



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2016–2017



Jewish Connections

Community Need | What We Do | Who We're Helping | The Difference We Make | Volunteer Engagement



Jewish Family Service takes seriously its responsibility to respond to the specific needs of the Jewish community with cultural competence and compassion. Staff embrace the values of *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) and *Tikvah* (hope) by offering support, care, and connection to

Jewish community members striving to build purposeful, independent lives.

Jewish values are the driving force behind everything we do at JFS, and imbue our work with meaning. JFS is guided by the belief that the only thing that matters as much as what we do is the spirit in which we do it.

San Diego County's Jewish community is the **third largest in the western United States**, and the **thirteenth largest nationally**—approximately 90,000 individuals

Community Need

San Diego is home to more than 89,000 Jews, yet surveys show that only about 20% of Jewish households are connected to the Jewish community. The San Diego Jewish community spans income levels, age, and where

they live in San Diego. There are widely differing levels of religious observance and feelings of Jewish identity.

The following represent some of the unique needs of Jewish individuals and families served by JFS:

- **Jewish Single Parent Families**

More than 2,000 Jewish households are comprised of a single parent with at least one child. Research from the Jewish Women's Foundation shows that these households are particularly vulnerable. **Forty percent of these single parent families have incomes below \$35,000, far below the local self-sufficiency wage. More than 71% report they can't make ends meet.**

Six percent of Jewish children in the County, twice the national average, live in single-parent households. Research shows that children from single-parent homes often experience decreased school performance, diminished self-esteem, and increased involvement in high-risk behavior.

- **Low-income Holocaust Survivors**

More than 150 low-income Holocaust Survivors across San Diego struggle to make ends meet. The traumas of the past present them with unique challenges as they age, which are further exacerbated by a lack of financial resources. As a result, many Survivors are without the means to pay for critical needs like health and home care. Many Jewish older adults, including Holocaust Survivors, also need transportation to High Holiday services as well as to healthcare appointments, shopping, and social activities.



A DECADE
of Earning Charity Navigator's Highest 4-Star Rating
Only 1% of nonprofits nationwide can make this claim



2016 California
Nonprofit of the Year



Service Enterprise Certified
Engaging volunteer talent at all levels of the agency

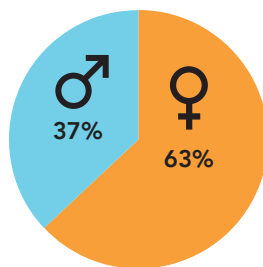
• Jewish Teen Girls

According to Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair, from the Klarman Eating Disorders Center at McLean Hospital, “adolescent girls today must travel in a teen culture that makes risky and dangerous values and behaviors — at ever earlier ages — seem normal.” A comprehensive needs assessment of Jewish young women in San Diego County identified a need for innovative and engaging programming that fosters self-esteem and develops leadership skills to address the variety of challenges that affect their development in adolescence.

• Jews in Need of Intensive Behavioral Health Services

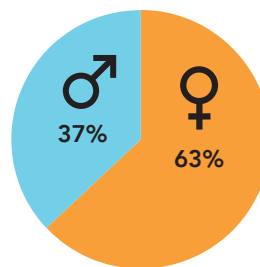
There is a demonstrated need for culturally competent services for Jewish adults living with serious and persistent mental illness — and their family members — who desire support from a Jewish provider to maximize their ability to live independently, socialize, and manage their symptoms.

Who We’re Helping



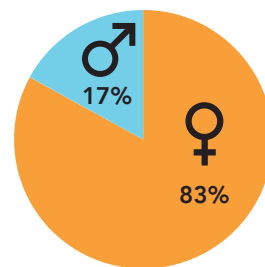
Jewish Big Pals

63% Female
37% Male



Serving Older Holocaust Survivors

63% Female
37% Male



Supporting Jewish Single Parents

83% Female
17% Male

Jewish Connections services are delivered to people of all ages — ranging from young children, single-parent families, and older adults from a variety of Jewish movements (including those who are unaffiliated) across San Diego County.

Girls Give Back

- 14 Jewish female high school students in grades 9–12 from public and private schools

Jewish Big Pals

- 39 Big Pals, whose ages range from 27–74
- 39 Little Pals, whose ages range from 7–17

Serving Older Holocaust Survivors (SOS)

- 136 low-income Survivors, with incomes less than 250% of Federal Poverty Level

Jewish Family Service’s Guiding Values

Tikkun Olam
Repairing the world

Gemilut Hasadim
Acts of Loving Kindness

Kehillah
Community

R’fuah
Healing

B’riut
Health

B’tzelem Elohim
In G-d’s Image/Respecting the Inherent Dignity of the Individual

Tzedek
Justice

Shleimut
Wholeness

Tikvah
Hope

The Difference We Make

Girls Give Back

This year, *Girls Give Back* members participated in educational workshops on gender roles, the media and body image, domestic violence, reproductive rights, and LGBTQ+ issues.

