



Media Contact:

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## JFCS OVERVIEW

### WHO WE ARE

For over 70 years, Samost Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS) of Southern New Jersey has been providing comprehensive, caring social services to South Jersey residents of all ages, faiths, and economic backgrounds - strengthening the individual, the family, and the community. JFCS services are available to residents of Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester Counties in Southern New Jersey. Licensed professionals and volunteers assist clients at every stage of life.

### WHERE WE ARE

#### *Main Office*

1301 Springdale Road, Ste 150  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003  
Phone: (856) 424-1333

#### *Family Assistance Center*

1309 West Route 70  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002  
Phone: (856) 433-8225

#### *Burlington County*

Tall Oaks Corporate Center  
Building One, Ste 100  
1000 Lenola Road  
Maple Shade, NJ 08052  
Phone: (856) 793-7710

#### *JFCS Special Needs Programs*

The JFED Commons  
1721 Springdale Road  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002  
Phone: (856) 433-8225

### Our Work

Helping thousands in Southern Jersey each year to successfully meet the challenges of daily life by providing quality, affordable, and accessible social services. The agency is guided by our values of caring for individuals with dignity and respect, and helping individuals to help themselves.



## JFCS FAST FACTS – Fiscal Year 2017

- Over **4,541** individuals received food through the JFCS Betsy & Peter Fischer Food Pantries to fight food insecurity in our community.
- Over **2,200** meals were provided by JFCS to its clients, in cooperation with area synagogues and organizations.
- **160** young adults found job coaching, placement, and mentorship through the JFCS Special Needs Supported Employment Program, to ready them for the workforce. **116** recreational events were offered to our SAIL participants.
- JFCS provided crucial home health care and homemaking services to assist **3,600 senior clients** to age in place at home with dignity and grace.
- **\$1,127,397 million** worth of support services were provided by JFCS to help Holocaust Survivors.
- **\$219,872** worth of volunteer services were given to support agency clients and programs.
- Domestic violence support services were provided to **over 50** individuals and their children
- This Life Counts, our suicide prevention and awareness program has reached **over 265** young people and their parents.
- **Over 1,182** individuals have attended the addiction awareness and outreach program presentation, Right In Our Backyard.



## CORE SERVICES AT A GLANCE

### *COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS*

Adult, Couple, Child and Family Mental Health Therapy  
Domestic Abuse Support  
LGBTQ Support  
Opiate Awareness and Prevention  
Teen Outreach Presentations  
Suicide Prevention  
Support Groups

### *FAMILY ASSISTANCE & FOOD PANTRIES*

Crisis Intervention  
Emergency Financial Support  
Financial Literacy  
Legal Consultations  
Food Pantries  
Resource Referrals

### *60+ SERVICES*

Social Work Assessments  
Caregiver and Grief Support  
Catered Home Delivered Meals  
Home Health Care  
Nursing Services  
Holocaust Survivor Support  
Veterans Assistance

### *SPECIAL NEEDS (High School Age and Older)*

Supported Employment  
High School Transition Services  
Life Skills Training  
TOPS Adult Day Program  
Social, Recreational & Athletic Programs  
Culinary Training Program  
Project SEARCH Vocational Program

### *VOLUNTEER SERVICES*

Food Pantry Assistance  
Friendly Visitor  
Meal Delivery  
Patient Partner Advocates  
Special Needs Program Support  
Transportation



## MEDIA EXPERTS

Our highly knowledgeable professionals and licensed therapists are available for interviews on a variety of relevant subjects. They can speak on myriad topics including, but not limited to:

- Addiction Awareness & Outreach
- Anxiety and Depression
- Building Self-Esteem
- Life Transitions In All Stages
- Special Needs and Developmental Disabilities
- Healthy Relationships for Teens
- College Campus Sexual Assault
- Domestic Abuse
- Eating disorders and body image
- Food Insecurity & Hunger
- 60+ Lifestyle and Aging Issues
- Holocaust Survivors
- LGBTQ Issues
- Mental Health Issues and Treatments
- Suicide Prevention
- Teen Issues Such as Social Media, Bullying
- Family and Couples Therapies
- Caregiver issues
- Alzheimer's Caregivers and Those Affected By It
- Veterans Issues and Advocacy
- Suicide in Teens and Young Adults



## TESTIMONIALS

### FAMILY

“Over the last year, JFCS has been helpful in helping me to find my voice and create a happy life for me and my child, in the face of an abusive relationship with my ex. With the help of my counselor and the support services through the Project SARAH (Stop Abusive Relationships at Home) program, we are safe and moving forward with our lives.”

“Katherine\*, a JFCS Betsy and Peter Fischer Food Pantry client, recently suffered an injury to her back, and is relegated to a wheel chair for mobility. At age 71, mounting medical bills, with no family nearby, she relies on food from the JFCS food pantries to meet nutritional needs. She admits, it’s not always easy to ask for help, but says she realizes what will happen if she doesn’t eat enough. ‘Many times, I have to use my money just to make the bill collectors happy – and I don’t have much left for food,’ she says. “It’s scary that at my age, after working most of my life, that buying food to survive is such a struggle. JFCS helps me live the best possible life I can.”

