

As the fall season looms upon us, most will approach it with some sadness as the memories of a great summer start to fade and plans for school, Rosh Hashanah and all of the Yom Tovim are upon us. With everything that is going on from a global and local perspective, and planning the winter ahead, it is easy to forget that, as Jews, one of our primary commitments is to care for those who are suffering from health issues, living in poverty, disabilities, suffering from mental health issues or other afflictions.

Last year JFSC served and supported over 1100 clients. On a percentage basis, the largest increase in our services and supports was in the area of domestic violence where JFSC served 19 families requiring 1,100 service hours. You may be surprised to learn that 457 of our clients are older adults who live in isolation. Statistics Calgary reports that, for the first time in history, the number of households of people living alone exceeds the number of households with families. The greying of the “Baby Boom” is just starting to impact us and our social systems are already overwhelmed with older adults living in isolation. JFSC served over 95 families living in poverty and another 105 families involved with resettlement in Calgary. Of note is the growth of the number of Holocaust Survivors who JFSC supports with the financial commitment of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, or Claims Conference. Last year JFSC supported and served 120 survivors of World War 2. JFSC also saw 400 people in its counseling department providing over 1,800 hours of direct service and education to people who need help with their mental wellness.

This was accomplished in the face of reductions in funding from our Jewish Federation and the elimination of the United Way’s funding to JFSC. Over the past four years our Jewish Federation allocation to JFSC has dropped from 20% of the distributable local funds to 13% of the those funds. \$340,000 to \$260,000. We are told that in the face of reduced UJA Campaigns and increased subsidy requests for our needy to attend Camp BB, JCC, Akiva Academy, Calgary Jewish Academy and a few other programs funded through the IBP process, that there needed to be reduced allocations to JFSC.

One may wonder how JFSC has done so well for its clients and as an agency in the face of such financial adversity. How have we balanced our budget for four years in a row? The answer is simple: **JFSC is able to do all that it does because of you.** Your support of JFSC helps JFSC to meet our Jewish values of compassion, social; justice and improving the world. JFSC is the community’s arm that meets our primary commitment as Jews in caring for our community’s needy and the well-being of our people. This would not be possible without your support and we thank you for all that you have done for JFSC in the past.

There is a good chance that this letter is being read by a person who knows JFSC and supports us. If so, please share this letter with your friends and relatives and tell them that if they don't help now, we may not be here to help them with their needs in the future. Every dollar donated to JFSC goes towards the people who we are so dedicated to supporting and serving with best practices in all that we do. Please, renew your support for JFSC today and encourage others to do so as well. Thank you again for your time and consideration of your support to JFSC.

Sincerely,
Marty Hornstein
Executive Director