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## JSS Welcomes Dawn Berney as Executive Director

Linda Reivitz, President of the Jewish Social Services Board of Directors, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dawn Berney as the agency's new executive director effective September 1st. According to Reivitz, Ms. Berney is a "perfect fit" for the position.

"She has the program knowledge we need," Reivitz said, "as well as experience in strategic planning and evaluation. Beyond that she and her family are long time volunteers for JSS. She knows well our programs and the needs of our clients." Reivitz said special thanks are due to the members of search committee ~ Howard Fried, Kris Rasmussen, Nan Youngerman, and Rochelle Klaskin ~ for their diligence and hard work.

Also, we thank Terrie Goren for her commitment to the agency over the past five years. Terrie brought JSS through the transition from sharing an executive director with the Jewish Federation of Madison to having its own executive director. We are very grateful to her for all of her work through this time.

Below is a letter of introduction from Dawn Berney.

### **Greetings, supporters and friends,**

My name is Dawn Berney, and I would like to introduce myself to you as the new Executive Director of JSS. I am eager to have the privilege to lead this organization. There is no doubt that this is an exciting time for

Jewish Social Services as we begin a new chapter in our story.

In my role as Executive Director, it will be my pleasure to work with each of you, and our dedicated staff, to meet the needs of our community, grow the number of volunteers who help JSS provide care, and raise the funds and awareness necessary to ensure that we can help those in our community in need of assistance.

I hope to meet many of you soon. Until then, I thought you might want to know a little something about me.

Family is extremely important to me and the source of my drive to give back to others. In fact, it was my lack of family in Madison that first brought me to Jewish Social Services. Ten years ago we didn't have any family in Madison. I wanted my children to have the opportunity to get to know community members of older generations. We began to volunteer at Oakwood Village's monthly Shabbat Gatherings when my daughters were four and one. Last year some of the Oakwood residents joined in the celebration of our eldest daughter's Bat Mitzvah! Volunteering with Jewish Social Services has been a highlight of our time in Madison. Becoming the Executive Director is an extension of that.

I have a Bachelor's of Arts in political science from the University of Chicago and a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell

## JSS Welcomes Dawn Berney *as Executive Director*

**(Continued from page 1)**

School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, thus proving that I can handle the cold! Professionally and personally, I have used my degrees to work for nonprofits and state agencies. I have worked in a number of roles from synagogue president to program director to evaluation specialist. I look forward to using all of my experience and skills to ensure Jewish Social Services continues and expands its remarkable programs.

Thank you to Terrie Goren for teaching me the nuts and bolts of JSS.

I plan to work alongside you to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. By working together, we can have a lasting impact across Madison and Dane County. Thank you for all you do and for being part of Jewish Social Services! At the end of the day, we can't achieve our goals without you. You can reach me via email at [dberney@jssmadison.org](mailto:dberney@jssmadison.org). Please contact me if you are interested in partnering with us by contributing your skills, your dollars, or your passion - any one of those gifts helps ensure that our communities are cared for with dignity.

I encourage your involvement and welcome your ideas. Please feel free to contact me with your comments, suggestions, or concerns. **And THANKS AGAIN for what you have already done.**

**Warmest regards,**

Dawn Berney  
*Executive Director*

# A Family Reunited!

**A**s the Madison community ushered in the year 2015, a young family was reunited. Three years ago a young professional won the green card lottery and was given the opportunity to immigrate to the United States. He arrived, adjusted to a new climate and a new culture, found employment and a new community. He worked hard, picking up overtime when possible and exhausting himself physically at a job for which he was overqualified. This gentleman saved as much money as he could but also sent some back to his home country, where his family waited.

His wife, an educated young woman with three small children, worked patiently as she plodded through the visa process to gain access to the US. Several months ago, the family had a chance to see each other briefly in a nearby country, in order to move the immigration process along. What followed was another long wait, with this young father setting money aside to purchase plane tickets for his wife and children.

Finally, as the ball dropped at twelve o'clock on New Year's Day, this lovely family was able to embrace each other once more.

This was just the start of their journey, together, in the United States. Looking for guidance, the family reached out to Jewish Social Services and was quickly connected with our Individual and Family Services social worker. Katy Polich, MSW helped assess their needs, and then aided them in the process of getting settled. She provided advocacy and assistance with locating appropriate affordable housing, determining which community benefits the family was eligible for, accessing clothing and supplies for the children, finding necessary medical care, and connecting with the Madison Metropolitan School District. Jewish Social Services helped the family arrange their move to their new home in March. This young couple reports much gratitude for the opportunities that have been offered to them. Jewish Social Services will continue to be part of their support system, as they continue to enrich our community.



