

2022 IMPACT REPORT

We've helped:

for the year ended September 30, 2022

- **2026 individuals** strengthen their Jewish connections
- 105 immigrants become U.S. citizens
- Resettle **545 refugees** fleeing religious and political persecution
- 1230 new Americans assisted through our Citizenship & Immigration Program
- 2920 new Americans become engaged and self-sufficient community members
- 436 individuals cope with life's challenges through counseling
- **560 older adults** maintain their independence
- Protect **22 vulnerable elders** from abuse
- 43 caregivers connect and support each other
- Match **446 volunteers** with opportunities to give of themselves and provide 3,750 volunteer hours
- Educate over **2666 community members** on humanitarian issues facing our world

Our mission is to provide exceptional social services, grounded in Jewish values, to support individuals and families from diverse religious, cultural and economic backgrounds.

Our programs strengthen our community by strengthening the individual. From resettling refugee families, to supporting New Americans to become self-sufficient, counseling young adults through life's transitions, equipping older adults to age well, protecting elders from abuse, leading caregiver support groups, and helping individuals enhance their Jewish connections – our vision is to empower people to achieve fulfilling lives.

Our Values

We value and honor the fundamental sanctity and worthiness of all human beings, **Tselem Elohim.**We demonstrate dignity and respect in every aspect of our work, **Chesed.**We put into practice a commitment to heal and repair the world, **Tikkun Olam.**We operate with fiscal efficiency and integrity, **Haginut Ba'asakim.**

Thank You From the Chair

My warmest thanks and gratitude to the dedicated staff, volunteers and board members of the JFS community who have done so very much to fulfill our mission. I want to express special appreciation to the volunteers who have worked tirelessly on behalf of JFS this past year.

There are many definitions of the word "volunteer," and the one that I believe resonates most with our community is from *By the People: A History of Americans as Volunteers* by S. J. Ellis and K.H. Campbell, who describe a volunteer as someone who chooses "to act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility and without concern for monetary profit, going beyond one's basic obligations." Our volunteers are the very embodiment of this definition in their work with JFS, including supporting refugee families, tutoring English language, coaching digital literacy, serving as medical advocates, and helping enhance Jewish life.

Looking back, I am truly in awe of what we have accomplished together to meet the unprecedented demand for resettlement services this year. Our New American Program more than doubled their staff, opened a new office in the Berkshires and a Welcome Center at our Springfield office. We developed and expanded our programs, established 11 HOST volunteer support teams, and a legal team of volunteer lawyers who provided over 5,000 hours of legal assistance to Afghan refugees. We served over 700 refugees and asylees, including almost 200 Afghan evacuees, over 170 Ukrainians, and 40 Haitians, as well as individuals and families from other countries including Guatemala, Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Cuba.

It is my very great honor to acknowledge the collective work of our entire JFS community which embodies the words so clearly stated in Deuteronomy 16:20: "Justice, justice you shall pursue."

Joan Lesser, PhD







Our Programs

Jewish Life Enrichment

Jewish Family Jam
Passover Food Project

ESSEN-tials (in partnership with Rachel's Table)

Educational Presentations
Jewish Poverty Initiative

Older Adults

Legal Guardianship & Conservatorship Aging in Place/Case Management In-home Counseling Caregiver Support Groups Educational Workshops

New Americans

Refugee Resettlement Intensive Case Management Cultural Adjustment Support Youth Adjustment Services Employment Training and Placement
English as a Second Language
Adult Education Services
Trafficking Victims Assistance

Citizenship & Immigration

Citizenship Instruction & Application Preparation Immigration and Family Reunification Petitions

Citizenship Classes and Tutoring

Behavioral Health

Individual, Couples & Family Outpatient Therapy

In-Home Therapy for Youth & Their Families (IHT) Refugee Mental Health Cultural Broker (CSP)

Therapeutic Mentoring Program for Refugee Youth

Volunteer

Life Refugee Youth Mentoring Citizenship Tutors English Language & Pre-Employment Skills Support Refugee Resettlement Support





