



Action for Good in the 21st Century

**Ideas, Innovations & Best Practices
in the Jewish Community**

November 10-12, 2019





ACTION FOR GOOD IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Ideas, Innovations and Best Practices in the Jewish Community

FedLab's Action for Good track included twelve flash learning presentations on best practices in the Jewish community. This document contains fact sheets about each program that was presented, as well as contact information for the speakers. Related slides, if any, have been uploaded to the FedLab Resource Hub and FedCentral. For additional information on the Action for Good track, please contact Joy Goldstein (joy.goldstein@jewishfederations.org). Please reach out to the presenters for additional information on each program.

Ideas, Innovations and Best Practices in the Jewish Community			
Focus	Presenter(s)	Contact Information	See Page
Food Insecurity	Rabbi Avrohom Adler Chief Executive Officer	Cleveland Chesed Center Direct: 216-235-4330 aadler@clevelandchesedcenter.org www.clevelandchesedcenter.org	3
Food Insecurity	Jessica Chait Managing Director of Food Programs, Met Council	Met Council of New York Phone: 212-453-9500 jchait@metcouncil.org www.metcouncil.org	4
Employment / Jobs	Michelle Labgold Chief Planning Officer	Greater Miami Jewish Federation 305.576.4000 mlabgold@gmjf.org www.jewishmiami.org	5
Employment / Jobs	Rebecca Sobelman-Stern Executive Vice President & Chief Program Officer	The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles 323-761-8292 BSobelman-Stern@JewishLA.org www.jewishla.org	6
Housing	Stacy Jarett Levitan Executive Director,	Judith Creed Horizons for Achieving Independence (JCHAI) 610-922-2481 (office) stacylevitan@jchai.org www.jchai.org	7
Housing	Lisa K. Budlow Chief Executive Officer	CHAI: Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc. Tel: 410-500-5354 lbudlow@chaibaltimore.org www.chaibaltimore.org	8

Ideas, Innovations and Best Practices in the Jewish Community			
Focus	Presenter(s)	Contact Information	See Page
Mental / Behavioral Health	Todd Krieger Senior Director, Planning & Agency Relations	Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit Office: (248) 203-1477 Cell: (248) 227-9167 krieger@jfmd.org https://jewishdetroit.org/	9
Mental / Behavioral Health	Ruth Miller Vice President, Community Planning and Allocations	The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore 410-236-0636 (c) 410-369-9314 (w) rmiller@associated.org www.associated.org	10
Older Adults / Holocaust Survivors	Jennifer Weiss Chief Executive Officer	Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey 856.751.9500 x1172 jweiss@ifedsnj.org https://jewishsouthjersey.org	11
Older Adults / Holocaust Survivors	Amy Israel Pregulman Executive Director / Co-founder John Pregulman President / Co-founder	KAVOD 901-831-0684 amy.kavod@gmail.com www.kavodensuringdignity.com	12
Big Picture / System Issues	Reuben D. Rotman President & CEO	Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies 201-977-2423 rrotman@networkjhsa.org www.networkjhsa.org	13
Big Picture / System Issues	Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, PhD Senior Director, Research and Analysis	Jewish Federations of North America 646.872.9681 212.284.6578 laurence.kotler-berkowitz@jewishfederations.org www.jewishfederations.org	15

Presenter bios begin on page 16.



