

JFS: OUR RECIPE FOR HUMANITY

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF WASHTENAW COUNTY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

A Statement from JFS Leadership

Dear Friends,

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County has reached a milestone 25th birthday. The agency has grown from a staff of one half-time director to a staff of 60 and from a small, one-room office helping a few refugee families rebuild their lives to becoming Washtenaw County's premier human services agency, serving thousands of residents every year. Five years ago, 900 individuals utilized the food pantry; last year over 7,000 individuals were provided with food and nutritional products or home delivery.

Whether you were born in another country or right here in Michigan, raised in comfort or in poverty, rescued from a war-torn country or from the despair of depression, you are equally welcomed and served by JFS. Regardless of the need, or ability to pay, nobody is turned away. Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County meets the needs of the most vulnerable members in our community.

Unfortunately, the needs in our community continue to grow. Children need to be fed, bills need to be paid in a timely manner, and rent has to be covered. More meals need to be served, more rides provided, more people accompanied to doctor visits, more families resettled, more women trained to start businesses, and more families counseled.

JFS depends on grants and contracts to provide all these services to young and old. Due to financial constraints and funding volatility within which this agency operates, we are experiencing significant funding losses for our Specialty Food Pantry, Transportation Services, and Crisis Assistance Program. This means there are reduced funds for purchasing baby food, providing transportation for older adults and supplying a safety net for struggling families.

As a community, we have an obligation to care for people – to nurture and support those in need so that everyone can live with dignity. This is a difficult task, requiring extensive resources that continually need to be renewed and replenished. Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County urges you to consider renewing your commitment to our community.

As you think about your gift, please consider the difference you will make for individuals relying on us. We are blessed to be in this community and thankful for the generosity and kindness of our neighbors and friends.

With appreciation,



Susan Fisher
President



Anya Abramzon
Executive Director

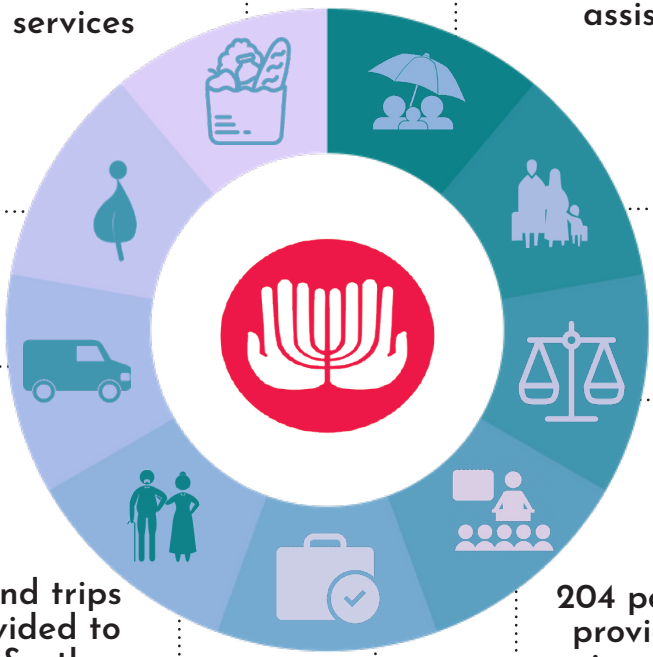
Community Impact

6,975 people received food & specialty items

179 clients received financial assistance or crisis services

218 immigrants received resettlement & post-resettlement assistance

326 individuals accessed Thrive counseling services



204 people were provided legal immigration services

6,350 round trips were provided to medical & other appointments

206 people received English as a Second Language & Civics education

691 older adults benefited from a wide variety of services

781 people received employment or career services

January 1 - December 31, 2017

Their stories are some of many...



Shelley, a single mother of two young children, recently left an abusive relationship. She works part-time but does not make enough money to feed her family; she previously depended on her partner for household expenses. Now, she must choose between purchasing food and paying her electric bill. JFS provided her with dignity and respect, by assisting Shelley with obtaining food and financial resources to keep her family safe.

Evelyn, age 73, is burdened with a diet-related chronic disease and needs nutritional supplements. She comes to JFS for these supplements because it is the only food pantry in Washtenaw County that supplies medical diets. JFS allows Evelyn to age in place as she progresses to the next stage in life.