# Thank You

for Volunteering  
January 2014 – May 2015

**A**ll of us at JSS are deeply grateful for the invaluable contributions of all Jewish Social Services volunteers, whether in direct service, during a Social Recreation program, on the board of directors or committee or pro bono. We do our best, but sometimes we inadvertently omit a name. Please let us know if we have done so and accept our sincere apologies.

Lillian Abrams	Barbara Dickey	Steve Goldstein	Lorna Kniaz
BBYO Jake Heifetz Chapter	Cari DiTullio	Jerry Goodman	Judy Knupp
Betsy Abramson	Annette Durkin	David Gordon	Larry Kohn
Care Sharing Volunteers	Nena Dyhr	Jason Gorman	Leah Kolb
Congregation Shaarei Shamayim Youth	Nina Edelman	Yolanda Gorman	Kolosovskiy Family
Currach Irish Band	Lori Edelstein	Stacy Graff	Joshua Kraus
Hilde Adler	Leslie Eisenberg	Betty Gray	Judy Kravat
Samantha Angelina	Jordan Ellenberg	Robert Greenberg	Diane Kravetz
Tamara Angelina	Barb Esser	Megan Gross	Helaine Kriegel
Attic Angels	Sandra Farkas	Rosalind Gusinow	Merilyn Kupferberg
Livia Asher	Bentzi Feldman	Betsy Haimson	Renata Laxova
Genrikh Babich	Laura Fernandez	Bezalel Haimson	Joan Lerman
Bonnie Banker	Lynda Finn	Helen Hanau	Stuart Levitan
Janelle Bentley	Laurel Fleischmann	Linda Hancock	Jeffrey Levy
Peter Benton	Jane Fox	Laura Heisler	Ike Lewis
Dorit Bergen	Lois Frank	Hillel Foundation	David Lipman
Lonnie Berger	Celia Freedland	Marnie Hulan	Alice Loew
Dawn Berney	Howard Fried	Kristine Juarez Bautista	Bill Malone
MOUSY	Jessie Garcia	Dori Kalish-Huza	Bobbie Malone
Sandra Bierman	Denny Geller	Joanie Kanter	Rick Margolis
Laila Borokhim	Amanda Gennerman	Corliss Karasov	Margaret Maroney
Paul Buhle	Barry Gidal	Judy Karofsky	MaTTY
Judy Clark	William Ginsberg	Sara Karon	Kathy Mazur
Marsha Cohen	Irwin Goldman	Estelle Katz	Lauren Mazur
Sheila Cohen	Naomi Goldman-Nagel	Harsha Keister	Erin McGrath
Ruth Conniff	Les Goldsmith	King Family	Barbara McKinney
	Herman Goldstein	Rachelle Klaskin	

**Continued on page 4**

## Thank You to JSS Volunteers (continued)

Eileen Meshart	Maria Rojas-Monroy	Julie Snyder	Barbara Tuerkheimer
Linda Miller	Shira Rosenthal Phelps	Debbie Spear	Jennifer Ullman
Mel Morgenbesser	Olga Roubachkina	Kelsey Spencer	Daniel Ussishkin
Tally Moses	Conor Ryan	Bunny Spitz	Ellen Weismer and Family
Ramona Natera	Joy Schmidt	Lia Stark	Jean Weissburg
Philip Noinaj	Darlene Schwartz	Barry Stern	Rev. Bill White
Bobbi Nowak	Diane Seder	David Sulman	Meg Wise
Doug Olson	David Seligman	Joshua Sulman	Janis Wrich
Pamela Phillips Olson	Gillian Sender	Clara Sweet z'l	Yid Vicious Klezmer Ensemble
Danny Pekarsky	Sundays with Sharon	Jordan Taylor	James Youngerman
Franklynn Peterson	Nadav Shelef	Barbara Myers Temkin	Nan Youngerman
Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students	Karen Shevet Dinah	David Tenenbaum	Fima Zaltsman
Judy Pierotti	Charlie Shoham		
Rachel Pinkesz	Judy Sidran		
Laura Polin	Lauren Siech		
Leland Potter	Eve-Lynn Siegel		
Jennifer Pressman	Ruth Siegel		
Michael Pressman	Karen Sielaff		
Kris Rasmussen	Marc Silberman		
Linda Reivitz	Jeanne Silverberg		
Retro Swing Band	Jan Silvers		

