2025 ANNUAL REPORT

jfs

Supporting Families & Seniors.
Alleviating Hunger.
Improving Mental Health.

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Mission/ Vision

For more than 150 years, JFS has provided children, adults, and seniors in the St. Louis region with the supports they need to lead vibrant, healthy lives.

Mission

Inspired by Jewish tradition to make the world a better place, JFS empowers and supports people in need to meet their challenges.

Vision

All people in the greater St. Louis area will be healthy and productive.

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Dear Friends,

The story of JFS St. Louis in 2025 is one of resilience. After 155 years, we continue to meet the needs of our community.

The past year brought both challenges and opportunities, including a leadership transition and growing community needs. Through it all, JFS remained focused on its mission of helping individuals and families navigate life's challenges with dignity, compassion, and excellence.

2025 demonstrated the resilience of JFS, the dedication of its people, and the enduring strength of a mission that has guided this organization for generations.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect that commitment. Across our programs, JFS continued to support children, families, older adults, and individuals facing food insecurity, mental health challenges, and financial hardship. The organization also continued its commitment to quality improvement, accountability, accreditation, and equity while beginning an important strategic planning process that will help guide our future.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped carry JFS forward during this year of transition. The dedication of our staff, the leadership of our Board of Directors, the generosity of our volunteers, and the support of our donors made it possible to continue serving our community at the highest level.

As we look ahead, we do so with optimism. JFS is building on a strong foundation, guided by a clear vision for the future and a commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our community. Together, we will continue strengthening lives, supporting families, and creating a more caring and connected St. Louis.

Thank you for your trust, partnership, and belief in our mission.

With gratitude,

Megan T. Wilson
Board President

Matt Schindler
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Megan T. Wilson
Board President

Matt Schindler
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Older Adult Services

As older adults in the community navigate the challenges that can come with aging, many need support to remain safe, healthy, and connected while living in their own homes. Changes in health, mobility, and daily functioning can make once-routine tasks more difficult, while isolation can have a significant impact on overall well-being. For older adults and their families, access to JFS's trusted guidance, practical assistance, and meaningful connection can be essential to maintaining dignity, independence, and quality of life.

"Older adults want security, independence, and the ability to be connected to the people and places that matter most to them," said Christine Thurber, Director of Older Adult Services at JFS. "Our Older Adult Services continuum helps make that possible by guiding community members through resources, care needs, and life transitions so they can continue living at home, maintain their well-being, and avoid the isolation that can come with illness, recovery, or aging."

In 2025, JFS helped older adults navigate aging with support tailored to their daily lives. Through JFS NORC, 458 members socialized, connected, and engaged in community events.

"Those numbers reflect real people facing very real challenges," said Case Manager Joan Hirst. "I worked with Jessica who was doing her best to manage on her own, but everyday responsibilities had become increasingly difficult and she was becoming more isolated. Like the 230 individuals last year who turned to ElderLink for guidance and the 58 older adults who received homemaker support to remain safely at home, she needed practical help and a trusted connection. By linking her with the right services, we were able to help her regain stability, remain in her home, and feel less alone."

> **Older adults want security, independence, and the ability to be connected to the people and places that matter most to them.**
> — Christine Thurber, Director of Older Adult Services at JFS

DIGNITY **SECURITY** **MOBILITY**

JFS's Holocaust Survivor Program

helps survivors remain safe, independent and connected through personalized case management, in-home support, advocacy and access to essential resources.

JFS NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community)

is a designated neighborhood with an established population of older adults in which JFS is dedicated to providing supportive services that help residents age in place.

Homemaker Services

help older adults remain safely at home by partnering with professional, subcontracted providers for in-home help such as cleaning, cooking, laundry, and other daily living supports as needed.

Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP)

Children need safe environments, trusted adults, and clear, age-appropriate information to help protect them from abuse. Parents, caregivers, educators, and community members also need the knowledge and tools to recognize warning signs and respond when a child may be at risk. In communities across St. Louis, that kind of prevention and education remains essential to protecting children and connecting those in need to safety and support.

JFS's Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) helps meet that need through education, outreach, and community partnership.

"Prevention work is essential because it gives children the language and understanding they need to recognize unsafe situations, while also preparing the adults in their lives to respond with care and action," said Melissa Katz, Manager of the Child Abuse Prevention Program at JFS. "CAPP helps build safer environments for children by fostering awareness, trust, and a shared sense of responsibility across the community."

