



Strengthening and preserving individual, family and community life since 1854

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF LOS ANGELES

SUMMER 2002

About Faces

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, OVER 1,000 TIMES A DAY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jonathan Brandler

It is hard to believe as I write this that almost two years have passed since I was installed as president of Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles. Our agency was still in temporary quarters and Paul Castro had been executive director for barely one month. How things have changed!

Serving as president has been a wonderful experience. Although it made significant demands on my time, each hour spent was tremendously rewarding. As president, one sees firsthand how JFS carries out its mission. As I reflected on my term I re-read our mission statement, which now has even deeper meaning to me. It says in part:

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles is a multi-service Agency whose goals are to strengthen and preserve individual, family and community life by providing a wide range of needed human services to people in the community at every stage of the life cycle, especially those who are poor and disadvantaged. The Agency is guided by ethical and spiritual values of Judaism in its provision of services.

In implementing this mission we are guided by a number of principles, one of which is paramount:

To contribute to the continuity of identity and the strengthening of affective ties to the Jewish community by helping the community live out

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SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

Some seniors are so impoverished that the one meal we deliver is their only meal. Some have to choose between filling their prescriptions and eating.

— Rachel Bercovic, Senior Nutrition Program

The Hirsh Family Kosher Kitchen appears to be in the food-preparation business; its real business, however, is saving lives. Hundreds of lifelines radiate from the kitchen, which is on Fairfax Avenue at Beverly Boulevard. At the other end of each line is the residence of a senior or a dining center where elderly people congregate for lunch.

The homebound seniors — the vast majority over 80 and frail — are unable to prepare meals. Everybody's heard of "Meals on Wheels." In official parlance, that's "Home Delivered Meals," a federal program under Title III C. The program is designed to help seniors continue living as independently as possible rather than be forced to enter long-term care facilities.

Most of the 650 daily recipients live on low incomes. The motto of this non-sectarian program is, "Come dine with us." All the kitchen's meals are kosher; the diners, Jews and non-Jews alike, appreciate the quality of the ingredients and preparation.

Most of the meals delivered to the homebound are frozen — preferred by the recipients because they can eat them on their own schedules. They heat them in easy-to-use microwave ovens provided by a generous grant from the Israel Humanitarian Foundation.

SOVA FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM

Since January we've been getting more first-time applicants. Many are working families who have to balance nutrition for their children against paying the rent.

They are on the edge of eviction.

— Leslie Friedman, SOVA Food Pantry

SOVA comes from the Hebrew for "to eat and be satisfied." SOVA feeds those who don't have enough to eat, treats them with a maximum of respect and a minimum of red tape, and assists them to climb out of poverty through referrals to appropriate agencies and programs. SOVA



became part of JFS in January, 2002.

In LA County, where 20.5% of the population has incomes below the poverty threshold, almost double the national average of 11.3%, SOVA's mission is daunting. Based on the 1999-2000 Los Angeles County Health Survey, 14.8% of all households (1.4 million people) in the County are "food insecure" and 5.9% of all households experience hunger as well. "Food insecurity" is defined as "limited or uncertain access to nutritionally adequate and safe foods." Stripped of jargon, we're talking about individuals and families deprived of the nutrition necessary for energy, well-being, and productivity. About having to choose between rent, medical care, utilities, clothes, transportation to work, and food. About classrooms full of children whose empty bellies compete with their teachers for attention.

The picture has become grimmer with the downturn in the economy and the simultaneous increase in the cost of housing. SOVA's

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SAFE SPOT: "A place of unbearable pain and exquisite beauty"

On Sunday, June 9, we sponsored our second annual Safe Spot, a camp for young families where one parent has cancer, sponsored by Jewish Family Service, the Jewish Federation, & Valley Beth Shalom. The majority of the children this year were seven and under. Many of their parents have had cancer for most of their children's lives. The purpose of the day was to provide a safe, welcoming environment for families to explore how to talk about the journey upon which their families have embarked since cancer entered their lives. The program was generously funded by The Jewish Federation, the Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health of HUC-JIR, Valley Beth Shalom, Marcie Greenberg, and an anonymous donor. For the second time, JCC Shalom Institute in Malibu generously made their facilities and staff available to the program.