## REFLECTIONS FROM TERRIE GOREN

It has been a pleasure to serve as JSS' first full time Executive Director. Since 2010, JSS has seen tremendous growth as we have evolved as an independent agency. In order for an organization to move forward, one must understand from where it has come. As I reflect back to the beginning of my tenure at JSS, I recall the challenge of learning, exploring, and understanding so that we as an agency could move forward. I am very proud of all that has been accomplished. The strength of JSS is immense and permeates through the staff, the board, and our corps of volunteers and through the commitment of hundreds of donors. Being at the helm and working with our staff and board these past five years has been an inspiring process. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the community. As I hand over the reins of this wonderful organization to Dawn Berney, I am confident that JSS will continue to grow and thrive.

## Levy 2015 SUMMER SERIES

The Tree of Life: *Jewish Roots and Cultural Reflections*

NAKOMA GOLF CLUB | 4145 Country Club Rd, Madison  
11:30am-2:00pm | Check-in begins at 11:00am | Cost per event \$14

TUES. JUNE 9

**DANNY SIEGEL**

*"There's No Such Thing as a Small Mitzvah"*

So many of us want to be agents for positive change, yet the world's problems appear intimidating and intractable. It can seem all but impossible for one person to make a real difference. "Mitzvah Man" Danny Siegel empowers people to understand how they truly can change the world more than they had realized, one small mitzvah at a time.

WED. JUNE 24

**YOHANAN PETROVSKY-SHTERN**

*"The Golden Age Shtetl"*

Petrovsky-Shtern proposes that the shtetl from the 1790's-1840's was a vibrant community with a rich social and economic life based on cooperation among Catholic landowners, Tsarist administration and the economic activities of the Jews. Petrovsky-Shtern brings alive the trade, taverns, family and religious life that characterized what he calls the "Golden Age Shtetl."

TUES. JULY 7

**MERYLL PAGE & LESLIE ADLER**

*"Jewish Luck"*

*Jewish Luck* recounts the stories of two women in their struggles against the anti-Semitism and patriarchy of the Soviet regime and Russia. Co-authors and sisters Meryll Page and Leslie Adler will examine the family histories of Vera and Alisa, as well as the Soviet reality that combined with the two women's personalities to create very ambitious and successful women.

WED. JULY 22

**STEVE NADLER**

*"Spinoza and Secular Judaism"*

Spinoza is often credited with being the first to conceive the notion of secular Judaism. However, Spinoza's views on Judaism are fairly complex, and seem in fact to rule out Judaism without observance of Jewish law. We will consider these questions from the perspective of both Spinoza's life and his philosophy.

TUES. AUGUST 4

**JEFF BLAKELY** *"Sennacherib, Emperor of Assyria, versus Hezekiah, King of Judah"*

Based on accounts in the books of *Isaiah, Kings, and Chronicles*, the *Histories* of Herodotus, historical accounts from ancient Assyria, works of art from Sennacherib's palace in Assyria, and the archaeology of biblical sites in ancient Judah, one can recreate and illustrate the military confrontation between Sennacherib and Hezekiah in 701 BCE, when Assyria destroyed all of biblical Judah except for Jerusalem.

WED. AUGUST 19

**MARK BLOOM** *"Prayticipation, Prayformance & the Prevolution"*

Jewish sacred music has been shaped by elements far and wide. Beginning with the ancient psalms attributed to King David's inspired holiness through the oral legacy of Cantorial chant, the Jewish melodic journey has encompassed a unique collection of cultural hybrids, while maintaining an identifiable essence from Judaism's core.

**JSS**  
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Call (608) 278-1808 or visit [www.jssmadison.org](http://www.jssmadison.org)

## JSS Offers A Sincere

# Thank You

for Your Tribute Gifts

*The following contributions were recorded between November 16, 2014 and May 15, 2015.*

### **IN HONOR OF:**

*Staff of Jewish Social Services of Madison*  
Judith Pierotti

*Janice Beers' BIA Service*  
Maria Cancian and Charles Kalish

*Janice Beers' Birthday*  
Barbara Spierer

*Dawn Berney*  
Leslie and Stuart Berney  
Nena and Thomas Dyhr

*Louis C. Bernhardt*  
Stanley Kutler z"l

*The Birth of Davi M. Curasi-Diamond*  
Stephen and Lillian Abrams

*Stanley Goldfarb and Sandra Arnn's Marriage*  
Stanley Goldfarb and Sandra Arnn

*Frannie R. Goldstein*  
Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen

*Louise Goldstein's Birthday*  
Barbara Spierer

*Diane S. Gutmann*  
Larry and Marla Frank

*Betsy Haimson's Birthday*  
Janneke Baske  
Nancy Loewenstein

*Anna Heifetz*  
Natalie Borenstein and Anna's Torah Class

*Ethan Hoffman's graduation*  
Judith and Jeffrey Ross

*Lois Keisler's Birthday*  
Elana Elstein and Jeffrey Keisler

*Erwin Landon's Birthday*  
Allan and Sandra Levin

*Abraham Landsman*  
Nancy Dodge and David Watts

*Jonathan and Susan Lipp's Anniversary*  
Jonathon and Rebecca Kaiser

*Annabelle Loeb's Speedy Recovery*  
Betty Shovers

*Annabelle Loeb's Special Birthday*  
Betty Shovers and Family

*Annabelle and Archie Loeb's Special Anniversary*  
Betty Shovers and Family

*Yoel Margolis' Bar Mitzvah*  
Irene and Barry Mirkin

*The Birth of Daigo Daniel Meyer*  
Ellen Meyer

*Beth Moszkowicz's Birthday*  
Gary Seltzer

*Katy Polich's New Position at JSS*  
Michael and Mary Subkoviak

*Martin Preizler's Birthday*  
Stephen and Linda Kailin

*Linda Reivitz's Presidency*  
Milton and Jacki Friend  
Daniel and Bettine Lipman

*Adam Schottenstein's Bar Mitzvah*  
Stephen and Linda Kailin

*Sophie and Dean Shaffer*  
Brinnan Shaffer

*David Sharkansky's Bar Mitzvah*  
Ina Sharkansky

*Karen R. Shevet Dinah's New Position at JSS*  
Abraham Landsman

*The Birth of Abigail Jordon Silton*  
Stephen and Lillian Abrams

*Jeanne and Joe Silverberg*  
Cindy and David Kamps

*People of Skokie, Illinois*  
Anonymous

*Francie Smith Saposnik*  
William and Corliss Karasov

*Barbara Spierer's Retirement*  
Stephen and Lillian Abrams

Janneke Baske  
Janice Beers  
Ronee Bergman  
Richard Bowman and Judith Ross  
Maria Cancian and Charles Kalish  
Debra Davis

Nancy Dodge and David Watts  
Miriam Farber  
Gary Friedman and  
Bonnie Denmark Friedman  
Milton and Jacki Friend  
Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen

**Continued on page 6**

## How Tributes Help

We appreciate when you honor and remember others with a gift to JSS. Gifts that are unrestricted in nature allow JSS to use them where the greatest needs exist.

**Cards notifying the honoree or family are sent immediately.**

Every donation means a great deal to us. We have made every effort to make sure our thank you lists are accurate and complete, but if we have inadvertently neglected to list your name, please let us know. Call Elena Robbins, 608-278-1808. **Thank you.**

## Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

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### *Barbara Spierer's Retirement cont.*

Jerilyn Goodman  
Gail Jacob and Henry Steinberger  
William and Corliss Karasov  
Irwin and Helen Klibaner  
Lawrence Kohn and Laurie Buchalter  
Tatyana Kudinenko and Sergei Saveliev  
Kenneth Kushner and Erica Serlin  
Howard and Judith Landsman  
Heidi and Charles Lauhon  
Cheryl Kapell Lerner  
Daniel and Bettine Lipman  
Jonathan and Susan Lipp  
Rona Malofsky  
Laurel Mark  
Deborah Martin  
Irene and Barry Mirkin  
Michael and Cheryl Moskoff  
Alan Orenberg  
Thomas Palay and Diane Gutmann  
Betty Pristera  
Robert Radwin and Pamela Potter  
Kris Rasmussen and Robert Factor  
Joan and Kenneth Riggs  
Judith Schreiber  
Melvin and Dorothy Siedband  
Francie Smith Saposnik and Herbert Lewis  
Gerald and Vicki Stewart  
Rochelle Stillman  
Michael and Mary Subkoviak  
Julie Swedarsky  
Rayla Temin  
Phyllis and Stephen Wainger  
Deena and Peter Williams  
Mindy Wiseman and Mark Evans  
Judith Zukerman Kaufman

### *Georgia Wagner's Good Health*

Merilyn and Joel Kupferberg

### *Dottie Weiner*

Judy Kravat, Ina Sharkansky,  
Diane Lezama, and Sherry Minkus

### *The Birth of Eliana S. Weiner*

Fay Nager

### *Mindy S. Wiseman*

Neil Lerner and Judith Collins

### *Alene Wiseman's 85th Birthday*

Mindy Wiseman and Mark Evans

### *Becca Youngerman's Engagement*

Niles and Linda Berman

### *Nan Youngerman*

Daniel and Bettine Lipman

## **IN MEMORY OF:**

### *Michael H. Ashe*

Bill and Bunny Spitz

### *Anatole Beck*

Stephen and Lillian Abrams  
Edward and Muffin Alschuler  
Lawrence and Sharon Barish  
Pearl and John Fantle  
Gary Friedman and  
Bonnie Denmark Friedman  
Neil Gleason  
David and Estelle Goldenberg  
Simon and Billie Hellerstein  
Stephen and Linda Kailin  
Daniel and Kathy Levin  
Rosalind Levin  
Daniel and Bettine Lipman  
Judith and Jeffrey Ross  
Joel Sacks  
Ruth Ann Schumeister  
Eve-Lynn Siegel  
Rose Sime  
Julie Swedarsky  
Suzann and Steven Yussen

### *Kurt and Livia Bergen*

Dorit Bergen

### *Frederick M. Boris*

Lois Stoler

### *Joan Buchalter*

Sue Baumblatt

### *George Calden*

Abraham Landsman

### *Vera Croner*

Brenda and Cary McNatt

### *Sarah Cutler*

Abraham Landsman

### *Bill Dodge*

Abraham Landsman

### *Tauba and Rosa Dubrovskaya*

Roman and Maria Dubrovsky

### *Allan Green*

Judith Green and Margie Zamora

### *Dolores C. Green*

James and Nancy Youngerman

### *Julius Heifetz*

Eve-Lynn Siegel

### *Cara Hoffert*

Gunderson Funeral Homes  
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Shari Cohn and Gary Mitchell

Andy and Esther Dosick

Doris and Richard Dubielzig

Gary Friedman and

Bonnie Denmark Friedman

Milton and Jacki Friend

Paul Grossberg and Dean Ziemke

Sheldon Harris

Kenneth Kushner and Erica Serlin

Janet Mertz and Jonathan Kane

Thomas Palay and Diane Gutmann

Francie Smith Saposnik and Herbert Lewis

Barbara Spierer

### *Mabel R. Hokin*

Bernard Biales

### *Babette Isaacson*

Ellen Louise and Howard Schwartz

### *Esther Kalish*

Dori Kalish

### *Beyla Katz*

Sophia and Marat Katz

### *Jack Kaufman*

Shari Cohn and Gary Mitchell

### *Stanley Kutler*

Harry and Karen Roth

Judy and Ben Sidran

### *Stanley H. Langer*

Hope Langer Gertler and Bert Langer Goldberg

### *Ruby and Jacques Lugassy*

Irene Geller

### *Anne Marion*

Ave Bie

Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

Kris Rasmussen and Robert Factor

Gary z"l and Laurie Schmidt

### *Bernardo Morgensteren*

Thomas Palay and Diane Gutmann

Eve-Lynn Siegel

### *Daniel L. Pierotti*

Gail Jacob and Henry Steinberger

### *Sanford Ross*

Barbara Spierer

### *Elaine R. Sackin*

Roberta Kunin

Harry and Karen Roth

### *Elisabeth Scharlack*

Roberta Kunin

Lawrence and Linda Shriberg

James and Nancy Youngerman

## Thank You for Your Tribute Gifts *(continued)*

*Diane Schwam*

Emanuel Schwam

*Marrian and Sidney Schwartz*

Frede Hammes

*Nadine Shapiro*

Jeanne and Joseph Silverberg

*Martin D. Siegel*

Diane Seder and Bruce Rosen

*Dorothy Silver Prussack*

Larry and Beatrice Harris

*Carole Sonduck*

Michael Sonduck

*Sylvia G. Sugerman*

Bobbie and Bill Malone

*Clara Sweet*

Sally Jamison

*Harold Tarkow*

Theodore and Margie Tarkow

*Solomon Volpiansky*

Paula Volpiansky and Larry Chapman

*Joseph Weisblum*

Bernard Weisblum

*Linda L. Willis*

Bill and Bunny Spitz



## JSS welcomes Elena Robbins as Administrative Manager

**I**n January of 2015 Elena Robbins eagerly stepped into her new role as the Administrative Manager for Jewish Social Services. She came to JSS seeking a career that would be beneficial to the local community. Raised in the suburbs of Chicago, her family placed the principle of helping others as a high priority. Participating in outreach programs with the Epilepsy Foundation and closely aiding her mother in offering services to children with autism, Elena found herself interested in a nonprofit sector career. Reflecting on her upbringing, she states, “My parents naturally incorporated the idea of tikkun olam (repairing the world) into our childhood, right next to eating vegetables and going to school.” In 2011, she graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and International Relations. During her time at UIC she also worked in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on campus, assisting her fellow students while honing her administrative skills.

Elena then moved to Madison to complete the Professional French

Masters Program with an emphasis on International Development and Nonprofit Management. While pursuing her degree, she completed an internship with a women’s health organization (RENATA) in Yaoundé, Cameroon, aiding heavily stigmatized minority groups in the West African country. It was truly an edifying experience, allowing her to gain perspective on life in a foreign country, as well as the inner-workings of a nonprofit organization.

Over the past few months, Elena has enjoyed finding her place at JSS and getting to know her co-workers. Some of her projects include sending out the monthly electronic newsletter, creating flyers, aiding in data management and event registration, and designing the new Haggadah used at the senior Passover seders. As someone with a background in international relations, Elena has found aiding JSS Immigration Services with their frequent workshops particularly interesting. She has felt an overwhelming sense of community among all those involved with JSS and hopes to remain a part of the organization for a very long time.

### Turn your tzoris into a mitzvah-

*A charitable gift to Jewish Social Services  
and help individuals in critical need:*

- Frail elders
- Individuals with disabilities
- Troubled families
- Refugees and immigrants
- And hundreds of others of your neighbors, friends and relatives

It’s easy—with your vehicle title in hand—call us! Towing is free!

**Jewish Social Services, 608-278-1808.**



# Planning for Transition Home after Hospitalization or Rehab

**S**pending time in the hospital or in a rehab facility can be stressful, but with proper planning and support, your transition home can be made much easier.

In order to ensure a smooth transition, it is necessary to begin thinking about it as early as possible. Identifying key people to assist in the plan is important. In general, the facility social worker is in charge of assisting patients with coordinating care needs. You may request a care conference so that you, your family and/or other support persons, hospital/rehab case manager and medical staff can review your progress and anticipate what your needs will be at time of discharge. If you have had a long rehab stay, having another meeting close to your discharge date is important. Come prepared with a list of questions and take notes. It is helpful to have a family member/caregiver present to take notes as it may be difficult to absorb everything that is being discussed.

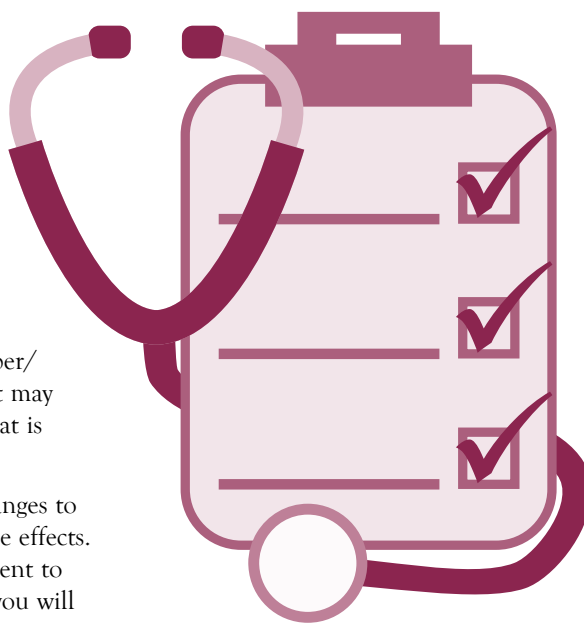
Make sure you understand any changes to your medications and potential side effects. Ask to have needed prescriptions sent to the pharmacy before you leave. If you will need home health care such as OT or PT, the physician will need to write an order for that. Be sure you understand any new precautions or care you may need to follow.

People often confuse home health and home care services. Home health is a Medicare-covered benefit and is provided for a limited period of time as long as you need skilled home health such as PT/OT/RN. A shower aide may be provided for as long as you are receiving skilled services. You must be home bound while receiving home health.

Home care is considered an unskilled service and is NOT covered by Medicare. Unless you have long term care insurance, you pay out-of-pocket. Home care services may include assisting with personal cares such as dressing, bathing, and toileting. It may also include housekeeping, shopping and meal preparation, depending upon

your needs. If you will need home health or home care services those arrangements should ideally be made prior to discharge.

It is important to plan ahead for any needed adaptations in your home or any equipment, such as a hospital bed, a walker or wheelchair, or a shower stool and grab bars in the bathroom. Remove items that may cause falls, such as area rugs and cords, and reduce excess clutter to allow for easy passage from room to room.



You may need to ask someone to shop for groceries and fill your prescriptions so these will be ready upon your return.

Keep any follow-up doctor's appointments. Call your doctor ASAP if you experience any symptoms/warning signs once you return home.

The JSS Senior Services Specialist is available to help you with these transitions. If needed, we may attend care plan meetings and help advocate for the patient. We can help guide you through the process of choosing a home care agency, obtaining equipment/home adaptations and connect you with other resources. Once you return home we can check in to see if your needs are being met.

Good planning, preparation and follow up are the keys to avoiding re-hospitalization.

## LEAVE A LEGACY TO JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

Of the many ways in which people can contribute to Jewish Social Services, planned giving options offer donors unique and meaningful ways in which to support JSS's mission today, while leaving a legacy for future generations. The benefits of planned giving stretch beyond the immediate need. They help JSS prepare for the future by ensuring our ability to continually provide services and programs to enrich the lives of those we serve.

If you have not included JSS in your estate plans, the following are some of the most popular methods to accomplish your goal. The advice of an attorney or qualified financial planner is necessary to assess your personal situation and help you to decide which options might best serve your goals:

- Charitable Bequest
- Gifts of Life Insurance
- Retirement Plan Assets

If you would like further information on providing for Jewish Social Services in your estate plans, please contact Mindy Wiseman, OTR/L at 608-278-1808. Jewish Social Services does not provide tax or legal advice and the information herein is not intended as legal, tax, or investment advice.





# Did you know..?

- In 2014, JSS served over 800 individuals
- Half had incomes < \$25,000
- More than one in four had a disability
- JSS volunteers provided over 4,000 hours of service
- JSS volunteer attorneys provided over 600 hours of pro bono legal immigration services
- JSS provided 64 different programs to the community

## Jewish Social Services of Madison

Linda Reivitz, *President*  
president@jssmadison.org

Dawn Berney, MPA  
*Executive Director*  
dberney@jssmadison.org

*Services to Individuals  
& Families Under Stress*  
Katy Polich, MSSW, CISW  
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*Senior Services*  
Mindy Wiseman, OTR/L  
mwiseman@jssmadison.org

*Immigrant & Refugee Services*  
Janice Beers, MA  
janice@jssmadison.org

*Volunteer Services*  
Louise Goldstein, APSW, CVA  
louise@jssmadison.org

*Vehicle Donations*  
office@jssmadison.org

JSS Main Office 608-278-1808

## Connections

Dawn Berney, *Editor*

American Printing Company, *Design*

## INTERNATIONAL CORNER



### Living in America – Perspective of an Immigration Services Client

*This article was written by a client of our Immigration Services program. While she was eager to share her story, we have respectfully left out her name in order to grant her request for anonymity.*

**M**y family and I came from Mexico to the U.S. when I was about four years old. We came because we were living in extreme poverty. Even though my father worked sunrise to sunset we could not get ahead. We lived in a small one room house with dirt floors. The house was falling apart, and we had no heat or air conditioning. We were also fleeing from all the violence that was taking place. There was always the fear that you would get mugged, kidnapped, or killed.