In 2025, JFS continued to meet that need in meaningful and far-reaching ways by working with more than 150 schools across St. Louis. Beyond the classroom, the program also reached more than 300 caregivers and community members through tabling events, partnerships, virtual trainings, and roundtable discussions.

"Standing in front of a classroom, you can see how much children benefit from having these conversations in a way that is clear, supportive, and empowering," said Angela Geisz, Program Specialist at JFS. "It is deeply rewarding to help students understand body safety, recognize trusted adults, and feel more confident speaking up when something does not feel right."

> **CAPP helps build safer environments for children by fostering awareness, trust, and a shared sense of responsibility across the community.**
> — Melissa Katz, Manager of the Child Abuse Prevention Program at JFS

Reaching 45,770 children in 2025 reflects the broad impact of those moments.

Together, these efforts show how JFS is helping create a community where children are safer, adults are better prepared to respond, and prevention remains a shared responsibility.

CARE **PREVENTION** **ACTION**

Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry

For thousands of people across St. Louis, access to nutritious food remains uncertain. Rising grocery costs, financial instability, interruptions in public benefits, and unexpected emergencies can quickly leave individuals and families struggling to meet basic needs. In those moments, reliable food assistance is not only a source of nourishment, but also a source of stability, dignity, and relief.

> **(The pantry) is about making sure people know they have a dependable place to turn.**
> —Ryan Woolfolk, Director of the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry at JFS

As the largest food pantry in the region, the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry helps meet that need by providing reliable access to nutritious food for individuals and families across St. Louis County, while responding quickly when other sources of support are interrupted.

"The pantry is about more than providing food," said Ryan Woolfolk, Director of the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry at JFS. "It is about making sure people know they have a dependable place to turn when they are facing hardship. Access to healthy food can ease immediate stress, protect a household's stability, and remind people that they are not facing difficult circumstances alone."

In 2025, that mission was reflected not only in the pantry's broad reach, but in the individual stories behind the numbers.

"A guest named Eveyln came to the pantry and she was doing everything she could to hold her household together, but when benefits were interrupted and expenses kept rising, food became one more source of uncertainty," said Jon White, Procurement Manager at JFS.

Stories like hers are just one of many. In 2025, we served 12,596 unique guests across St. Louis County, and each visit meant increased food stability. During the November Federal shutdown, when other options became less available, it was especially meaningful that we were able to stay open and make sure every eligible family who came to us received help.

When food insecurity puts families at risk, the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry remains a reliable source of nourishment, stability, and support.

NUTRITIOUS **DEPENDABLE** **SUPPORTIVE**

Mental Health Services

Mental health needs continue to affect people across the St. Louis community, from children struggling with anxiety or challenges at school to adults navigating grief, trauma, family conflict, and major life transitions. For many individuals and families, timely access to counseling, psychiatric care, and diagnostic services can make a meaningful difference in daily functioning, emotional well-being, and long-term stability. As demand for accessible, compassionate care continues to grow, these services remain an essential source of support.

JFS meets that need by offering a broad range of counseling, psychiatric, diagnostic, and school-based services that help clients build coping skills, improve daily functioning, and access the support they need close to home.

"Mental health support is essential because it helps people navigate challenges that can otherwise affect every part of their lives, including relationships, school, work, and overall well-being," said Michelle Hastings, Director of Clinical Services at JFS. "JFS Clinical Services provides compassionate, accessible care that meets clients where they are and helps them move toward greater stability, understanding, and hope."

> **Mental health support is essential.**
> —Michelle Hastings, Director of Clinical Services at JFS

In 2025, JFS provided mental health support to hundreds of children, teens, adults, and families across its programs.

"I worked with Howard, who came to counseling during a particularly difficult time, feeling overwhelmed by personal challenges and uncertain about how to move forward," said Jay Fisk, Counselor at JFS. "With consistent support, he began to build coping skills, regain confidence, and find greater stability in his daily life." Howard's experience reflects the kind of impact these services can have across our community. In 2025, Adult Counseling served 83 clients, Individual and Family Therapy served 121, and School-Based Services reached 237 students. Each number represents a person or family taking meaningful steps toward healing, growth, and improved well-being.

JFS is committed to providing accessible mental health care that helps children, adults, and families find stability, healing, and hope.

HELP WITH: ANXIETY CHALLENGES TRAUMA

Adult, Child, and Family Counseling

JFS offers individual and family therapy at no cost to children and their parents who reside in St. Louis County. Our licensed counselors collaborate with clients to develop individualized plans to address their challenges and goals and progress to a more vibrant and satisfying life.

