has continued ever since.

Each week, Wynne collects food, brings it to the pantry, and checks expiry dates before items are available to clients. Over time, her dedication became such an important part of the program that, on her 65th birthday, she was surprised with a meaningful honour: the pantry was officially named The Wynne Thal Pantry.

For Wynne, the work is about more than stocking shelves. It is about ensuring families have access to food when they need it most. She has seen how quickly items move through the pantry and understands how deeply they are needed.

*"Yesterday, as I was unloading, one staffer said that a family was going to be so happy because there were crackers, cookies, and cereal for their young kids."*

Her service has also become a family value. When her grandchildren are out of school, they help unpack and stack items in the pantry.

Through her continued commitment, Wynne reflects the heart of JFSC's mission: serving the broader community with dignity, compassion, and care.

## Raechelle Paperny, Ph.D.

*"I would say that volunteering with JFSC was important in providing insight into the often 'unseen' in our community; those facing adversity, vulnerability, and in need of support and connection."*

## Sonia Taylor Crichton

*"The organization does an exceptional job supporting individuals and families in need, offering not just essential services, but compassion, dignity, and a true sense of community."*

*"JFSC is truly a cornerstone of support for Calgarians, and I couldn't speak more highly of the work they do."*

## Bev Silverstone

*"I chose to volunteer for JFSC because I believe in the organization, its people and the work it does to 'help' their clients improve their lives in some way."*

*"It is my way of giving back for all I have been given and to help make the world a better place."*

### Alex Staniloff

*“When the time came for me to return home from my time living abroad, I wanted to reconnect with the community, and getting involved with JFSC directly was the logical choice.”*

### Olga Krochak

Former Volunteer and Donor

*“Volunteering with JFSC has meant a great deal to me. It has allowed me to see firsthand the impact the organization makes in the lives of its clients and to play a small part in that impact myself.”*

### Marla Rabinovitch

*“Navigating life takes a village. I am proud to be part of a collective of individuals with a common goal; lifting and guiding ALL souls within and beyond Calgary’s community”*

### Ralph Zackheim

JFSC ESL Program Volunteer

*“One of the things that I’m most proud of, is when my students see how much English they have learned, and how their confidence has grown.”*

### Karen B.

*“When I volunteer at JFSC I feel like I am part of a family. When I walk in the door and am greeted by Priscilla, and all the wonderful interactions with the staff I feel so welcomed by everyone. It is a pleasure to be associated with this fantastic agency.*

*“After being a part of it for the past several years, I confirmed that it was also the right choice.”*

### Svetlana Shklarov, MD, PhD

*“In the Voices of Resilience project, we collected and published the stories of Russian-speaking Holocaust survivors who had never spoken publicly, silenced by the political regime in their home country.”*

*“For me, it was a memorable experience of joint communal work – an opportunity for unrestrained, rewarding contribution.”*



**The impact of JFSC is made possible by a dedicated team of professionals who bring expertise, compassion, and commitment to every interaction.**

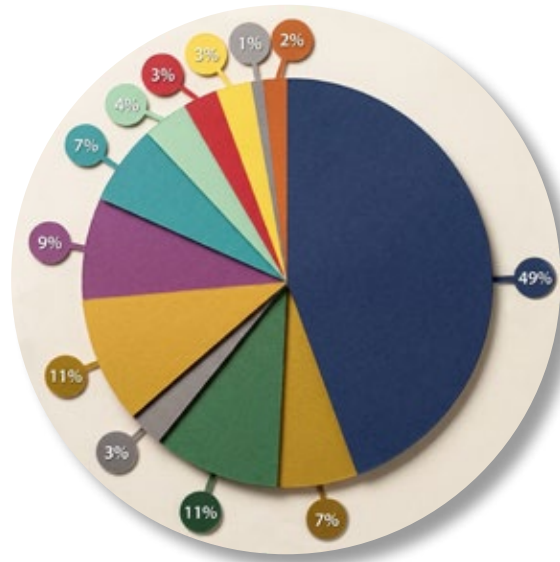
**This year, JFSC employed 36 office staff and 104 support staff who worked together to deliver high-quality services across Calgary and surrounding communities.**

**For 65 years, our staff have been the foundation of our mission, helping individuals and families navigate challenges, build resilience, and create pathways to well-being.**











#### **Not Pictured:**

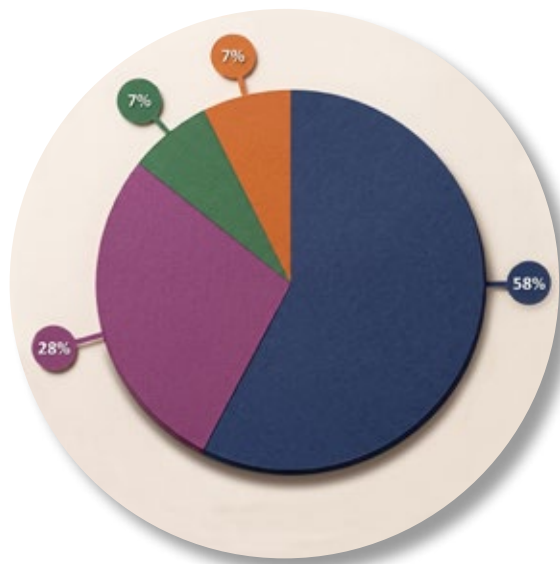
Rima, Ekaterina, Shayna, Amanda, Angela, Alina, Rebecca, Antonina, Michaela, Tina, Samantha, Rachael, Olga, and Olena.

# Financial Summary 2025-26







## Revenue

	Claims Conference	\$ 3,756,866.16
	Grants	\$ 178,225.70
	FCSS	\$ 273,708.00
	Jewish Federation	\$ 231,132.00
	United Way	\$ 63,750.00
	City Links	\$ 851,746.52
	Provincial Government	\$ 681,764.40
	City of Calgary	\$ 220,000.00
	Donations and Fundraising	\$ 822,232.66
	Other/Fee for Service	\$ 534,571.91



## Expenses

	Service Delivery	\$ 4,267,738.27
	Admin Staff	\$ 547,959.75
	Office (Program Delivery)	\$ 2,046,661.40
	Other	\$ 514,371.19

## Our Funders