Responding to poverty in our community

Avrohom Adler, Executive Director

- **Surprising Findings:** The 2011 population study by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland
 - 19% of Jews in Cleveland living at or below 200% FPIG
 - 41% struggling financially
 - 42% of Jews who need assistance in some way turn to organizations within the community
- **Task Force on Financial Distress formed**
 - Needs identified: Better access to affordable kosher food and basic necessities, sustainable jobs, affordable housing in Jewish neighborhoods
 - Cleveland Chessed Center and Geshher formed from this task force
- **Cleveland Chessed Center: Putting food (and much more) into the hands of our Jewish neighbors**
 - Providing free access to hundreds of dollars of groceries and necessities monthly
 - Serving 200+ families per month
 - Since March 2016, 612 households from 37 zip codes served at over 10,000 pantry visits
 - Our Model: Open hours, serving 95% of our clients, decreases staff time by 50%
 - 1 full-time, 5 part-time employees
 - Annual Budget: \$400,000
- **Geshher Cleveland: Career Development and Resource Center**
 - A collaborative non-profit resource center whose goal is to create a more prosperous self-sustaining Jewish community.
 - 500 families served, 3000 calls/year, 800 applications processed yearly, 100+ job placements, 60+ resumes written
 - 1 full-time, 3 part-time employees
 - Annual budget: \$120,000.00
- **Collaboration/Leveraging community resources**
 - Both CCC and Geshher maximize the benefit to Jewish community by leveraging existing resources
 - Greater Cleveland Food Bank partnership: free produce, USDA allocations, discounted food and other products
 - Shoes and Clothing for Kids (SC4K): school supplies, uniforms, clothing, shoe gift cards
 - Government Programs
 - Job training and readiness
 - Benefit from collaborating with existing agencies and programs
 - Wraparound Care: JFSA, Geshher, CCC, SC4K, Naaleh, Matan B'Sayser
 - Maximize visibility of the programs: Jewish Federation, Jewish Day Schools, Synagogues, Youth Group
 - Maximize benefit from funding: Greater Cleveland Food Bank, OU/Kosher Food Lifeline, Jewish Relief Society, Marc's supermarkets, Tri-C, etc.



MET COUNCIL

The Largest Jewish Communal Social Safety Net in America

11,000^{sq. ft.} WAREHOUSE

40 sustains
pantries
across New York City with
kosher food each month

FY 2019 RESULTS

Last year, Met Council
fulfilled over

800,000 requests
for food
and provided over
7.2 million meals

MET COUNCIL'S KOSHER FOOD NETWORK

POWERED BY

10 staff

4 trucks

7 million
pounds of food

PASSOVER

During Passover
we support

more than 120
locations

and feed
181,000
people

HIGH HOLIDAYS

During the High Holidays we supplied
more than 90 pantries and
provided **1 million** meals

NOBODY PROVIDES MORE FREE KOSHER FOOD TO THOSE IN NEED THAN MET COUNCIL

We're the largest distributor of free kosher food in the world, and we rely on high quality, kosher providers to generously donate their product.

Please consider donating today – and every day.

Contact *Jessica Chait*, Managing Director, Food Programs
to find out how you can help
jchait@metcouncil.org • 212-453-9596

Bringing Together Job-Seekers and Employers in Jewish Miami



JWorks Miami is a community employment program provided through a partnership of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Services of South Florida and offered at no cost to Jewish job-seekers and local employers.

Mission: To provide employment preparation services to Jewish job-seekers currently residing in Miami-Dade County, with the goal of increasing their competitiveness in the job market and improving their prospects for employment; and to assist community employers with their staffing needs by offering pre-screened, skilled and qualified job applicants.

Need – 12% of respondents to the 2014 community study reported a need for employment services

Impact – 2009 - 2019:

Registrations:	4,492
Intakes:	2,071
Job Placements:	1,617

Job Seekers

Services offered at no cost:

- Individual job coaching with a Career Counselor
- Resume and employment materials development
- Professional readiness training
- Social media enhancement
- Strategic use of job-seeking tools
- Unlimited access to our online Job Board
- Seminars, workshops and networking opportunities
- Access to additional community resources



Employers

Services offered:

- Personalized support to assess staffing needs
- Access to an experienced, skilled and diverse job seeker pool
- Pre-screening of all job seekers referred to employer
- Web-based job postings

Contact:

Michelle Labgoald

Chief Planning Officer

Greater Miami Jewish Federation

mlabgold@gmjf.org

786-866-8492



FedLab – Action for Good
The Ezra Network One-Sheet

The Ezra Network provides an unprecedented high-impact and high-visibility solution to the challenges faced by those who are most in need and most at risk in the Los Angeles Jewish community. Ezra means “help” in Hebrew and The Ezra Network brings social services to synagogues so that Jewish individuals and families may access social services in a culturally sensitive and geographically convenient environment.