School-Based Services

Our school-based counselors work with students individually and in group settings in school districts across St. Louis County to address a wide range of challenges, including anxiety, depression, life changes, grief, loss, other traumas and associated behavioral symptoms.

Learning and Behavioral Diagnostic Center

Provides in-depth and age-appropriate evaluations to assess a child's emotional, social, and educational development. For many families, a diagnosis can be the first step in mapping out a strategy to address concerns and a path for healing.

Financial Assistance

Financial hardship can destabilize a household with little warning. Rising housing costs, utility bills, medical expenses, and other unexpected emergencies can leave individuals and families struggling to meet basic needs and at risk of losing housing, safety, and financial footing. In those moments, timely assistance can be critical not only in addressing the immediate crisis, but also in helping people maintain stability and avoid deeper hardship.

Through Financial Assistance, JFS helps individuals and families meet urgent basic needs while also connecting them to resources and guidance that can support longer-term stability and self-sufficiency.

"Financial Assistance helps people navigate moments when an unexpected expense or crisis could otherwise have lasting consequences for their household," said Matt Schindler, JFS Interim CEO. "By providing timely, targeted support, JFS helps individuals and families remain safe, housed, and connected to the resources they need to move forward with greater stability."

That impact can be seen not only in the broader role Financial Assistance plays, but also in the experiences of the people JFS helped in times of crisis.

"The Smith family was trying to regain stability after a difficult setback, but a sudden financial emergency threatened both their housing and their recovery," said Matthew McGaughey, Intake Manager at JFS. "With timely support, we relieved the immediate pressure and connected the Smiths to additional resources."

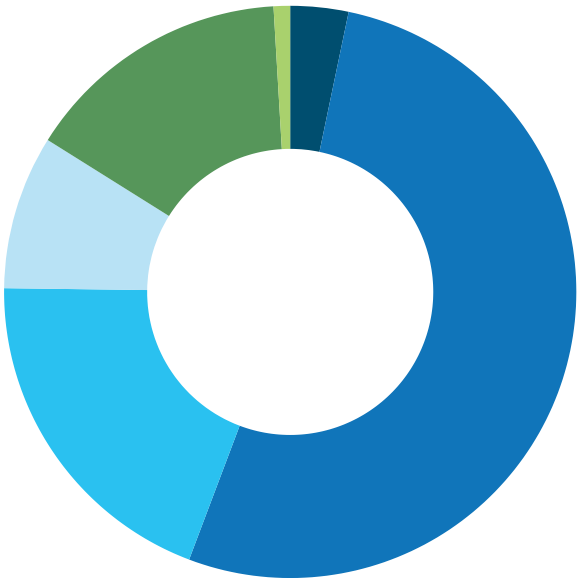
> **JFS helps individuals and families remain safe, housed, and connected to the resources they need.**
> —Matt Schindler, JFS Interim CEO

Their experience is one example of the critical role Financial Assistance plays for people in crisis. In 2025, JFS distributed $160,930 in assistance to 85 individuals and families, helping people remain safe, housed, and better able to move forward.

Through timely assistance and compassionate support, JFS helps individuals and families weather immediate crisis while building a stronger foundation for the future.