### SENIORS

“Café Europa is a light in my life, and for all the other Holocaust Survivors as well. I look forward to having special time to enjoy a luncheon, socialize and sometimes share my story with younger generations who visit us. It is a gift to have that time together.”

“The JFCS senior services program has made such a difference in my dad’s life. They have helped to facilitate a regular nurse who checks his blood pressure, a geriatric counselor to give him guidance and support, and also receives catered home delivered meals. He can remain living at home – which makes him so happy and he really enjoys his life each day.”

### SPECIAL NEEDS

“My son, since finding work through the JFCS Special Needs Supported Employment Program, has truly found his calling. You can see the light in his eyes, the excitement on his face, when he comes down in the morning with his work uniform on. He feels so proud of himself, and learns something new every week.”

“There is no greater feeling than when you daughter wins a medal in the Special Olympics with her team. It brings her such a sense of accomplishment to be able to realize goals and milestones with her friends through the SAIL (Supports to Achieve Independent Living) program. Not only is she building friendships, she is honing her athletic skills, and is understanding what it means to be a team player. It makes our hearts smile that the JFCS programs make her so happy.”

### OUTREACH / ADVOCACY

“As a parent, the JFCS Right in our Backyard Addiction Awareness outreach program opened my eyes. It has helped me understand what addiction is, to understand the signs and symptoms of opiate abuse, and how I can support others who may be struggling with addiction. Above all, it’s helped me hold healthy conversations about with my kids, and other parents. ”

“When the JFCS Building Healthy Relationships program was presented to my high school, I started to realize that one of my friends was in an unhealthy and abusive relationship. There were certain control issues and warning flags that I missed, but I learned about through the presentation.”

*\*name changed to protect privacy*



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## HISTORY OF JFCS of SNJ

JFCS has had a long and rich tradition of serving the community. The story is one of change and flexibility, reflecting a single goal – to bring help to those members of the community who need it. JFCS is proud of its past, enthusiastic about its future, and in keeping with its long tradition of flexibility and change, has evolved into an Agency that looks very different from its early days.

JFCS's roots began during World War I when the Camden section of the National Council of Jewish Women met the "welfare and relief" needs of Jewish "indigents" in Camden County. The Great Depression in the early 1930's gave rise to the Hebrew Ladies Charity. Subsequently, the Hebrew Welfare Society carried on much of the same work until the early 40's. In the mid 1940's, the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey employed its first professionally trained social worker, which marked the beginning of today's counseling service. In December 1949, the name was changed to Jewish Family Service to be more in tune with the changes in philosophy and thus the nature of the work being carried out by the Agency. Jewish Family Service then became an official Federation department. In October 1993, the Agency then changed its name to Jewish Family and Children's Service.

The Agency's evolution reflects the changing ways of dealing with economics, social problems, and emotional problems which families have faced for generations. Acceptance of the concept of public responsibility for basic economic need and the establishment of social insurance and public aid as integral parts of the American social service structure, represent cultural changes, which have allowed family service agencies to change their focuses. As a result of this evolution, family agencies focus less on meeting financial needs and more on developing services to deal with personal and social adjustment issues. Immigrants have always played a large part in Jewish family agencies. Our JFCS has helped every wave of immigrants since World War II. Today's JFCS of SNJ bears little resemblance to the humble beginnings of the early 1900's.



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## Key Staff

### EXECUTIVE

**Marla Meyers, Executive Director , [Mmeyers@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Mmeyers@jfedsnj.org)**

**Beth Wynne, Associate Executive Director , [Bwynne@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Bwynne@jfedsnj.org)**

### DEPARTMENTS

**Barbara Abrams, Director of Special Needs - [Babrams@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Babrams@jfedsnj.org)**

**Gail Belfer, Director of Holocaust Survivors Services and Advocacy – [Gbelfer@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Gbelfer@jfedsnj.org)**

**Carlos Bermeo, Director of Clinical Services – [Cbermeo@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Cbermeo@jfedsnj.org)**

**Meredith Cohen, Director of Outreach & Compliance – [Mcohen@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Mcohen@jfedsnj.org)**

**Vanessa Glenn, Director of Marketing & Communications - [Vglenn@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Vglenn@jfedsnj.org)**

**Pam Jackson, Director of JFCS Office Manager – [Pjackson@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Pjackson@jfedsnj.org)**

**Sherri Jonas, Director of Volunteers - [Sjonas@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Sjonas@jfedsnj.org)**

**Rebecca Rosenau, Director of 60+ Services - [Rosenau@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Rosenau@jfedsnj.org)**

**Meri Seligman, Director of Family Assistance Program – [Mseligman@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Mseligman@jfedsnj.org)**

**Lydia Silpe, Grant Writer – [Lsilpe@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Lsilpe@jfedsnj.org)**

**Melanie Stoopler, Director of Finance – [Mstoopler@jfedsnj.org](mailto:Mstoopler@jfedsnj.org)**