



Our help is needed now more than ever

Jewish Community Services in Hawaii (JCS) is an increasingly important resource for very urgent and basic needs. Current trends that make less funding available to the nonprofit community put pressure on our limited resources. For example, rental and utility assistance continue to be the strongest needs for JCS clients over the past year. Until recently, partner agencies such as AUW and Catholic Charities were able to cover many of those costs. Cutbacks in their funding means that clients are relying more and more on JCS to provide money for these very basic needs.

JCS serves a diverse group of clients. The majority of people we are assisting are low income seniors who are living alone and do not have a support system. We have also helped families who have little ones at home and some individuals who suffer from mental illness and need assistance due to the resulting loss of income.

There also continues to be a need for assistance with the cost of medical equipment for low income disabled clients. We have been able to assist with many requests for wheelchair repairs which helps to keep people living independently in the community. We assisted a disabled senior who lives alone with buying a hospital bed to help her transfer in and out of her bed without any assistance. This helps to prevent falls which could have a huge impact and can be the thing that takes them from being independent to a nursing home or foster home.

Information and referrals are also a lot of what we do. People contact me through our JCS website. Some are newcomers, others are family members looking for help



Service Provider Melissa Bowen

for a loved one and others are residents seeking resources. We have had a lot of requests from seniors living in the community looking for a Jewish community program to help fill their days. A lot of these requests come from seniors who have just moved here and are looking to make some friends in the Jewish community. In these cases, I refer them to Temple Emanu-El's senior program.

Clients who receive any type of assistance through JCS, whether it is financial, a referral or another resource, are always very appreciative of the support.

Feedback from our Clients

“ JCS has been phenomenal. I know for a fact, JCS' services are very, very comprehensive. I am a proud and blessed recipient.”

“ Your help with rent and dental procedures is literally a lifesaver for me. I am deeply grateful.”

“ I was greatly relieved when JCS stepped in to cover the cost of wheelchair repairs. I am so grateful and appreciative of JCS' generosity and commitment to service those of us who are in need.”

He made a difference



Mickey with his wife Nancy at the May 2009 JCS dinner honoring his many years of service to JCS.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Malcolm "Mickey" Slakter z"l, on June 12 at age 89. Mickey was a wise, generous, and kind man who was a member of the JCS board from its early years and served as its second president from 2002-2005.

Mickey was a retired university professor. He brought his knowledge of statistics, measurement and evaluation to analyzing how and whom JCS serves. He created the format our Service Providers used for many years to tell us the demographics of our clients (seniors, adults, families), what services we provide, and other valuable details that help JCS do a better job of serving the community).

Mickey had the foresight to emphasize that JCS should plan for the "perfect storm" of an increasing elder population and future economic challenges that arrived earlier than we all anticipated.

As an active member of B'nai B'rith, he enlisted the help of its members to prepare gift baskets for Jewish families at Hanukkah and Passover.

Mickey is remembered by his three children, Hedy (Bruce) Cohn, Jeffrey (Janice) and Lawrence (Joyce) and five grandchildren, Susan, Sharon, David, Lauren and Sarah.

Looking for a way to do a Mitzvah?

Open up your home

Please consider renting a vacant room in your house to a fellow Jew in need of housing. All clients are screened by our service provider. If you have room in your home and your heart, please call Melissa to discuss it at (808)258-7121 or send her an email to admin@jcs-hi.org.



Leave a Legacy to JCS

JCS is always looking for ways to ensure long term financial security so that our valued services continue to serve the people of this community.

A new focus is on planned giving to increase the JCS endowment fund. It's a great mitzvah to give tzedakah in any form and we would appreciate your help to get this project underway.

Please let us know if you are interested in helping to shape these plans or if you would like information about the many ways planned giving can support your highest ideals and dreams by leaving a legacy at JCS. To learn more about this, please contact Mel Hertz at (808)522-0100.

Volunteer for our Outreach Project

The JCS Program Committee is developing an outreach project for JCS clients who may be isolated or feel lonely and who would appreciate a regular friendly phone call. We are looking for caring volunteers who can commit to a weekly phone call to a person in need of company.

Melissa Bowen, JCS Social Worker, will identify individuals appropriate for this new project.

A two-hour training will be provided for anyone who MAY be interested or want to learn more about it. Attending DOES NOT commit you!! If you are interested in attending the training to learn more about this project or want more information, please contact Sue Brown via e-mail: suebrown96734@gmail.com or call/text (808)-741-3123 with your name and contact information.



Todah Rabah for your Support

JCS gratefully acknowledges the following supporters for their generous help from January 1 - June 30, 2018.

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Our Mission:

The mission of Jewish Community Services (JCS) is to support and enhance the quality of life for those in need of help in the Hawaii Jewish Community by providing appropriate social services.

JCS is a volunteer organization guided by traditional Jewish values: tikkun olam, repair of the world, and gemilut chasidim, acts of loving-kindness. It is your support that makes the work of JCS possible, and community engagement is key to JCS's fundraising success.

JCS financial support derives primarily from contributions by the following:

Individual donors

Jewish community organizations

Private foundations

Annual Volunteer of the Year Dinner

Community giving programs such as :Foodland Give Aloha,

Aloha United Way, AmazonSmile

**To learn more about the important work that JCS
does in our community, visit us on the web at:
jcs-hi.org**