When we arrived here we moved in with family in Minnesota. I faced numerous challenges adapting to the many changes I experienced in the U.S. Our first obstacle was the language. I was able to quickly pick up English, but my parents could not. At the young age of five, I became my parents' translator. As a result, I matured more quickly than other kids my age. I was dealing with adults and "adult things" on a regular basis; however, I do not regret this. Being bilingual opened more doors for me than I ever imagined possible. Another obstacle we had to overcome was the weather. We were used to the warm weather in Mexico. However, we quickly adapted to the freezing cold weather in Minnesota out of necessity. Growing up, I was also faced with the reality of racism. I realized at a young age that people are discriminated against because of the way they look. The experience that I recall the most happened at the hospital. In my opinion a hospital has the obligation to help anyone regardless of race, gender, or sexual preference. Unfortunately, that was not the case when my mom needed to go in for a cardiac test. The doctor there refused to perform the test on my mother because of the color of her skin. Many people witnessed this event, but not one person stood up for us. We had no choice but to wait hours for a different doctor to perform the test. Unfortunately for us, racism is still a very real part of our lives. One day I will hopefully be able to say that we have overcome this obstacle too.

Thanks to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) I am able to drive, work, and travel inside the U.S. Even though

this permit is not a path to citizenship, it has given me freedom that I did not have before. For example DACA has allowed me to obtain my license at the same time the rest of my classmates have, and I can now travel with my friends to see the beautiful sights of this country. My dream is to eventually travel all over the world. I would also like to participate in international humanitarian work. Unfortunately, for right now those dreams are put on hold. I am hoping for immigration reform in the near future. This would not only allow me to fulfill my dreams, it would also allow my family to stay together. Ever since I was a little girl I have lived with the fear that my parents would be taken away from me at any second. Sometimes I would stay up all night to make sure nothing bad happened. However, going to school was what I dreaded the most. I always feared that my parents were going to be taken away when I was at school. No one should have to live with the fear that I did and still do. My parents will be eligible to apply for Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) because my two younger siblings were born in the United States. With DAPA there is hope for my family staying together. My siblings and I will be able to live without the fear of never seeing our parents again. Also my parents will be able to work, drive, and travel inside the United States.

I am very thankful to Jewish Social Services for all their help. Janice was extremely helpful, caring, and professional throughout the whole process. She was there for me every step of the way, and was always there to answer my questions. In addition she checked up on me after her job was done. My family was able to afford professional help from Jewish Social Services because of their low fees. They also go out of their way to get information out to as many people as they can. They recently held an educational session on DAPA. Both my parents and I attended. They presented a lot of useful information, and they had many people to whom we could talk to if we had questions. Jewish Social Services is the place to go if you want a professional and caring environment.

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## CONNECTIONS

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## VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

### Charlie Shoham, "Why Not?"

One way or another, Charlie Shoham has been helping people all his life. When he was a child, his older brother was injured in a terrible automobile accident; the therapies that helped his brother recover left a strong impression on Charlie. As a result, Charlie chose to become a rehabilitation physician, developing skills and attitudes that proved important when he became a caregiver for his late wife, Sue Ann. When he himself became disabled later in life, he found that volunteering provided a way for him to continue to help people. He uses this professional expertise and personal experience while serving on the Access to Independence Board of Directors.

Charlie is a cheerful man, down-to-earth and open-hearted. His tendency is to see that there's a way to do something rather than to lament that it's difficult or impossible. In the four years that Charlie has been volunteering for Jewish Social Services, many JSS volunteers have benefited from this attitude. Charlie has also developed long-lasting relationships with those he helps. On a weekly basis for the past four years, he visits with an elderly man with dementia and patiently listens to his stories and questions.

**“Why not, if I can be helpful, and I really enjoy getting to know these people.”**

This has provided some much-needed respite for the man's wife and enriched both of their lives.

Charlie has also been a Friendly Visitor for a couple of years for a middle-aged woman with disabilities who feels isolated, rarely leaving her apartment. He visits her twice weekly for two hours at a time.

The woman is very social and loves to converse, so she and Charlie are a very good match and seem to share endless topics of interest. She wrote us a note saying, “I just wanted to say thank you for introducing me to Charlie. I am really enjoying getting to know him. We have much in common in both work and health experiences.” She says there are few people who can really understand what it is like to be as disabled as she is, but Charlie does.

Since last summer Charlie has been volunteering with an elderly, highly educated and accomplished woman from another country who speaks almost no English. What started as an English-language session evolved into a way to breach language barriers and start a friendship. Recently he took on a second woman from the same country because, as he says, “Why not, if I can be helpful, and I really enjoy getting to know these people.”

We at Jewish Social Services are so grateful that Charlie Shoham and so many others like him enjoy giving their time and energy to help our clients. And, as he says, it's a lot of fun for him too.