

The Lehigh Valley Jewish community is unusually fortunate. Numerous synagogues, our Jewish Day School, Jewish Family Service, and other well-established community institutions enrich the lives of those choosing to participate. Much like a family, our community supports our needs, enhances the joys of life, and provides a mechanism for transmitting our values.

My husband and I met in Allentown while attending a lecture for college students, each with our own respective Hillel group. We went on to marry, raise our children, and celebrate simchas at the synagogue that hosted that lecture. Our son and daughter both attended the Jewish Day School. It provided an outstanding education and a secure sense of their Jewish identities. Their JDS educations motivated both of them as adults to be actively involved leaders in their own Jewish communities.

As for Jewish Family Service, I have had the pleasure both of serving on JFS' Board of Directors and in the past, working part time on a project there. These experiences allowed me to see firsthand how JFS improves the quality of life of so many members of our community. It serves as an invaluable safety net for many experiencing isolation and emotional distress, and also provides social service, counseling, and education in a uniquely Jewish environment.

Our community depends on the time (volunteer work) and treasure (donations) that each of us contributes. They are among our most valuable investments, as they pay dividends across the generations. Many of us have reaped the benefits of those supporters of community organizations who came before us. We are responsible for ensuring that generations who come after us can enjoy this wonderful extended family, our Lehigh Valley Jewish community.