Safe Spot families & staff

Following are comments from some of the JFS social workers who staffed the program:

"Yesterday was extraordinary. We could visibly see the families growing. We saw families who had never asked for support reach out their arms; men who had never shared their feelings open up fully and honestly to their peers. Although we had shortened the

program, our families stayed and stayed, long past the end of the program....We can take enormous pride in what we accomplished, as well as enormous hope and strength from the resiliency and courage of the families with whom we met." —Sally

"As I am sitting in my office between sessions, and feeling completely out of touch with reality, I recognize that yesterday really had an enormous effect on all of us. Although it was only yesterday, it feels like two weeks ago, the day was so full of emotion and energy." —Havi

"It took me a while to realize how deeply it affected me that these families were so young, so vibrant, and so hurting. You were all a wonderful team, each one able to do just what was needed at the right time. Each holding the right gift for the right child. It was a wonderful experience being part of the Safe Spot 2002 team!" —Debbie

"In the women's group we spoke about finding a way to embrace the paradox of a world where there is unbearable pain and exquisite beauty. I think we saw it all yesterday. In the people and in the place." —Anne

For information on The Safe Spot and to be put on the mailing list for Safe Spot 2003, call Sally Weber, (323) 761-8800, ext. 1255

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SENIOR NUTRITION — Each meal must meet one third of the US Recommended Daily Allowance for Seniors, including vitamins C and A, and be low in fat and sodium. A recent nationwide study showed that seniors receiving Meals on Wheels were healthier overall and had higher blood levels of 14 vitamins and minerals than a comparable group.

The kitchen cooks all the food for JFS's Senior Nutrition Program (SNP) as well as helping to support the program through catering. SNP is part of Title III, a federal program in which money — but never enough money — passes through city and county governments to front-line agencies such as JFS. Funding from the Jewish Federation makes up for part of the difference between the federal funds and the actual cost of the meals.

Nine of the lifelines radiate from the kitchen to sites where seniors congregate. The shortest connects to JFS's Fairfax Café, located adjacent to the JFS Senior Services Building. Others lead to centers in West Hollywood, West Wilshire, Venice, and the San Fernando Valley.

Most of the meals are lunches; some are early-bird dinners. Bercovic says stuffed pepper and stuffed cabbage are among the favorites: "The line is out the door on those days, but every meal 'sells out.'" (As with Meals on Wheels, seniors voluntarily contribute what they can

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SOVA — three locations have all seen an increase in demand, with new clients averaging 200-300 each month. Many are working families with children; others are elderly people living on Social Security or SSI who are unable to stretch their budgets to cover food, medication, and rent. SOVA now provides 2,500 people a month with a 4-day supply of groceries from its West LA, Beverly-Fairfax, and Valley pantries. Homeless clients receive personal care products and food that doesn't require cooking.

SOVA depends upon donations of money to purchase food from local food banks and other vendors. The program also receives USDA surplus commodities free of charge and relies heavily on donations of food, particularly from food drives. Leslie Friedman, SOVA's director, urges individuals to organize these drives at their workplace, school, or synagogues, and will be happy to provide assistance in arranging them.

Volunteers are needed at all three locations. For more information please call SOVA's administrative office at (818) 789-7633 or email SOVA@jfsvalley.org.



Zucky Altman, co-founder of SOVA, stocks pantry shelves with food donated by Maimonides Academy Kindergartners

ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JFS

by **Mark Tobin, Endowment Campaign Chair**

January 2004 marks the 150th anniversary of Jewish Family Service, the first charity organized in Los Angeles. What began as a burial society among LA's tiny Jewish population now helps Jews and non-Jews through 53 programs run out of 23 sites. Our leadership views our sesquicentennial as an occasion to rededicate our efforts to serve generations to come. Therefore we are embarking on the journey of building our endowment. Staff and leadership are meeting with board members to give them the opportunity to embrace this campaign.

In honor of a century and a half of service, some donors have chosen to give gifts in multiples of 150: \$15,000, \$150,000, \$1.5 million.... How quickly that jumps! Of course we welcome donations and pledges of any size. Donors will be honored in a variety of ways, including several opportunities to have their names, or the names of those they wish to memorialize, permanently associated with JFS facilities and programs.