Your support enables JFS to create positive experiences

Messages from Our Clients:

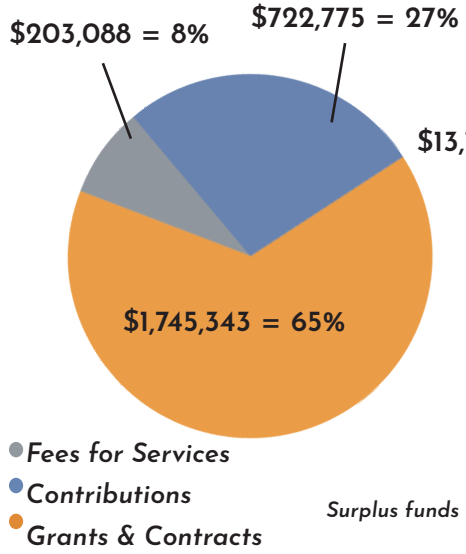
> ***My counselor is wonderful! I have had some bad experiences in counseling, so I was a little reluctant to try it again. But she is a helpful, calming, rational influence in my life and has made a real difference.***

> ***I am glad I can go somewhere that is affiliated with my religion, but is open to everyone.***

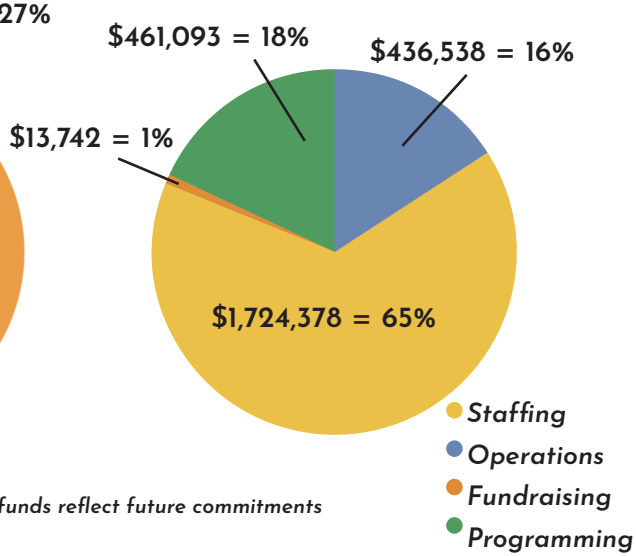
As JFS continues to further our mission, we are reminded of the lives we touch and the impact we make within OUR community.

2017 Financials

Revenues - $2,671,206

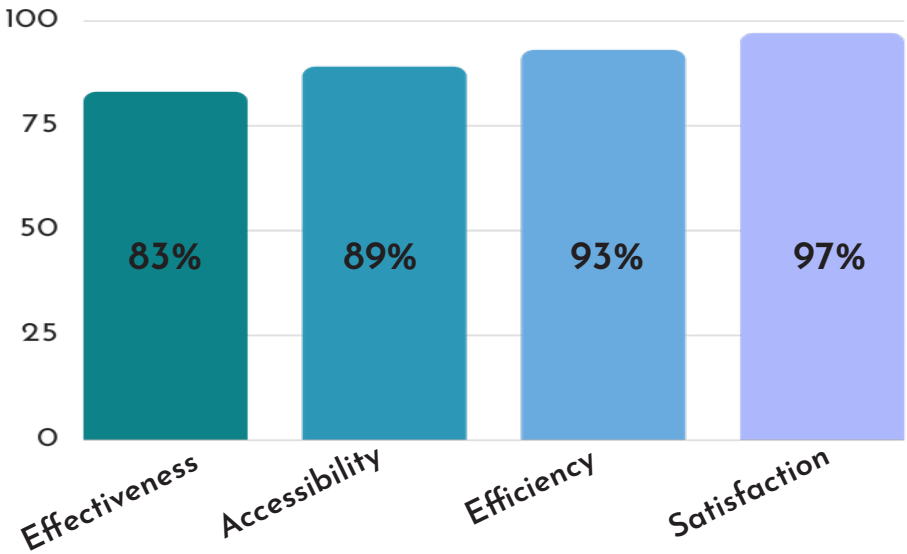


Expenses - $2,625,751



Surplus funds reflect future commitments

Program Survey Results Based on Client Feedback



CHARITY NAVIGATOR ★★★★ Four Star Charity

JFS has been recognized as a coveted 4-star rated charity for demonstrating strong financial health as well as commitment to accountability and transparency.