



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Create SOLUTIONS.
Promote DIGNITY.
Inspire HUMANITY.

JEWISH YEAR 5783 BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2022

The 2021 calendar year continued to be a challenge for the people of Washtenaw County as the COVID 19 pandemic surged in waves throughout the community. While navigating illness and lock downs, JFS put systems in place in order to continue to serve our clients in the community with minimal interruption.

The food pantry continued with curbside pick-up and distributed 205,049 pounds of food to those in need. A successful pilot program for medically tailored meals was launched to accommodate individuals with specific dietary needs that Meals On Wheels cannot accommodate. English as a Second Language classes continued virtually with a total of 220 students participating. Wellness Wednesdays and Caregiver Conversations were hosted virtually by our WISE group through Zoom to provide education and support around wellness and self-care.

In June, 2021 we launched the "Year of Building" to facilitate the purchase of our permanent home at 2245 South State Street in Ann Arbor. JFS funders and sponsors came together to pledge financial support for the dream of owning our own building and to have the room to expand our important programs.

As part of the "Year of Building, we hosted a brand new type of fundraiser in October 2021, our first ever "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" which raised over \$100,000 towards refugee resettlement.

JFS continued to welcome refugees to Washtenaw County from around the globe, but most notably welcomed 450 refugees from Afghanistan, who were suddenly evacuated from their country in August 2021. These unexpected refugees were settled into housing in record time with the help of new partners such as Eastern Michigan University.

We are excited to announce that we will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 21, 2023 when we will celebrate with our JFS Family to commemorate this important milestone.

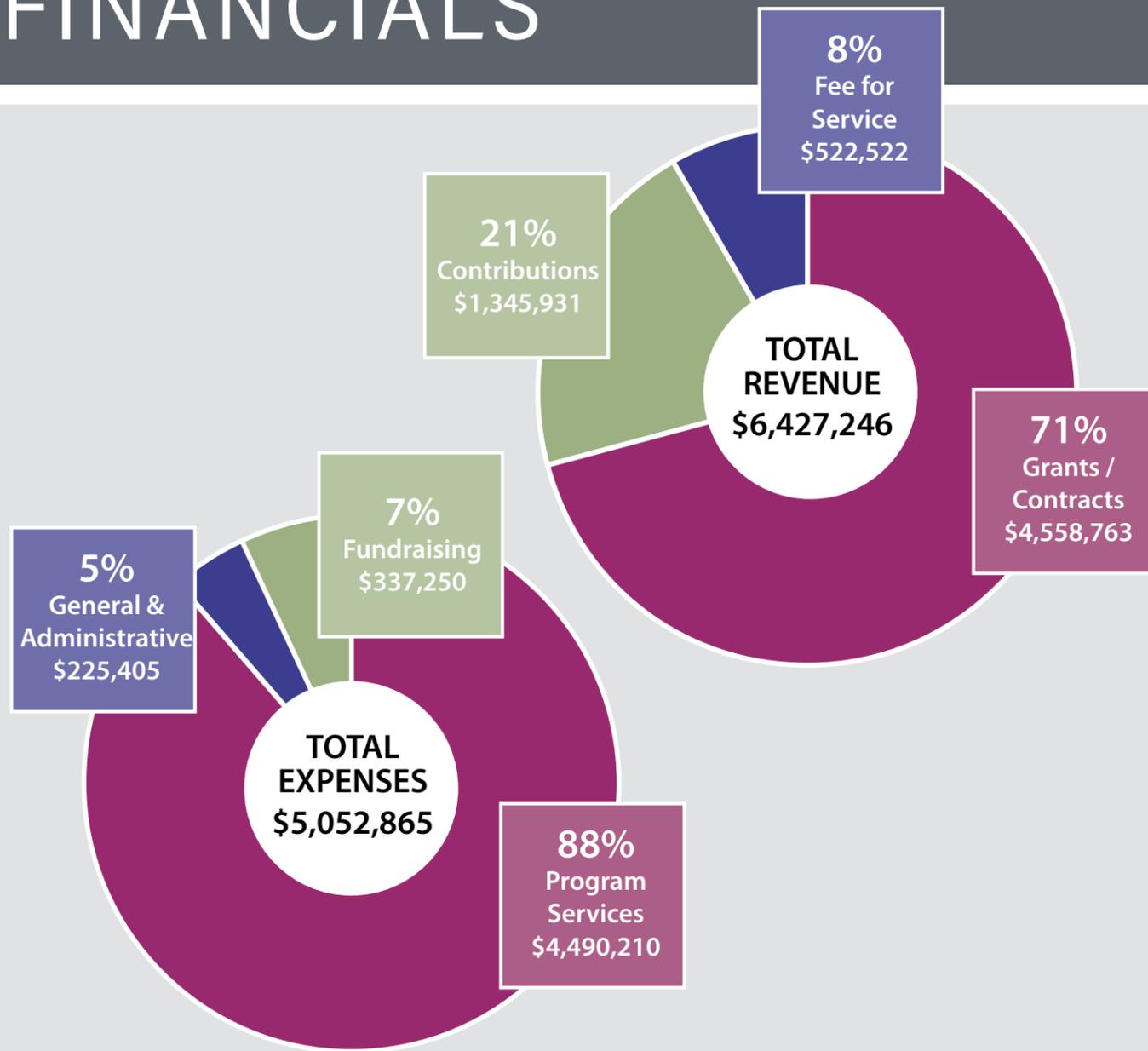
As we begin to look toward the year 5783 of the Jewish calendar, we want to thank our amazing community for their ongoing support. Our JFS staff could never accomplish this important work and outreach without the generosity of our funders, corporate sponsors, other nonprofit partners and over 700 volunteers who give their time, money and talents to support our tri-fold mission:

