



# Impact Report 2018-2019

***Meeting the Human Service Needs  
of our Jewish Community***

Our Jewish community is changing. It is growing, it is getting younger and it is living here for more months out of the year. **Palm Beach County has one of the largest, fastest growing and evolving Jewish communities in North America.**

These changes bring with them new challenges for Alpert Jewish Family Service. This past year we helped 9,894 people. In the coming years we know we will be helping many more.

**In one of the most prosperous communities in the country, thousands are struggling to make ends meet.** The number of economically insecure people in our Jewish community continues to increase for people of every age and life stage.

A recent study of our Jewish Community\* revealed the following:

- **Many need help accessing basic health and human services.** There are 6,000 Jewish households seeking service from a Jewish human services provider but not receiving them.
- **Nearly one-third of people age 35-49 have someone in their household with a chronic health issue or disability.** Along with the growth in population in our community comes the rising need to assist individuals and families with special needs, including addictions and mental illness.
- **Thousands of seniors and Holocaust survivors are facing poverty, health issues, food insecurity and isolation.** The increasing costs of healthcare and the complexity of Florida's healthcare system makes it harder for seniors to access resources and quality services they need.

## **NOW, MORE THAN EVER, OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS A STRONG FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY.**

Alpert Jewish Family Service was founded in 1974 specifically to strengthen and enrich the lives of children, adults, and seniors in our community through a continuum of focused programs and human services. Today, 45 years later, we continue to evolve with and respond to our community's needs. This year we added outreach support services to assist families impacted by addiction; offered educational workshops and support for families of loved ones with a disability; and expanded mental health awareness and training throughout Palm Beach County.

This report outlines our past year's activities in serving our mission. **Alpert JFS remains strongly committed to meeting the growing human service needs of our Jewish community.** Our actions are made possible by generous donations and sponsorships, together with the thousands of hours donated by our dedicated volunteers.

We believe that it is our shared responsibility to serve our community's human service needs.

**How will you help us?**

*Marc*

Marc D. Hopin  
CEO

Alpert Jewish Family Service

*\* The Jewish Community Study was conducted by The Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, together with the Cohen Center at Brandeis University*

# COMMUNITY NEED BY THE NUMBERS

## POVERTY AND HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS

**20%** of our Jewish community describe themselves as just getting along, nearly poor, or poor

**38%** of households expect financial struggle as seniors

**12,000** households rely on social services, food stamps, and Medicaid

**6,000** households are seeking help from a local Jewish service agency but cannot afford or access them

**31%** of people ages 35-49 care for someone in the household with a chronic health issue or disability

While Palm Beach County is known to be thriving, there is significant and growing need in our community. The number of vulnerable people of every age group is rapidly increasing.

## SENIORS

**14%** of seniors describe themselves as poor

**19%** of seniors suffered financial hardship this past year

**10%** of seniors receive public benefits, such as Medicaid

**38%** over the age of 80 suffer a chronic health issue or disability

## HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

**5,000** of our **12,000** survivors are living in poverty

*Thousands of vulnerable seniors and Holocaust Survivors are facing poverty, health problems, disabilities, hunger, and isolation.*

## ANSWERING THE CALL

**65,000+** hours of support and companionship by peers, assistance with grocery shopping, and medical appointments for older adults

**5,500+** hours assisting older adults to maximize their independence



# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Alpert JFS provides comprehensive services for children, teens, adults, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Our impactful programs include:

- AmeriCorps
- Bereavement Support Groups
- Case Management
- Counseling for Children & Adults
- Counseling Program
- Domestic Abuse
- ElderCare360°
- Enhanced Companion
- Food Pantry
- Guardianship
- Holiday Baskets
- Holocaust
- HonoringLife™
- Information & Referral
- Jewish Addictions Outreach & Support
- Jewish Disabilities Network
- Levine JRFs Apartment Program
- Levine JRFs Group Homes
- LifePlanning®
- Medical Alert System
- Mental Health First Aid
- Mentoring 4 Kids
- Pooled Trust
- Psychological Testing & Evaluation
- Psychiatry for Children & Adults
- Relationships & Decisions for Teens

**For more information on our programs and services, call us at 561-684-1991 or visit [AlpertJFS.org](http://AlpertJFS.org)**



**ANSWERING THE  
CALL 2018-19**  
**50,000 hours of mental  
health support to children  
and adults**



## client voices

# "YOU'RE THE FAMILY THAT I DON'T HAVE"

Too many members of the Jewish community suffer the conflicting emotions of gratitude mixed with pain and grief that come with surviving the Holocaust. Despite the multitude of survivors experiencing ongoing trauma, many open up to share their stories.

Meet Marie.