A year ago, when I undertook the mission of chairing our endowment campaign, the downturn in the economy was underway. Laid-off workers, families under increased stress, the elderly facing increased costs on fixed incomes — they and others needed JFS more than ever. Even as the need for our services increased, we faced cutbacks and potential cutbacks in support from federal, state, and local governments and private agencies and individuals.

A few months later, the tragedy of 9/11 ushered in a rapidly changing world in which unexpected needs arise among the populations we serve, for example layoffs of thousands of airline workers and stress about terrorist attacks among children. To rise to these challenges requires discretionary funds not tied to existing programs. Building the endowment became even more vital to strengthening our agency. To emphasize to our fellow board members our belief that income from an expanded endowment fund would be critical to guarantee

our services, Jon Brandler and I kicked off the campaign with matching contributions.

How much to contribute to the JFS endowment fund? When my wife and I sat down to consider that question, we decided to stretch to support JFS because JFS puts its money not into rhetoric but into programs that make a real difference to families and individuals. JFS touches the community, and that touches us. When you examine your financial agenda and your giving priorities, we hope you will reach the same conclusion. Thank you.

Mark Tobin is a JFS board member and chair of our endowment campaign. An executive with Wells Fargo for the past five years, he recently accepted a position with investment firm A.G. Edwards, and is opening their new office in Beverly Hills

For more information on the endowment campaign, including examples of naming opportunities, please contact Mark Tobin or Lisa Brooks, JFS director of marketing and development, at (323) 761-8800 x 1206.

EARLY ENDOWMENT DONOR ARTHUR LAUB

In a recent interview with Arthur and Helene Laub at their home in Westwood, they discussed why they cared so much about building the endowment for JFS. Arthur has been involved with JFS for over 20 years. The Laubs made one of the first contributions to the original endowment fund, and are among the first to contribute to the current campaign. In 1994, on JFS's 140th anniversary, Arthur was the recipient of JFS's first FAMMY award.

JFS News: How did the endowment fund originate?

Arthur: David Levy introduced me to JFS. He was a great champion of endowments as the way to sustain an agency over a long period of time. Fifteen years ago, when David passed away, a group of us started an endowment in his name. We raised a couple of hundred thousand dollars. Later, the fund began to take off when Irene Finkelstein made a substantial commitment, as well as funding the Pico-Robertson storefront. Lois Gunther was the first chair of the endowment committee.

“JFS Embodies the Good that Comes out of the Jewish Community”



The Laubs with their daughters at the graduation this spring of grandson Max from Harvard-Westlake. l to r: Julie Shapiro (Max's mother), Max Shapiro, Helene, Arthur, and Debbie Laub.

JFS News: What led to your and Helene's current gift?

Arthur: A successful campaign always starts with getting the board involved. Mark Tobin used his great ability to communicate the urgency of increasing the endowment. When Mark and Jon Brandler stepped up to the plate and committed themselves, I felt I

had to do the same. I came home and consulted with Helene and she said...

Helene: I said, "That's great, that's wonderful." JFS has been special to Arthur for a long time, and I've always supported his dedication to its services to the community.

Arthur: Helene has been active in lots of charities, including the *United Jewish Fund*, from way back. Involvement in community activities is part of what keeps us young. Helene works in charities and plays golf with women young enough to be her daughters and granddaughters, and gets along well with all of them.

JFS News: What sustains your commitment to JFS?

Arthur: JFS is the embodiment of the good that comes out of the Jewish community. When new needs arise, whether among the homeless, the hungry, AIDS victims, single parents, or senior citizens, JFS is always the first to be called upon and it is always there to answer the call. Other groups may do one thing; with its 53 programs JFS helps the community in

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FAMMY 2002



Susie & Bruce Goren



(l-r) Wendy Ordower, Nina Pearlson Leung, Jackie Pearlson, Marcia Volpert, Dorothy Goren, Julie Platt, & Susie Goren

JFS thanks everyone who supported FAMMY 2002. 370 people attended the dinner May 19 at the Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey, and we raised \$328,000. Special thanks to Wells Fargo for underwriting the costs, allowing all proceeds to further our work.

In accepting the 2002 FAMMY Award for Exceptional Community Leadership, Marcia Volpert spoke of JFS's present 53 programs in 23 locations "from the South Bay to

Santa Monica, from the Fairfax district to the San Fernando Valley" and of our origins: "Founded in 1854...it was the very first charitable institution in Los Angeles." She quoted a 1919 description of our objective, "to give relief, as long as its financial condition would permit, to every worthy person that appeared, whoever he was or whatever his creed," and concluded, "That continues to be the mission of this agency."



(l-r) President Jon Brandler, Honoree Diane Paul of Loeb & Loeb, Executive Director Paul Castro, Honoree Marcia Volpert, County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Doug Mirell, & Judge Terry Friedman



Nina Pearlson Leung & Wendy Ordower



(l-r) Jon Brandler, Lois & Dick Guntber, and Paul Castro



Rear (l-r) Jullie Platt, Event Chair; Diane Paul (Award recipient for Loeb & Loeb)
Front (l-r) Exec. Director Paul Castro, Honoree Marcia Volpert & President Jon Brandler



The Volpert grandchildren help with the Motzi



(l-r) Mark Tobin, Endowment Chair; John Fishel, President of The Jewish Federation; Marcia Volpert; Julie Platt, Event Chair; Paul Castro & Jon Brandler



Past FAMMY honorees Adam & Rhea Turteltaub; Saul & Shirley Turteltaub; Ann Cutrow, Allan Cutrow



Standing (l-r) Dorothy Goren, Dr. Robert Meth, Bruce & Susie Goren, Julie & Marc Platt, Rabbi Sberre & Dr. Jeff Hirsch.
Seated (l-r) Beth & Gordon Goldsmith, Susan Jacoby Stern, Donna & Paul Nadel



(l-r) Sandy & Karen Weiner, Jackie Pearlson, Dorothy & Ozzie Goren



Marcia & Richard Volpert



The Volperts with their children: (l-r) Barry Volpert, Linda Gross, Nancy Volpert & Sandy Volpert



Standing (l-r) Jason & Jeannie Kamm, Michael & Stacey Garfinkel, Donna Bojarsky, Nancy Volpert, Ellie Klausner
Seated (l-r) Ildong & Ki Sub Park, Jane Pisano, David Lehrer, Carol Koransky

Special Thanks to Jules Porter Photographers

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the following Jewish values:

- Tikkun Olam, the repairing of the world
- B'tzelem Elohim, treating every person as an individual created in the image of God
- Klal Yisrael, the concern for the people of Israel
- Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and healing the sick

These values are rooted in Jewish tradition, and JFS demonstrates them in the service of humanity at its broadest.

It is clear to me that our superb staff is carrying out our mission. How do I know? I see it! Where? In the most reliable place — on the faces of those we help. These faces show: the gratification of the seniors at the Hirsh Family Kitchen as they enjoyed hot meals on Rosh Hashanah and other days; the sense of achievement of the participants in the exercise classes at the Freda Mohr Center; the pride of the Russian immigrants sharing a Passover meal at one of our community Seders; the sense of accomplishment of those who attend adult day health care sites such as the one at our Partners program in West Hollywood; the delightful smiles of the members of our Chaverim group for disabled adults who have an important circle of friends and the tears of joy of some of the Chaverim parents; and the relief of those who are able to obtain food at our SOVA distribution sites. Of course these are only some of the faces I saw. But I now know that a good measure of our success is in the faces of the people we help every day.

In closing, I want to say a special "Thank You" to our Executive Director, Paul Castro, and his outstanding staff. And to our volunteers, without whose caring and dedication we could not function. And lastly to the members of our Board of Directors. As I attended meetings with similar organizations from other communities, I realized that the contributions of our Board are somewhat unique. Do we raise money as do other boards? Yes. But it does not stop there. Each member of the Board, including our past presidents, makes significant contributions of time, work and ideas — all of which make JFS successful. Through the efforts of our staff, volunteers, and Board members, we have made an organization that is referred to by other communities as "the jewel" of Jewish family service agencies.

So, as I leave office, I have the satisfaction of knowing that JFS continues its excellence in providing important services to our community. Lastly, I want to say how happy I am that Marcia Volpert will succeed me. With her vision and ability to get things done, I am confident of our future.

Hold the Date!
FAMMY
May 18, 2003

Senior Nutrition continued from page 2

toward their meals.) Research shows that seniors who dine at the centers build a network of friendships, live longer, healthier lives, stay in their homes longer, and require fewer additional resources from social service providers. "There is greater demand for meals than funds to supply them," says Bercovic, who tells parents, "When your children ask you what you want for Hanukkah, ask them to make a donation to JFS."

Nutrition +

Upscale restaurants don't hold a monopoly on ambience. SNP serves special fun along with its meals at least once a month at each center. Dining rooms are decorated to complement the menus on Lu'au Day (diners wear leis), International Day, Thanksgiving, and Mother's Day. During the Holiday season, gift packages are distributed at the centers and with the home delivery meals.

Being associated with a multipurpose center makes it easy for SNP to make referrals, most often within JFS, sometimes to

an outside agency. Meals on Wheels drivers are trained to detect declines in functional ability. If a recipient is increasingly forgetful or bed-bound, or if it is clear that the person cannot maintain his/her house, they'll report that for referral to a social worker.

At the sites where seniors dine together, says Bercovic, "our managers know everyone by name. If they don't show up for a few days we are on the phone calling." At the West Hollywood center, where many of the diners are from Russia and speak limited English, the site managers, also from Russia, converse with them in Russian.

Bercovic, a registered dietician with a hospital food service administration background, came to the program a year ago. With the need to raise so much money beyond the federal funds, she describes her job as "challenging, budget wise, but I have no words to express the joy of working with seniors. If I have a bad day I stop what I'm doing and serve meals at the dining center next door. The hugs and

the How are you's turn the day around."

Without its volunteers, the program could not operate. At each center, two or three volunteers set up the tables and help serve the meals. Many are elderly themselves. "Our volunteers are very dedicated," says Bercovic, "but we always need more of them. Helping the seniors enriches their lives, just as it does for us."

Volunteers and staff have discovered that some of the seniors they serve are so impoverished that the one meal a day they get from the program is their only meal. That means they are receiving only one-third of their minimum daily nutritional requirements. Bercovic says that she and Leslie Friedman, the director of SOVA, also a JFS program, hope to combine their program's resources to address this need, and that the city of West Hollywood has expressed interest in participating in the planning and implementation of such a project for its population.

To become a volunteer for the Senior Nutrition Program, please call Alina Maldonado at (323) 937-5843.

100 JFS CAFE EUROPA HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS GATHER FOR YOM HASHOAH

By Midge Boardman

The atmosphere changed constantly at the Annual Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) Memorial Service the morning of April 9. A small, gray-haired woman wiped away tears as she remembered parents, siblings, cousins, and friends who did not live to walk out of the concentration camps. Across rows of folding chairs set up for Jewish Family Service Cafe Europa members, another Holocaust survivor beckoned friends and pointed with pride to a strapping young man as he said, "I'd like you to meet my son."



Survivors came to Mount Sinai Memorial Park, some by car, others on busses from Pico-Robertson Senior Center and Valley Storefront. All 100 appeared eager to greet friends.

According to Paula Fern, director of Pico-Robertson Storefront, this social group was formed 14 years ago and is coordinated by Elinor Marks-Gordon. The group meets every Tuesday at Pico Robertson, alternate Tuesdays at the Valley Storefront run by Dalia Meyers, and monthly at the Jewish Home for the Aging. Members hail from Germany,

Poland, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Greece, and the French colonies in North Africa under the Vichy government. "It's important that survivors not feel abandoned," Paula explained. Lidia Budgor, the keynote speaker and chairperson of the JFS/Holocaust Survivor Advisory Board, said "We must remember our time is very short." She added, "We bear witness: one and a half million children died in the gas chambers; six million Jews died; six million non-Jews died. We not only remember the past, we celebrate life!"

Survivors recalled their concentration camp lives and their escapes. They read poems and stories; they prayed in Hebrew and English for the well-being of the Israel Defense Forces. Cantor Leopold Sznear chanted the haunting El Mole Rachamim. Martyrs' names were recited and yahrzeit candles were lit.

Cafe Europa founder Flo Kinsler reminded everyone that the Holocaust story bears repeating. One woman quietly expressed what all must have felt, "Thank God we're here."

JFS has been working with Holocaust survivors since the late 1940s.

Midge Boardman edited a group of community newspapers in New Jersey before moving to LA two years ago. Currently she's a freelance feature writer for the *Glendale News Press* and the *Burbank Leader*.

Bat Mitzvah continued from page 8

beauty and bath products for the moms, or school supplies and toys for the children. Beverly said she was overcome with emotion as she watched her daughter carefully choose each item. "It was as if Sarah had in mind each woman and child to whom these items would be given."

