



## JCFS- WELL EQUIPPED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

*“We are the place to turn to when one needs help. In these times of economic and social uncertainty one thing remains constant – JCFS will continue to serve and support the Jewish and general communities.”*

This was the message that JCFS Executive Director Emily Shane brought to the audience at the **JCFS Annual General Meeting held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>** in the Berney Theatre at the Asper Jewish Community Centre. Emily expressed her appreciation for the ongoing support the agency receives from the Province of Manitoba, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, the United Way, the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, the WRHA, the Asper Foundation, the L. Kerry Vickar Charitable Foundation, JIAS, Claims Conference, Mazon Canada and many community supporters.

As Sean Shore has now completed his term as President of Jewish Child and Family Service, incoming President Heather Leonoff thanked him for his commitment and leadership over the past two years. Commenting on the board’s focus during Sean’s tenure as president (as well as during his predecessor Pam Wener’s tenure) Heather remarked, “the Board has made significant changes to the structure of JCFS over the past four years and now that those structures are in place. I will have the luxury of a strong base on which to continue to build.”

Heather then outlined the significant role that JCFS plays in the lives of families in our community. “I am absolutely convinced that every person in our Jewish community will need the services of JCFS at some point in their lives, if not for themselves directly then for a family member,” she said. “Our goal as a Board is to ensure that we have in place the right programs and policies to ensure that our community knows we are here and knows we will provide them with the highest quality services to help meet their challenges.”

In his financial report, board treasurer Elliott Saunders announced that the agency reported an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$4,702. He amused the audience by apologizing for the oversight. “We watched our expenses so closely that we had an excess of revenue,” he said, adding that this “was less than 2/10<sup>th</sup> of a percent on a \$2,705,573 operation”

Following the business portion of the evening, Manager of Volunteer Services Einat Paz-Keynan and other JCFS staff recognized several volunteers for their service to the agency. These volunteers included Ari Hanson, Zofia Perlikowski, Barry Weber and Arlene Wiebe who have volunteered for the past five years supporting clients in the Older Adult Services area, and Daniel Thau- Eleff, who was commended for his 10 years of service as a Big Brother and “the wonderful relationship and sincere commitment” he has established with his special friend. Finally three men were honoured for 15 years of volunteer service.

Gerard McDonough was thanked for his involvement with the Lifeworks project which helps ensure community involvement for people challenged with mental or physical disabilities, and in particular for his work with a young man who has been helping seniors’ grocery shop. Sheldon Margolis was singled out for his help with seniors’ grocery shopping excursions and stocking the emergency food pantry, and Norman Wold was recognized for being a source of guidance and advice to newcomers, and for being *on call* to transport seniors to medical appointments.

A special presentation was then given to Rabbi Yitzchok Charytan in recognition of his 25 year commitment as Community Chaplain, followed by the handing out of the Mitzvah awards to individuals, groups and organizations that have supported the work of JCFS in the community. Ellen Fleishman and Karyn Glass were both given awards for their outstanding contributions to the board of the General Authority (GA), where they have served as strong advocates for Jewish children and families in Manitoba. Pediatric dentist, Dr. Robert Diamond, received an award for providing complimentary specialized dental services to clients, and J-PEG, the young adult division of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, received the final award for its ongoing involvement with the Passover assistance program.

JCFS Resettlement and Integration worker Anna Schoichet then introduced the evening’s entertainment – the JCFS choirs consisting of 16 children, a quartet of young adults and nine seniors, ranging from five to 86 years of age. Conductor Lina Streltzov led the seniors’ choir in *Chiri Bim*” and *Shir Le Shalom*”, soloist Laura Varga sang *“The Spanish Song, and Tatiana Smolyaninov provided piano accompaniment as well as a solo performance of Rachmaninov’s “Elegy.”* The young adult quartet sang *“Aqua De Beber,” and the children’s choir concluded the program with The Holy City” and “Ha-Yom.”*

Everyone left the theatre feeling uplifted by the enjoyable musical conclusion to the meeting.

*Merrill Shwaid*  
JCFS PUBLIC RELATIONS  
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