Create solutions. | Promote dignity. | Inspire humanity.



Sincerely,
Ellen Abramson and Anya Abramzon

ANNUAL FINANCIALS



JFS EMBARKS ON “FOOD IS MEDICINE” MISSION AND BREAKS GROUND ON NEW STATE OF THE ART COMMUNITY KITCHEN AND PANTRY.

In the summer of 2021, JFS partnered in two Medically Tailored Meal programs; one through the Vital Seniors network and the other sponsored by a grant through Feeding America. These projects targeted an area of innovation and need that is being pursued across the country—providing food to help specific health conditions. While JFS is a Meals on Wheels provider, the meals offered through that program are not specific to health condition and require the client to be “medically homebound.” Through our work we know that nutritional support, including meals, is needed for individuals with a wide array of health conditions, not just those who are considered “medically homebound”. The pilot programs targeted those with heart disease, renal issues as well as those in need of culturally specific, and too costly for Meals on Wheels, kosher and halal meals. Recruitment was fairly easy as the need was high and volunteers did weekly check-ins on satisfaction and health status. Participants were pleased with the program and disappointed when the funding ran out in the Spring of 2022.

As funding opportunities increase, due to the continued research that medically tailored meals can improve health outcomes, JFS is constructing a commercial kitchen to meet the need. With our previous program model, food was prepared across the country and was frozen and shipped. This did not allow for freshness or flexibility and was often a logistical nightmare. The JFS kitchen will allow for a local, fresh, and customizable option for JFS clients and other local partners. The kitchen is also not limited to meals, as older adults also benefit from healthy snacks or quick grab and go options. Having the option to cook and prep on site allows JFS to be at the forefront of the Food as Medicine movement.



NUTRITION



Pounds of food distributed

205,049

Meals provided

18,583



Services provided

18,036

Crisis services phone calls fielded and addressed

3,538

Transportation trips provided

5,970



JFS volunteers

766

Volunteer hours

10,264



WISE



JOY THROUGH JFS OLDER ADULT SERVICES

WISE offers multiple programs that create joy, dignity, care and peace for our participants.

With WISE, we provide the information you need to make informed choices that keep you living independently and well for as long as possible. Your personally tailored care-model is created with one of our professionals and we offer two plans to support those who need care and their caregivers.