Sarah, accompanied by her mother, attended an FVP Advisory Committee meeting, where Committee Chair Sue Kaufman thanked her for performing this wonderful mitzvah and presented her with a certificate. Sue told her that she was following a great family tradition of Tikkun Olam, acknowledging Sarah's grandmother, Charlotte Kamenir, a JFS Board Member and longtime JFS case aide.

"There are many opportunities for making a difference in the lives of those around us who are in need. It is exciting to see 12- and 13-year olds take on responsibility for their community and feel good about the impact their projects have," said Karen Schetina, the JFS staff person who coordinated the project.

If your child or grandchild has a Bat or Bar Mitzvah coming up, please contact Karen Schetina in the JFS Development Office at (323) 761-8800 to learn more about giving opportunities. Whether a gift comes in the form of money or items needed by those served by over 50 JFS programs, mitzvah projects make a difference.

Laub Endowment continued from page 3

many, many ways. We used to describe JFS as "the best kept secret in town," but I don't think that's true anymore. However, many people still believe JFS is only for Jews, when in fact its programs serve the community as a whole. It's good for the Jews when people of all ethnicities see that we are concerned with their problems and ready to lend a hand. When you're involved and you see the commitment of the people on the board and their longevity, it speaks well for the agency. We've had more young people joining the board lately; the veterans and the new members work together beautifully. Talking about longevity, if people feel that their ability to contribute dollars today is limited, I encourage them to make a commitment to JFS in their wills. JFS has been around for 148 years; it's going to be around long after we're gone. And there are many creative ways to donate, such as appreciated stock and charitable remainder trusts.

JFS News: We've talked about the JFS family; what's new in your family?

Helene: We recently returned from visiting our son Randy and his wife in France. After years of living in Santa Fe, Randy realized his lifelong dream of living in Paris. He moved his business there; he makes furniture and frames for photographers who exhibit in major museums and galleries.

Arthur: And we just celebrated our 53rd wedding anniversary in Laguna Niguel with some old friends who live there.

Helene: Arthur retired in 1995 [from the jewelry business he founded]; our older daughter, Debbie Laub and David Gordon run the company now. Arthur still goes in once a week. Our younger daughter, Julie Shapiro, owns and operates a travel agency here in LA that caters to film production companies. And you met Samantha and Maggie, the yellow Labradors. They are a big part of our lives.

JFS News: Thanks for taking the time to talk with us, and thanks for your leadership and support of JFS!

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Spread the Word; Help Set a Trend

BAT MITZVAH GIRL PUTS THE EMPHASIS ON "MITZVAH"

The concept of Tikkun Olam — repairing the world — compelled 13-year-old Sarah Kamenir to discuss with her mother honoring her Bat Mitzvah by doing something to benefit her community.

Aware of the plight of battered women and their children, Sarah wanted to help JFS's Battered Women's Shelter. She suggested to her mother, Beverly Kamenir, that instead of expensive flower arrangements, they place on every table decoratively wrapped containers filled with items needed by the women and children living in the shelter. After the party, they would donate the items to the shelter residents.

Beverly Kamenir said she k'velled over her daughter's desire to perform this mitzvah, to make a difference and to give something back to her community. Beverly called the Development Office of Jewish Family Service to explore this idea, which



Recent Bat Mitzvah Sarah Kamenir is recognized by Sue Kaufman, chair of the Family Violence Project Advisory Committee, for her undertaking of a Mitzvah Project on behalf of the women and children residing at a JFS Shelter for battered women and their families.

received a warm and hearty reception.

The Family Violence Project (FVP) of Jewish Family Service sponsors two shelters for battered women and their children, and is always in need of beds and bedding, furniture, housewares, towels, toiletries, clothing, toys, books and school supplies. Victims of an ongoing cycle of violence, the women often appear at the shelter with nothing but their children and what they manage to grab on their way out the door as they run for their lives.

FVP provided Sarah's mother with a wish list of needed items and with brochures about the Shelter that Sarah could place on each centerpiece. An artistic friend of the Kamenir family helped Sarah hand paint the bowls, purchased at the 99 Cent Only Store, after which they were beautifully wrapped. Sarah decided that each centerpiece would have a theme, whether

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