The following experiences offered in-depth service learning experiences to the young women in *Girls Give Back*:

- Partnering with Dreams for Change an organization that provides assistance to families living out of their cars who stay overnight in the parking lot of JFS's Joan & Irwin Jacobs Campus, to host a Dinner and Movie night for the children
- Visiting Coastal Roots Farm to learn about Jewish farming principles and women in farming
- Joining Motiv to host a beach clean-up at Fiesta Island
- Celebrating Passover at Seacrest Village Retirement Community with Jewish older adult women who had organized their own Women's March
- 100% of participants feel connected to the Jewish Community
- 85% of participants know their strengths as a leader
- 93% of participants know how to set realistic goals and achieve them
- 86% of participants believe their actions can change the world
- 71% of participants feel confident in their public speaking skills

Holiday Programs

- 1,510 children and adults (450 total families), were provided

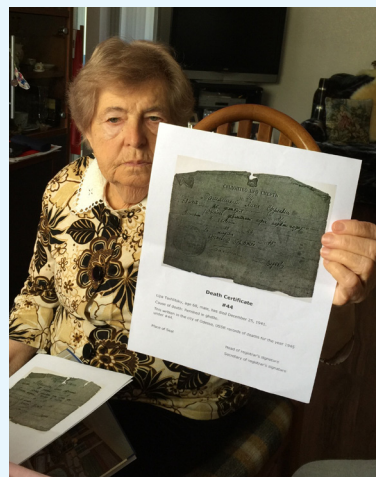
with Hanukkah gifts through JFS's Embrace-a-Family program

- Passover food packages were provided to 223 clients, including military personnel stationed abroad

Jewish Big Pal Elisa and her little Pal Bella share a passion for volunteering. Here they are helping out at a Murphy Canyon Military Food Distribution, coordinated by the Hand Up Food Pantry at JFS.



Alla's Story



Alla was seven years old when the violence of World War II reached her home in the Ukraine. Intense bombing forced her family to flee for safety to Kazakhstan. When Alla's family returned four years later, their home was gone. Her family lost everything and had nowhere to live. Conditions were so poor that her family had to beg for food and she became severely malnourished. Her health deteriorated to the point that she fainted and fell resulting in a broken spine. She was bedridden for three

years as she recovered, and the injury left her with a misshapen back and constant pain with walking. A few years later, Alla found happiness when she married her husband who was a Survivor from Odessa.

Now widowed, Alla lives alone on a meager income. Her back makes it very hard for her to get around, and the constant pain is a reminder of her trauma. But, because of Jewish Family Service's Serving Older Holocaust Survivors program, Alla receives help to ease her pain and make life a little easier. But what Ella appreciates most is the connection she experiences when socializing with other Russian speaking Survivors. It means the world to her to spend time with others who know and share a similar past.

Our Purpose

Jewish Family Service is a client-centered, impact-driven organization working to build a stronger, healthier, more resilient San Diego.

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For Good Deeds Day in April, Girls Give Back participants planned and facilitated a beach clean-up at Fiesta Island, where volunteers collected over 80 pounds of trash.

- Hosted a Hanukkah party and Shabbat event attended by 21 families and 5 Jewish Big Pals

Serving Older Holocaust Survivors (SOS)

SOS connected 136 low-income Survivors to care management and socialization services. The JFS Holocaust Survivor Care program provides home delivered meals and socialization opportunities, including regional excursions, designed to improve emotional and spiritual wellbeing. The program also connects low-income Survivors to other JFS services such as assessments, care plans, emotional support, assistance with in-home care, and direct financial assistance — in addition to groceries, transportation assistance, minor home modifications, and counseling services.

With funding from Jewish Federations of North America, the program has expanded to:

- Offer 8 social and cultural excursions that improve the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of 57 isolated Holocaust survivors
- Provide expanded Foodmobile services to 33 Survivors who are unable to afford the nominal cost of JFS's home-delivered meals. A daily hot and nutritious kosher meal helps these older adults maintain or improve their health

Jewish Big Pals

The program maintained 39 Big and Little Pal matches between Jewish children and their Jewish adult mentors. These "matches" spent an average of three to six hours per month together. 25 Big Pal-Little Pal matches have lasted 3 years or longer. Currently, 60% of Little Pals are boys, and 40% are girls. To support connections between Big Pals and Little Pals, the program hosted a variety of activities, including:

- Flower Fields outing
- *Hand Up* Food Distribution Volunteer Opportunities
- Challah Baking at Shabbat San Diego
- Padres Night Game in Clubhouse Seats
- Roundtable Discussion and Trainings for Big Pals
- Chanukah Roller Skating Party with SJSP
- San Diego Youth Symphony Concerts

- JCompany Performances
- *The Last Butterfly* movie at Jewish Film Festival
- Jewish Food Festival tickets
- Community-wide Workshop for Mentoring Organizations

On the Go

JFS's transportation service for older adults provided 106 High Holiday rides and 1,437 rides to Jewish Community Events.

Supporting Jewish Single Parents

This program provides valuable support to single parents across the community. In the last year, SJSP:

- Facilitated two monthly support groups with 36 unduplicated participants
- Connected the children of 10 SJSP families to Jewish Big Pals who serve as trusted mentors
- Provided 45 children with scholarships for Jewish camp, totaling \$14,225