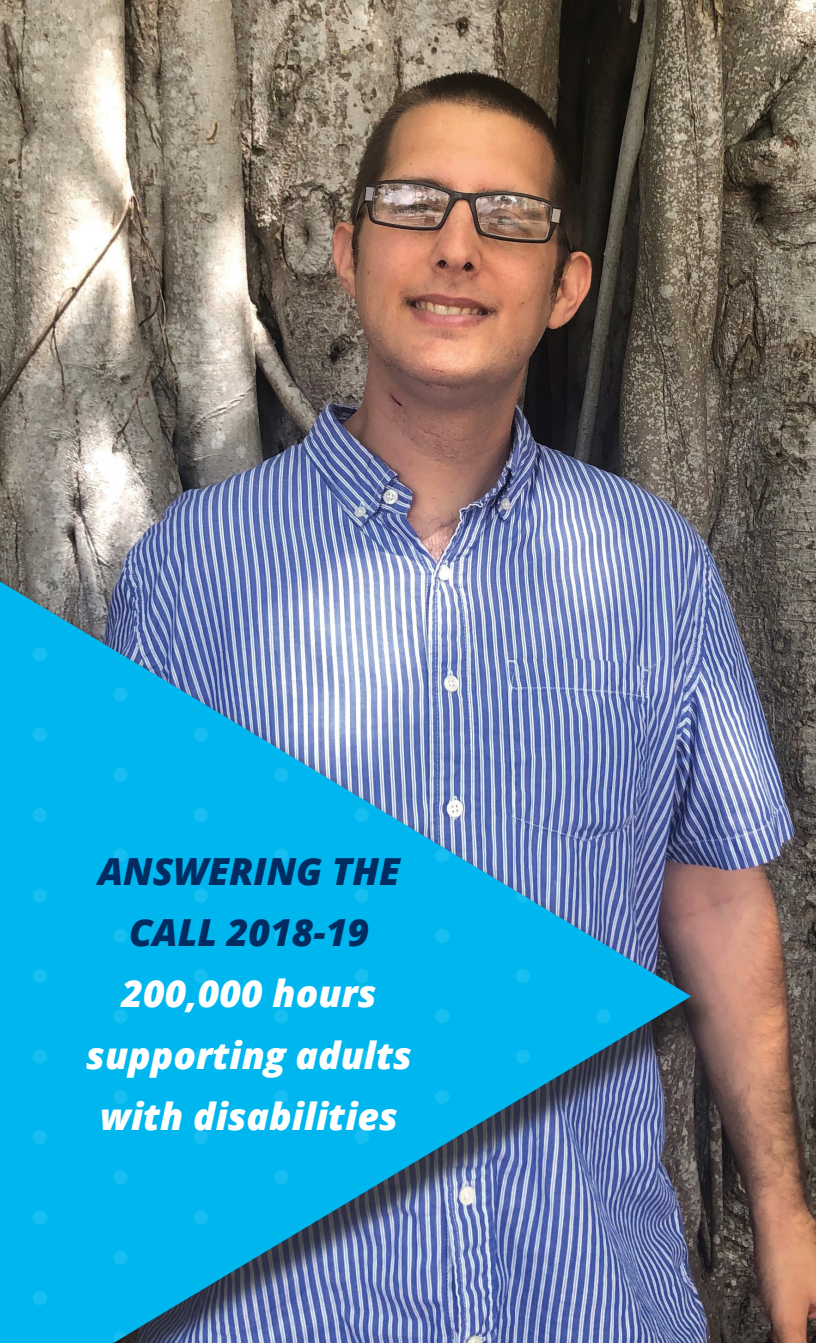
As a young girl of eight, she fled the Nazi occupation of France with her sister to find their father in America, who had escaped to make a way for them. Marie left behind everyone and everything she knew and loved. Fearing the unknown of her new life ahead, but remembering the terrors she had to escape to survive, Marie bravely entered America not knowing the language or another single soul. She made it her first goal to learn to speak English fluently.

Marie and her sister reconnected with their father to begin a new life in America. Marie achieved a college education and became an EKG tech living in California. She married, had two children, and today has several grandchildren. Marie is grateful to be alive. "It's a miracle," she says. She is incredibly thankful for her life. But she never forgets those she left behind, and the other life she didn't live.

As a senior, Marie found Alpert Jewish Family Service and knew she was home. She isn't alone. She is understood. She is valued. Her history and heritage matter. She is finally, once more, among family.



***"You don't know how important that is, when you lose so much of your own family, to find a family that's there for you. Through Alpert Jewish Family Service I found a life. Do you know what that means, to find a life? I had nothing. Lost everything. But I found a life."***



## *client voices*

# A FOREVER HOME

At some point in life, adults with severe or chronic mental health conditions and disabilities need care and structure beyond what their parents can give them. Levine Jewish Residential & Family Service, a premiere residential program of Alpert JFS, offers these members of our community a home and a family for a lifetime, even after their own family is gone.