HELP WITH: EXPENSES | RESOURCES | HARDSHIPS

Financial Report



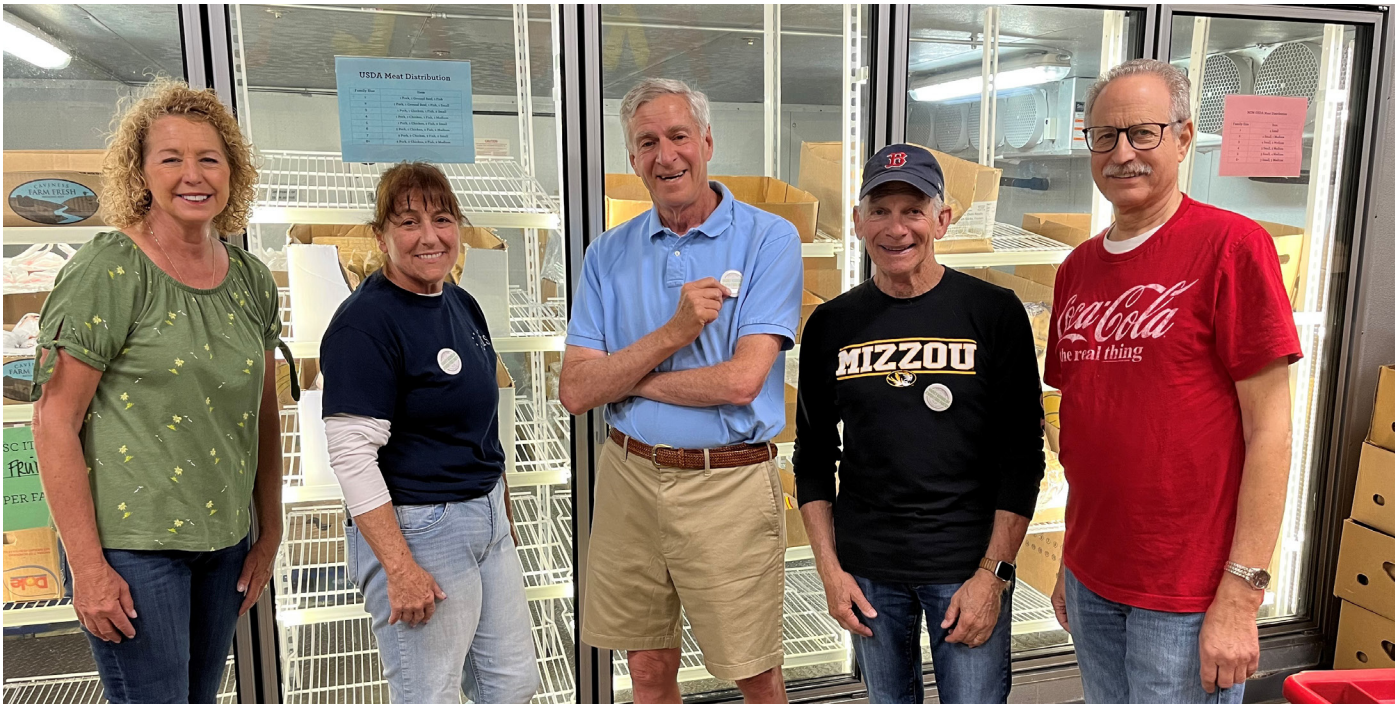
Revenue

Earned Income	$184,965
Contributed Income	$2,961,681
Jewish Federation	$1,098,458
United Way	$491,033
Tax Credits & Gov't Grants	$855,800
Other	$52,592
Total	**$5,644,529**

Expenses

Clinical Services	$440,586
Older Adult Services	$866,159
Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry	$989,979
Fundraising	$715,999
CAPP	$415,807
Case Management	$1,722,639
Administration	$864,470
Total	**$6,015,639**

**Graphs and tables include JFS 2025 operational financial data.*
For further financial information and analysis please refer to the 2025 JFS Audit at www.jfsstl.org.



The People who Make it Happen

Volunteering

Meeting the growing needs of the community requires more than staff alone. Across JFS, volunteers play an essential role in expanding the organization's capacity to serve individuals and families with care, consistency, and dignity. From supporting day-to-day pantry operations to assisting with special programs and projects, volunteers help JFS respond to need in meaningful, hands-on ways.

"Volunteers are vital to JFS's mission," said Raven McNeil, Volunteer Coordinator at JFS." In 2025, 345 individual volunteers gave 12,907 hours of service, the equivalent of 6.2 full-time staff members. That level of support greatly expands our ability to meet community needs. At the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry, volunteers contributed 11,575 hours to help keep operations running smoothly.

The food pantry welcomed more than 820 volunteers, including corporate and university groups.

"Volunteering at the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry is incredibly rewarding because you can see firsthand the difference it makes for people in our community," said Bob Hoffman, JFS volunteer. "Whether you are sorting food, packing orders, or helping keep things moving, you know your time is helping provide relief and dignity to families who need support. It is meaningful work, and it is a privilege to be part of it."

> **Volunteers are vital to JFS's mission.**
> — Raven McNeil, Volunteer Coordinator at JFS

Through their time, energy, and commitment, volunteers help make it possible for JFS to reach more people, strengthen more lives, and respond more fully to the needs of the community.

ASSIST **SUPPORT** **SERVE**

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$400,000+

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We are grateful to our Flouish sponsors for their generous partnership and commitment to JFS. Their support made this event a success while providing hope, help and meaningful impact throughout our community.

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Eternal Light Society

JFS's Eternal Light Society recognizes individuals who have made a lasting commitment to our mission by including Jewish Family Services in their estate plans, helping sustain our work for future generations.

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