

Good evening!

Boy, what a year this has been! I'm so filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible work we've accomplished together at Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley this past year. While, formally, this is an annual meeting—it's also a celebration of the lives we've touched, the hope we've restored, and the community we've strengthened.

This year, our success is reflected in our growth, with our budget surpassing \$12 million. But more important than the numbers are the lives we've touched—refugees, older adults, Holocaust survivors, and families facing economic insecurity and hunger—whose futures have been transformed by our work.

None of this would be possible without the tireless dedication of our staff, volunteers, and the unwavering support of our Board of Directors. We are incredibly fortunate to have a team of 45 committed staff members who bring their expertise, passion, and dedication to every aspect of our work. Whether they are providing direct services, managing programs, or working behind the scenes, our staff is the backbone of this organization, ensuring that we meet the needs of our community every day.

Complementing our staff is our remarkable team of over 170 volunteers. These volunteers are truly the heart of Jewish Family Services. They contribute their time, energy, and love to support our programs in countless ways—from assisting with food distribution to driving refugees - from visiting older adults to supporting community events, such as our annual Embrace a Family event.

Our move to this new space on University Avenue in Los Gatos is a big leap forward for us. This expansive space truly represents growing efforts. It's where our team can come together, brainstorm, and create real solutions that make a difference in people's lives. It's also a welcoming space where our clients can learn English, meet with their immigration attorney, or meet with their care manager and find the

help and resources they need. And with that, I want to do a shout out to Cryptic Studios who have gone to great lengths to accommodate us here.

I'm thrilled to highlight new partners like the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill, the Kaiser Permanente, and Congregation Beth Jacob. These partnerships are a testament to the power of collaboration – when communities come together with a shared purpose, we can truly accomplish extraordinary things. Take a peek at the back of our annual report to see who some of our other partners are.

I often think of our work as building a house. We've laid a strong foundation built on Jewish values of welcoming the stranger, repairing the world, and providing respect and dignity to all. We've constructed the wood framing with essential services that support individuals and families at every stage of their journey. This year alone, we've served 540 older adults, many of whom are Holocaust survivors, and provided safety net services to over 3,000 individuals and families—including those facing food insecurity, while also supporting 700 refugees seeking safety.

But our work doesn't stop once the frame is up. We need to furnish this house, put up drywall, install windows—to make it a place where everyone who enters finds safety, support, and belonging.

This year, we've focused on completing this house, expanding our services for older adults and enhancing our infrastructure to meet growing demands.

In this pivotal time of growth, we've also been defining and refining our identity as an organization. We are no longer a small corner shop. As we evolve, it's crucial that we stay true to our core values while adapting to the needs of a changing world. One of our key goals this year has been to increase awareness of JFS and enhance our reputation within the Jewish and broader communities. Our annual fundraiser,

with 450 attendees—more than ever before— certainly highlighted the growing recognition of our work.

Yet, like any significant project, we've faced challenges. Fundraising has become more difficult amid global crises. Many funders have strict limitations on their contributions. So, to ensure sustainability, we're diversifying our funding sources— we're expanding our donor base, forging new partnerships, launching our homecare line of business this fall and expanding our services in partnership with Santa Clara Family Health Plan through the State of California CalAIM program. We are committed to building the infrastructure necessary to support our expanding services and ensure Jewish Family Services thrives for generations to come.

A new addition this year has been the L'dor V'dor Society endowment. This initiative secures our financial future and ensures that the services we provide today will be available for generations to come. It's about building a lasting legacy and safeguarding our ability to serve.

And how could we not celebrate the dedication of the Rick and Doris Davis Center for Aging and Caregiver Services? This center represents a room in our house that is filled with compassion, respect, and the resources necessary for our elders to age with dignity. It's a place where older adults and their caregivers can find the support they need, where they are seen, heard, and honored for the lives they've led and the contributions they've made.

Through it all, our identity as a Jewish organization remains our guiding light. We've expanded our reach without losing sight of who we are. In a time when antisemitism and hate are on the rise, our mission is more critical than ever. As a leader for social services and serving everyone in our community—regardless of background, faith, or circumstance—we actively fight against the prejudice and division that antisemitism seeks to sow. Our work demonstrates the power of Jewish values in action.

Every time we help a refugee find safety, support an older adult or Holocaust survivor, or nourish a family through our food assistance program, we stand against hate. We prove that our strength lies in inclusion, in extending a hand to those who are different from us, and in supporting the most vulnerable among us.

As we look to the future, we see so many exciting opportunities ahead, and we are more determined than ever to seize them. With your continued support, and the strength of our partnerships, staff, and volunteers, we will build this house—a house that not only meets our community's needs but also shines as a testament to what we can accomplish together.

Thank you for being part of this year's incredible journey.

Let's keep building—brick by brick, room by room, and together, we'll make this house a home for everyone.

Thank you!