WISE Choice, launched in 2021, is a fee-based program that provides customized, comprehensive support for you or your loved one, that keeps you living independently and well for as long as possible. We also offer the WISE Safety Net Plan at a sliding scale cost for low income community members. WISE services include: Care Coordination & Care Management, Nutrition Services, Supportive Services, Transportation Services & Caregiver Services

Older adults are welcome to join us for food, fun and festivities throughout the year at WISE at the J! (Jewish Community Center of Ann Arbor)

Sally Adler, a weekly Wednesday movie goer has this to say: "Wednesday afternoons at 'the J' are a highlight of my week. I enjoy the lunches and the movie, but I especially enjoy seeing the same people, and some new ones every week. I've made new friends and now we meet other times in the week for lunch, to go to movies together, to do other activities and share common interests." Ms. Adler continues: "What many people do not realize is that you don't have to be Jewish or be a member of the JCC to belong to this group, and unlike most other senior programs, you don't have to pay a membership fee or make a commitment."

Making new friends at WISE @ THE J!

Washtenaw Integrated Senior Experience (WISE) clients **961**

Crisis support cases managed through WISE **135**

Holocaust-era survivors receiving services and support **87**

Reassurance phone calls made to older adults **1,207**

Total minutes of reassurance phone calls to older adults **13,241**



Gulbrasha and her 3 daughters

ESL students **220**

EEE employment/career assistance clients **456**

Individuals resettled **381**

Countries of origin: **Afghanistan, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen**

Clients served through Preferred Communities and support groups **56**

Youths served through resettlement programs **166**

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CLASSES CREATE CONFIDENCE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

"Learning English and being able to help my neighbors has been the most important thing I've done since coming to the United States" - Najia

In 2021, Gulbrasha and her three daughters, Karziya, Najia and Shabina came to Ann Arbor from Kandahar, Afghanistan after her husband and the girls' father was killed by the Taliban. They were all thrilled to be in a safe place and living in America, but that created its own set of struggles, especially with the language barrier.

Rather quickly upon entering the United States, the family, along with some of their neighbors started taking ESL classes through JFS. The JFS team helped them to learn how to speak, read and write in English. The classes also helped them to feel like they were a part of a community. Through the classes they met other Afgani families and others from around the world. They loved making friends with like-minded people.

The girls were very motivated to continue their education and to enroll in high school in the area. They have hopes of being teachers and nurses, and the skills they learned through the ESL classes at JFS will help to assure their future successes.



RESETTLEMENT SERVICES



REFUGEE COMMUNITY GARDEN

in Collaboration with UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Campus Farm

Under the leadership of University of Michigan student, Phimmasone Owens, JFS engaged in a collaboration with the Campus Farm at UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens to develop a Refugee Community Garden. The garden provides an opportunity for refugees from around the world to share knowledge and food and to learn more about their new community. Phimmasone, a former refugee herself, connected JFS and UM with the idea of a garden conceptualized and grown by refugee communities. Initial funding through the Ann Arbor Area Social Capital fund and other grants won by Phimmasone allowed for a pilot to start this growing season. As a collaboration, JFS and University of Michigan are working towards sustaining the garden and making it a place of community and healing for refugee groups by expanding the programming to include educational and psychosocial support services on site.