Say hello to Russell.

Before Russell found a new home at Levine Jewish Residential, he slept his days away to escape. He was afraid of his mental illness and feared nothing in life would ever work for him. He felt completely alone despite everything his loving father did to help.

"I used to dread each hour of the day. Now I make the most of every minute."

Since moving to Levine Jewish Residential where he enjoys daily comradery and stimulating activity, Russell is happy to share that he is no longer afraid. In fact, he is conquering life and can't wait to see what each day will bring. Russell recently celebrated his 34th birthday and is working toward finishing his college degree with hopes of a career in computer networking. He looks forward to one day marrying and having a family.

Without your help, Russell and his fellow residents would have no home or purpose, as local or state resources are not available to fund this critical program.

Only your support provides the life they deserve, and opportunities they couldn't have without you.

**ANSWERING THE  
CALL 2018-19  
200,000 hours  
supporting adults  
with disabilities**

***"Because of generous people like you, I'm surrounded by friends, go to college, and enjoy cooking and art. There will always be someone here to care for me. I'm finally living the life I'd hoped for."***



## IT STARTED WITH A PHONE CALL

Sometimes the person on the other end of the telephone line becomes your lifeline. That's the story for thousands of families reaching out for help when they dial into the Alpert JFS Information and Referral team. This story began six years ago in Boynton Beach, with a couple in their 70s, referred to AJFS by a friend. The story touched two generations of the same family, living many miles apart, and continues to this day.

Meet Hank and Iris Stowers.

Hank and Iris' first call was on behalf of their 53-year-old daughter, Carol, living with stage 4 cancer in Philadelphia.

An Alpert JFS social worker connected the family to help at a Jewish service agency near their daughter. They were so grateful they stayed in touch with their new friends at Alpert JFS.

Over the next years, Hank developed Parkinson's disease, dementia, and became wheelchair bound. Iris came to Alpert JFS for counseling and caregiver support, and was helped to acquire home health services, Jewish War Veteran benefits, and eligibility for in-home and assisted-living Medicaid services for Hank.

As Hank's health continued to deteriorate, it was his daughter Carol who called this time, worried that her father's care was beyond her mother's ability to care for him. Alpert JFS provided a solution with a referral to an assisted living facility that could fully care for Hank's needs.

The day came this year when Iris called Alpert JFS again, this time to tell them Carol had passed away. Caring staff offered condolences and connected her to the Parents Mourning Adult Children support group and counseling services to ease her through her grief.



***"It's like they put their arms around me in a strong embrace. I could breathe for the first time in a long time."***

# RESPONDING TO NEED

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Alpert JFS accredited programs are home to over 100 skilled and trained professionals, working as one team to anticipate, understand, and respond to community need. The following programs addressed significantly relevant issues affecting local families this past year:

## Mental Health First Aid

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***"I didn't know I had so much to learn, or how much I could help. This training changed me forever." Vivian S.***

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**The Mental Health First Aid Coalition of Palm Beach County** led by Alpert JFS, trained 5,450 community members in the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. This breakthrough course builds mental health literacy and helps the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness. Mental Health First Aid also offers a training course for trainers to expand mental health awareness and education throughout the county.

## LifePlanning®

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***"We finally felt like we could break through the barriers and confusion we met when trying to make a family plan for Bethany." The F. Levins Family***

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The **LifePlanning®** program provides advocacy, consultation, and emotional support to help families overcome obstacles to navigating, planning, and providing long-term care for their adult children with chronic mental illness and developmental disabilities. LifePlanning® offers a free series of educational workshops providing information and consultation on public benefits, legal options and resources, community services, and individual and family support.

## HonoringLife™

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***"I wanted my role as a nurse to bring a higher level of healing. Now I can give survivors the added support they need and deserve." Ella Z., program graduate***

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**HonoringLife™** trains caregivers in the Person-Centered Trauma-Informed (PCTI) care to treat the needs of Holocaust survivors and older adults who have experienced trauma. The program developed a "train the trainer" model to increase impact. This year, HonoringLife™ trained 931 professional caregivers and certified 32 master trainers.

## Jewish Addiction Outreach and Support Program

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***"I could finally deal with the truth of our family's pain and felt understood among new friends." Brian R.***

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**Jewish Addiction Outreach and Support Program** provides a caring, non-judgmental "welcome mat" to the Jewish community affected by addiction and mental health conditions. The program exists to break down stigma, shame, and isolation while providing a safe place for education, consultation, and a professionally led support group for families impacted by addiction. The Jewish Addiction Outreach & Support Program is steered by an active task force of community leaders deeply dedicated to the cause.



# 45 YEARS OF CARING FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

With the devotion and support of engaged donors, volunteers, and partners, Alpert JFS is responding to the current rise in human service needs. We are here for families in challenging times. This fiscal year:

## ACCESS TO SUPPORT, HELP & HEALING

**9,894** PEOPLE SERVED

**26** SERVICE PROGRAMS

**6** CAMPUSES

## STRENGTH IN SERVICE

**132** EMPLOYEED PROFESSIONALS

**29** BOARD MEMBERS

**115** VOLUNTEER LEADERS

## MEETING EVERY NEED

**3,512** PEOPLE CALLED AND HELPED: INFORMATION & REFERRAL

**1,014** PEOPLE STRONGER AND HEALTHIER: COUNSELING & PSYCHIATRY

**35** DISABLED ADULTS LIVING ACTIVE AND HEALTHY: RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

**300** HUNGRY FAMILIES FED: ALPERT JFS FOOD PANTRY

**569** OLDER ADULTS SUPPORTED WITH LONG-TERM CARE, COMPANIONSHIP, AND TRANSPORTATION: SENIOR CARE PROGRAMS

# INVESTING IN THE HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS OF OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

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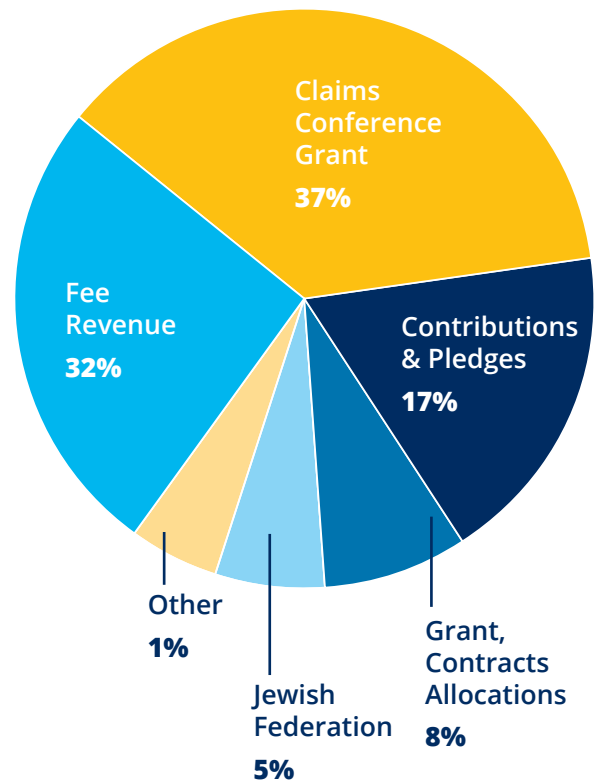
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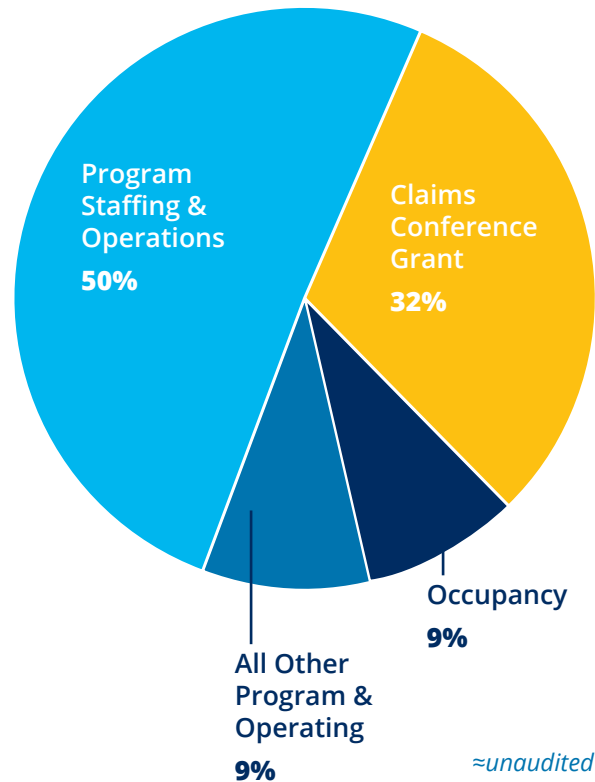


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INCOMING FUNDS: \$13,473,501≈



OUTGOING FUNDS: \$13,170,589≈



≈unaudited

Alpert Jewish Family Service and Levine Jewish Residential & Family Service Revenue and Expense Report for the year ended June 30, 2019.



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**Total Contributions: \$2,235,000**

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## ***Meeting the Human Service Needs of our Jewish Community***



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561-684-1991

[AlpertJFS.org](http://AlpertJFS.org)

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