Many Jews in need throughout Los Angeles are hesitant to seek help because of barriers such as unfamiliarity, intimidation, and access. Those dealing with issues related to finances, caring for an aging parent or troubled teen, health, or employment, often do not know where to turn for help or do not have the resources to pay for those services. By providing free on-site social services in synagogues throughout Los Angeles, we have created multiple entry points and easier access for those seeking services in a welcoming and private environment.

We are partnering with Jewish Family Service, JVS SoCal, and Bet Tzedek to provide social services to approximately 1400 people each year at 21 synagogues throughout the West Valley, East Valley, South Bay, Mid-Wilshire area, Hollywood, West Los Angeles, and Pico area. Social workers, vocational counselors, and legal counselors provide assistance to both congregants and Jewish residents in need at any of the synagogues. The social workers also provide training, workshops and support to clergy, synagogue staff, and volunteer committees.

General services include assistance with accessing government benefits, counseling, information and referrals, job search assistance, legal counsel and a host of other supports for seniors and Holocaust survivors, low-income individuals and families, those caring for children with special needs and aging parents, and many middle-class Jewish families who have found themselves in need of assistance following the recent economic downturn.

The JVS SoCal job counselors assist 221 unemployed or underemployed individuals each year to secure a job or move up the career ladder. Through one-on-one coaching and workshops they assess their skills, provide assistance with resume writing and interviewing skills, offer career advice and networking opportunities, and connect them to resources that will lead to employment.

The Bet Tzedek attorney assists 125 individuals each year with Holocaust Survivor services, public benefits, consumer rights, housing rights, elder care rights, employment rights, and income tax disputes. The attorney provides one-on-one assistance including accompanying individuals to court and providing representation when necessary. The attorney also conducts educational workshops at the synagogues, on topics such as “Advanced Health Care Directives,” and provides on-site legal clinics with the help of volunteer pro-bono attorneys.

Updated 11/6/19

Contact:

Becky Sobelman-Stern

Executive Vice President & Chief Program Officer
The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

BSobelman-Stern@JewishLA.org

323-761-8292 • 818-370-7417





STRONG COMMUNITIES FOR LIFE

Celebrating 36 Years

For 36 years, CHAI has been working collaboratively with neighbors, partners and community stakeholders to make northwest Baltimore a stronger community in which to live, learn and grow older.

CHAI Strengthens Our Community Through:

- Affordable Family and Senior Housing
- Homebuyer Education and Loans
- Neighborhood and Block Projects
- Senior Home Repair and Benefits
- Social and Volunteer Opportunities for Older Adults
- And More...

Visit chaibaltimore.org
today to learn more.

AN AGENCY OF
The Associated
Inspiring Jewish Community



- Judith Creed Horizons for Achieving Independence (JCHAI)'s mission is to dispel the myth that adults with developmental disabilities, including autism, are not able to live and work successfully in the community. JCHAI accomplishes the mission by providing supports from highly trained professionals to adults with developmental disabilities so they can live in their own apartments and maintain jobs in the community.
- We provide a continuum of services to help people with developmental disabilities live and work in the community. We support over 150 people in a variety of community settings.
- We have supported apartment communities with staffing throughout the day and an **At Home** program where we provide social workers who work with individuals with customized plans on supports that make sure they are successful at living and working in the community. **At Home** social workers also help people who are living with their parents make the transition to living in the community.
- JCHAI has a ground-breaking program called **JCHAI Transitions** that teaches independent living and vocational skills to young adults with developmental disabilities. This program has won multiple national and international awards.
- JCHAI members have a high rate of competitive, integrated employment. About 77% of JCHAI members are employed at least part-time in competitive, integrated employment.
- 4.8% of the United States in 2017 had a cognitive disability, which is about 37.8% of the total number of people with disabilities. In other words, over 15 million Americans have a cognitive disability.
- Government funding streams are insufficient to support everyone with developmental disabilities. States have huge waiting lists that are growing.
- Organizations and the government need to work together to develop different methods for supporting people with developmental disabilities. Key to this approach will be sustained employment and community-based living options that provide the least-restrictive services to help minimize cost and promote the best outcomes for typical lives for people with disabilities.

Contact: Stacy Jarett Levitan, JCHAI, 274 South Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, 610-922-2480, stacylevitan@jchai.org.



Jewish Federation
OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

we need to *talk* a youth mental health initiative
of the detroit jewish community

We Need to Talk is the name of Jewish Federation's community-wide youth mental health initiative. It is aimed at changing the way Jewish Detroiters think and act when it comes to mental illness in general, and youth mental illness in particular. Through training, education and interventional supports, we hope to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness so that people who need help will feel comfortable speaking up and getting the assistance they need.

Training, Education and Interventional Supports

We Need to Talk focuses on three core pillars: training, education and interventional supports. Through our training pillar, roughly 850 teachers, youth group directors and camp counselors will complete safeTALK suicide awareness and prevention training while a smaller number will complete ASIST training. These trainings prepare communal professionals to recognize someone who may be in crisis and intervene in an appropriate manner. Through the education pillar, a youth mental health focused website has been developed, large scale community-wide programs are taking place, a consultant is working with Jewish day schools and we have developed resiliency and B'nai Mitzvah enhancement curriculums. Finally, through the interventional support component of the program there are now additional social workers in our Jewish day schools and we have extended the hours of our child psychiatrist at Jewish Family Service.

We Need To Talk Program Impact

- After completing safeTALK training, **98%** of participants can recognize invitations from another person for help to stay alive.
- After completing safeTALK training, **97%** of participants can recognize situations where another person may be in distress and considering suicide.
- Videos on the We Need to Talk website have received more than **100,000** views.
- **91%** of people who heard Frank Bruni speak said they would stop pressuring their kids to gain admittance to a specific college.
- **88%** of those who attended the LIKE film screening said they would change their technology habits.

WN2T.org

For more information about We Need to Talk, contact Todd Krieger at krieger@jfmd.org or 248-227-9167.



A PROGRAM OF
The Associated
Inspiring Jewish Community

MISSION

CHANA offers a Jewish response to the needs of persons who experience abuse: physical, psychological, sexual, financial or spiritual. CHANA provides crisis intervention, education and consultation, and advocates for community awareness, safety and healing.

VISION

We envision an aware and responsive community where all individuals are empowered to live with security and self-determination.

POPULATION SERVED

CHANA serves all victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse and elder abuse in Northwest Baltimore City and County

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Crisis intervention, supportive counseling, lethality assessment, legal advocacy, temporary shelter, support groups, and therapy free of charge to all victims.
- Prevention/awareness programs to students K-12, community groups, senior centers and professionals.
- Consultation with clergy, schools, organizations and concerned community members.

FY2020 BUDGET

\$1,301,917

RESULTS

- Crisis intervention, counseling and supportive services to 285 victims and survivors of abuse and trauma.
- Legal advocacy services to 80 victims of abuse and trauma.
- Direct service to 118 older adults, a 59% increase over the prior year
- Shelter for victims in four different settings: community based safe house, community based elder safe house, long-term care shelter bed and hotel placement; provided 84 shelter days last year.
- More than 75 trauma-informed support group sessions to address the needs of survivors and victims.
- Healthy relationship workshops to more than 3,200 students in grades k-12 at schools, camps and youth groups.
- Elder abuse awareness education to more than 1,500 older adults.