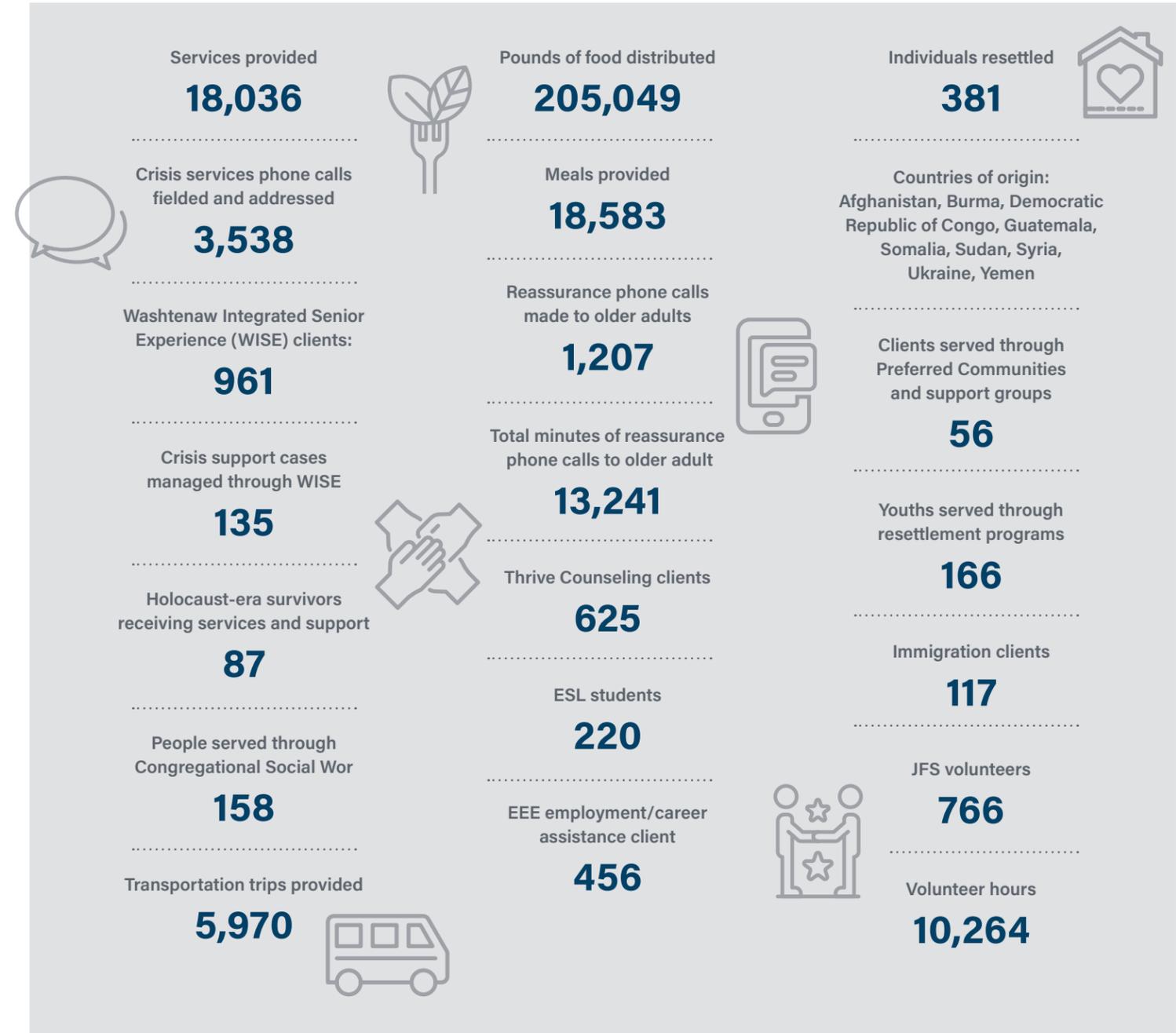
A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF JFS

BY THE NUMBERS

18,036



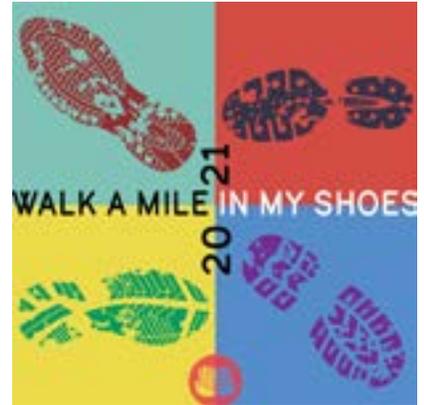
Services Provided



JFS HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES FUNDRAISING WALK

**\$102,293
Raised**

**Over 200
Participants**



We are thankful for all of the peer-to-peer fundraisers, individual donors, volunteers, sponsors, committee members, and friends who made this event possible. The money raised allows JFS to ensure that our most vulnerable community members' basic needs are met.



THANK YOU SPONSORS

Sponsorship for our events is so very important. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with a diverse group of businesses that truly believe in giving back to our wonderful community. Thank you:

