

Branching Out

Inspiring Families Inspiring Hope

Community Unites to Fight Hunger

“It’s not getting any better. The need for food continues to grow. Every month we get record numbers,” says Cindy Hyken, who is chairing the third annual *Feed the Pantry–Feed the Soul* open house set for Sunday, April 18. The event has become a major fund- and food-raiser for the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. “In December, the pantry served 4,575 clients — in one month! We’ve seen a 75% increase in new clients between 2008 and 2009. And we don’t turn anyone away.”

Hyken, a JF&CS board member who also volunteers at the food pantry, has seen the face of hunger, and, she says, “It’s people you know, people who had good jobs, who never needed any help. We’re hoping to fill 1,000 grocery bags at our event and we invite the community to stop by, bring food and see the pantry.”

“When you see the pantry, you can see the magnitude of the operation and what it means to the community,” Hyken says.

Last year, over 1,000,000 food and personal care items were distributed.

Steve Schuver and Greg Yawitz, co-chairs of the Sponsors Committee for the event, have set a goal of \$75,000 in donations. These funds enable the staff to buy the food needed to provide balanced and nutritious meals to clients. “With the help of a nutritionist,” Hyken says, “we are trying to provide more healthy options, such as whole wheat pasta, healthier snacks and more protein.”



(left to right) Greg Yawitz, Cindy Hyken and Steve Schuver

“Feed the Pantry–Feed the Soul should be an inspirational day, an opportunity for families, friends and neighbors to come together to help the community. Stop by for five minutes or the afternoon and see your support in action,” says Hyken.



Spirit of Giving Starts Early

Sam thought he had enough toys. So for his seventh birthday, he put a note in his party invitations asking friends to bring cans of food for the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry instead of gifts. “I knew some people were hungry and needed food,” he said. His mother Stacy says it was completely his idea. Following his sports party at the Jewish Community Center, his family rolled out cartloads of food for the pantry. When they delivered the provisions, Sam helped stock the shelves giving him a true measure of what his kindhearted gesture means. “Sam has a generous young soul. He is aware of the scourge of hunger in his own community. What he did was really make a difference in people’s lives. And it’s a great example of what one person’s action can mean, especially someone so young,” said Sue Rundblad, Program Coordinator–Community Outreach, Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry.

Have You Remembered JF&CS in Your Estate Plan? Your planned gift to JF&CS will enable us to sustain our vital services to the community well into the future. Call Barbara Barnholtz, Director of Development, 314-812-9356.



Executive Buzz

Imagine the impact of a gift of 20,000 pounds of food a month. It happened to JF&CS when the Harvey

Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry became the recipient of surplus food donated by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. That amount is about one-third of what we give out each month.

It's a good problem to have, but only if you know how to solve it. How would we get the large food pallets from the distribution drop-off in Earth City to the food pantry storage on our basement level? We weren't set up to handle moving pallets of food.

Fortunately, a JF&CS board member had a connection, and with one phone call facilitated a critical partnership between JF&CS and a very generous local moving and storage company. The company offered to pick up the food once a month at no cost to us. They also supply storage space at a very reasonable price. A grant proposal to a local foundation will hopefully help cover the costs of trucking the food from storage to the pantry as we need it.

Feeding a community is a complex process, even when you've got an incredible gift. It really does take a combined effort to help translate that gift to practical help for people in need...contacts, volunteers, equipment, donors, staff. Donations come in different guises. People can help in ways they may not realize. It may be as simple as knowing the right person. Without all the pieces in place, we would not have been able to make use of this wonderful gift.

L. Louis Albert

Legacy Gift Ensures Future Services

A little over 10 years ago, Norman Shapiro found himself in a position familiar to many: how to care for aging parents whose poor health rendered them incapable of caring for themselves. His niece, Lori Goldberg, MSW, LCSW, JF&CS senior services coordinator, suggested he contact a social worker at the agency. It was his first personal encounter with JF&CS.

"They suggested I join a support group for caregivers. It was wonderful. It helped me get through the trauma of aging parents," Norman recalls.

Following his positive experience, Norman had the opportunity to discover the wide range of services JF&CS offers the

community, all of which directly touch the lives of thousands each year.

Because of his appreciation for the work of JF&CS in the community, Norman has made a legacy gift. He has set up a charitable remainder unit trust as well as named JF&CS a beneficiary of his living trust. Gifts like these will help increase the agency's endowment to ensure that JF&CS services will adapt and serve community needs well into the future.

"To see all the services this agency provides to the entire community made me want to do as much as I can to help," he says.

To discuss a planned gift to JF&CS, call Barbara Barnholtz, Director of Development, 314-812-9365.

Reaching Out to Connect

"Sometimes you just need to feel a connection with another soul," says Rabbi Elizabeth Hersh. In her new position as Jewish Community Chaplain for JF&CS, she provides a Jewish connection for those who live in assisted living or nursing facilities outside the mainstream of Jewish life. Whatever circumstances led them to what might be a lonely, isolated existence, the Jewish community wants them to know they have not been forgotten. "Some of these people are really isolated and may be the only Jewish resident in the facility," says Rabbi Hersh.

Though new to the job, she already feels the impact the program can make in a single person's life. "I spent some time with

a 90-year-old woman, just looking through old photographs and reminiscing. She doesn't have any family and was so happy to have a Jewish friend."



JF&CS seeks out Jewish residents in facilities throughout the area who may welcome a Jewish presence in Rabbi Hersh. For the rabbi, it's a matter of providing spiritual guidance, companionship and intellectual stimulation when needed. "They are surprised to find there is no fee, that the Jewish community just wants to reach out and help."

Behind the Scenes at JF&CS

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