CONNECT WITH US

Lauren Shaivitz, Esq., LMSW, Executive Director | email: lshaivitz@associated.org
phone: 410-234-0030 | web: chanabaltimore.org | facebook/[chanabaltimore](https://www.facebook.com/chanabaltimore)
mail: 1325 Bedford Road PO Box 15096 Pikesville. MD 21282

Poverty and Older Adults in Southern New Jersey

- Total of 60,000 Jewish individuals in the community
- 18.2% of people over age 65
- Average income is \$50,000- \$65,000
- 12-18% live in poverty
- Federation of SNJ spends \$6,5 million on older adult subsidies & services out of a \$30,000,000 total budget (22%).



Housing

- Existing subsidized housing/affordable housing: 3 buildings with wait lists of 2+ years each
- New construction: 160 units with tax credits for older adults and adults with special needs



Holocaust Survivors in Southern NJ

- Monthly sessions for Survivors are offered and include things such as: pet therapy, horticultural therapy, massage therapy, baking, music therapy, chair yoga
- Year 2 of this program will expand to include Survivors from the Former Soviet Union



Home Care and Support Services

- Federation of SNJ subsidizes \$3 million each year in home care and support services for older adults and Survivors
- In 2019, over 786 older adults have received food so far from our food pantry or free meals from partnerships with our synagogue volunteer programs



Contact:

Jennifer Dubrow Weiss, CEO

Email: jweiss@jfedsnj.org

Phone: 856.751.9500 x1172

Website: <https://jewishsouthjersey.org>



Survivors of the Holocaust Emergency Fund

A New National Initiative

The KAVOD Survivors of the Holocaust Emergency Fund (SHEF) initiative in partnership with Seed the Dream Foundation recognizes that helping any Survivor regardless of where he or she lives remains essential.

KAVOD SHEF exponentially multiplies the dollars and critical services directly reaching Survivors.

Leveraging the funds raised through a special philanthropic national matching initiative, KAVOD SHEF will work with designated communities across the United States to bring millions of additional dollars to the Survivor community.

100% of all KAVOD SHEF funds will be directed toward Emergency Services and allocated through KAVOD.

Urgent and critical services include dental, vision, medical, food, and emergency home services (emergency utilities, home repair, rent support).



For questions, please contact Amy Israel Pregulman
amy.kavod@gmail.com

<https://kavodensuringdignity.com/kavod-shef-initiative/>



KAVOD's mission is to provide emergency aid as a secondary resource for Holocaust Survivors in need in the most dignified way possible. KAVOD was created in November 2015 and partners with Jewish Family Service and other organizations that work with Survivors. The agencies make requests on behalf of the Survivors on a confidential basis.

Amy Israel Pregulman
*Executive Director
Co-Founder*

John Israel Pregulman
Co-Founder

1779 Kirby Parkway
#1-362
Memphis, TN 38138
901.831.0684

We are a registered 501(c)(3) charity.



Ensuring Dignity for Holocaust Survivors
Images do not depict recipients of aid from KAVOD.



BACKGROUND:

- International membership association supporting/advancing Jewish human service sector
- AJFCA & IAJVS: predecessor associations
- 140+: US, Canada & Israel
- Comprehensive/Diverse: Singular Focus – Direct Service Field/Jewish human service providers
- Network Board: Just over half representing membership/other interested stakeholders

MISSION:

Unifying the Jewish human service sector, the Network foster high impact solutions, innovative practices and dynamic opportunities to strengthen member agencies to meet changing individual and community needs.

PILLARS of EXCELLENCE:

- **ADVOCACY**
- **BEST PRACTICES**
- **INNOVATION**
- **PARTNERSHIPS**

SERVICE FOCUS: RESPONDING TO JEWISH POVERTY

Core Services:

- Entitlement Screenings and Enrollment Assistance (Jewish Dollars Tend to be Last Dollars)
- Supplemental Assistance with Access to Food: Food Pantries, KMOW, Congregate Nutrition Sites, Holiday Deliveries
- Emergency Financial Assistance: bridge funding, emergency responses
- Subsidized Homecare
- Subsidized Mental Health Counseling
- Case Management/Advocacy/Information & Referral
- Employment Counseling/Comprehensive Job Search Support Services
- Subsidized Transportation
- Coordination with other Jewish communal resources (synagogues, HFL, Claims Conference, etc.).

