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.

1600 individuals strengthen their Jewish connections
88 immigrants become U.S. citizens
Resettle 63 refugees fleeing religious and political persecution
1174 new Americans become engaged and self-sufficient community members
420 individuals cope with life’s challenges through counseling
245 older adults maintain their independence
Protect 39 vulnerable elders from abuse
32 caregivers connect and support each other
Match 135 volunteers with opportunities to give of themselves
Educate over 1244 community members on humanitarian issues facing our world
1219 individuals get counted for the 2020 Census

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
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It is my privilege to write this letter of thanks to each and every one of our dedicated donors, staff, volunteers, and board members who have faithfully stood by JFS during a time of great challenge to our country and to our world. Covid 19 is a global pandemic and a collective trauma that has brought psychological and societal challenges. It is important to remember that although Covid is a collective trauma, it has not impacted people equally.

Jewish Family Service has demonstrated resilience in the face of adversity, recognizing the importance of continuing to provide much needed services. With your dedicated commitment to its mission, on March 16, JFS was able to enthusiastically move from in person to remote programming to continue to serve our immigrant and refugee community. One highlight of JFS’s remote, creative programming was the successful collaboration with the Jewish Community Center to bring “camp in a box” to the homes of over 400 children, demonstrating the tenacity of Jewish Family Service’s dedicated staff.

An Israeli social psychologist Dr. Gilad Hirschberger, in a 2018 article in Frontiers in Psychology, writes about the importance of establishing meaning and staying connected during a time of collective trauma. JFS has taken a leadership role in helping our community stay connected, reaffirming the spirit of Tikkun olam – “repairing the world.”

Thank you, thank you to the Jewish Family Service community for rising to the occasion to do what you could, while struggling with your own personal challenges, and for showing how to stay safe and stay connected.

Sincerely,

Joan Lesser, PhD