Target Populations:

- At-Risk Adults/Psychiatric History/Disabilities
- Single Parents
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Frail/At-Risk Older Adults
- Holocaust Survivors
- Refugees/Immigrants/Asylum Seekers
- Long Term Unemployed

NJHSA JEWISH POVERTY CHALLENGE: Initiative of the Network's Center for Innovation & Research

With support from: Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation & Start Co
Phase I: Pitch Deck Competition at Network's 2019 Annual Conference
Phase II: Intensive Incubation Program

First Concept

Targeted Clients: Working poor, including some persons with psychiatric disabilities.

Problem Seeking to Address through their Innovation:

- Face-to-face meetings don't fit into the realities of their lives - multiple jobs, limited transportation, etc.
- Clients routinely experience acute needs that require immediate attention. Failure to provide advice or assistance immediately can result in a catastrophic cascade resulting in loss of job, transportation, or other factors that undermine progress

Proposed Innovation:

Just in time services and supportive interventions without having to be face-to-face.

Use a combination of technology, partnerships, process, etc. to extend the reach of case management and provide services when and where needed in close collaboration with other service providers.

Second Concept

Targeted Clients: Middle-aged clients (working poor and primarily Orthodox members of the community) who are struggling with poverty.

Problem Seeking to Address through their Innovation:

- This population typically requires on average 4-7 services and frequent interventions.
- Service providers are located throughout the community resulting in inefficiencies with both delivery of, and access to, services.

Proposed Innovation:

"One Stop Shop", all services are in one community setting – in the heart of the Orthodox community which has historically struggled with access to traditional agency locations. The provider agencies are working through the many logistics of sharing cases and developing consistent and uniform treatment philosophies. This community is also exploring a rapid rehousing initiative to support this population.

Third Concept

Targeted Clients: Clients who have successfully worked with the agency to address poverty, but lacked the work experience to land suitable, full-time employment.

Clients in need of intensive case management services.

Problem Seeking to Address through their Innovation:

Over-burdened case managers lack the time to adequately serve their existing client caseloads.

Proposed Innovation - Peer Mentoring Program

- Hire and train the successful clients as peer mentors.
- Engage the peer mentors for 12-18 months to assist case managers in their efforts to work with other clients.
- Provide solid work experience for the peers and additional resources for case managers.

FedLab Bright Spots: Big Picture/Systems

JFNA initiative

- To measure poverty in multiple, consistent ways across local Jewish community studies
- Supported by Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation

Background

- Poverty = economic deprivation
- Conventional way of measuring poverty = income levels set by Federal Poverty Thresholds/Guidelines

Measurement of poverty on local Jewish community studies

- Multiple measures, but inconsistent
- Federal Poverty Guidelines – 100%-250%
- Financial self-assessment – two versions
- Hardship measures = inability to afford basic necessities (social insecurity)
 - Food, healthcare/medicine, housing (skip rent/mortgage or utility bills)
 - Clothing, child care, elderly care
- Longitudinal measures – to date not done
 - Measuring at one point in time underestimates the scope of the problem
 - Hardship measures
 - Self-assessment
- Optional:
 - Emergency expenses
 - Assets

Next steps

- Working with a group of Federations to develop core set of questions and measures
- Implement in the next few months

Presenter Biographical Sketches (Alphabetical Order)

Rabbi Avrohom Adler

Rabbi Adler is a community activist, who works to assist and nurture growth within Cleveland's Greater Jewish community. In 2013, after witnessing first-hand the demand for a more modern and proactive approach to assist people in financial distress, Rabbi Adler founded Gesher – Career Developments and Benefit Center. As the founder and board liaison, Rabbi Adler is actively involved in the day to-day operations, enabling Gesher to continue to provide its much-needed services to the Cleveland community. In 2016, together with community stakeholders, Rabbi Adler opened the Cleveland Chesed Center, where he serves as President of the Board and Executive Director.

Rabbi Adler is Vice President of Agudath Israel of Ohio, a founding board member of Naaleh - an organization which focuses on strengthening the emotional and well-being of the Cleveland Jewish community, and the Vice President of the Cleveland Community Mikvah, where he is responsible for the construction of the new, state-of-the-art, soon to be completed Mikvah.

Lisa K. Budlow, Chief Executive Officer, CHAI: Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc.

Lisa has been with CHAI since May 2016, where she served as Vice President of Aging in Community and Chief Operating Officer prior to being appointed CEO in November 2018. As CEO, Lisa oversees the agency's work in housing management and development, community development and aging in community, continually seeking innovative ways to strengthen northwest Baltimore. While serving as VP of Aging in Community, Lisa focused on providing older adults with opportunities for meaningful engagement, supporting safe, secure housing, and helping seniors to live well and independently in the community. Before coming to CHAI, Lisa served as the Chief Program Officer for AJFCA, a membership organization of Jewish family service agencies throughout North America. During her tenure at AJFCA, Lisa developed programs across many service areas, including senior services, volunteer engagement, and leadership development. Lisa began her career as an attorney in the mergers and acquisitions department of Miles & Stockbridge P.C.

Jessica Chait, Managing Director of Food Programs at Met Council

In her current role, Jessica is responsible for the Kosher Food Network, the largest free kosher food distribution system in the world and for bringing greater visibility to food insecurity within the Jewish community. Prior to joining Met Council, Jessica worked for at UJA-Federation of New York, in roles of increasing responsibility, culminating as Chief of Staff, responsible for strategic initiatives, including UJA's year-long centennial celebration. Jessica is passionate about helping the vulnerable and, prior to her move to New York, worked for non-profits in Poland and Zambia.

Todd Krieger, Senior Director of Planning and Agency Relations, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

A graduate of the University of Michigan (B.A.), the Boston University College of Communications (M.S.) and the Boston University School of Law (J.D.), Todd spent most of his professional career in marketing implementing campaigns for organizations such as Microsoft, Quicken Loans and others in the technology, healthcare and automotive sectors. Todd joined the Jewish Federation in 2013 and currently serves as the Senior Director of Planning and Agency Relations. In this role, Todd manages Federation's annual allocations process, its relationships with 17 constituent agencies, and all short and long-term planning projects.

Michelle Labgold, Chief Planning Officer, Greater Miami Jewish Federation

As chief planning officer, Michelle is responsible for assessing local needs and trends, establishing priorities, overseeing volunteer engagement, creating collaborative efforts and ensuring the appropriate investment of communal resources. She has worked in the Jewish communal and human services field for 30 years and holds a Master's in Public Administration. Prior to her position at GMJF, Michelle was Senior Director of Domestic Affairs at the Jewish Federations of North America, Director of the Westside Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles and Administrator of the Jewish Home for the Aging in Los Angeles.

In addition to her professional Jewish communal roles, Michelle serves on the Miami-Dade County Emergency Food & Shelter Program and is a member of the Miami JPRO program. She is also an alumnus of the Mandel Executive Leadership Program.

Stacy Jarett Levitan, Executive Director, Judith Creed Horizons for Achieving Independence (JCHAI)

Before coming to JCHAI, Stacy worked for a decade as a litigation attorney at the Philadelphia firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis. Stacy served three years as JCHAI's Chairperson, when she dramatically increased fundraising and continued to increase JCHAI's profile in the community. Now Executive Director, Stacy is responsible for overseeing the direction of JCHAI's programs and JCHAI's day to day operations. Stacy is a passionate and tireless advocate who revels in opportunities to improve and strengthen the JCHAI community. Stacy is intimately familiar with JCHAI's mission, as her brother, Doug Jarett, was a JCHAI resident. Growing up with a sibling with intellectual disabilities gives Stacy a thorough and sympathetic perspective on the role JCHAI serves in families.

Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, Senior Director of Research and Analysis, The Jewish Federations of North America

In his role at JFNA, Laurence regularly consults to Jewish Federations on local Jewish community studies and other research, and he directs JFNA's Berman Jewish DataBank, an online archive of studies on North American Jewry. He is on the boards of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and the American Jewish Year Book, and served as an advisor to the Pew Research Center on its 2013 national study of U.S. Jews.

Ruth Miller, Vice President, Community Planning & Allocations, The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore

In her current role, Ruth directs the Associated's \$47 million annual allocations process, manages the ongoing relationship between The Associated and its beneficiary agencies and oversees the Associated's planning agenda to strengthen the Baltimore community and the Jewish communities in Israel, Odessa and around the world.

Amy Israel Pregulman,, Executive Director / Co-founder, KAVOD

In her current role, Amy runs all aspects of KAVOD and has been spearheading KAVOD SHEF Initiative. Prior to KAVOD, Amy was the Director of Cultural Arts at the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) where she established the Cultural Arts Department where, she developed and implemented the Jewish Literary and Cultural Arts Festival; the International Jewish Film Festival; the first Health and Wellness Expo; and established and branded the patrons of the Arts Program. Amy was also the curator for the Shainberg Gallery as well as developed the Campus for Holistic Learning. Prior to the MJCC, Amy was the Director of Community Engagement at Opera Memphis.

John Pregulman, President and Co-founder, KAVOD

John co-founded KAVOD, a Memphis-based organization supporting Holocaust survivors in need, with his wife, Amy. John's Holocaust Legacy Photography Project, whereby he has met and taken over 1050 photos of Holocaust Survivors across the world, led Amy and John to creating KAVOD. After a long career with Siskin Steel and Supply Company, John is currently the managing partner of Robmer Partners, a real estate company he created with his father. Mr. Pregulman also serves his family by heading the family office as the Chief Investment Officer as well as a Consultant for Steel Companies across North America.

Reuben D. Rotman, President & CEO, Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

Reuben's commitment to the field of Jewish communal service has been unwavering and has included professional leadership experiences in Federations and Jewish Family Service organizations in New Jersey, Detroit and New York, as well as service as a board member of J-Pro New Jersey and the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies.

Currently, Reuben serves as the founding President and CEO of the recently established Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies. Prior to his role with The Network, Reuben served as the Executive Director of Jewish Family Service of MetroWest New Jersey, where he oversaw significant revenue diversification for the agency resulting in marked growth in both annual operating and endowment support, along with an expansion of populations served. Previously, Reuben held positions with UJA Federation of New York, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and Jewish Family Service of Metropolitan Detroit.

Becky Sobelman-Stern, Executive Vice President, Chief Program Officer, Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

In her current role, Becky oversees the Federation's programmatic activities in L.A., Israel, and internationally. Becky's leadership has continued to propel the Federation's active engagement with the community through program offerings, strategic partnerships, and relationships.

Most recently, Becky served as Vice President of Consulting & Community Development at the Jewish Federations of North America, where her leadership energized over 150 Jewish Federations to enhance community impact and Jewish identity programs, foster dynamic connections with Israel, and care for Jews in need.

Jennifer Dubrow Weiss, Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey

Jen became the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey in 2012. Since then, she has led a Jewish population study of the tri-county area; grown the Federation's programming, services, and revenue with the addition of the Aleph Home Care department; expanded the Federation's property for the first time in 20 years with the purchase of 16 additional acres of land; and spearheaded a new housing project on the land with the construction of the Weinberg Commons which will offer affordable housing with onsite wraparound services for older adults and adults with special needs. The first residential building at the Weinberg Commons will be opening in just a few weeks. Next up is the Aleph Adult Day Center for adults with dementia, Alzheimer's, special needs, and those who just need additional care during the day in a setting outside the home. The new adult day center will open in early January 2020.

Prior to her appointment as Jewish Federation CEO, Jen spent over 20 years at Samost Jewish Family & Children's Service where she grew the agency's fundraising by over 204 percent, designed and implemented a national long-term care initiative, and doubled the program and service offerings of the Senior Services department.



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